



Wildland

# Fire Prevention Newsletter

Pacific Southwest Region (California and the Pacific Islands)

Spring/Summer 1993

## Smokey Hits the Road!

After 50 years of wandering around the country promoting fire prevention, Smokey Bear will be getting some local respect. Recently, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the name change of a road on the Saugus Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest.

The road, currently named Hungry Valley Road, will be formally changed to Smokey Bear Road by February 1994, in time to be part of Smokey's 50th Anniversary Celebration. This road provides public access to Pyramid Lake, a major water recreation area, part of the California Water Project. The delay in implementing the name change is to allow time for a local private campground owner to alter promotional and advertising literature affected by the change.

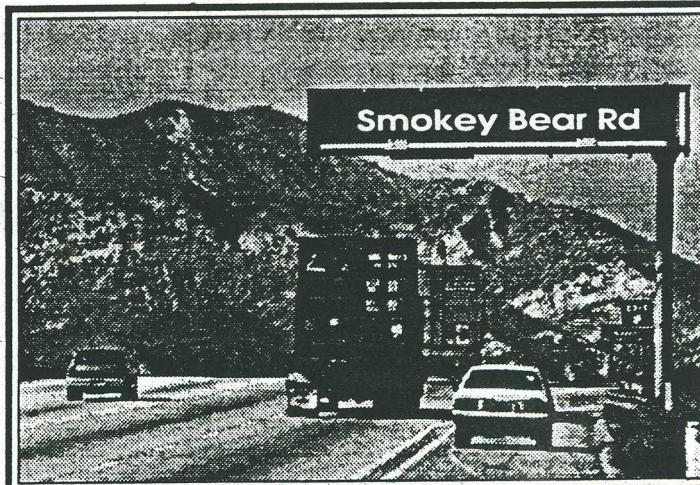
Interstate 5 has four traffic lanes in each direction through the Saugus Ranger District. Smokey Bear Road will have on- and off-ramps in each direction of travel, with appropriate major freeway signing visible to thousands of travelers daily. In fact, CalTrans figures from 1991 report 50,000 vehicles travel I-5 on an average day with 60,000 vehicles on "peak" days. That's a lot of people humming "Smokey the Bear" to themselves as they cruise down the highway.

The successful realization of this project has been due to the creativity and perseverance of John Damann, Fire Prevention Officer for the Saugus Ranger District. John started working on this idea over a year ago, with the goal of "making it happen" by the time Smokey's 50th anniversary came around.

John wrote letters, made phone calls, and generally "bugged" a lot of people just to get the issue on the agenda to be voted on by the Board of Supervisors. But, not trusting things to chance, John also made sure that he had developed the support of all of the involved political entities to receive a positive vote. Congratulations John, I think Smokey will like his birthday present.

Pat Cooney

**DEADLINE for FALL  
NEWSLETTER:  
September 3, 1993!**



View from Interstate 5 at the off-ramp to Smokey Bear Rd.

## Fire Prevention Outreach

The Mendocino National Forest provided ride-along fire prevention programs during the 80's, but a new twist was added this year. Due to the efforts of Tony Kanownik (Covelo RD), Steve Loughrey (Corning RD) and Chuck Sheley (Organized Crew Coordinator for the Forest), a large group of trainees went through the basic 32-hour firefighting course this Spring. The trainees included Native Americans from Round Valley and the Hmong community. The realization of these "new" resources for fire suppression surfaced during routine fire prevention presentations at schools and civic meetings.

Some of the fire prevention activities during the school year included the translation of the Smokey Bear story into Hmong, Hmong leaders speaking at District meetings and local schools, and organizing Hmong interpreters for the opening days of deer season. These fire prevention efforts have been targeted at getting the

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