**BLM Fuel Treatment Slows The Burbank Fire – Allows Firefighters to Safely Attack and Protect Homes and Property**

The Burbank Fire started by lightning on Friday September 30, 2011 in dense brush and pinyon and juniper trees on the east slope the Pine Nut Mountains just above numerous homes along the western edge of Smith Valley, Nevada. On the fire’s first two days winds were strong, relative humidity low and fuels conditions at their driest point of the season. Shortly after the fire started fire behavior became intense as the Burbank Fire quickly moved downslope toward numerous homes where residences are on large lots and structures and flammable wildland vegetation are not separated by clear lines of demarcation. The fire quickly threatened homes by showering embers downwind, igniting numerous spot fires out ahead of the main fire.

As the fire entered the Bureau of Land Management’s recently completed 1,080-acre Upper Colony II Fuels Treatment Project, fire intensity moderated and the rate-of-spread slowed. Thanks to the influence of the previously completed fuels treatment, implemented winter/spring 2011, flame lengths were generally low enough to allow firefighters to safely attack the fire and protect homes and property.

Even though they experienced ember showers and low-intensity surface fires, structures that survived the Burbank Fire did so because of defensible space work completed by an active local fire safe council and area property owners, the BLM’s fuel treatment and a well-orchestrated interagency fire suppression effort.