



**Nevada
Irrigation
District**

The Importance of Forest Thinning



Forest thinning projects reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and increase the amount of water available within a watershed. Dense forests utilize more water than thinned forests, and forest management can quickly recapture 5-10 percent of a watershed's normal water yield.

By removing small diameter trees and shrubs that compete with larger trees for water, we are able to reduce the fuels for large fires and allow more water to flow from the watershed before it is absorbed by vegetation that release the water as inaccessible vapor through a process known as evapotranspiration. Additionally, selectively thinned forests are able to grow faster, allowing trees to capture more carbon, which helps to reduce global warming and other effects of climate change

To protect our local community, we have ramped up efforts to reduce fire fuels on district property in and around its campgrounds and reservoirs.

Removing hundreds of dead and dying trees from acres of forested property is a monumental task. But it's one that will pay dividends in protecting against catastrophic wildfire.

"We as a District are really stepping forward. It is a team effort, pulling the best science and putting it on the ground to the tune of hundreds of acres a year," said Neysa King, NID's environmental resources coordinator.

NID owns more than 5,000 acres of forested watershed land. Those forests range from lower-elevation oak and grassland communities to a mixed conifer community at mid-elevations to our higher elevation forest communities.

"It means in these different realms you do different things. So we are bringing forward the best science so we can collect -- to bring forward the climate science that's being done by the university of California and projections to bring forward science management to sustainably manage our watersheds to get a 5 – 10 percent increase in yield as well as having healthier forests communities," King said.

NID's watershed program is growing in scope and scale: "There are many grant opportunities on the horizon that we are tracking and preparing for. We knowing that this is a big lift, but we are doing a really good job at tackling it and we will keep working," King said.

NID Fire Preparedness

Learn about the ways NID is working to reduce the risk of wildfire. Click [HERE](#)