

Fire as a Resource Tool

The Division of Fire Management had another successful year that was highlighted by change and evolution.

The new Fire Management work center was completed with tremendous assistance from the Division of Facility Management and the PWR Architect. The new work center consists of two separate buildings. An administrative office and a Fire Engine Barn houses 2 fire engines and a 10 person fire equipment cache. The completion of the Fire Management work center at Bear Valley Headquarters area allows the fire program to integrate its operations with other park Divisions and allows better communications with other park staffs.

While wildfire occurrence at the Seashore was minimal in FY06, the Fire Operations program continued to evolve as the National Fire Plan evolves. The 5-person Hazardous Fuels Removal Crew spent most of the summer off park supporting wildland fire incidents and prescribed burn projects. A highlight of the summer was the Fuels Crew combining with personnel from Pinnacles National Monument and Bureau of Land Management's Fort Ord Hazardous Fuels Removal Crew to make up the "Bay Area Interagency Fire Use Crew." This interagency crew was assigned to the Bybee

Fire, deemed a Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefit incident at Crater Lake National Park during the month of September. Meantime the Fire Engine crew spent half the month of August supporting Lassen Volcanic National Park and Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake District in northeastern California.

Hazardous fuels treatment continued on the Seashore treating 335 acres, primarily consisting of mechanical methods. One 35-acre prescribed burn at Limantour Road was completed in late October. Though relatively small in size this burn is another critical treatment in creating a continuous roadside corridor of reduced fuels along Limantour Road.

The Fire Management Plan – Operational Strategy was completed this year and thus completes the immediate fire management planning process required by the national office. The plan was cited as "...one of the best done in the Region."



Bybee Fire at Crater Lake NP (above) and fire in Yosemite NP (below)

