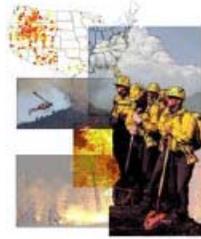


National Fire Plan

Modoc National Forest
Pacific Southwest Region
California



Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Sugar Hill Prescribed Burn/Warner Mountains Ranger District

Project Description. The Sugar Hill Prescribed Burn Project is on the Warner Mountains Ranger District, Modoc National Forest. This prescribed burn project is a cooperative project involving the Modoc National Forest and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

This project includes approximately 10,000 acres of under-burning within a 60-year old plantation complex. The entire project area is winter range for a growing herd of Rocky Mountain elk and many mule deer, and approximately half of the project also lies within the wildland-urban intermix threat zone. Two parcels of this project are under Cooperative Agreements with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Modoc National Forest. One agreement, covering 1,386 acres, has objectives of enhancing big game habitat and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The second agreement, covering 400 acres, has objectives of big game habitat improvement and burning for the enhancement of plants important to Native people.

Implementation. We have burned approximately 900 acres under the first agreement to date and plan to burn 400 acres of the second agreement Spring 2004.



Figure 1-Night burning on the Sugar Hill project.

In order to observe seasonal differences, burning operations has occurred during Spring and Fall. Based on environmental considerations, burning has also occurred during the day and night. A portion of the burn project involved a system of fuelbreaks within the plantation complex. The burning planned for Native American plants will occur with direct input from tribal members concerning timing, seasonality and application. Permanent monitoring plots have been established to track changes in vegetation and fuel profiles. Project implementation has involved the use of Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management personnel, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection inmate crews and private contractors.



Figure 2-Hand ignition of a Sugar Hill unit.

Accomplishments to date. In 2000-98 acres, 2001-75acres, 2002-614 acres and 2003-113 acres.

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