

**Crystal Lake Forest Health Project
Angeles National Forest
2004**

Crystal Lake is a popular recreation area nestled in the San Gabriel Mountains north of Glendora, CA. In the fall of 2002, the Curve Fire burned over 20,000 acres in the area, killing trees and closing the campground and other facilities indefinitely.

Assistant Resource Officer Jamahl Butler of the San Gabriel River Ranger District, has been using Hazardous Fuels dollars to remove dead trees from the site and restore ecosystem health. “It’s basically a high elevation, mixed conifer stand,” said Butler, noting that there is old growth oak in the area, too. Some are as old as 1000 years.



Chipping returns organic matter to the soil at Crystal Lake. Contractors will be working throughout the winter to complete the project.

Sporax is applied to a stump to prevent Annosus root disease.



In Phase I of the project, contractors have removed dozens of dead trees—those killed in the fire and some that were already dead from bark beetle infestation. The stumps have been covered with Sporax to prevent Annosus root disease while the highly flammable logging slash was chipped and returned to the forest floor. “We also used the ‘lop and scatter’ method,” said Butler, “So that campers can use it for firewood once it reopens.”

Phase II will include fuels reduction work for fire prevention as well as selective thinning for forest health reasons. “There’s very little natural pine regeneration,” explains Butler, a forester by training. “It will open the canopy to reduce competition and encourage new growth.” Phase II will also include pruning or completely removing trees infested with the parasite Dwarf Mistletoe. The District hopes to complete all work by next summer.

The project site is located within the district of Congressman David Dreier. It is part of the larger Angeles Fuels Management Program, which includes work around other recreation sites and in areas that border communities. The District Ranger for the San Gabriel River Ranger District is Marty Dumpis.

For more information on the Crystal Lake Project, please contact Jamahl Butler at 626-335-1251 or Stanton Florea at 626-574-5213.