

National Fire Plan

Ojai Fuelbreak Youth Employment Project



California - The Forest Service recently awarded the program, called the Ojai Fuelbreak Youth Employment Project, a \$161,000 **National Fire Plan grant**. The Los Padres National Forest in Goleta, Calif. hosted a gathering of fire agencies, youth advocates, and local dignitaries in dedicating this unique program that enlists young people in reducing the threat of wildfire in the Ojai Valley.



In the above photo, Los Padres Fire Management Officer, Patrick Pontes, presents a plaque to Brain Miller, District Director for Congressman Elton Gallegly for his support of the National Fire Plan. Members of The C.R.E.W. were also honored for their work.

The Ojai project is a partnership to maintain a 25-mile long fuelbreak behind the at risk communities of Meiners Oaks and Ojai in Ventura County. A local youth employment organization called The C.R.E.W. (Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers) will help maintain the existing fuelbreak, about a third of which is on national forest land, and construct new segments over the next 18 months. Young men and women, ages 14-21, from several local communities will perform the work. Many of the youths are from disadvantaged backgrounds and some are considered by the juvenile justice system to be at risk.



For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit www.fireplan.gov