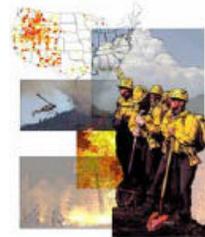


# National Fire Plan

Angeles National Forest  
Pacific Southwest Region  
California



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## Angeles Forest Valleys & Lakes Fire Safe Council 2004

In June of 2002, the Copper Fire forced the evacuation of some 2,000 residents in northern Los Angeles County. In addition to burning over 19,000 acres, the fire impacted communities in more lasting ways. "They (Copper and Bouquet Fires) scared the you-know-what out of people," said resident Florence Bistline. "The Copper Fire came within 100 yards of my house."

But rather than wait for "the next big one," Bistline and her neighbors got organized and formed the Angeles Forest Valleys and Lakes (AFVL) Fire Safe Council, which serves the rural communities of Green Valley, Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Leona Valley, Pine Canyon & Three Points, all within the congressional district of Howard P. "Buck" McKeon and bordering on the Angeles National Forest.

Earlier this year, the AFVL Fire Safe Council was awarded \$127, 820 in Community Protection grant money and a \$30,000 Economic Development grant, both from the U.S. Forest Service. With the money, the council was able to buy shovels, chainsaws, weed trimmers, spark arrestors, safety gear, storage bins and other equipment for safely completing brush clearance around homes. So far, 40 homes have been treated (100 ft. clearance). Homeowners who can't afford to have their properties "cleaned up," can have it done for free based on income level.

"It's a lot of hard work because we all have our regular jobs," said Bistline, who is now Chairperson of the Fire Safe Council. She went on to point out the importance of the federal funding: "If it wasn't for the grant money, we wouldn't be operating today."

**Before**



**After**



A Leona Valley home shown prior to and following fuels treatment. This work was completed by community members using a combination of funds, including USDA Forest Service Community Protection grant money.

Karen Bauman, Fire Prevention Battalion Chief on the Angeles National Forest, which borders on the communities, is encouraged by their involvement. “They’re being proactive—and a good neighbor,” she said. “They’re basically decreasing the fuel loading and increasing defensible space around communities. Hopefully, we’ll have lower intensity fires that will be easier to control.”

For more information on Fire Safe Councils around the Angeles National Forest, please contact Stanton Florea at 626-574-5213. The AFVL Fire Safe Council can be reached directly at 661-270-9911.