



## **Success Story** April 7, 2009

**Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests**

### **ARRA and the Forest Service Senator Wyden and Sisters Area Fuel Reduction Project**

On April 6<sup>th</sup> Senator Ron Wyden visited a site on the outskirts of Sisters in Deschutes County, Oregon, where GFP Contracting crews were hard at work thinning hazardous fuels. The Sisters Area Fuel Reduction Project (SAFR) is one of the hazardous fuels projects in the first round of economic stimulus funding allocated to the Forest Service for Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties in Oregon.

SAFR was developed within the Greater Sisters Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan with the city of Sisters, the Sisters Camp Sherman Fire Department and the Forest Service. Fuel treatments will provide greater protection from wildfires for the communities of Sisters, Black Butte Ranch and the subdivisions of Plainview, Crossroads and Tollgate. These communities are all adjacent to the Deschutes National Forest and have experienced repeated evacuations during large wildfires in Central Oregon.

GFP Contracting was awarded \$412,322 of economic stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to treat 502 acres of the SAFR project. The entire project will address a total of 17,573 acres.

Senator Wyden spent time talking with the crewpersons yesterday during a brief pause in their work. Workers expressed relief and pride in being off unemployment, back to work and making a safer difference in the wildland urban interface between the national forest and the homes on private land nearby.