

# ***BLM News***

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801 (775) 753-0200

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**CONTACT:** Mike Brown  
(775) 753-0386  
e-mail: [Mike\\_Brown@nv.blm.gov](mailto:Mike_Brown@nv.blm.gov)

## **MASSIVE FUEL BREAK PROTECTS SPRING CREEK**

Spring Creek, Nevada, residents will have an extra measure of fire protection for their homes and property as a result of a 15-mile long fuel break/green strip now being created by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko Field Office.

The first phase of the project is called the Spring Creek North Wildland Urban Interface Fuel Break/Green Strip. The purpose is to reduce the amount of fuels near homes and subdivisions and to create fire breaks or “green strips” that stop or slow wildfires. The fuel break is created by mowing the vegetation in a 500-foot-wide swath that extends for several miles.

Mowing began July 19, 2004 and will continue for about three weeks. The fuel break starts at the Hog Tommy/Lower Lamoille Road intersection and goes west following Lower Lamoille Road for five miles to the intersection with the Lamoille Highway (SR 227). It then turns north and goes about three miles running immediately behind Spring Creek High School, Sage Elementary, and Spring Creek Middle School and continues northeasterly of the mobile home section.

The fuel break stays on public land and does not impact private land. Neither seeding nor fencing is proposed. The project was coordinated with the Spring Creek Association, Elko County, Nevada Division of Forestry, and livestock permittees.

Phase Two of the project will be a similar fuel break/green strip that is planned to protect the Spring Creek housing section. It will start at Chimney Creek Road and extend about seven miles to Ten-Mile Creek – a path that is south of the Spring Creek housing section. Phase Two is planned for Fiscal Year 2005 and will begin sometime after October 1, 2004.

Leticia Lister, BLM fire prevention coordinator and project manager for the fuel breaks, said, “The Nevada Division of Forestry has been working with the Spring Creek Association on fuels reduction projects within the community on private lands. BLM is now

**doing our part to provide community protection by completing these fuel breaks on public lands adjacent to the communities.”**

**“We can’t underestimate the value of these fuel breaks/green strips,” continued Lister. “There is some temporary disturbance of noise and dust while we do the mowing. However, the end product is priceless if it helps save a single home out of the literally hundreds of homes it protects.”**

**Similar projects were done in 2003 for areas southwest and north of Elko.**

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