



# Landscape-Scale Fuel Treatments

## INTRODUCTION

Wildland firefighters can use strategically placed fuel treatments across landscapes to reduce wildfire risk and create suppression opportunities because they can reduce fire intensity and rate of spread both inside and outside treatment boundaries.

## Key Strategies for Effective Fuel Treatments

### 1 TREATING LADDER FUELS

Photo: DJ Case & Associates

Target fuel treatments on overgrown forests, grasslands, and shrublands, especially areas with excessive ladder fuels.

### 2 FIREBREAKS AND CONTAINMENT LINES

Photo: DJ Case & Associates

Fuel treatments create firebreaks, which can slow or stop the spread of uncontrolled wildfires. Firefighters can use these firebreaks as anchor points for suppression efforts or use them as safety zones.

Treat vegetation along natural or man-made barriers and existing fuel breaks (e.g., roads, rivers, or ridgelines)

### 3 FUEL REDUCTION NEAR COMMUNITIES

Photo: Brian Pippin/USFWS

Proactively managing vegetation around populated areas creates buffer zones that help slow wildfires before they threaten communities.

Conduct fuel treatments around towns, roads, utility corridors, and critical infrastructure to create defensible space.

## Future Fire: Safety and Suppression

By strategically placing fuel treatments at the landscape scale before the start of fire season, land managers and firefighters can create future opportunities for improved safety, more resilient ecosystems, and effective suppression before wildfires even start.



The **Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP)** provides research funding, exchange, and communication for science associated with wildland fire, fuels, and fire-impacted ecosystems to dynamically respond to the emerging needs of fire managers, practitioners, and policymakers.



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