

Fire Management Activities

One small wildfire occurred at Point Reyes this year. There was tremendous potential locally for larger wildfires due to the vegetative growth from the extremely wet winter.

A total of 225 acres were burned under management prescriptions (also known as prescribed or controlled burning) throughout Point Reyes and the North District of Golden Gate National Recreation Area from September through November. The bulk of the acreage burned under pre-planned objectives were located along Highway One between Bolinas and Olema. Additional burn units were located along Limantour Road and above Drakes Beach. Local fire agencies that assisted in conducting the burns included East Bay Regional Parks District, Novato Fire Department, Skywalker Ranch Fire Brigade, Marinwood Fire District, Bolinas Fire District, Inverness Public Utilities District, Marin Municipal Water District, Nicasio Volunteer Fire Department, and Marin County Fire Department.

Mechanical methods treated another 215 acres to reduce the potential for wildfire ignitions or to reduce the amount of wildland vegetation fuels near structures or other human-made improvements. This work amounted to clearing around over 50 park buildings by mowing, weed-clearing, tree removal, chipping and brushing. Over 30 acres along Highway One, between Bolinas and Dogtown, were treated to reduce the density of the trees. The prescription required to accomplish called for removing by hand and powersaws over 5,000 small diameter eucalyptus trees and chipping the woody debris with mechanical chipper. Another 145 acres of roadside vegetation was mowed along the Highway One corridor to reduce the potential for wildfire ignitions.

Point Reyes National Seashore participated in many fire prevention and public education events stressing the role of fire in the environment throughout the year. A major highlight of this program was the many events conducted to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the 1995 Vision Fire.

Construction started on the badly needed Bear Valley Fire Cache building in September. This new facility will house the new Type 3 fire engine, hazardous fuels removal crew, and fire administrative staff. The new location will allow closer cooperation and communications between other park staff functions and the fire program.



Controlled burns and thinning of eucalyptus trees

