



FAST TRAX

Forest Area Safety Taskforce • Hotline: 1-866-402-6044 • www.sdcdpw.org/tree • QTR 2/APRIL 2006

PARTICIPANTS



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



California State Parks



County of San Diego



Fire Safe Council



Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego



San Diego Gas & Electric



USDA Forest Service



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Community Organizations and Interested Stakeholders

TREE SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE FOR REFORESTATION

By Eric Oldar, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

With the unfolding of the spring season, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) new seasonal crop of conifer tree seedlings is now available and winding down for mail order purchase. Currently, the conifer tree seedlings are available in a variety of sizes, ranging from one-year-old plug stock to four-year old bare root seedlings.

With the recent events of wildfire and bark beetle tree mortality covering much of Southern California's forested landscapes, this crop of seedlings offers landowners the opportunity to begin the process of reforestation on these damaged landscapes. Unlike much of the conifer nursery stock grown and made available from retail outlets within California, CDF's seedlings are grown from selected native parent trees, chosen from special geographic locations throughout California, known as seed zones. Through this special process, CDF is better able to insure and provide quality tree seedlings well adapted to their future planting sites.

Private landowners wishing more information on the tree varieties, minimum orders and costs of the seedling stock are encouraged to contract the Magalia Reforestation Nursery site on line at http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/rsrc-mgt_statenurseries.php or by phone at (530) 872-6301 Monday through Friday during normal business hours.



CDF has received a new crop of conifer tree seedlings to help in replanting efforts.

For those individuals who have identified the kind of conifer seedlings they might choose to use, but wish additional specific tree information before ordering, are encouraged to utilize CDF's online tree selection software "SelecTree" at <http://selectree.calpoly.edu>. "Selectree" will provide the user with detailed information on the specific tree of interest.



FAST NEWS:

- FAST agencies will be participating in the Ramona Air Show, held on June 23rd & June 24th.
- Many FAST agencies will be present at the San Diego County Fair. Stop by their booths!

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FUEL BREAK TREATMENT

By Tom Brand, Cleveland National Forest

The Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest is conducting brush crushing and mulching work on the Observatory and Aguanga fuel break in the Palomar Mountain area. A project like this assists with the on-going maintenance needs to protect forested areas surrounding the community of Palomar Mountain. This community protection project helps to provide a buffer

Next Page

FAST TRAX

Continued

around the mountain community and is in cooperation with the Fire Safe Council projects being completed by the local volunteer fire department and the community. The Palomar Ranger District has numerous fuels reduction projects that are ongoing and in the planning stages. Fuels break systems are strategically located and have played an important role in stopping the spread of fire. Some fuel breaks are 200 to 400 feet wide allowing a safer place for fire fighting resources to work. In the 1980's, Palomar's fuel breaks were maintained by grazing cattle that reduced flammable fuels along the mountain top ridges. Today's mechanical contract equipment crushes and grinds standing brush to prepare for prescribed burning that will be conducted at a later date.



This fuel break system on Palomar Mountain is one of many projects planned to reduce the fire threat to its communities.



Visitors learned about conservation practices through handouts and interactive displays at the exhibitor booths

NRCS PARTICIPATES IN ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Natural Resources Conservation Service in Southern California celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd at the Environmental Expo on the campus of California State University in San Bernardino. The event featured over 100 exhibitor booths and drew an estimated 10,000 visitors.

NRCS promoted conservation by showcasing the Backyard Conservation in California display and associated booklet. Visitors were engaged with questions to help understand basic conservation concepts and rewarded with conservation tattoos.

"It was a well organized event," said Paul Laustsen, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, "the diversity of conservation and environmental organizations present is a testament to how far we have come. Soon, everyday will be Earth Day."

FAST AT LOCAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The City of Poway held the annual Earth Day Celebration at Old Poway Park on Saturday, April 8. The park welcomed an estimated 300 participants and 1200 visitors from around San Diego to learn about protecting our environment and its resources.

Karla Vega, Natural Resources Conservation Service Public Information Officer, presented the Dead, Dying and Diseased Tree Removal Program display for the Watershed Recovery Project. Robin Kinmont, Fire Safe Coordinator for the Fire Safe Council of Greater San Diego County, was present to inform the public about fire safety. Also on-site was Scott Phillips of the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego, with his Watershed Model to teach children the effects everyday pollution has on our watershed.

These agencies have worked together to help reduce the risk of fire in many of the forested areas of San Diego County.



Scott Phillips, Education Coordinator for the RCD of Greater San Diego teaches visitors about our watershed.

NRCS WORKS TOGETHER WITH LOCAL TRIBE

By Karla Vega, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has broken new ground by taking their Watershed Recovery Project onto tribal land for the first time since the program began in San Diego, two years ago. This new project will help to reduce the threat of fire and protect the life and property of the residents living on the Santa Ysabel Reservation.

The Santa Ysabel Reservation project, which began in late February, covers 3,300 acres. Bradco Environmental, the logging company contracted by the NRCS, is removing 942 trees that are dead, dying and diseased from bark beetle attacks due to drought. Brush treatments will also be performed within 100 to 200ft of structures and roads over the majority of the project area. These brush treatments create a fuel break in order to protect the nearby area from fire.

Habitat to potentially endangered species and sensitive soil issues can be found in the project area. In order to protect these biological resources the NRCS opted for a helicopter contractor to perform the tree removal.

“The tribe has been extremely cooperative during the entire process. They assisted with project preparation and are providing the contractor with tribal staff for the tree removal phase. This project will provide the tribe with an alternate exit from the reservation, should an emergency occur,” says Kelly Strecker, NRCS forester.

The project is estimated to be completed at the end of April and will cost \$350,000. For more information on this and other tree removal projects, please call 760-233-9507.



Dead and dying trees, like those marked above, pose a fire threat to the reservation and will be removed by NRCS.

TREE REMOVAL STATUS REPORT AS OF APRIL 2006

FAST Agency	Trees Removed (Cumulative Total)*
CDF	854
County of San Diego	224,426
Fire Safe Council Palomar	163
NRCS	3,793
SDG&E	12,307
Sierra Cedar	22,117
State Parks	9,491
USFS	20,510
Cumulative Tree Total:	293,661
Cumulative Brush (acres):	8,401.92
Brush (cu.ft.)**:	248,404,775

* Some numbers may not be up to date
 ** Numbers do not incorporate every agency

ADDITIONAL FAST PARTICIPANTS:



American Red Cross

American Red Cross
<http://www.sdarc.org>



Bureau of Land Management
<http://www.blm.gov>



Bureau of Indian Affairs
<http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html>



CA Department of Fish & Game
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>



California Highway Patrol
<http://www.chp.ca.gov/>



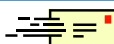
Caltrans
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist11/>



Office of Emergency Services
http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/oes/oes_home.html



People for Trees
www.peoplefortrees.org



If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the FAST TRAX newsletter please send your email information to the editor at:

Karla.Vega@ca.nacdn.net

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.