

Prescription Progression Over Season

June 10-17

5 days of NPS training

3 days field thinning

- Crew started hand thinning with Katana Boys and axes past wilderness boundary because fireline tie-in to road was not established yet
- Fireline on trail was initially established as 50 ft on each side of the trail
- Lop and scatter method established with emphasis on making fuels invisible from PCT for aesthetic purposes as well as safety concerns for firefighters; moved material roughly 50ft from trail
- Only trees 8 inches and under removed to get in the swing of things and fireline establishment was still slightly unclear

June 18

Line walked with Martha, Steve, Josh, Mike, Grant, and Kirk

- Established the location where PCT non-wilderness area would tie in to road in Warner Valley. It was determined that PCT up to the wilderness boundary was predominantly rocky and would work as a control line. Some work could be done where the PCT trailhead meets Warner Valley Campground, but this would not be a priority because it was not a wilderness area.
- Discussed archaeological site considerations around Flatiron
- Hiked proposed control line with all stakeholders (fire, trails, resource management and SI)
- Determined the PCT would be the control line with 100 ft of hazardous snag removal from the trail towards the interior of the unit. Vertical and horizontal fuels continuity would be broken up from the trail to up to 25 ft towards the interior. The exterior side of the trail would only be treated if snags were present that had the potential of crossing the control line, 1000 hr dead and down was present near control line and small diameter trees were at risk due to proximity, or if removing a tree on the exterior aided in breaking up horizontal fuels continuity, especially in the interest of protecting preferred tree species, and larger or legacy trees on the interior.
- Scouted potential locations for the control line where the PCT switch backs begin and where to connect to the Kelly camp trail. Exact route was not determined but the goal was to avoid proximity to the PCT for aesthetic reasons, if possible; to find the shortest most direct route to connect to the Kelly Camp trail; to find the clearest route keeping in mind that fire is the minimum tool in this treatment and minimal removal is preferred; and to choose a route that would follow perpendicular to the topographical contour lines.

June 24 - July 1

First full hitch in the field

Worked from Wilderness boundary of PCT to meadow past Kings Creek Falls trail junction

- 100 ft interior fireline established at the beginning of the first full hitch, crew continued thinning along PCT towards Kelly Camp Trail
- Lop and scatter method, 12 inches and lower to the ground, limb and buck trees so boles are on the ground
- Cut trees in 8 ft lengths, move larger fuels at least 20 ft from the trail
- Low stump as necessary (P-CREW) and cover stumps to conceal cut marks to hikers
- Remove trees and move cut tree material from under drip lines of legacy trees
- Remove hazard trees on exterior of line if a hazard to firefighters
- Remove live trees to break up canopy continuity if over the line
- Remove all interior snags within 100 ft of the line, or if there is any potential for them to cross the line
- Small section past meadow skipped to get confirmation on line



Figure 1: Section of PCT (indicated with orange box) that was skipped to get confirmation of fireline from Grant Gifford

July 8 - 15

Martha and crew scouted and flagged the line that diverged off the PCT to the Kelly Camp Trail based on the goals determined from walking the line on June 18th. The crew worked from the meadow opening past trail junction (1.0 mi from Warner Valley CG) to flagged line

- Section of PCT past large opening was winding, cut trees to establish straightest line possible with regards to PCT, and staying on the interior side of the trail to avoid having the control cross the trail at any point.
- Less selective with live trees to break up canopy continuity over the fireline
- Lop and scatter method still in effect

July 22 - 29

Worked flagged line junction of PCT to junction at Kelly Camp Trail

- July 24: Mike Klimek and Josh Mefford came out to see progress, Klimek discusses piling fuels for the first time in the field due to concern over the consumption of larger 1000 hr fuels without enough fine fuels to facilitate the burn.
- Klimek discusses the use of Kings Creek as the control line rather than the Kelly Camp trail; the potential tie-in location at Kings Creek was discussed but not solidified; how this would change the application of the prescription along the creek was not determined.
- Cut all snags within 100 ft of originally established flagged line before hitch conclusion
- Lop and scatter method still in effect

July 30

Martha went to talk to Mike Klimek control line along Kelly Camp

- Sought answers on whether or not the creek was the new line for the north part of the unit, and where to tie in with the creek/Kelly camp trail
- Also, if the creek was the line what work would be needed on the north side of the unit to break up fuels and ensure safety of firefighters during prescribed burn
- Klimek met with Josh and Grant to discuss these questions and the logistics of slash piling; Grant planned to walk the Kelly Camp trail August 8th in order to answer these questions
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August 5 - 12

Finished last 200 ft of flagged line and established tie-line location to Kings Creek, Finished wilderness boundary line of PCT

- August 5 - 8: felled snags from flagged line to Kelly Camp Trail junction
- August 8: Grant Gifford and Josh Mefford meet crew at junction of Kelly Camp Trail and flagged line to establish tie-in point with Kings Creek, NOTE: line was bumped into the interior ~50 ft and therefore more snags were taken in this area than necessary
- August 9 - 11: felled snags initially skipped at wilderness boundary line of PCT, second pass through of small trees and snags on exterior of line up to open area past trail junction
- Lop and scatter method still in effect

August 19 - 26

First backcountry spike, ACE crew arrives to pile fuels, Kelly Camp Trail hazard tree removal continues

- Felled snags and removed small fuels from Kelly Camp Trail to flagged line that tied in with Kings Creek, started hazard tree removal on Kings Creek (to prevent burn from starting spot fires across creek) as well as Kelly Camp Trail (which would be the likely

point of ignition, therefore snag removal was for safety concerns; selective break up of horizontal continuity of fuels along trail was also done as a concern for safety)

- Established hazard tree removal section along Kings Creek to prevent spot fires (~0.2 mi from junction of flagged line and Kings Creek), hazard trees flagged with GPS that could not be removed
- More selective with hazard tree removal on Kelly Camp Trail
- One sawyer team worked with ACE crew every day
- Piling method between wilderness boundary and Kelly Camp Trail junction put into effect this spike



Figure 2: Section of plot (indicated with blue line) where hazard trees were removed or flagged on Kings Creek as well as continued hazard tree removal on Kelly Camp Trail

September 3 - 10

Accomplished 1 mile of Kelly Camp Trail from point left off previous spike, second backcountry spike, ACE crew piling independently

- Crew learned about South End fireline, Josh and Grant flagged out park boundary for crew
- Selective hazard tree removal solely based on firefighter safety on Kelly Camp Trail, no longer 100 ft hazard tree removal
- Lop and scatter method in effect of Kelly Camp Trail
- ACE crew received directive from Josh Mefford on piling and worked independently this spike
- 20 ft buffer (15 ft interior, 5 ft exterior) small tree removal on fireline

September 17-24

Kelly Camp Trail Finished to Kings Creek river crossing, tie-in point to Kings Creek and Warner Valley Road established on South End fireline, South End fuels reduction and hazard tree removal finished.

- South end control line identified to minimize removal Ponderosa/Jeffrey Pines as possible
- Original methods used for removing hazards and reducing fuels continuity on the South end (same as along the PCT and flagged line from PCT to tie in with Kelly Camp trail and Kings Creek)
- Lop and scatter method in effect on South End