



California Fire Alliance Accomplishments 2001

The California Fire Alliance is a consortium of local, state, federal, and tribal agencies that work together to reduce the risk of wildfire. We get things done! Following are some of the projects that were completed in the year 2001 with the support of the California Fire Alliance. Each one of these projects makes our state more fire safe:

Fire Safe Councils – Through Fire Safe Councils, citizens of California communities got involved in their own fire safety projects. More than \$3.7 million in federal funding was distributed among 101 projects around California last year. Communities at risk participated in fire protection planning, fire prevention and education or hazardous fuel reduction projects. See www.firesafecouncil.org

National Park Service (NPS) - Almost 3,000 acres of land in California's national parks were treated last year either with prescribed burns or mechanical removal of the materials that fuel wildfires. Fuelbreaks were created by removing dry grass, brush and weeds and thinning out overstocked stands of trees. These fuelbreaks slow the progress of wildfire and provide access to firefighters. These projects on seven national parks in our state not only make the parks (and nearby communities) more firesafe, but they are also help maintain current species diversity and re-establish the natural presence of fire in the wildlands.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - The BLM treated more than 5,500 hundred acres of their own land this year, and provided millions of dollars to other agencies to create fire safe landscapes around California. Fuel treatment projects were completed on more than 1,500 acres of BLM public lands located in the wildland urban interface in an effort to protect structures and communities. An additional 4000 acres of more remote public land was treated to support wildlife, forestry range and watershed projects. California BLM also provided \$5.5 million to 101 projects through the State Fire Safe Council and 12 more projects through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF).

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection - (CDF) The CDF contracts through its Vegetation Management Program with private land owners and other cooperators to reduce fire hazards and improve the environment. In 2001, CDF treated more than 23,000 acres. (The program averages 37,000 acres per year). This program has a long history of successes as major wildfires have burned to a previously treated site and slowed significantly, giving firefighters a chance to put them out. These projects are proven to reduce the size of wildfires and their intensity.

Governor's Office of Emergency Services - (OES) and Federal Emergency Management Agency – (FEMA) The FEMA firefighters grant program provided almost \$6 million in 2001 to various fire districts around the state. Those funds provided equipment, training, safety gear and fire prevention programs to assist local fire districts in making their communities safer.

USDA Forest Service – (USFS) The USFS treated more than 149,000 acres of national forest land in California last year, either with mechanical treatment or prescribed fire. In addition to their commitment to making our national forests more firesafe, the USFS is also undertaking twelve research projects as part of the national fire plan. They also provided approximately \$7 million in funding to local and state fire departments and grants to local community organizations for fire safety projects.

Bureau of Indian Affairs – (BIA) The Bureau of Indian Affairs reduced fire hazards in the wildland urban interface with 20 projects for 13 Tribes in California. The BIA also supported 17 Rural Fire Districts with grants that provided personal protective equipment, wildland fire training and wildland fire prevention activities.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has provided more than \$1.5 million toward Alliance projects. They have provided funding to local government fire departments for fire prevention and education programs, community outreach initiatives, and hazardous fuel reduction projects. One example of a USFWS project in San Diego County removed 20 acres of eucalyptus trees that were adjacent to refuge land in order to reduce ladder fuels, thus protecting this valuable habitat.

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