



*Nevada Division of Forestry  
Western Region  
Wildland Fire Management*



*2005 Accomplishment Report*

## *Fire Preparedness*

- **Carson City** - Nine firefighters and one Captain staffed two engines and one 3500 gallon water tender.
- **Douglas County** - Eight firefighters staffed two engines in Jacks Valley.
- **Storey County** - Eight firefighters staffed one engine in Virginia City Highland and one in Lockwood.
- **Washoe County** – Supplementing the three full-time fire stations, nine firefighters staffed two engines at Galena and Verdi.
- **Helitack** - Five state-funded firefighters were assigned to the two NDF helicopters based at the Douglas County airport.
- **Conservation Camps** – NDF fielded five 24 person hand crews out of the Silver Springs and Stewart Conservation Camps.

**Training** - Following three weeks of intensive training, thirty nine seasonal firefighters graduated from the Wildland Fire Academy. The Academy was conducted at the Regional Public Safety Training Center. Instruction and leadership was provided by NDF crew supervisors and station personnel, with



command staff providing assistance. New firefighters were certified as Basic Wildland Firefighter and Class “A” Fallers, while experienced seasonal firefighters learn advanced firefighter skills and crew leadership. All firefighters learned to safely drive four-wheel drive fire engines. There was a strong emphasis on safety, teamwork and physical fitness. All training met national standards.

**New Apparatus** - Two Type 6 Patrol Trucks were assembled by firefighters and mechanics. These trucks, which carry 150 gallons of water, are stationed at Galena and Bowers. They respond to back county fires, where access is limited.



**Air Operations** - NDF, through agreements with the Nevada Air National Guard has use of a Black Hawk helicopter for firefighting. This helicopter was put on standby during times of high fire danger or when federal contract helicopters were unavailable. The Black Hawk is a Type 1 Helicopter, capably of dropping up to 1000 gallons of water. To provide coordination with firefighters on the ground, a NDF Helicopter Manager flies with the Black Hawk whenever it is on fire assignments. In addition NDF received funds from the State Legislators to place a third Type 2 agency helicopter in service.



### ***Fire Suppression***

The long wet winter was a welcomed break after five years of draught. With an above average snow pack fire danger in the higher elevations was greatly reduced. However, this abundant precipitation caused an extremely heavy grass crop in the deserts and rangelands, raising the fire danger in those areas. While western Nevada experienced fewer fires, almost one million acres burned in Southern Nevada due to this unusually heavy grass.

NDF Firefighters, helped control three major fires, the Badger, Delaware, and the Mud Lake fires. NDF Firefighters helped fight seventy seven fires in western Nevada, most of which were controlled during the initial attack.



**Above: Clear Creek Fire, Carson City**

**Right: Truck Fire, Lyon/Storey Counties**



## *Fire Prevention*

**Public Education** - This year NDF hired a Fire Prevention Technician, who provided coordination for the fire safety education programs. This position is jointly funded by the four counties. Smokey Bear and Firefighters made 30 presentations to almost 11,000 children at summer camps,



schools, the Reno Rodeo, Reno Balloon Races, fire safety days, and other special events to raise fire safety awareness. NDF Firefighters placed fire prevention and fire hazard signs through out the area. NDF also worked with Wildlife officials to inform hunters of fire restrictions.

**Arson Task Force** - In early summer there was an alarming series of fires, which were determined to be arson caused. NDF joined with federal and local fire agencies to form two arson task forces; one in Carson City, Douglas, Lyon and Storey Counties, and a second in Washoe County. These task forces pooled their resources and talent to investigate fires, regardless of jurisdiction. A total of 23 suspicious fires were jointly investigated.



## *Community Defense*

NDF worked with nineteen Fire Safe Councils, to help them better protect their neighborhoods from destructive wildfires. Through these partnerships, NDF provided forestry and natural resources assistance such as; tree marking, State Historic Preservation Office cultural clearance surveys, technical information and work crews.

**Defensible Space** - Visited over 730 homes to conduct defensible space inspections. During these inspections Firefighters suggested ways homeowners could improve their homes chance of surviving a wildland fire. In order to give the better advice about fire safe landscaping, NDF firefighters received training from the Cooperative Extension Service on fire safe horticultural plants.

**Chipping** - Helped homeowners in Kings Canyon, Lakeview, Maranatha Ranch and other neighborhoods by chipping brush and branches that had accumulated from defensible space projects.



### ***Fuels Management***

Most of western Nevada is fire dependant forest and rangelands. Fires can never be completely eliminated from these plant communities. NDF's foresters, firefighters and hand crews work together on timber stand improvement and vegetation management projects, to reduce fire danger and improve forest health by thinning overgrown brush and trees.

**Fire Safe Highlands** – Removed slash and beetle-killed pinion pines on 57 lots. Most of this wood was taken to the fire station, where it was sold to raise funds for future Fire Safe Highlands' projects.



**Clear Creek Youth Camp** – Provided timber stand improvement and cleared brush on 52 acres around the facility. This project was done in conjunction with mechanical brush mowing.

**Lockwood** – Helped clear a fuel break between the Rainbow Bend subdivision and the Perry Ranch Road. This fuel break was over 1 1/4 miles long and 30 to 100 feet wide.

**State Lands Urban Parcels** – Improved urban-interface safety in the Kingsbury Grade area of Lake Tahoe basin, by clearing Manzanita and thinning crowded pine trees on five state-owned lots, for a total of twelve acres.



**Above: Manzanita before treatment**  
**Left: After treatment**

**Washoe County Regional Parks** – Improved fire safety and forest health at Bowers, Crystal Peak, Davis Creek and Galena Creek Parks, by removing dead trees, thinning crowded trees and removing brush. Firefighters also constructed shaded-fuel breaks, covering eight acres at Bowers Park and removed decadent Cottonwood trees, and piled slash for fall burning on twenty acres of Crystal Peak Park.

**Conservation Crew Projects** – NDF hand crews worked on forest health restoration and fuels reduction projects at Nevada Lake Tahoe State Park, Washoe Valley, Peavine, Carson City, Glenbrook and Job’s Peak Ranch. Crews cleared flammable vegetation along the Highway 28, 50, 395 and 431 right-of-ways, constructed a half-mile long shaded fuel break along the Hobart Road above the Lakeview subdivision, and assisted homeowners with fuels reduction and defensible space on 24 properties in Carson City. These projects totaled over 500 acres.

### ***Mission Statement***

***The Nevada Division of Forestry provides professional natural resource and fire services to Nevada citizens to enhance and protect forest, range and watershed values, conserve endangered plants and other native flora, and provide effective statewide fire protection and emergency management.***

**Prepared by Michael Klug, Fire Management Officer**