

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest



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San Bernardino National Forest  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Volunteers Gather To Repair Fire Damaged Areas on the San Bernardino National Forest

San Bernardino, CA...On Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 volunteers will gather at two locations on the San Bernardino National Forest to launch a **Forest Service, Take Pride in America** and partner initiative aimed at increasing volunteer efforts in our national forests.

The first event will occur on the Front Country Ranger District in Lytle Creek Canyon. Volunteers will install protective shading on over 3,000 seedlings that were planted in the fall of 2003 after the area was severely burned in the 2002 Lytle Fire. After the project, volunteers will be treated to an appreciation BBQ at Lytle Creek Ranger Station. VIP guests expected to attend include:

- Undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture; Mark Rey,
- Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior; Lynn Scarlett
- Associate Chief to the U.S. Forest Service, Sally Collins.

Volunteers and sponsors, including the San Gorgonio Girl Scout Council, the Student Conservation Association, and the San Bernardino National Forest Association OHV Volunteer Group will also be there to launch this effort.

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The second fire-recovery volunteer effort will be held on the North Shore National Recreation Trail. The North Shore Trail, located out of Lake Arrowhead, is used by local residents and visitors alike to access the renowned Pacific Crest Trail. Volunteers will re-establish miles of trail that were severely damaged in the Old Fire of 2003.

“These projects are just the beginning of a long term plan aimed at using volunteer and partnership help to rehabilitate fire-damaged lands” stated Gene Zimmerman, Forest Supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest. “Fires in Southern California blackened 750,043 acres in 2003. We have hundreds of concerned citizens who want to help the forest recover and we intend to make them a part of that effort”. Future projects include tree planting, tree planting protection, and maintenance, and OHV and hiking trail restoration.

The fire recovery projects on the San Bernardino National Forest are part of a larger effort being sponsored by Take Pride in America to assist with Southern California’s recovery. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will also gather at over twenty-two locations in the Cleveland, Los Padres and Angeles National Forests to launch the Take Pride In America initiative.

Volunteers are eligible to win a variety of discounts and prizes sponsored by Take Pride in America based on their hours of service. Individuals and organizations interested in volunteering can log on to [www.takeprideinfo/web/soCalEvents.html](http://www.takeprideinfo/web/soCalEvents.html) to see the array of projects offered on the Southern California forests.

With the help of the Forest Service, Take Pride in America and other sponsoring organizations, millions of people who come from all over to enjoy over 350 campgrounds and recreation areas will now have the opportunity to contribute to the improvement and preservation of California’s unique resources.

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