

## **Plant Enhancement Activity PLT13 – *Forest Stand Improvement for Wildfire Reduction***



### **Enhancement Description**

This enhancement addresses wildfire management of forested acres using an approach that considers the establishment, improvement and maintenance of firebreaks, fuel breaks, and access roads; identifies water sources, and utilizes scouting and posting of critical contact information.

### **Land Use Applicability**

Forestland

### **Benefits**

Although fire has been an agent of forest degradation, as a natural process it serves an important function in maintaining the health of forest ecosystems. The conventional view of fire as a destructive agent requiring immediate suppression has given way to the view that fire can and should be used to meet land management goals under certain ecological conditions. A comprehensive fire management plan that identifies the locations and utility of firebreaks, fuel breaks and access roads along with locations of water provide the infrastructure that allows for quick and appropriate response when wildfires occur. Choosing the appropriate response is accomplished by scouting (knowing where fuel levels are high), training and knowing who to contact to provide assistance. Using a systems approach as opposed to individual measures, serves to protect the timber resources as well as property, water and wildlife habitat, and allow for a more effective response to a wildfire.

### **Criteria**

1. This enhancement requires the development of a wildfire risk reduction management plan that includes:
  - Locations of firebreaks that meet NRCS Firebreak standard (394)
  - Needed measures (if any) to upgrade or maintain firebreaks to meet NRCS Firebreak Standard (394).
  - Location of fuel breaks that meet NRCS Fuel Break standard (383)
  - Needed measures (if any) to upgrade or maintain firebreaks to meet NRCS Fuel Break Standard (383).
  - Location of water sources



- Needed measures to provide or maintain access to water sources.
  - Location of access roads that will accommodate firefighting equipment
  - Fuel level scouting plan
  - List of critical contact information
2. Implementation of plan
- All permanent firebreaks, fuel breaks and access roads identified in the plan must be installed by the third year of the contract period. Maintenance (fuel treatment, clearing roads of needles/leaves, etc.) will be conducted prior to fire season to ensure proper functioning.
  - Temporary firebreaks, fuel breaks and access roads will be identified on plan map and marked in the field.
  - Scouting will be conducted during the fire season.
  - Critical contact information will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis

#### **Documentation Requirements**

1. wildfire management plan
2. Fuel level scouting reports
3. plan map

#### **Wisconsin Supplement 1/11/2011**

Fuel breaks will be 100 feet wide. The first 30 feet will be kept green during the growing season with mowing, irrigation and ranking/removing dead materials such as leaves and needles. All tree limbs will be pruned back at least 10 feet from structures and prune all conifers up 10 feet.

From 30 to 100 feet, prune all limbs up to 6 feet off of the ground and all dead limbs in the canopy. Space trees so that there is a minimum distance between crowns of 10 feet.