

Goats being hired

Goats are being hired to do the work of men in a neighborhood outside of San Diego. The fires that **occurred** in the neighborhood four years ago burned thirty homes. Most of the homes have been rebuilt. While **contractors** were rebuilding the homes, nature was **regrowing** the grasses, bushes, and shrubs. The area is **once again** overgrown with **brush** that **poses** a major fire hazard.

The city council asked for bids to remove the **brush**. The lowest bid they received was \$50,000. And that was if the city provided breakfast and lunch for the work crews for six weeks. The city **countered** and offered unlimited coffee and a doughnut a day for each crew member. When that offer was rejected, the city asked for help on its website.

A **sheep herder** in Montana and a **goat herder** in San Bernardino read about the city's **plight**. They read about it while **surfing the web** on their laptops. They both offered to do the job for \$25,000. The council chose the **goat herder** because he lived closer.

If all goes well, they will invite the **goat herder** and his goats back every three years. The **goat herder** said he will probably visit San Diego while his goats are working. "I want to take one of those **hang-glider** rides. I just hope we don't crash. My goats would **end up** missing me a lot," he said.

Vocabulary

occurred: happened

contractors: builders, companies that build

regrowing: grow again

once again: again

brush: small plants, weeds

poses: is, presents

countered: counter offer, negotiation

sheep herder: sheep owner, farmer

goat herder: goat owner, farmer

plight: problem

surfing the web: using the internet

hang-glider: un-powered plane

end-up: do something unplanned or unexpected