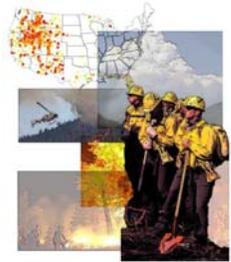


National Fire Plan

Lassen National Forest

Pacific Southwest Region



Chester Air Base Ground Breaking Ceremony

On October 3rd, a perfect autumn day, over 80 people gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Chester Air Base reconstruction project. This project will include improvement of runways and parking pads for aircraft, new building facilities for the air operations, as well as meeting Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety regulations.

Funding for the project is part of the National Fire Plan for facilities, and the cost is estimated to be \$2.8 million dollars. Garco Construction was awarded the contract for the air base reconstruction project that is expected to be completed by March, 2003.

Representatives from Congressman Herger's office, Plumas County Board of Supervisors, and Plumas National Forest spoke at the ceremony offering much support for the project. Mike Madden, Fire Management Officer for the Lassen National Forest provided a history of the air base and thanked many agencies, employees, retirees and public officials for their support of the air base. Ray Quintanar, Regional Fire and Aviation Director, was guest speaker and spoke of the strategic importance of the air base and what the significance of this project will mean to future firefighting efforts to northern California and northeastern Nevada.



From left to right: George Almond, Lassen Aviation Officer; Ed Cole, Lassen Forest Supervisor; Alex Oehler, Congressman Herger's representative; Bill Crane, National Air Tanker Base Project Assistant Manager; Smokey Bear; Ray Quintanar, Regional Fire and Aviation Officer; Bill Dennison, Plumas County Board of Supervisors; Mike Madden, Lassen Fire Management Officer; Joe Wood, Plumas Fire Management Officer; Jess Bengoa, Lassen Civil Engineer; Stan Kubota, Chester Air Base Manager.