

# USDA Forest Service

## San Bernardino National Forest



Date: September 21, 2007

San Bernardino National Forest  
602 S. Tippecanoe Avenue  
San Bernardino, California 92408

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Volunteers Sought to Help Protect Pine Trees from Wildfire** **Project teaches culture, history, and preservation of Parry Pinyon Pine Trees**

**SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., September 21, 2007**— San Bernardino National Forest Tribal Relations Program Manager Daniel McCarthy is again conducting the Parry Pinyon Pine Protection Project on September 28-30 and October 5-7. Volunteers are needed to help clear away and pile the vegetation.

The project is not only fun, but also important and has garnered national recognition. As its name suggests, the project's goals include protecting the trees by reducing the threat of damage from wildfires to Pinyon Pines, but also to educate Native Americans youth and the public about the prehistoric uses of pine nuts, and to gather seeds for both tasting and propagating new trees.

While the San Bernardino National Forest fuel reduction program works to remove dead trees lost to draught and insect infestation, the Pinyon Protection Project's focuses on removing brush around the Parry Pine trees to clear vegetation build-up (undergrowth) near these trees. By clearing away the vegetation and removing lower branches, a wild fire will burn around or under the trees and not consume them.

Pinyon pine trees (*tevat*) are found in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains. There are two species of pinyon: *Pinus monophylla* (single needle pinyon) and *Pinus quadrifolia* (Parry Pine or four needle pinyon). Both species are culturally important to the Cahuilla Indians and other Southern California Tribes.

California Indian Basketweavers Association (CIBA) has obtained a grant to work with tribal elders and youth to participate in the efforts. CIBA received a grant from the National Forest Foundation. The Southern California Indian Basketweavers Organization will also be assisting.

Participants will also gather and process this year's modest cone crop of pine nuts for tasting and for later planting. Volunteers will learn about traditional gathering practices of pinyon and other plants used by the Cahuilla for food, medicine and utilitarian purposes.

Most tools will be provided, but volunteers are welcome to bring gloves, pruning sheers, loppers, or small hand saws. Work will be in pre-selected areas and take place from Friday morning through noon on Sunday. Camp sites will be provided at Ribbonwood Campground (water, flush toilets, and showers) in Pinyon Flat. Saturday lunch and dinner will be provided each weekend by the local tribes participating.

**When:** September 28-30 and October 5-7  
**Where to Meet:** Thursday evening or Friday morning at the Ribbonwood Campground (Pinyon Flat). Work parties will be organized and depart no later than 8:15 am.  
**What to Bring:** Personal camping gear, food, snacks, water, hat, sun screen, gloves. Loppers, hand clippers or saws welcome. Temperatures will be mild and pleasant.  
**RSVP and Info:** Daniel McCarthy – [dfmccarthy@fs.fed.us](mailto:dfmccarthy@fs.fed.us), [dfmccarthy@aol.com](mailto:dfmccarthy@aol.com) or 909-379-9332.

For more about the San Bernardino National Forest, please visit:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/>

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