

Silver City VFD - Wildland/urban interface fire break project

Final Report - April 2012

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Project Background

In the fall of 2011, the Silver City VFD contacted the USFS in an effort to allow for a fire-break around communities within the fire district. The firebreak consisted of the removal of fuels within a 300 foot buffer on forest service lands. This was done in an effort to protect people and property from wildfire risks and the devastating effect that pine beetles could have towards catastrophic fire.

In January 2012, the department coordinated with the Pennington County Weed & Pest to mark the MPB trees within the town's limits and within the USFS buffer.

In February 2012, the USFS and the Fire Department entered into a formal Participating Agreement that allowed the Fire Department to construct the fuel-break. The project was completed in March 2012.

Project Costs

Custom Timber, a local timber contractor was hired by the Fire Department. The Silver City VFD paid for the cost of the project. The final expenditures for the project were as follows:

Item	Contractor	Description	Amount
Logging & Thinning	Custom Timber	24 acres	\$11,840
Removal of MPB trees	Custom Timber	Green infested trees	\$1,660
Timber Credit	Custom Timber	Mill reimbursement	(\$1350)
BH Reclamation Seed	Warne Chemical	250 lbs.	\$875
		TOTAL:	\$13,025

Project Statistics

Logging and thinning was completed on a 24 acre buffer around Silver City. A total of 51 loads (208,000 board/feet) of timber were removed from the project area. Smaller trees (<9" diameter) were cut and used for other purposes. The remaining slash was piled to be burned next year. The Silver City VFD managed the project, coordinated with the USFS, supervised the thinning, and seeded the area. The department worked with Pennington County Weed & Pest to identify and remove MPB trees. Other communities within the fire district are now starting the process of coordinating with the department on developing a fuel-break around their wildland/urban interfaces.

Community Involvement

The Fire District consists of 40 square miles. The community was overwhelmingly in favor of this project and thankful of its completion before the 2012 fire season. The fact that a community can collaborate with the USFS and the County towards a common goal is a big accomplishment.

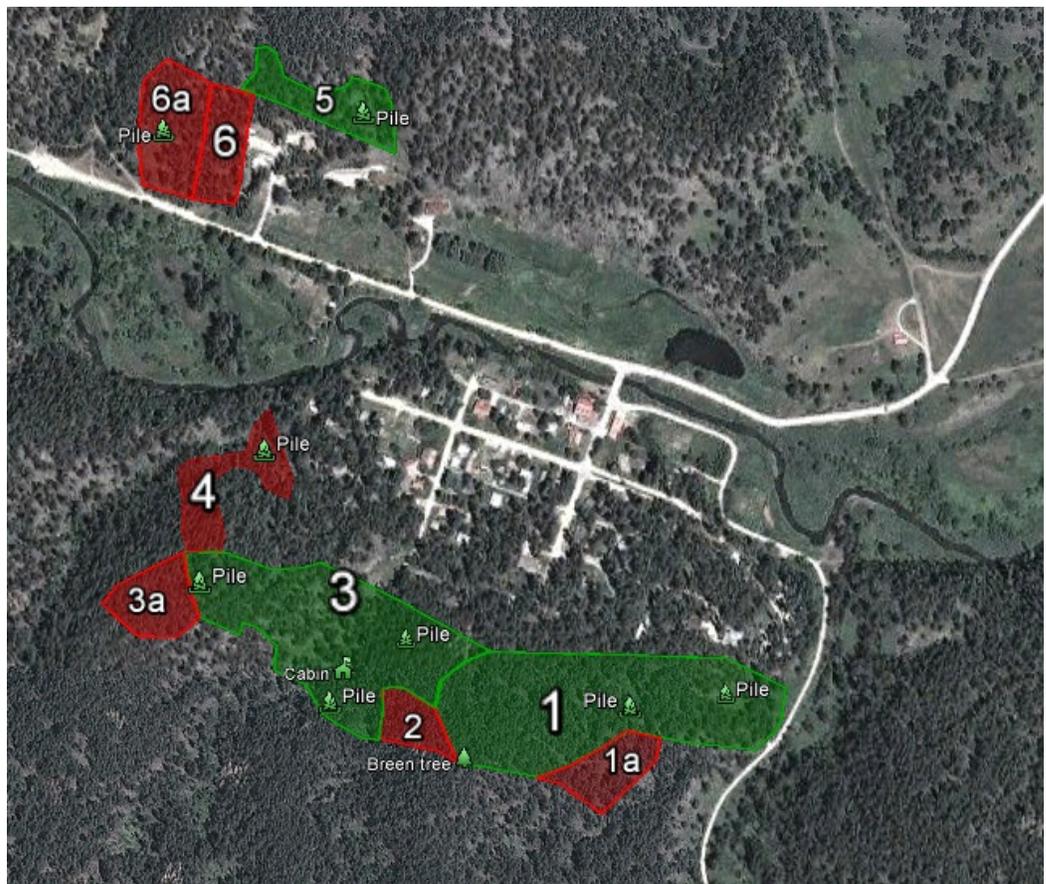
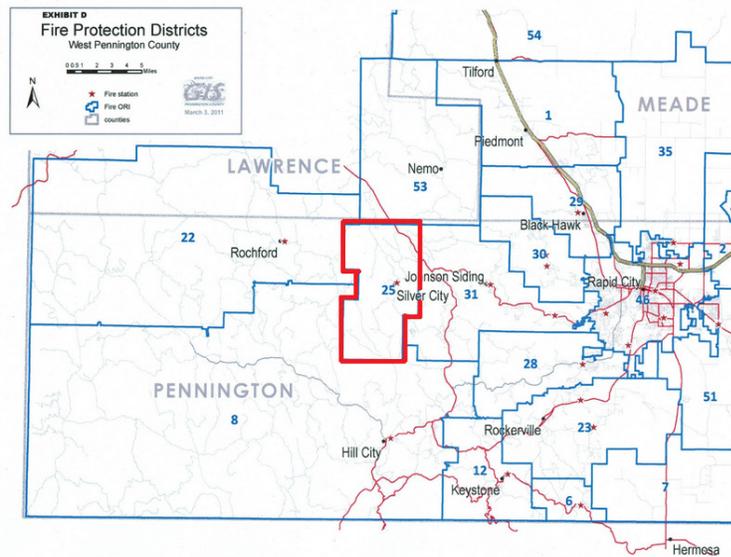
Furthermore, because of the progress that homeowners see on the ground, private individuals have taken the initiative to remove bug trees and take additional steps to be fire-wise around their homes. In the 1st quarter of 2012, 85 risk trees and 90 MPB trees were removed from within the boundaries of Silver City. As of today, there are no bug trees within the town.

Acknowledgements

Bob Thompson – BHNH Mystic District Ranger
 Denny Gorton – Pennington County Fire Coordinator

Maps

Silver City Fire District



Outline of firebreak around the community of Silver City