

Shasta-Trinity National Forest Hosts Annual Scouting for Trees Event in Conjunction with Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary

More than four hundred youth and adults turned out Saturday, March 3, 2012 for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest annual *Scouting for Trees* event at the Ackerman Campground near Lewiston in Trinity County.



Figure 1. Group photo for *Scouting for Trees* event, held on March 3, 2012.

Two thousand ponderosa pine trees were planted by participants from Girl Scouts of the USA, Boy Scouts of America and their families.

The Girl Scouts celebrate their centennial this year, so this is a significant year, according to Kathleen Jordan. Jordan has been organizing the event since 2005.

“There is a real interest in connecting youth to their public lands,” Jordan said. “The kids get a hands-on experience of planting trees, and they learn the importance of this kind of effort.”

According to the Bureau of Reclamation, the Ackerman Campground was built in a former staging area used during construction of the Trinity Dam. “When the dam was completed, the area was essentially devoid of trees,” said, Forest Silviculturist Phil Eisenhauer. “Over time,

some natural and human-influenced regrowth of vegetation has occurred. However, we felt that the area could still benefit from having more trees.”

Eisenhauer said planting the trees will help the landscape to recover faster than if left alone. “We planted the trees so that they would provide shade, screening between the campsites and aesthetic beauty in years to come.”

This event raises the awareness of the importance of tree planting in the restoration of public lands. During the event, the Scouts also participated in environmental educational activities such as estimating a tree’s age from trunk cross sections, printing fauna and floral designs on t-shirts and identifying various animals from bones and pelts.

Scouting for Trees has been held in Shasta, Trinity and Tehama Counties for 60 years and is a cooperative effort between the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, its partners and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Partners who joined the Forest in hosting the event this year included the Bureau of Reclamation, Youth Program Supporters of Shasta, Tehama and Trinity Counties, the Society of American Foresters, the Rotary club of Redding, Shasta College Natural Resources Club and the California Conservation Corps, Redding Satellite.