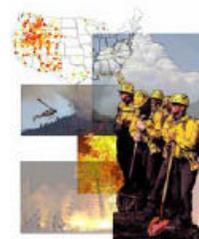


National Fire Plan

Angeles National Forest
Pacific Southwest Region
California



Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project Charlton Flat

Charlton Flat is a heavily used picnic and day-use recreation area on the Los Angeles River Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest. Situated along the historic Angeles Crest Highway in the San Gabriel Mountains, it's within easy reach of millions of southern Californians.

Six years of cumulative drought and recent insect infestation has caused significant tree mortality at the site, making it particularly vulnerable to fire.



District Ranger Don Cosby and Resource Officer Steve Bear, working with members of the Angeles Fire Staff, have been using fuel reduction funding to remove hazard trees and other dead vegetation from the site.

“Once we get them on the ground and limbed, they can be chipped or removed completely,” according to Bear. “It’s all about returning the organic matter to the forest floor and leaving the site in a better condition.” Thus the felling of standing dead trees is the first of two phases of the project.

Forest Fuels Officer John Thomas sees a need for keeping fires that originate in these areas on the ground and not in the crowns of the trees. “About 99% of fire starts on the Angeles are human-caused. So we’re basically trying to eliminate the aerial fuel source from around our recreation sites. If it’s not a running crown fire in these dead trees, we have a better chance of catching it early.” He went on to point out that the natural spacing of larger diameter trees in the Charlton Flat / Chilao area also helps the region from carrying fire when an ignition occurs.



The project site is located within the district of Congressman Howard P. “Buck” McKeon and is bordered closely by the district of Congressman David Dreier. It is part of the larger Angeles Fuels Management Program, which includes work around other recreation sites and in areas that border communities.

For more information, please contact John Thomas at 661-723-2751 or Stanton Florea at 626-574-5213.