



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

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WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE ACCOMPLISHMENT AT WHISKEYTOWN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



Fire crews monitor the fire progress.



Smoke column behind historic buildings in Old Shasta.



Smoke billows above Whiskeytown Lake.

POWER TOWER PRESCRIBED BURN - A SUCCESS

The National Park Service at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area successfully completed the Power Tower prescribed burn on March 13, 2004. This prescribed burn is part of the Wildland Urban Interface Initiative to help reduce the threat of wildfire to communities at risk. A total of 560 acres were burned along the east boundary of the Park. The Power Tower burn is a strategic line of defense that reduced hazardous fuels in the recreation area, and will help to protect nearby communities from devastating wildfire.

The Power Tower prescribed burn had been planned for the last 10 years. Due to the complexity of the burn with heavy fuels, powerlines, roads and the community of Old Shasta a few miles away, extensive planning was needed.

Before the burn, crews thinned along fuelbreaks, park roads and underneath powerlines. Fire staff monitored fuel sticks and weather patterns weeks before the planned burn. After heavy winter rains, totalling 60 inches, March arrived with dry, warm, weather and gave fire managers the opportunity they were looking for. Press releases were sent out, community contacts were made and resource orders were placed.

Personnel from the California Conservation Corps, Shasta College, Anderson Fire Department, California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, contract crews, United States Forest Service, Lava Beds NM, Redwood National Park and Whiskeytown employees assisted with the burn. Three days were used to burn the unit. Crews blacklined along the perimeter to strengthen the line. Aerial ignition was used in the interior of the burn. A large column of smoke was visible throughout the county, during the aerial ignition phase on March 12 and 13.

All of the fuel treatment and planning came together for a successful conclusion. The completion of the Power Tower prescribed burn is part of Whiskeytown's commitment to reducing the threat of wildfire to our neighbors and restoring forest health.

EXPERIENCE YOU AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that they may experience our heritage.