

Partners

Border Agency Fire Council

The Forest is an active member on the Border Agency Fire Council (BAFC). Unauthorized travel and camping in the forest have taken their toll on areas adjacent to the border. In 2003, Forest Service personnel removed more than 2,122 pounds of food and drink containers, and other trash. Since trash pick up started in 1997, more than 102,000 pounds of trash has been removed. Forest crews also removed trash from Bureau of Land Management areas in Otay Mountain. Crews continue to patrol the forest in the border areas and extinguish illegal campfires before they become wildfires. In 2004, a homepage for BAFC was established to provide annual report information and member agency links. For more information go to www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland under Border Agency Fire Council.

Law Enforcement

Forest law enforcement officers worked cooperatively with Orange, Riverside, and San Diego County agencies with drug interdiction, *Cannabis* eradication, arson investigations, and cooperative agreements for uniformed patrols. During 2004, several large marijuana cultivation sites were successfully eradicated and resource protection measures enacted. During 2004 Law Enforcement staffing increased by three officers.

Sister Forest

As part of the Sister Forest agreement between the Cleveland National Forest and sister agency Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR), the Forest continues to provide training to enhance the skills of the Mexican national fire crew, Bravo 10. In July of 2003, forest employees participated in a multi-agency forest celebration with tree planting at Sierra Juarez our counterpart forest in Mexico. The Forest and CONAFOR celebrated its first Bi-national multi-agency Children's Environmental Education day on October 11, 2003 in El Hongo, Mexico (near Tecate). The following year the celebration took place on May 8th, 2004 in the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area on the Descanso Ranger District and was a huge success. Approximately 165 children and adults from 15 different agencies on both sides of the border planted trees and participated in environmental education activities throughout the day. The day ended with certificates presented to the participating children. The event is sponsored under the Sister Forest Agreement with Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR) Mexico.



Tree Planting in Mexico

Partners

Native American Environmental Protection Coalition

The Forest continues to coordinate with the multi-tribal environmental specialists that make up the coalition. Coordination meetings were held in 2003 and 2004 to discuss Forest Planning, and natural resource topics of mutual interests. The meetings provided participants an opportunity to exchange information and network.

Passport In Time Project

Fourteen volunteers from around the country participated in a Passport in Time (volunteer archaeology) project on the Cleveland National Forest. The goal of the project was to relocate cultural sites that had been previously recorded in the early 1980s, and to update existing information and assess any impacts to the sites over the past 20 years. As sites were located, volunteers created new maps, took digital photos, and recorded locations with a Geographical Positioning System (GPS). Volunteers came from all walks of life, including a former District Ranger on the Descanso Ranger District and some volunteers traveled from as far away as Montana and Seattle, and as close as San Diego. Over a two week period, almost 700 hours of volunteer work assisted the Forest with the relocation of these cultural resource sites.



Passport In Time Crew

Forest Area Safety Task Force

The Forest is a member of the San Diego County Forest Area Safety Task Force (FAST), which is a collaborative effort between community organizations, local fire districts, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), San Diego Gas and Electric, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego County, and other stakeholders to address tree mortality and fuels build up issues in San Diego County. There are 72 communities-at-risk in San Diego County due to the proximity of homes to dead and dying chaparral and trees. Because of the different needs of the communities, FAST members have organized themselves into committees. FAST is also developing an Incident Command System organization, designed to respond to multi-agency fire emergency situations. The FAST Group is also committed to finding environmentally friendly and cost effective uses of the large amounts of biomass currently being generated thru the fuel reduction programs. Some grant funding for the removal of dead and dying trees in high risk areas was authorized in 2004.