



THREE RIVERS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

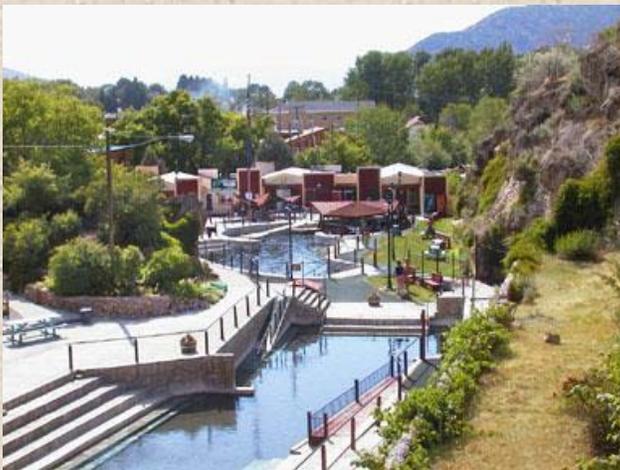
POCATELLO, IDAHO

Wildland Fire Education and Prevention in 3 Rivers RC&D

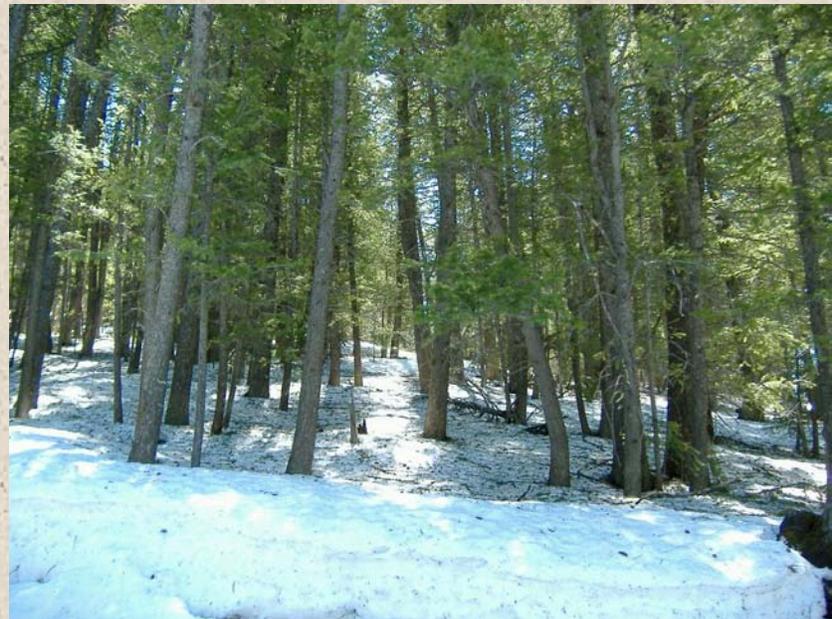
In the year 2000, intense wildland fires destroyed homes and threatened valuable natural resources in many western communities. In response, Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council (Three Rivers RC&D) initiated the Wildland Fire Education and Prevention Program (WFEP) aiming to increase public awareness of the wildfire risk in the wildland urban interface. It has been shown that when homeowners and neighborhoods incorporate Firewise principles and defensible space techniques, the threat from catastrophic wildfires is greatly reduced. Three Rivers RC&D is proud to continue its tenth year of the Wildland Fire Education and Prevention (WFEP) Program in Bannock, Power and

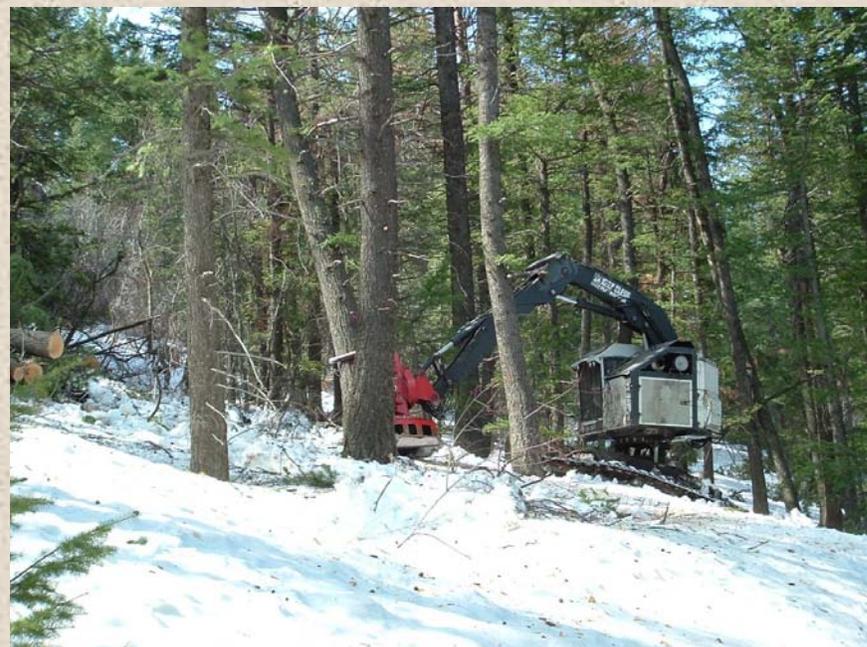
Bingham Counties.

Lava Hot Springs is located at the Base of Fish Creek Summit that boasts a world-class natural hot springs operated by the State of Idaho and Lava Hot Springs Foundation. The area is primarily recreational with rolling hills and mountains with the Portneuf River running through the area.



Near the hot springs is the Lava Ranch Mountain Estates and Spring Creek area. Dense stands of trees, damaged by beetle kill and mistletoe, merge with contiguous Douglas fir forest, hiding the many homes and structures on over 500 lots throughout the 5000-acre area. The region is networked with 33 miles of road, most of which are not up to code. Because of its high-risk area for wildland fire, IDL and BLM have provided funds to boost outreach and fuel reduction efforts here. The result has been a fantastic and cooperative effort between WFEP program partners, many homeowners, and the Lava Ranch Board of Directors.





Identified as a high-risk area for wildland fire, IDL and BLM have provided funds to boost outreach and fuel reduction efforts here. The result has been a fantastic and cooperative effort between WFEP program partners, many homeowners, and the Lava Ranch Board of Directors. Launched in 2009, this multiple-phase project began with a 5-acre demonstration area along the Big Bear Road to help homeowners understand fuel reduction levels, strategies and activities. Seven property owners participated in the second phase to create a network of

contiguous fuel breaks throughout the area on both private and common ground.

The fuel breaks are an integral part of reducing the risk and size of wildland fires to lot and homeowners, helping to minimize fire spread. They are designed to: eliminate ladder fuels, create firebreaks, and keep wildfire on the ground where it is more easily managed by wildland fire fighting resources. Fuel breaks also create valuable corridors for wildlife. The project work will be completed by spring 2010. By educating these owners and empowering them to participate in common and individual fuel reduction projects, the WFEP can continue to build a network of Firewise Communities throughout Bannock County.

