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U.S. Department of the Interior

Bandelier National  
Monument

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## **Bandelier National Monument** Fire Management: 2003 Fire Education Activities

Bandelier National Monument sponsored two Student Conservation Association teams with WUI/Community Assistance funding during 2003:

### **Fire Education Corps**

The Fire Education Corps at Bandelier placed an emphasis on communities at risk around the Jemez Mountains, especially those that were near Bandelier and the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Team members met with homeowners in Cochiti Mesa, Seven Springs, Thompson Ridge, Sierra Los Pinos, Jemez Springs, Ponderosa, Tesuque Pueblo, Los Alamos, and White Rock. A total of 35 home evaluations were completed and nine community events were attended, including the weekly Farmer's Market in Los Alamos and potlucks in Seven Springs and Sierra Los Pinos. Team members also met with representatives from Home Depot and Santa Fe's Newman Nursery to discuss Firewise landscaping and building materials, coordinated with the Los Alamos County Defensible Space Project, and developed recruiting packets to encourage local youth to consider joining the Fire Education Corps.

The team members also provided interviews to local radio stations and public access television stations, presented information on fire ecology and safety to the YMCA Summer Camp for 3rd-5th graders, and worked with the local Volunteer Task Force to provide information to middle school students on drought, tree mortality and fire risk.

In conjunction with the SCA Fuels Team, fuel reduction projects were completed at 19 homes in the Jemez Mountains and over 200 truckloads of fuel were removed from the interface.

### **Bandelier Fuels Team**

The primary focus of the Fuels Team was hazard reduction in and around Bandelier. In conjunction with the engine crews, the team completed fuel reduction projects in the Juniper and Ponderosa campgrounds, the mesa-top housing area, and along the Highway 4 boundary of Bandelier and Los Alamos National Laboratory. The work including dropping, bucking, chipping, and removing ladder fuels as well as trees unable to withstand the combined effects of drought and bark beetle infestation.

As noted, the team also assisted the Fire Education Corps in doing similar work at 19 private residences throughout the Jemez Mountains.

### **Team Leaders**

The Bandelier Fire Management Office opted to have the two team leaders stay on after the summer. They are also processing GIS data collected during the summer and completing a

number of outreach projects, including a Public Service Announcement slated to be used during the 2004 fire season an exhibit on drought for the Bandelier Visitors Center, and a poster on tree mortality for sharing throughout park units in the Southwest.

The work of the team and team leaders during 2003 is inestimable. The communities around the Jemez Mountains have come to rely on the teams for advice and assistance. It is clear that the attitudes and knowledge base of those living in the interface has changed for the better over the past 6 months. Thanks to the job done by the Fire Education Team and the Fuels Team, Bandelier's reputation and standing within the communities has definitely increased