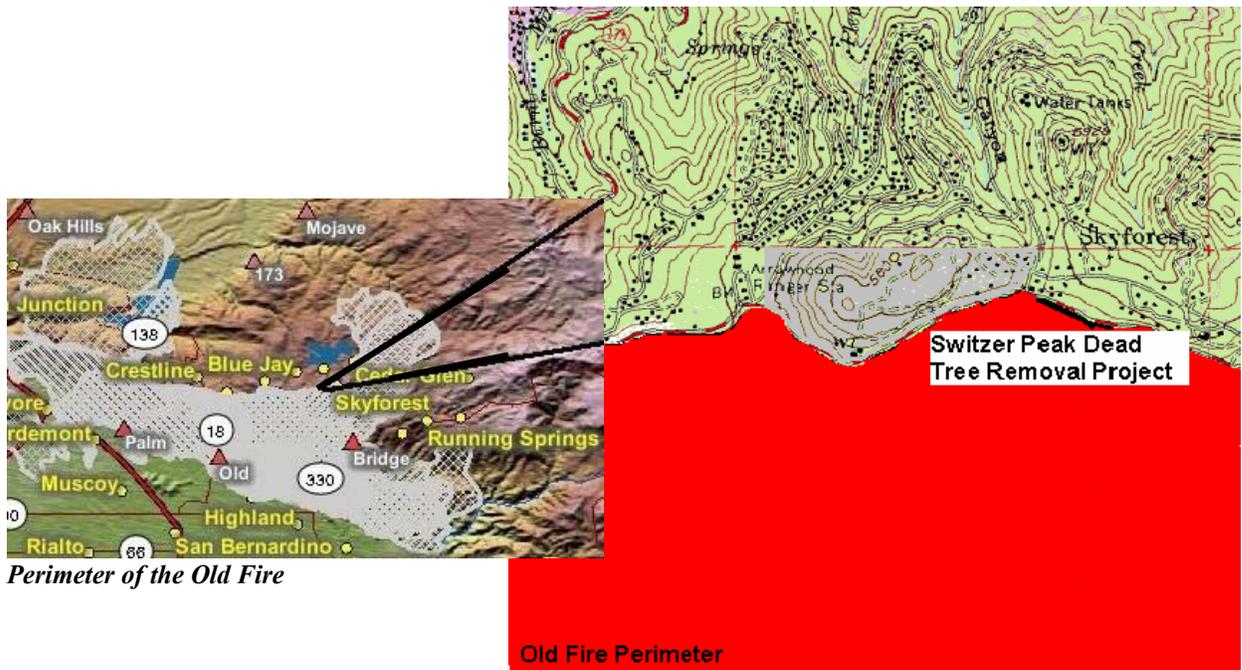


## The San Bernardino National Forest

The first forest visited was the San Bernardino NF. In addition to the smaller impact of numerous other fires at various times during 2003, the San Bernardino NF has been impacted the most by the Grand Prix and the Old Fires which occurred in late October, 2003. On this forest many fuels treatments were in the initial stages when these large fires occurred. The following is a summary of several treatments which proved significant in the management of the Old Fire.

### Switzer Peak Dead Tree Removal Project



### Switzer Peak Dead Tree Removal Project.

Photo was taken on Hwy.18 looking west. The treated area is on the right. During the Old Fire, Hwy.18 was used as a control line during extensive firing operations (Left side of road).

Switzer Photo 1



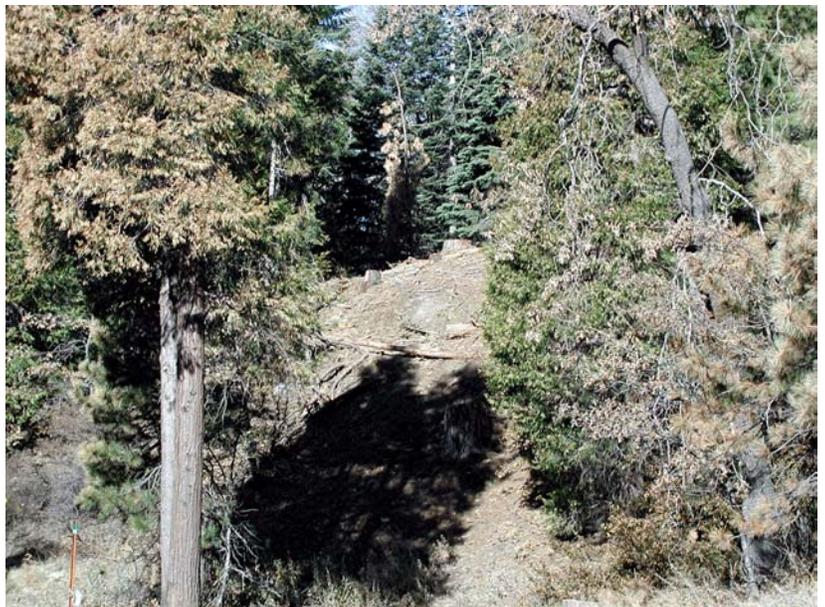
The Switzer Peak Dead Tree Removal Unit was 20 acres in size and was initiated in late August, 2003 after two months of planning. Large diameter dead pines were thinned so as to open the canopy above Highway 18 just east of the Skyforest Ranger District Office. This treatment served to connect other fuels reduction projects between the Skyforest Ranger District Office and the community of Skyforest. This project was accomplished by utilizing a commercial thinning service contract and was administered by local Forest personnel who were committed to other projects yet still available to manage it. This treatment served to help in holding an important stretch of Highway 18 during critical firing operations on the Old Fire. While spotting did occur within the unit during firing operations, the recent reduction in fuel loading offered firefighters an opportunity to safely extinguish the spot fires with minimal impact on the overall firing operation. In essence the firing operation could proceed more rapidly because the intensity of the spot fires had been reduced as a result of the Switzer Peak thinning project. If the fire had successfully crossed the road, several thousand structures, including the Skyforest Ranger District Office, Arrowhead Villas and Crest Park Subdivisions would have been directly threatened.



Photo was taken from Hwy.18 looking south below the highway. This area was fired from the highway during suppression operations.

Switzer Photo 2

Photo 3 was taken from Hwy.18 looking north above the point where photo 2 was taken. Note that mortality is still occurring in thinning area.



Switzer Photo 3