

Snapshots

February 4, 2005



Successful BLM Projects
Supporting the National Fire Plan

County near Bass Lake, a popular recreational area, and not far from Yosemite National Park.

The Rancheria's Wildfire Prevention Tribal Fuel Reduction Project reduced the 40 percent tribal unemployment rate because the Rancheria hired local members to do brush clearance. Although the jobs were temporary, the tribe members received training in fuel reduction that they can potentially use in other employment.

The project was a cooperative effort where tribal members worked with Indian Housing Authority personnel, Forest Service Bass Lake Ranger District, Sierra Mono Museum and the Eastern Madera Fire Safe Council to remove fuel on 40 acres of tribal lands and protect 90 people and 14 homes valued at \$1.5 million.

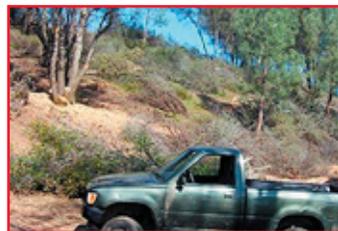
For every federal dollar funded through this grant, \$20 worth of property was protected. This translates to a return on investment of 20:1.

California

North Fork Rancheria Creates Jobs and Fire Safe Communities with BLM Grant

The California Fire Safe Council passed through a 2004 Bureau of Land Management grant of \$75,000 to North Fork Rancheria that had a double benefit of reducing wildfire fuel and unemployment.

North Fork Rancheria, part of the Indian Housing Authority, is in Madera



Before and after at Wah Up Weh Tu. Sometimes too dense to penetrate, heavy vegetation surrounds North Fork and nearby communities. Fire carries rapidly through this vegetation, which is primarily manzanita and ponderosa pine.

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The project began in 2002 with initial public education, the development of a fuels management plan, and a chipping project. Outreach to other local organizations produced crucial information on fire control, endangered species, fuels management, soil erosion and water issues. The 2004 project continued public education and provided for fuel reduction efforts.

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Making a Fire Safe Community One House, One Homeowner, One Acre at a Time

The Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council is one step closer to achieving its goal of having a fire safe community, thanks to a 2004 Community Assistance grant from the Bureau of Land Management through the California Fire Safe Council.

Under this grant, the council coordinated with Orleans and Somes Bar homeowners to thin flammable vegetation on 15 acres around



Orleans and Somes Bar in northern California are home to rugged individualists who have banded together under the fire safe council to improve their communities' fire safety.

Orleans and Somes Bar are part of the lower mid Klamath sub basin's five percent predominantly small private inholdings within National Forest and federal wilderness lands. Fire fuel densities are among the highest in the state with dense fuels resulting from 80 years of effective fire suppression and now encroaching on homes, water systems, and ingress and egress routes.

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homes in high fire risk neighborhoods. The project engaged homeowners in the stewardship of their properties by getting them to burn the piles created by the fuels reduction crew. In addition, landowners volunteered time to make a personal fire plan for their property in the event of a catastrophic fire.

The grant also enabled the fire safe council to prolong the work season for hired fuels reduction crews. It provided jobs for 15 crew members.



Before and after photos of vegetation around a typical home in the community.