

Improvements Roads, Trails, Campground, and Construction Projects

Palomar Ranger District

Road Improvements

Approximately 8 miles of roads within the burned area were stabilized during Fire rehabilitation activities.



Oak Grove Fire Engine Station

New Fire Fighter Facilities

The Forest remodeled an old warehouse building turning it into offices and a day use facility for the new 20 person Palomar Hand Crew hired under the National Fire Plan. A new office for the Ramona Helitack crew was constructed at the Ramona Airport replacing two old facilities. New fire engine garages were constructed at San Vicente, Palomar Mountain, and Oak Grove, which won a notable design award. The new fire engine station was highlighted in the November 2004 issue of the *Fire Chief International Fire-Rescue publication*. The Oak Grove Fire Station was a national prototype for the Forest Service designed by the Hilliard Architects Inc. and built by Erickson-Hall construction working with Forest Service firefighters and engineers. This is the first of its kind and takes into consideration the local climate and was constructed using fire resistant materials with an emphasis on energy efficiency. The new building houses two engines for captains and crews, and a water tender.



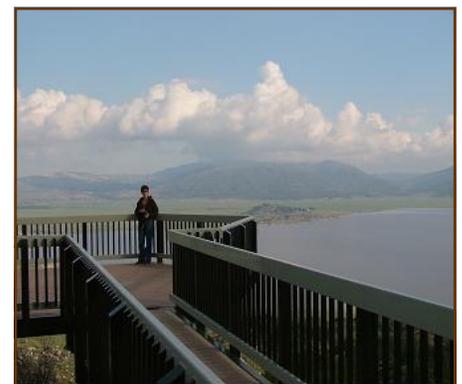
San Luis Rey River Crossing

San Luis Rey River Crossing

The new crossing was constructed along the San Luis Rey River for the protection of the endangered Arroyo Toad. The new crossing provides safe access for visitors to cross the creek while protecting habitat for the Toad and other species.

Henshaw Overlook

Construction of the Scenic Vista and Wildlife Viewing Platform was completed on east grade (S-7) leading to the top of Palomar Mountain. This was constructed using Capital Investment funding and Recreation Fee (Adventure Pass) funds.



Henshaw Overlook

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Descanso Ranger District

Road Improvements

On the Descanso Ranger District a total of 19 miles of paved road repairs were completed on the Pine Creek, Kitchen Creek, and Corral Canyon roads. Recycled asphalt was used as base material for the repairs on two of these roads. In addition, approximately 26 miles of roads within the burned area were stabilized during fire rehabilitation activities.



Pine Creek Road Repairs

Fire Station Improvements

The Cameron Fire Station was constructed to fit the new Model-62 fire engines.

Burnt Ranch Campground Improvements

Phase one of the Burnt Ranch Campground rehabilitation and construction project has been completed. This includes pathways, restrooms with flush toilets and showers, and accessibility improvements. Road parking spurs and barriers will be refurbished during phase two to begin in 2005.



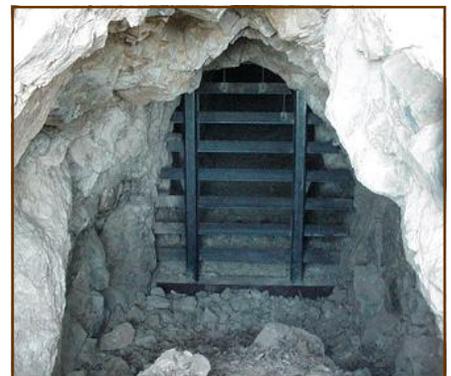
Water System Improvements

Several water system improvements were completed on the Los Huecos Reservoir on Laguna Mountain. The roof on the 100,000 gallon reservoir was replaced and the reservoir was brought to current water standards.

Trabuco Ranger District

Mine Safety Closures

Bat gates were constructed in the openings of several abandoned mines eliminating access to the public. These gates are installed for habitat protection and to provide for public safety. An abandoned vertical mine shaft was filled with foam to prevent public entry. Additional abandoned mine closures are scheduled for 2005.

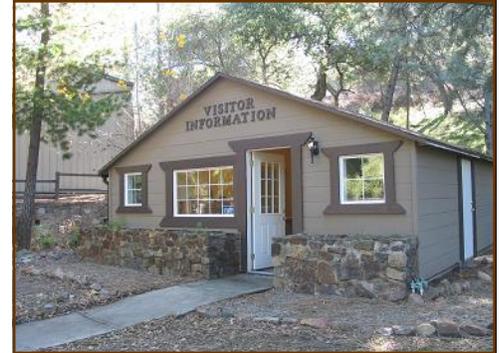


Bat Gate

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Trabuco Ranger District

El Cariso Visitor Center Open to Public—The newly renovated El Cariso Visitor Center was opened to the public on October 8, 2004. The visitor center will provide information to forest visitors on campgrounds, recreational opportunities, and forest use restrictions. In addition, the public will be able to purchase forest products such as Adventure Passes, Forest Visitor Maps, and Golden Eagle passports. The visitor center is located on the Ortega Highway 74 at the El Cariso Fire Station and is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. The center was renovated by Forest personnel using a combination of Adventure Pass revenue and recreation funds.



El Cariso Visitor Center



Wildomar OHV Area

Off Highway Vehicle Areas

The Cleveland National Forest met quarterly with local Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) users about grant proposals, management issues, and volunteer support. Grants are submitted annually under State regulations for maintaining, improving, and patrolling OHV areas. An open house was held to discuss the Forest's OHV grant applications for operation and maintenance of the two established Off-Road Vehicle areas, and provide opportunity for public comment. The Forest received \$200,000 in 2004 from State Green Sticker grant funds to provide for maintenance and conservation work in these areas. Work in both the Corral Canyon on the Descanso Ranger District and Trabuco's Wildomar areas have been completed. Some of the work included erosion control, trail stabilization, tread maintenance, new trail signs, and maintenance on barriers and restrooms.

Firefighter Memorial Picnic Area

Visitors to the Trabuco Ranger District will have a new opportunity to picnic, rest, and relax. Accessible parking, pathways and restrooms were constructed at the Firefighter Memorial Picnic Area. Construction of the Memorial Wall is underway and is being completed in conjunction with the California Retired Firefighters Association.