

National Fire Plan

California

Pacific Southwest Region



Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council

Six Rivers National Forest

Community Protection Program Grants

These grants are a key aspect of the National Fire Plan – the protection of homes in the wildland urban interface.

Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council: \$145,400

Orleans Hazard Fuels Reduction Project

This project will treat 120 acres on private properties in and around the community of Orleans, CA. The Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council is made up of residents from the communities and the Orleans Volunteer Fire Department. Cooperating agencies include: Six Rivers National Forest, Klamath National Forest, Humboldt Co. CDF, Siskiyou Co. CDF, Karuk Tribe, National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

The goal is to reduce the risk of moderate to high intensity fires and protect public and private resources. The Fire Safe Council (FSC) could focus efforts to reduce risk of catastrophic fire adjacent to and on private property, protect cultural and biological diversity and enhance ecosystem functions **OR** to reducing risks of wildfire to forest and watershed ecosystem functions, safety and community assets through coordinated planning efforts and improved emergency response is a concern of all cooperating agencies and the FSC.

Through the use of grants and using local volunteer workdays, the FSC has been implementing fuel projects: to create shaded fuel breaks around mid-slope homes in the wildland/urban interface with a high risk of destruction from wildland fire, to provide fire safe protection measures for the homes of senior citizens in the wildland/urban interface, to eliminate ladder fuels and maintain canopy closures above 70% to create low-maintenance shaded fuel breaks (where feasible), and to increase landowner participation and fire readiness through shared responsibility in the project.

So far, projects (on private property) have thinned flammable species and overstocked small trees and shrubs 6 inches or less in diameter, breaking up the continuity of surface and ladder fuels. They are also cutting the lower branches off remaining trees to reduce the potential for crown fire initiation by increasing the base crown heights. The resulting slash was then piled for later burning when weather is wetter or the slash will be chipped. Slope position, accessibility, surrounding fuel conditions and landowner participation are factors in the selection of project areas. Projects have been implemented along the Salmon River Road, along Ishi-Pishi road and around scattered residences throughout the local area. More areas are planned for implementation from Ti-Bar area southward to the Weitchpec area.

1. Residence building prior to fuel treatment efforts.



2. Same residence building after fuel treatment effort.

