



Camp Smokey Gazebo Promotes Biomass Utilization and Fire Education

A gazebo built at the California State Fair was used to demonstrate and promote small wood biomass utilization and provide an outreach structure for a fire prevention and education program known as Camp Smokey. Camp Smokey is an outdoor fire prevention, fire safety, and conservation education exhibit created and staffed by a multi-agency committee to outreach up to a million visitors a year.

The Camp Smokey gazebo was built under a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Land Management and the Watershed Research and Training Center located in Hayfork, California. The Watershed Research and Training Center is a community-based nonprofit organization started in 1993 to promote healthy communities and sustainable forests through research, education, training, and economic development.

The center is also a partner in *The Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities Partnership* which is creating economic opportunities in small communities by finding new ways to foster land stewardship. They are developing locally-owned small business and community cooperatives to undertake watershed restoration activities and marketable woody biomass products.

The gazebo was built using small-diameter round wood taken from hazardous fuels projects in northern California and southern Oregon. Logs taken from these projects are typically unmarketable wood. Utilizing them for products such as a gazebo helps to offset the costs of hazardous fuels reduction and reduce biomass waste.

One of the project areas, Post Mountain, near Trinity Pines, California has been identified in the Trinity County Strategic Fire Management Plan-Community Wildfire Protection Plan. It is a multifaceted cooperative project between the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Watershed Research and Training Center, and private landowners. In 2002, the Post Mountain Volunteer Fire Department received \$50,000 from the BLM Community Assistance Program to implement a private lands fuels reduction project in the Post Mountain project area. Since 2001, BLM has provided approximately \$400,000 in grant funding to Trinity County to assist in pre-fire efforts.

Outreach messages at Camp Smokey this year included defensible space, fire safety, fire ecology and biomass utilization.

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The Camp Smokey Command Post, built with small roundwood logs obtained from hazardous fuels projects in northern California. (9-30-CA-3.tif)



Post Mountain project area fuels reduction work; a multifaceted cooperative project in northern California. (9-30-CA-2.tif)