

NEWS Release



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*United States Department
of Agriculture*

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Agencies Working Together To Provide Fire Protection

Recently, Lassen National Forest's Turner Mountain Lookout was condemned because of health and safety issues related to the structure. Lead based paint, asbestos, rats and an unstable foundation were the contributing factors to condemn the building. The Lassen is planning to replace the lookout eventually, but until that happens there is a need to provide lookout coverage to assist with detection of fires.

When the Lassen learned that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) was not able to staff their lookouts this year due to State budget cuts, it was identified as a great opportunity to work together to form a cooperative partnership. The Lassen and the Tehema-Glenn unit of CDF met to discuss the possibility of staffing Inskip lookout near Paynes Creek with Lassen personnel. The two agencies worked together to write a memorandum of understanding that will allow Forest Service personnel to staff the CDF lookout up to five years, and the MOU can be extended if the need still exists.

"Not only do our agencies benefit from this great partnership, but the people who live in eastern Tehama county benefit as well, this is a win-win situation!" Commented Mickie Jakez, Fire Prevention Specialist for CDF. Inskip lookout opened June 15th and will be staffed seven days a week until late fall.

-LNF-CDF-