

# **Deadwood**

## **A shining example of what a government program should be**

### **SUMMARY**

Deadwood Conservation Camp #23 is a should be. The staff and inmates provide an invaluable resource to the state and to Siskiyou County. The Camp Commander, his staff and the inmate residents there should all be commended for the fine work they do.

### **BACKGROUND**

The primary mission of the Deadwood Conservation Camp #23 (Camp) is to provide trained incarcerated hand crews to assist the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) with suppression of wildland fires and emergency flood control. Camp participants also complete community service and conservation projects year-round.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Members of the Siskiyou County Civil Grand Jury inspected the physical layout of the Camp and were shown procedures for the handling of inmates. In addition, facility operations, maintenance, food service, and security were covered. In attendance were staff from the Deadwood Conservation Camp, Camp Commander, and officers from CALFIRE, who answered questions concerning policy and procedures. We also spoke to several inmates who were quite helpful.

### **DISCUSSION**

Deadwood Conservation Camp was opened June 1, 1962, and has been an important part of Siskiyou County since that time. Deadwood Conservation Camp fire crews provide a large part of the labor force for CAL FIRE during wildland fires in Siskiyou County.

Hand crews also perform conservation and community service projects. CAL FIRE determines conservation projects.

Deadwood Conservation Camp's completed and ongoing community service projects include:

- Maintenance of the College of the Siskiyous Fire Training Center
- Fire Prevention (Fuel Reduction) in several local communities
- Fire Prevention (Fuel Reduction) at Castle Crags State Park
- Habitat improvement at Shasta Valley Wildlife Area

- Fire Prevention (Fuel Reduction) and cleanup at local schools
- Cleanup at local cemetery districts
- Maintenance and cleanup of Yreka Non-profit organizations and community centers.

The Deadwood Camp is designed to operate with 80 inmates. The current population is approximately 52 inmates. The state and CALFIRE are missing out by not using this valuable resource to it's fullest potential. There are no Siskiyou County inmates serving at Deadwood.

Medical facilities on site are very limited. If an inmate requires transportation to an outside medical facility, that must be provided by an on duty officer. This can leave just one officer on duty remaining at the Camp.

The Camp presents more as a resort than a prison. Buildings are clean and very well maintained. Almost all maintenance is performed by the inmates, making the Camp very self sufficient and economical to run. The inmates do a beautiful job maintaining the grounds and the facility. Food services are excellent, again run by inmates. There is a garden and a chicken run that is currently nearing completion, which will further make the Camp even more self sufficient. Inmate living quarters are clean and quiet.

Recreation facilities include a library, TV rooms, a gym, and hobby shops. A recent innovation are computer tablets for each inmate provided by Network Communication International Center (NCIC) Correctional Services at no cost to the state. These provide each inmate with Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone calls, movies, and most importantly, online training courses. Inmates earn tokens from completing courses, which can be used to pay for phone calls, movies, and other online services. General internet and e-mail are NOT provided on these tablets. Inmates work in a very hard and potentially dangerous job and earn these privileges.

Deadwood is well run and provides an important service to the state at a reasonable cost. The respect and cooperation shown between Department of Corrections officers and CALFIRE officers was evident.

## FINDINGS

### F1

Medical facilities on site are very limited. If an inmate requires transportation to an outside medical facility, that must be provided by an on duty officer. This can leave just one officer on duty remaining at the camp.

### F2

The Camp is operating well below inmate capacity wasting this valuable resource.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### R1

Increase staffing from six officers, one sergeant, and one lieutenant, to at least nine officers, one sergeant, and one lieutenant, in order to ensure an officer is never left alone on any shift.

### R2

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) should better utilize this valuable resource by fully filling the beds available.