

ACMS/ SAGEHEN Forest Health Project

Spring 2005

Nancy Kerr – lead teacher

All 7th grade students participated

Partners –SWEP-TAO-SAGEHEN and Truckee Fire Department

This project engaged all 7th grade students (240) in an in depth study of forest health and the issues surrounding potential catastrophic fire and the need for fuel reduction. Teachers participated in a workshop sponsored by TAO, SWEP and SAGEHEN to prepare them for the student field days at SAGEHEN. Three stations were set up for students to rotate through. The three stations were Forest Health, Nature Journaling and Geology.

After the teacher training, Jan Ellis the project director for SWEP made classroom presentation to 8 classes at ACMS. She set the stage by providing written material on “Forest Ecology” from Project Learning Tree and a video on “Living with Fire” by the UNCE.

In addition, she created a data sheet for the field days with input from Sagehen forest researcher, Gary Roller, and reviewed the information students would be collecting. Students had opportunity to practice the activity on the school grounds before the field days. Students mapped and collected baseline data on the forest health at SAGEHEN and made recommendations for fuel reduction.

After the field days, Gene Welch with the Truckee Fire Department addressed the students on fire safety and defensible space. Nancy Kerr, lead teacher, made a rubric to guide students in creating brochures to educate the community on forest health and fire safety issues. The top dozen brochures were selected for review by Gene Welch and the top 4 finalist were published as a public outreach project. SWEP used State Farm and Forest Reserve funding to print 200 copies.