

**SECTION G**  
**SAN DIEGO UNIT**  
**PROJECTS**

The following is an accounting of the Resource Management activities as they relate to pre-fire planning and action in the San Diego Unit.

**PAST PROJECTS**

- Pine Mountain-Mt. Laguna-160 acres (*Burned in Cedar Fire 03*)
- West Mesa-373 acres (*Burned in Cedar Fire 03*)
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fuel Breaks (*Burned In Cedar Fire 03*)
- Campo Railroad Right of Way Burn-10 acres
- East Mesa/Tragedy-300 acres (*Burned in Cedar Fire 03*) *Fire suppression personnel successfully used this project to divert the Cedar Fire 03 away from Mt. Laguna and Pine Valley.*

**PRESENT PROJECTS**

- Bell Valley-1,084 total (215 acres left to burn)
- Deer Springs Fuel Break
- International Fuel Break-307 acres
- Sunrise Fuel Break-Julian (*Partially Burned in Cedar Fire 03*) San Vicente
- Communities Protection Program (*Burned in Cedar Fire 03*)
- Dulzura Fuel Break-Coop. with BLM
- Beauty Mountain Fuel Break
- SDG&E 500Kv Line Fuel Break
- Rancho Jamul Roadside Burns-10 acres (third year in a row) *Fire suppression personnel successfully used this project to divert the Otay Fire 03 away from Jamul.*
- Palomar State Park

**FUTURE PROJECTS**

- Corte Madera Ranch-1500 acres
- Lawson Valley-326 acres
- Henson-Potrero
- North Slope-350 acres
- Palomar Observatory

**FOREST HEALTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (FHEP)**

FHEP PROJECTS LIST	Project Acres	Acres Completed	PLANNING	ACTIVE	COMPLETED
BAILEY MEADOWS - C.P./T.C.	200	200			x
BANNER GRADE - T.C.	271	271			x
BIRCH HILL - C.P.	483	483			x
BIRCH HILL - T.C.	37	37			x
CFIP - BEHIRENDET	24	0		x	
CFIP - CARTER	19	8		x	
CFIP - DAVIS	80	0		x	
CFIP - FITZ	40	30		x	
CFIP - FRAZEE	36	27		x	
CFIP - KRTEK	43	20	x		

<b>FHEP PROJECTS LIST</b>	<b>Project Acres</b>	<b>Acres Completed</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
CFIP - CAMP MARSTEN	250	0	x		
CFIP - SIMPSON	20	10		x	
CFIP - CAMP STEVENS	256	0	x		
CFIP - UTT	40	24		x	
LOS COYOTES -ASSESSMENT	11,520	11,520			x
PALOMAR STATE PARK RD.- T.C./C.P.	92	92			x
PALOMAR/CANFIELD - T.C.	98	98			x
PALOMAR OBSERVATORY - VMP	1640	0			
VOLCAN MOUNTAIN - PERSCRIPTION	1154	385		x	
WHISPERING PINES - C.P.	306	306			x
WHISPERING PINES - T.C.	127	127			x
CORTE MADERA RANCH - T. C.	219	66		x	
CUYAMACA STATE PARK	100	25		x	
LAKE CUYAMACA REC. & PARK DISTRICT	24	12		x	
PALOMAR STATE PARK - PHASE #1	48	48			x
PALOMAR STATE PARK - PHASE #2	31	15		x	
PALOMAR STATE PARK - PHASE #3	53	0	x		
JULIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT	44	33		x	
WILLIAM HEISE COUNTY PARK	27	27			x
W. HEISE COUNTY PARK - ASSESSMENT	200	200			x
CORTE MADERA RANCH - VMP	4657	1164		x	
PINE VALLEY FUEL BREAK	23	19		x	
SUNRISE/JULIAN FUEL BREAK	36	29		x	
CUY. ST. PK.-HWY. 79- PERSCRIPTION	747	747			x
VOLCAN MOUNTAIN - PLANTING	1154	215		x	

**GRANT PROGRAM: Cooperative Forest Health, Prevention & Suppression (SPCH-P&S) [CDF INDEX/PCA: 9520/96160]**

What has been accomplished to date:

- 1) CDF Forestry Staff provided professional forestry services and fieldwork for numerous projects for the San Diego County Forest area. Such responsibilities include:
  - a) identifying dead, dying, and diseased trees;
  - b) developing prescriptions for forest health projects;
  - c) locating participating project properties while interfacing with county GIS staff;
  - d) conducting on-site visits to ensure environmental protections during forest health projects;
  - e) watershed evaluation and assessment;
  - f) assisting CDF Pest Management Specialists in pest and disease assessment;
  - g) maintaining on-going forestry assistance programs; and
  - h) forest health project set-up. These included the following projects implemented by CDF Conservation Camps:
    - i) Palomar State Park Entrance Road Travel Corridor Safety Zone (Puerta

- La Cruz Conservation Camp)
- ii) Cuyamaca State Park Hazard Reduction, Descanso (McCain Valley Conservation Camp and La Cima Conservation Camp)
- iii) Sunrise Fuel Break, Julian (McCain Valley Conservation Camp and La Cima Conservation Camp)
- iv) Corte Madera Ranch Forest Health Project (McCain Valley Conservation Camp)
- v) Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District Hazard Reduction (La Cima Conservation Camp)
- vi) Frank Lane Park Hazard Reduction, Julian Community Services District (La Cima Conservation Camp)

CDF Forestry Staff also met with San Diego County, contractors, Fire Safe Councils, Forest Service, and NRCS representatives, to coordinate objectives. They also assisted in developing a logging plan for the evacuation corridor on Highway 79 within Cuyamaca State Park.

- 2) CDF Archaeologists assisted CDF Forestry Staff in projects under development On Cuyamaca State Park and Corte Madera Ranch for archaeological resources that might be placed at risk during equipment use and subsequent fuels treatments.
- 3) CDF Forestry Staff assisted San Diego State University Geography Department under the direction of Dr. Doug Stow on a continuing project to monitor and map forest health change using MODIS near infrared imagery.
- 4) CDF Forestry, GIS and Pest Specialist Staff attended the San Diego County

Forest Area Safety Taskforce (FAST) Planning Meetings. These meetings meet on a monthly schedule and are designed to plan and coordinate activities to address the massive forest health and tree mortality issues in the county. The public, members of fire-safe councils, local, state and federal agencies, contractors and others attend these meetings at various locations with San Diego County.

GRANT PROGRAM: Cooperative Fire Assistance (SPCF)  
[CDF INDEX/PCA: 9520/96171]

What has been accomplished to date:

- 1) CDF Puerta La Cruz Conservation Camp Crews have created a 200 foot-wide travel corridor safety zone along Palomar State Park entrance road. Crews have felled 50 dead trees, and 865 tons of slash was treated by chipping and burning in piles.
- 2) CDF McCain Valley Conservation Camp crews have felled and removed 100 dead hazard trees on Cuyamaca State Park near the community of Descanso. Also working on this project, CDF La Cima Conservation Camp crews have

- felled and removed 350 dead hazard trees and treated 156 tons of slash and brush by chipping.
- 3) CDF McCain Valley Conservation Camp crews have felled 7 dead hazard trees and prepared 6 acres for future burning on the Corte Madera Ranch Project.
  - 4) CDF La Cima Conservation Camp crews have worked to improve watershed conditions at Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District near Julian. Crews have felled 114 dead hazard trees.
  
  - 5) CDF La Cima Conservation Camp crews, working on Frank Lane Park, Julian Community Services District, have felled and removed 123 hazardous dead trees and treated the slash by chipping and pile burning.

GRANT PROGRAM: Urban and Community Forestry (SPUF)  
[CDF INDEX/PCA: 9520/96172]

What has been accomplished to date:

- 1) CDF Forestry Staff, in collaboration with the Julian Community Services District, has planned for the future development of the Frank Lane Park Community Forest Demonstration Area. This is a follow up project after the completion of the removal of dead hazard trees and treatment of slash on 27 acres of park land completed under Grant Program-Cooperative Forest Health, Prevention & Restoration (SPCH-P&R).

GRANT PROGRAM: Cooperative Fire Assistance (SPCF)  
[CDF INDEX/PCA: 4000/96192]

What has been accomplished to date:

- 1) CDF McCain Valley Conservation Camp crews have maintained and improved the Sunrise Fuel Break near Julian. McCain Valley crews felled and removed 66 hazard trees, and treated 357 tons of slash and brush by chipping. Also working on this project, CDF La Cima Conservation Camp crews have felled and removed 50 dead hazard trees and treated 975 tons of slash and brush by chipping.
- 2) CDF McCain Valley Conservation Camp crews have created the Pine Valley Community Fuel Break near Pine Valley. McCain Valley crews prepared 100 acres for broadcast burning in the spring. Also working on this project, CDF La Cima Conservation Camp crews have treated 156 tons of slash and brush by chipping.

GRANT PROGRAM: Forest Stewardship (SPST)  
[CDF INDEX/PCA: 4000/96193]

What has been accomplished to date:

CDF created two stewardship positions funded by this grant; *i*) a Limited Term (Licensed) Registered Professional Forester (RPF), and *ii*) a Limited Term Forestry Assistant II. These positions provide advice and fieldwork assistance for the San Diego County Forest area.

During this report period the Stewardship Foresters provided the following services:

- 1) Identifying and marking dead, dying, and diseased trees.
- 2) Developing prescriptions for hazardous fuel tree removals.
- 3) Locating participating project properties, and transmitting project locations and activities to county GIS staff.
- 4) Site visits to ensure environmental protections during dead tree removal operations.
- 5) On the ground pre-project flagging for tree removal operations.
- 6) Meeting with San Diego County, contractors, Fire Safe Councils, Forest Service, and NRCS representatives to coordinate objectives.
- 7) The RPF developed a logging plan for the evacuation corridor within Cuyamaca State Park adjacent to State Highway 79. The CDF RPF and the CDF Staff Archaeologist made several field visits with State Park Ecologists and Archaeologists to help identify and address sensitive resource issues.
- 8) The Forestry Assistant II developed a logging plan for the evacuation corridor within Palomar State Park adjacent to State Highway 76. The Forestry Assistant II made several field visits with State Park ecologists and archaeologists to help identify and address sensitive resource issues.
- 9) A fire safe presentation was given to the community of Pine Hills that discussed vegetation clearance around housing, and the current state of bark beetle infestation.

The RPF position was filled during 2004 and during the dates covered by this report, however at the end of December 2004, the RPF promoted to a permanent position at another unit outside of Southern California. CDF has found that there is a lack of qualified licensed forester candidates willing to locate in Southern California

### **UNIT FUEL REDUCTION EFFORTS (NON PROJECT TYPE)**

The San Diego Unit has assisted in the reduction of fuel loading and hazard abatement through the burn permit program. In the year 2004, CDF personnel issued a total of 4,402 piled vegetation burning permits to local landowners.

The Unit's LE-38 inspection program has completed 41,947 inspections in 2004. Of these inspections, 40,859 were in compliance and 1,088 were in violation. After the second inspection 981 were in compliance and 107 were forwarded to the County of San Diego for processing and enforcement.

The LE-38 program was expanded in FY 03-04 to include the San Diego County

clearance ordinance requiring vegetation modification out to 100 feet from structures. This addition to the program significantly expanded “defensible space” around structures in the SRA of San Diego County.

### **FOREST AREA SAFETY TASK FORCE (FAST)**

This section outlines the efforts related to the Units management of the Proclaimed State of Emergency related to Dead, Dying, and Diseased trees in the mountain areas of Southern California.

### **PEST DETECTION – DEVELOPING ESTIMATES OF TREE MORTALITY**

A partnership has developed between CDF and San Diego State University, Geography Dept. to monitor and map forest health change using MODIS near infrared imagery (Cont. Dr. Doug Stow).

The County of San Diego is using property parcel, vegetation, and roads data to develop maps and plans for projects to be prioritized by SD FAST.

### **GIS COORDINATION/ANALYTIC PRODUCTS – SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC GIS FRAMEWORK**

San Diego CDF is cooperating with this effort.

### **FUNDING / GRANT UPDATE:**

San Diego County through the USFS & Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the sponsor of \$39.9 million dollars of funding to remove dead, dying and diseased timber in the affected areas. CDF San Diego, in conjunction with BDU and RRU, has received \$12,788,658. dollars for the same use. Various Fire Safe Councils in the county have accumulated \$1.2 million dollars for tree removal and other vegetation reduction projects, bringing the grand total to \$41,500,000. It is anticipated that additional funding will be needed in the near future.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

Progress has been made by SDG&E, State Parks, various county agencies, private landowners in the removal of Dead, Dying and Diseased trees and other vegetation. This work is helping the county meet its cost share requirements. The FAST vegetation management committee has used a matrix to stratify and prioritize the project work in affected communities simultaneously. Funding mentioned above to be used to implement the priority projects in these affected communities.

### **COMMUNITY PROTECTION PLANNING**

The San Diego County Office of Emergency Services has developed a

“Community Protection and Evacuation Plan” template to help facilitate communities in establishing local “plans.” These plans will include evacuations, safe zones, emergency agency response, critical infrastructure protection, and mitigation strategies. The county with cooperation from FAST, and Fire Safe Councils are presenting this template in town hall-style meetings throughout the county.

## **EDUCATION**

The SD FAST has recognized the importance of an educated public in accomplishing the greater goals of the Task Force. Local residents, recreational users, and the public at large are all recognized as distinct groups, but integral to the success of the greater FAST effort.

## **GREAT ESCAPES**

MVU initiated and developed an original program in community fire education founded upon the individual householder’s responsibility to respond safely and autonomously to catastrophic fire. To foster self-reliance in the general public, the program emphasizes the pre-fire identification and preparation of “survivable spaces”. To help save lives during the Incident itself, it instructs civilians in the tactics used by professional, wildland firefighters—escape routes, safety zones, home refuge, e.g.—as well as strategies to use when overrun by fire.

Entitled “Great Escapes...from Catastrophic Fire”, the program’s core materials include a modular Power Point presentation, CD, four pieces of original shelf literature, and binders with “print kits” for the County’s Fire Safe Councils, press corps, and FAST. Additional topics covered include: “fire safe” landscaping; home preparation for fire; the principles and dangers of heat; “fire safe” clothing, first-aid for burns; pet disaster planning; and special considerations regarding the elderly—a rapidly growing and at-risk sector of the backcountry’s population whose specialized evacuation problems have not yet been resolved by local emergency management.

The Unit contracted an external “community liaison” to develop the program as well as present it to selected targets as per directive of the Unit Chief.

## **FOREST HEALTH**

The FAST recognizes the need to work toward a healthy forest environment through follow-up treatments including methods such as regeneration, brush control, and thinning. These treatments will ensure fire-resilient forest conditions that will support water quality, wildlife, recreation etc.

- Forest Health Condition Study
- Tree Planting activities – Volcan Mountain
- Green Tree Thinning

## **SPATIAL DATA**

A collaborative effort involving San Diego County, CDF's Fire Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), and Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) has developed. This effort includes development of spatial data that will support planning, education, web-based access, and historical documentation of the actions taken to mitigate hazards associated with this forest health event.

Also, see "Pest Detection..." above for coop projects with San Diego State University and the County of San Diego. San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) has been and will continue to be an indispensable resource for GIS data.

## **GRANT ACCOUNTING**

Cooperative Forest Health – Prevention and Suppression  
Most activity under this grant January 1 to June 30, 2005 has been land management planning and coordination of FAST actions.

February 2-12, 2004 – The San Diego Unit had a Forester II on assignment for vegetation health assessments, fostering participation in forestry assistance programs, and monitoring and evaluation.

Cooperative Forest Health – Prevention and Restoration  
Activity under this grant January 1 to June 30, 2004 has been land management planning (204,000 acres within the planning area).

### Cooperative Fire

Activity under this grant January 1 to June 30, 2004 has been forest health stand treatment (92 days @ 1.5 ac/day = 138 acres)

### Urban and Community Forestry

Activity under this grant January 1 to June 30, 2004 has been a demonstration of land management activities and plans to the Board of Forestry May 4-6, 2004 and a demonstration of land management activities and plans to the University of California Extension natural resource managers May 5, 2004. The same demonstration was given to the San Diego Fire Recovery Network May 21 and 28, 2004.

### Forest Stewardship

Activity under this grant January 1 to June 30, 2004 has been internal work culminating in the hire of a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) effective July 1, 2004. The RPF will act as the Unit Forest Pest Specialist and Forestry Assistance Specialist.

## **FHEP ASSESSMENT**

### **PROBLEMS**

Lack of staffing dedicated to the implementation of these grants has been the main problem to overcome. The staffing problem was exacerbated by the State's budget issues and a decreased ability to respond promptly to this forest health emergency.

### **SUCSESSES**

San Diego CDF has been able to use the lack of staffing to an advantage by focusing on plan development and ICS organization building. The San Diego Unit is poised to take better advantage of the situation and resources allocated to it in the wake of this planning effort. Additionally, CDF has been able to develop a strong cooperative relationship with all agencies involved in the FAST effort. This will help all agencies to run a virtually seamless County/Unit wide operation.

### **CHANGES NEEDED**

The Unit feels like a good plan has been developed. The plan is seen as fluid with flexibility to change as needed. At this time no changes are needed. Regular assessment of the plan will identify needed changes and an accounting of those needs if any will be made in future reports.

### **FOR THE FUTURE**

As was illustrated in the assessment section of this plan, anywhere within the San Diego Unit is subject to fire occurrence. Therefore, any portion of the Unit will benefit by the application of Pre-Fire Management techniques. Plans are being developed for all battalions to employ all pre fire tools available as applicable.

San Diego is likely to continue to have fire problems along the international border due to the illegal migration that continues to take place. This problem will also be carried further north along the migration corridors into other portions of the county. This area will continue to be a priority for CDF and Cooperators for Pre-Fire applications.

Additionally, the continued drought and associated dead, dying, and diseased trees and other vegetation will cause "average" fires to resist standard control measures for many years to come.

CDF will continue to work with other agencies in the area of Fire Management on the Multiple Species Conservation Plan and Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan Lands.

As the Fire Plan assessments are completed and new projects initiated, new stakeholders will be identified and called upon to participate in the implementation of these projects.

Interest within the Unit toward Pre-Fire Management is at a high level and we in CDF must take the lead to continue this interest and move the program forward.