



News Release

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County of San Diego

United States
Forest Service

California
Department of
Forestry & Fire
Protection

Forest Area
Safety Task Force
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Land Management

Caltrans

San Diego
Gas & Electric

Community
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Stakeholders

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2005

HELICOPTER TO REMOVE TREES IN CUYAMACA *Chopper Is Only Environmentally Sound Means of Taking Dead, Dying & Diseased Trees*

Faced with a need to remove dead, dying and diseased trees from Cuyamaca State Park to reduce wildfire risk, the County's contractor, Phillips & Jordan, decided using a helicopter to haul logs from the forest to a staging yard is the best way to complete the job.

With a large number of trees inaccessible to heavy logging equipment and with a risk of damaging environmentally-sensitive areas, Phillips & Jordan opted to utilize the helicopter that will wrap a cable around downed trees, lift them and move them to a staging yard where they'll be loaded on logging trucks for transport.

During the activity, motorists can expect some delays along SR 79 through the park. Portions of the highway will be limited to a single lane with flaggers controlling traffic. Exact dates for the trimming are not yet determined.

The vertical logging is part of the Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program (FSFRP). FSFRP and the Watershed Recovery Project are cooperative efforts between federal, state and local agencies as well as community organizations and other interested stakeholders. The \$45 million program is funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, County of San Diego and others. More information is available on the Internet at www.sdcdpw.org/tree or by calling the toll-free hotline at (866) 402-6044.

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County of San Diego, Department of Public Works
Hotline: (866) 402-6044
Web Site: <http://www.sdcdpw.org/tree>