



NEWS RELEASE

Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument

1839 S. Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257

Centennial 1908-2008

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Monumental Outlook Over The Horizon

(What's Happening on the Sequoia National Forest
Giant Sequoia National Monument)

By Tina Terrell, Forest Supervisor

Porterville, CA..... Fire season is upon us. If you live near brushland, shrubland or forestland, is your home protected from a wildland fire? Have you heard about Fire Safe Councils? Now you may be asking the following question:

What does this have to do with the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument?

Well the forest/monument is adjacent to forty-one communities at risk from wildfire, and thirteen of these communities have Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Our mission, and our passion, is about helping communities (and people) in reducing hazardous fuels in or around communities that abut your public lands. We provide this assistance through Fire Safe Councils. The mission of Fire Safe Councils are to preserve and enhance California's manmade and natural resources by providing leadership and support that mobilizes all Californians to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires.

Since the formation of Fire Safe Councils in April 1993, the Council has united its diverse membership to speak with one voice about fire safety. The Council has distributed fire prevention education materials to industry leaders and their constituents, evaluated legislation pertaining to fire safety and empowered grassroots organizations to spearhead fire safety programs.

The Forest Service has supported Fire Safe Councils from the beginning. We provide support to Fire Safe Councils by assisting in the review of community wildfire protection plans, planning and coordinating chipping days (where brush or shrubs or small groups of vegetation are removed and chipped into small pieces), or by providing financial assistance through the State Clearinghouse Grant Program.

Fire Safe Councils in and around the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument were instrumental this past year in getting funds through the Clearinghouse. This year, the State awarded over 122 grant projects totaling \$13 million dollars. Some of the preliminary winners for these funds were:

- The Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council received \$99,800 dollars for the Pale Ranch Community Shaded Fuelbreak
- Tulare County Resource Conservation District received \$124,491 dollars for the Crawford

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Fuels Reduction Project

- The Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council received \$99,600 dollars for the Bodfish Canyon Phase II Project
- The Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council received \$86,900 dollars for the Piute Meadows Community Escape Route Project

Congratulations to these fire safe councils and resource conservation districts for submitting these successful grant applications! Together we are making a difference to improve communities, the environmental landscape, and protecting homes. You are making a difference!

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