



WEST DESERT BLM FUELS MANAGEMENT

Location: Utah and Duchesne County; S of Ashley Forest
Timeline: 2009 start-On-going
Acres: 3,000
Treatment Type: Mechanical & Prescribed Fire
Objectives: Fuels reduction to restore aspen and Doug fir
For More Information:
WDD Fuels Program, 801.977.4300

RESERVATION RIDGE



Beetle Kill has claimed nearly 1/3rd of trees.

The Reservation Ridge Fuels Reduction & Forest Health Project is located in the southeast corner of Utah County, Utah. Forests in this area have been heavily impacted by spruce and Douglas-fir beetles which have killed approximately 1/3rd of the trees. These dead and dying trees contribute to excessive fuel loading and increase the risk of severe wildfire. Additionally, aspen within the project area is declining due to conifer encroachment. In response to the beetle epidemic and the need to prevent aspen loss the BLM West Desert and Green River Districts partnered with the Ashley National Forest by implementing multiple forest health treatments in the area.



83 Acres of dead and dying trees were sold~535,00 board feet.

The BLM just awarded its first timber sale on 83 acres to remove dead and dying trees impacted by beetles. A portion of live trees will also be removed to stimulate aspen regeneration and increase the vigor of remaining trees to make them more resistant to beetle attacks. Approximately 535,000 board feet were sold in the sale. Following the timber sale, the BLM plans to remove logging slash through hand piling and burning. However, there is interest from local industry in utilizing non-merchantable biomass from Reservation Ridge for creating fuel pellets.



Aspen Groves are bouncing back with less competition from conifers.

The initial phase of this project should be completed in FY11 with a total expenditure of \$50,000. Future plans include working with the State of Utah and private landowners to implement similar treatments on approximately 1,900 acres of adjacent land on multiple ownerships (1,000 BLM, 600 private, 300 State) that contain an estimated 12,250,000 board feet of merchantable timber. This would occur over a 10 year period with an estimated cost of \$760,000. As part of the future treatment strategy, stewardship contracting would be utilized which would help offset treatment costs for the hazardous fuel reduction and wildlife habitat improvement objectives.