



Fuel Break Fuels Local Support Off Hwy 299

Highway 299 west of Redding is a major highway corridor connecting the Central Valley of California with the North Coast. A high number of human-caused fires originate along this frequently traveled route endangering homes, businesses, and the natural resources of the area. In an effort to slow the spread of such accidental starts and prevent large, catastrophic fires from originating at the roadway, Bureau of Land Management's Redding Field Office has coordinated the creation of a shaded fuel break that runs parallel to the highway.

Four miles of this project has recently been completed in the Lewiston, California area. Local, state and federal cooperation has been evident throughout the project. The Hayfork Watershed Training Center, a program that offers training to local residents in a wide variety of resource fields, provided the crews that were used to build the fuel break. The break, located on the north side of the highway, averages 200' wide and was achieved by removing ladder fuels, increasing the spacing between trees, and opening up the tree canopy. Vegetation removed was then piled and burned with the assistance of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's fire crews. Several BLM offices also assisted in the project including the Redding Field Office, the Alturas Fuels Crew, and Engine Captains from both the Alturas and Surprise Field Offices.



Heavy fuel loading was typical prior to treating the area.



Completed section of fuel break with piles of removed vegetation ready to be burned.

Community protection, improved forest health, and reduction of catastrophic fire potential have all been achieved with this wildland-urban interface project. In addition, the project has inspired a local effort to continue the fuel break onto private lands. The Trinity County Resource Conservation District has applied for grants to fund new sections of fuel break that would tie into, and extend, the work recently completed on federal land.

Contact:

Walter Herzog, Fire Management Officer,
BLM Redding (530) 224-2124



Working for a Fire Safe Future

Success Stories