

# Let's Work Together To Protect Lava Ranch

## Fuel Reduction

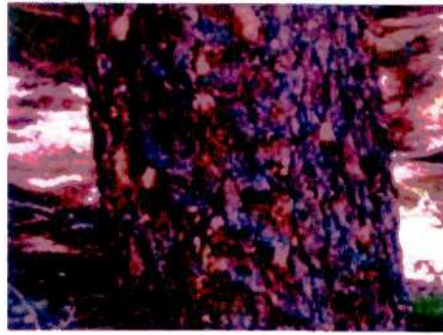


When it comes to reducing fuels around **your home** and property, it is **important to prioritize!** Even small stands of dead or dying timber can serve as perfect fuel for a wildland fire.

By minimizing these types of fuels and implementing other firewise principles, you can help reduce the threat of home loss during wildland fire. Trees affected by beetle kill and/or mistletoe should be considered when developing your own property's Firewise strategy. Fortunately, technical assistance and education is readily available through the WFEP Program!

**You too can implement fuel reduction on your land!**

## Beetle Kill



Mountain pine beetle has **become the most damaging** of the bark beetles. Outbreaks, which have killed hundreds of thousands of trees throughout the West, can last for more than ten years. As you can imagine, the results of this dead timber can be catastrophic when coupled with drought conditions and wildland fire. Outbreaks of mountain pine beetle typically get started in overstocked stands of trees or in stands that are stressed due to drought, overcrowding, overtopping, and defoliation. These outbreaks can then spread to healthy timber.

**Beetle Kill has been found at Lava Ranch!**

## Mistletoe



Dwarf mistletoe is a plant that is entirely **dependent on its host tree**. It is one of the **most damaging** disease of larch and lodgepole pine in several western states, causing growth loss, wood quality reduction and tree killing. Yet, since death of the tree also means death of the mistletoe, it tends to coexist with their hosts. Dwarf Mistletoe seeds may travel up to 100 feet depending on the species and wind. When they land on the proper host, they sprout in the spring and penetrate the thin bark, forming a new infection. As you may know, a dying, stressed tree is an easy target for wildland fire.

**Dwarf Mistletoe has been found at Lava Ranch!**

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# Lava Ranch Mountain Properties

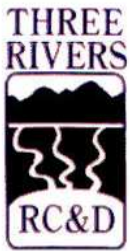


## June 2009 Newsletter

### Introducing Firewise to Lava Ranch!

As we gear up for another beautiful Idaho summer, something exciting is stirring in Lava Ranch! Even though fire season seems like a long way off, it is still a real threat we must address and you will soon see how easy it can be to protect your home and loved ones from wildland fire!

Three Rivers RC&D and their Wildland Fire Education and Prevention (WFEP) Program are partnering with Lava Ranch Mountain Properties to sponsor a **fuels reduction demonstration project** on the Big Bear Road this summer. Come and see first hand what a wildland fuel reduction project actually looks like. At this demonstration site, you will also see



different levels of fuel reduction, so you can decide which level best meets your individual property needs and desires to reduce the possibility of a wildland fire roaring through your lands. This newsletter is designed to help you understand the demonstration project and introduce you to the world of firewise, so we can continue to work together to protect our Lava Ranch community!

### WHAT IS FIREWISE?

Firewise Communities/USA is a national program encouraging residents living in fire-prone areas (the wildland urban interface or WUI) to work together to become prepared for wildfire. This program encourages and acknowledges community/neighborhood action that minimizes home loss to

wildfire in the wildland urban interface. It recognizes homeowners and neighborhoods that have prepared for a fire **before** it occurs.

Firewise standards emphasize community responsibility for planning in the design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response, and individual responsibility for safer home construction, design, landscaping, and maintenance.

### HOW DO WE BECOME FIREWISE?

Becoming firewise is easier than you think and the WFEP Program can help you get there! Through free home evaluations, educational materials, and assistance with fuel reduction, becoming firewise is not just easy..... it is fun (for you, your family, and your whole community)!

There are four main firewise steps to think about:

1. Create Defensible Space
2. Implement fuel reduction practices
3. Partner with your neighbors
4. Be prepared for wildland fire





## Create Defensible Space

Assess the area between your home and oncoming wildfire (including slope and vegetation)

Identify distance of defensible space (30 feet to 200+ feet!)

## Implement Fuel Reduction Practices

Remove flammable vegetation near home

Prune dead wood, remove low branches and mow dried grass

Select replacement, fire resistant vegetation

Practice makes perfect for proper Firewise landscaping!



BEFORE



AFTER



## Partner with your neighbors

You are only as safe as your neighbor!

Work together as a neighborhood/community to decrease threats and risk

Prepare and implement a plan that works for YOU!

## Be Prepared for wildland fire!

We want the Lava Ranch Mountain Properties to be prepared in the event of a wildland fire and look forward to working with property owners to make your area a Firewise Community! Please be sure to check out the demonstration fuels reduction project and begin to think about what YOU would be willing to do on your own property to protect yourself and others from



# At your service!



You may know Gordon Gillman, an independent contractor working with Three Rivers RC&D. Gordon is the liaison for all your Firewise needs at Lava Ranch! His job is to provide educational materials and assistance to property owners for the prevention of wildland fires and the reductions of fuels in the Lava Ranch Development area. He can be contacted at 208-776-5623 or on his cell phone at: 208-317-2647

# Lava Ranch Mountain Properties



## July 2009 Newsletter

### Becoming FireWise at Lava Ranch!

Demonstrating how easy it can be to protect your home and loved ones from wildland fire at Lava Ranch is a **major** priority of the fuels reduction projects, designed to empower Lava Ranch Mountain Property home owners in the effort to prevent home loss during a wildfire! Three Rivers RC&D Wildland Fire Education & Prevention (WFEP) Team can show you how!



#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### **The Lava Ranch Annual Meeting July 11, 2009**

**At Your Service!** Three Rivers RC&D and the Lava Ranch WFEP Team will be at the July Annual Meeting to answer questions, sign interested property owners up for home evaluations and the larger fuel reduction project, and provide important information about current and upcoming Firewise projects in Lava Ranch.

You can expect information about the demonstration project along Big Bear Road, a fuel reduction area designed to give homeowners a visual representation

of what the larger project within Lava Ranch will look like.

This larger project, scheduled to begin this fall, is based upon three criteria: reducing heavy fuels/tree density, eliminating beetle kill trees, and eliminating trees infested with mistletoe. Priority areas will be established for the fall fuel reduction project.

The new project will be designed to provide a large, connected fuel break that greatly reduces the risk of a wildland fire that could result in loss of homes, personal items and your forest. Your help and participation is necessary to make this project a success!



#### **Real Questions. Real Answers.**

You may already know Gordon Gillman, a member of the WFEP Team. Gordon is the liaison for all your

Firewise needs at Lava Ranch! His job is to develop a Firewise plan for your property through a home evaluation, provide educational materials on Firewise

and provide assistance to property owners in the reduction of fuels. He can be contacted at 208-776-5623 or on his cell phone at: 208-317-2647.

