

Volunteers

The Cleveland received hundreds of calls from concerned citizens who wanted to do something to help with Forest rehabilitation after the disastrous fires in 2003. The Forest, recognizing the challenges of coordinating a large scale volunteer mobilization, hired a volunteer Coordinator, who coordinates projects with other organizations and agencies. A unique collaboration with the San Diego River Park Foundation and the local San Diego Fire Recovery Network was formed. Through partnering with local organizations, the Cleveland has begun to grow a grassroots volunteer program that draws from our community's own organizational resources.



Volunteers completing Rehabilitation Work after the 2003 Fires

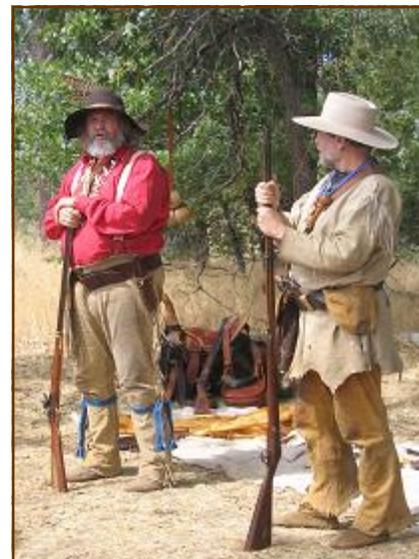


Inaja Memorial Picnic Area Trail Work

Several projects took place at Inaja Memorial Picnic Area, which was built to memorialize the 11 firefighters lost while fighting a 40,000 acre fire in San Diego River Gorge in 1956. Young scouts cleaned up a picnic area, while adults worked to repair erosion-damaged trail tread. An effort is currently underway to design a wildfire interpretive trail and exhibit at the park, using the resources of the Student Conservation Association and San Diego River Park Foundation planners and volunteers.



In 2004, volunteer training was conducted on all three of the Forest's ranger districts



Living History Event Mountain Men

Volunteers

Seeking to give back to the Forest which has served their recreation needs, local climbing clubs gathered at El Monte Road on the San Diego River to collect over 25 cubic yards of debris which was laid bare in the river bed by the intense Cedar fire. Dumpsters were provided by the San Diego Water Department, with food was provided by local climbing gyms and equipment retailers.



El Monte Road



Information provided at Community Event

These are just a few of the many projects developed and carried out by the recreation and resources staff of the Cleveland. Through an ambitious outreach program that included information tabling at community events, and the educational 'On Fire!' theater production performed to over 1,000 school children and community members, word of the need for public lands volunteerism is spreading in the community.

National Public Lands Day saw a small group turn out to restore a riparian area on Palomar Mountain, which improved the habitat for an endangered bird species.

2005 looks to be a bright year for volunteering on the Cleveland!



On Fire—Play