



FAST TRAX

Forest Area Safety Taskforce • Hotline: 1-866-402-6044 • www.sdcdpw.org/tree • OCTOBER 2005

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

CDF PLANTS TREES ON VOLCAN MOUNTAIN

By Roxanne Provaznik, CDF

Earlier this year, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) conducted a large tree planting project on Volcan Mountain, near Julian, California. Trees were planted on a small piece of CDF property which was purchased in the year of 2003. In September of 2002 the Pines

hundred acre parcel directly adjacent to the current project area. CDF resource management staff will continue management of the project areas. CDF plans to employ various management strategies on different plots of the Volcan property. The purpose of this is to serve as an educational tool for resource managers and the general public. It is CDF's hope that someday the property will be open to the public so they can observe how different management practices affect the Southern California forest environment.



CDF prison crews work on Volcan Mountain project area cleaning up debris from the Pines Fire in 2002.

Fire swept through the property and devastated the conifer forest. CDF purchased the 1100 acre piece of burned land with the objective to re-plant the property, and manage it for a future state forest.

CDF received grant dollars through a program by American Forests called the Global Re-Leaf Program to purchase trees and planting equipment. The two to three year old seedlings were grown at the CDF's nursery in Magalia, California. CDF Resource Management staff coordinated the planting project, and CDF inmate fire crews planted the trees. Approximately 35,000 Incense cedar seedlings and 15,000 Jeffrey pine seedlings, for a total of 50,000 trees were planted on the Volcan Mountain project.

The next phase of the Volcan mountain planting project is to focus on monitoring the seedlings in order to sustain their growth. Currently CDF inmate crews are working on the project area felling dead trees and cleaning up vegetative debris left over from the 2002 Pines Fire. CDF is also trying to purchase an additional several

FORESTRY PRACTICES TARGETED THROUGH NRCS PROGRAM

By Jason Jackson, NRCS

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is working with the Forest Area Safety Taskforce (FAST) to assist forest landowners in San Diego County with land management practices. Voluntary, cost-share programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), are available to offer financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and timber owners in a manner that promotes production, soil and water conservation, and/or wildlife.

EQIP is an agricultural program. In order to be eligible for the program, there must be a 25% tree cover on the land. The property must also have a current forest management plan with timber as one of the primary management objectives; or the applicant must have incurred prior costs to improve the property for tree growth.

Management practices eligible for financial cost-sharing payments include thinning, fuel reduction, slash removal and reforestation. Other practices, such as erosion control and wildlife improvement are also available. Applicants may apply for one or multiple practices.

Landowners, Home Owner Associations and/or

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campers can contact the local NRCS office for an appointment to complete all required forms. All documents must be completed and submitted to NRCS by November 30, 2005 in order to receive funding for 2006.

Additional information on EQIP is available at <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>, or from the local NRCS office at 760-745-2061. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

“LIVING WITH WILDFIRE”

By Rosella Aplin, Burn Institute

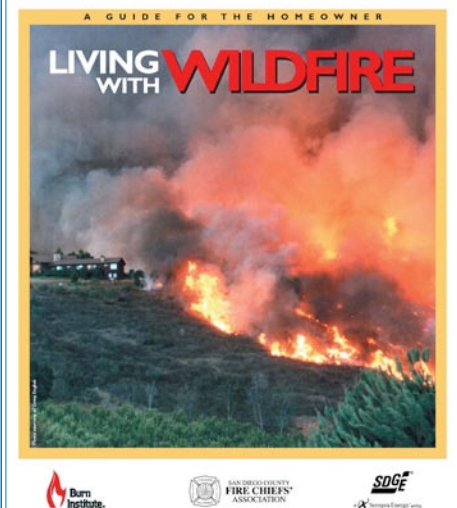
There are three things that homeowners should do to protect themselves against the threat of wildfire: (1) Create Defensible Space, (2) Create a Defensible Home, (3) Create a Family Evacuation Plan. The Burn Institute’s FREE 12-page “Living with Wildfire” guide contains valuable information on how you can safeguard your property and family from wildfire.

Our region has endured one of the wettest seasons on record. When you add that type of rainfall to our warm weather region you get a rapid growth of fire-friendly grasses. Once the summer heat dries out those grasses, they become fire hazards. These light flashing fuels burn rapidly and spread quickly to

heavier fuels such as native brush – which ultimately increases the fire’s intensity, making the fire even more difficult to fight.

“Most of the steps in preparation for wildfire need to be taken by individuals and not deferred to firefighters or to government. It is very difficult to get that across to people. And it’s harder still to get people to realize the threat affects them personally, even if they live far from the edge of native brush,” explained James Floros, Executive Director of the Burn Institute.

To obtain your FREE copy of “Living with Wildfire,” call the Burn Institute at (858) 541-2277. For more fire and burn prevention information, visit the Burn Institute online at www.burninstitute.org.



The 12-page wildfire guide is available free of charge to resident throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties.

TREE REMOVAL STATUS REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 2005

FAST Agency	Trees Removed (Cumulative Total)*
CDF	854
County of San Diego	117,207
Fire Safe Council Palomar	163
NRCS	3,793
SDG&E	11,341
Sierra Cedar	22,117
State Parks	9,491
USFS	19,249
Cumulative Tree Total:	184,215
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 http://www.sdarc.org	 California Highway Patrol http://www.chp.ca.gov/
 Bureau of Land Management http://www.blm.gov/	 Caltrans http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist11/
 Bureau of Indian Affairs http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html	 Office of Emergency Services http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/oes/oes_home.html
 CA Department of Fish & Game http://www.dfg.ca.gov	 People for Trees www.peoplefortrees.org



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Karla.Vega@ca.nacdn.net

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