

BLM and NPS Join Forces to Complete Prescribed Fire Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, California National Fire Plan – Fuels Reduction

The National Park Service at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and the Bureau of Land Management collaborated together to complete the 723 acre Queen Mary Prescribed Burn during the week of October 19 - 22, 2005. This prescribed fire had been planned for several years but due to the burn unit elevation of 4200' to 5500' and fuel conditions, the opportunity to complete the burn has been a very slim window with conditions typically being too dry or too wet.

As fire season slowed and daytime temperatures moderated, fire staff scouted the unit, monitored fuel sticks and weather patterns. In mid-October after a light rain, plans to conduct the burn were set in motion.

After a dry fall with above average temperatures the light rain proved the perfect opportunity to complete the Queen Mary Prescribed Burn. The two agencies worked with resources and completed the prescribed burn in five days. Crews worked hard to blackline the perimeter by working their way through the tan oak and manzanita. Aerial ignition proved successful on the steep terrain and mosaic conditions can be seen throughout the unit meeting the objectives of both agencies.

This burn was done in coordination with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, USDA Forest Service, local state and county fire departments, contract crews, and BLM and NPS employees.

The completion of this high elevation prescribed burn on the west side of the park and the interagency cooperation demonstrates Whiskeytown's continued commitment to reduce forest fuels, protect communities at risk while striving to restore forest health by reintroducing fire into the ecosystem.

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Smoke columns from the Queen Mary Prescribed Fire are visible from the highest point in the park, Shasta Baldy at 6,200'.



Patrick Lockabaugh patrols the perimeter of the Queen Mary Prescribed Fire.



Dense thickets of white fir are reduced as part of the objectives of the burn.