

# **Utility-USFS Partnerships to Reduce Wildfire Risk**

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Collaborative efforts to enhance wildfire prevention

**Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee (WMAC)**

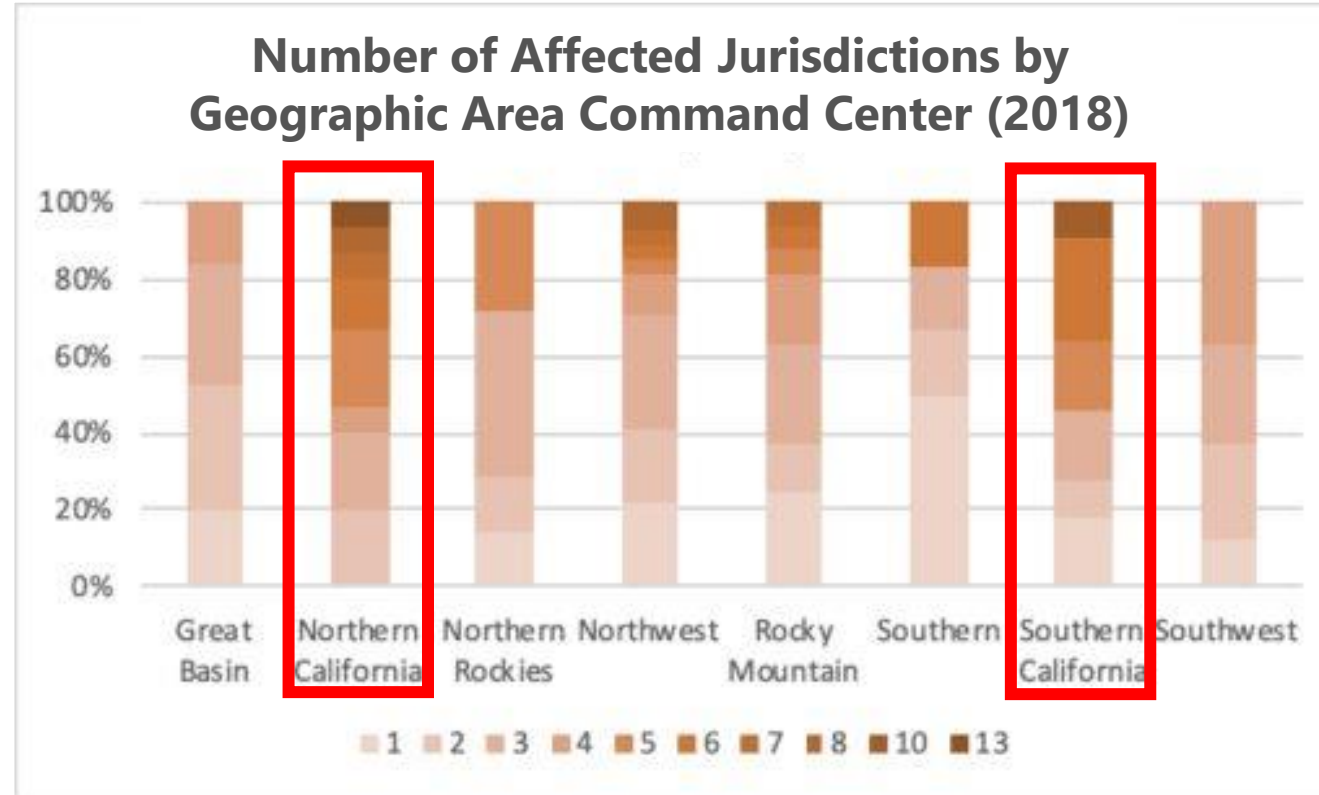
**June 16, 2026**

**Wildfire severity and frequency have escalated across the United States, posing significant threats to communities, ecosystems, and critical infrastructure such as electric transmission lines.**



# Collaboration to Combat Complexity

- Utilities and the Forest Service share overlapping objectives in mitigating wildfire risk, making collaboration essential.
- Partnerships are necessary due to the complexity of wildfire behavior, which often spans multiple jurisdictions and land ownerships.
- Research conducted by the International Association of Wildland Fire in 2018 showed that on average, wildfires that year impacted three different land jurisdictions (federal, tribal, state, and local).



Northern and Southern California experienced the highest complexity in 2018 in terms of the total number of land management jurisdictions affected.

# Strengthening On-the-Ground Partnership for Wildfire Mitigation



- By working together, we can leverage resources, expertise, and operational capacity to accelerate mitigation timelines and expand treatment coverage.
- Utilities and the USFS can support each other to leverage permit streamlining opportunities, including Governor Newsom's March 2025 Emergency Proclamation (Proclamation) to suspend certain State of California statutory and regulatory requirements to expedite critical fuels reduction projects.

# Fast-Tracking Critical Fuels Reduction Projects with the Proclamation

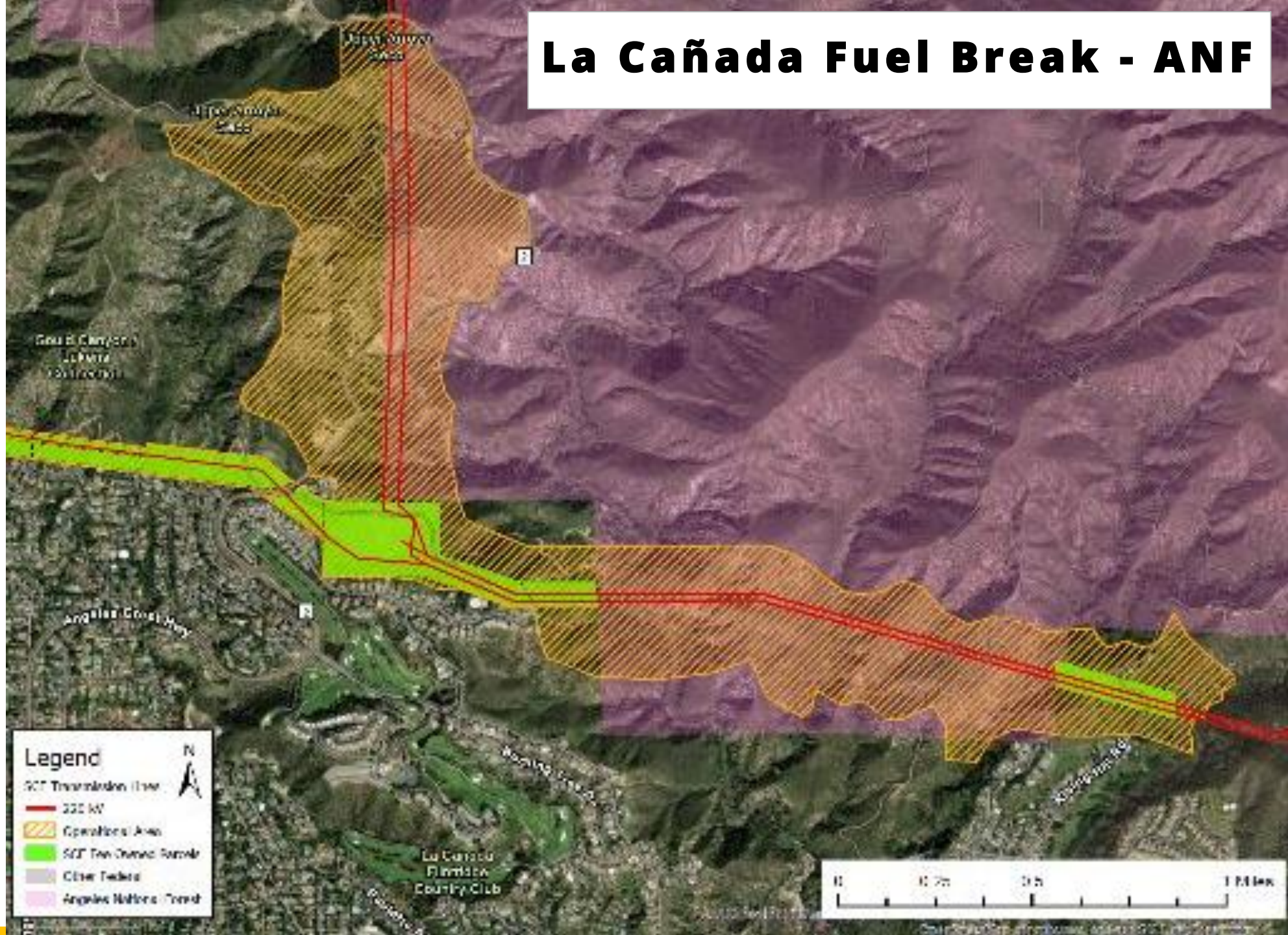
- Governor Newsom’s March 2025 Proclamation allows **suspension of state statutes and regulations** under Cal EPA and CNRA for critical fuel reduction work initiated by October 2026.
  - Suspended laws include CEQA, the California Coastal Act, and associated regulations.
  - *State permit requirements for work on federal lands are eligible for suspension — an opportunity for expediting fuel reduction projects on USFS land.*
- “Critical fuels reduction” includes **hazardous/dead tree removal, fire-break creation, and vegetation removal for defensible space** under a plan balancing expedited action with environmental protection.

# SCE and USFS State Permit Suspension Partnerships

- SCE worked with the Angeles, Inyo, Los Padres, and San Bernardino National Forests to submit four fuel break projects for state permit suspension
- These projects represent opportunities to mitigate wildfire risk in the Wildland-Urban Interface and where vegetation along utility infrastructure could serve as a “wick” to nearby communities



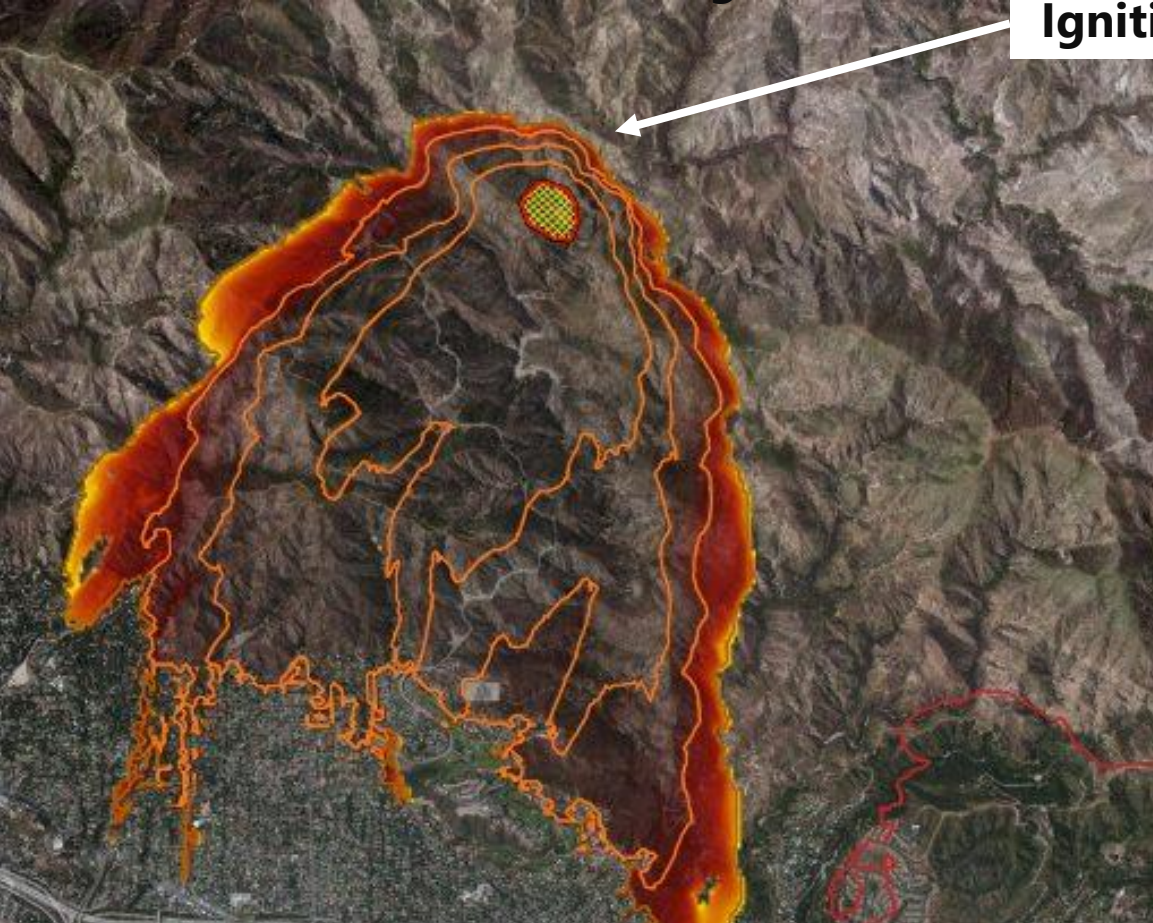
# La Cañada Fuel Break - ANF



# Pre Mitigation

Ignition Location

# Post Mitigation



## Impact Analysis

**3,691.3 ac**  
Size

**1,265**  
Population

**17**  
Places

**415**

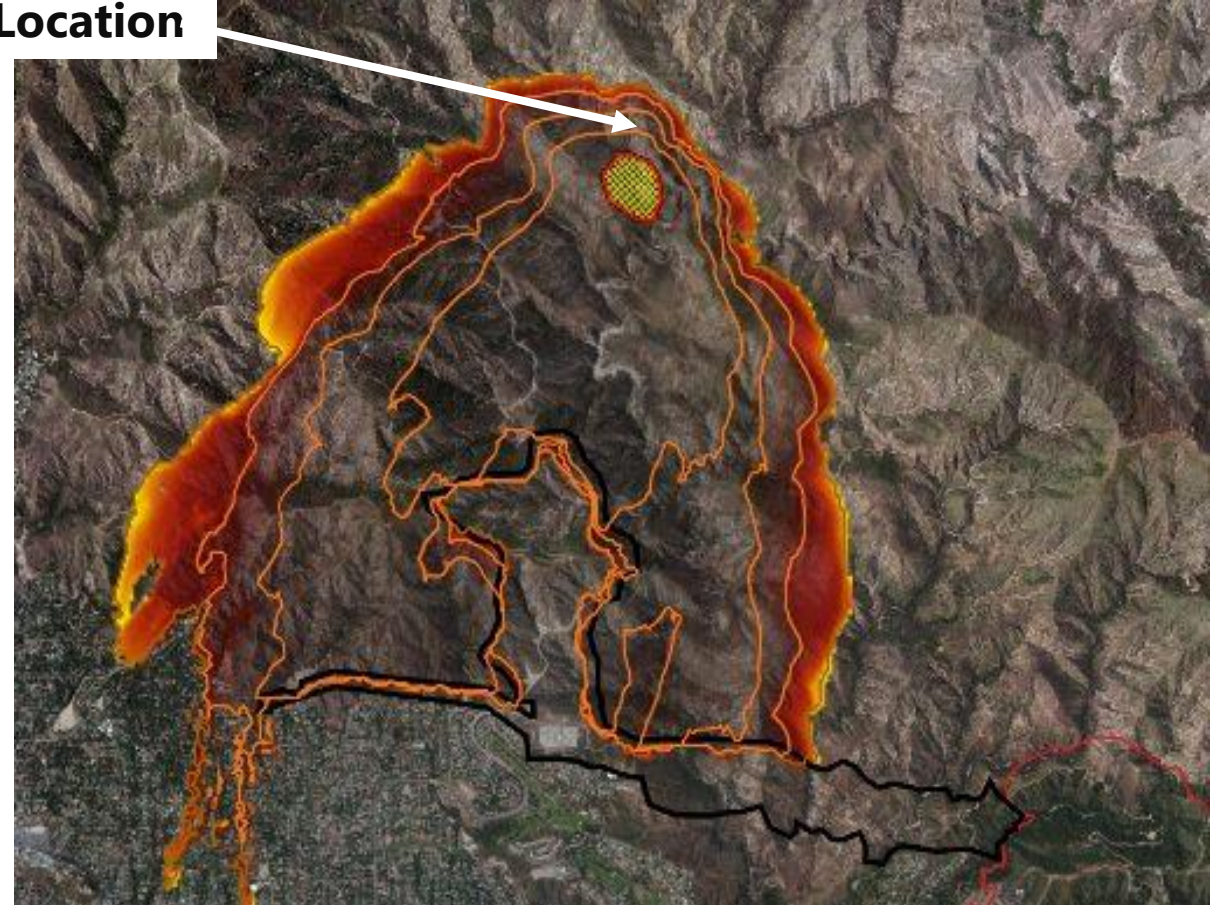
Buildings Threatened

**113**

Buildings Destroyed

**27.2 %**

Avg. Building Loss Factor



## Impact Analysis

**2,896.1 ac**  
Size

**253**  
Population

**16**  
Places

**77**

Buildings Threatened

**21**

Buildings Destroyed

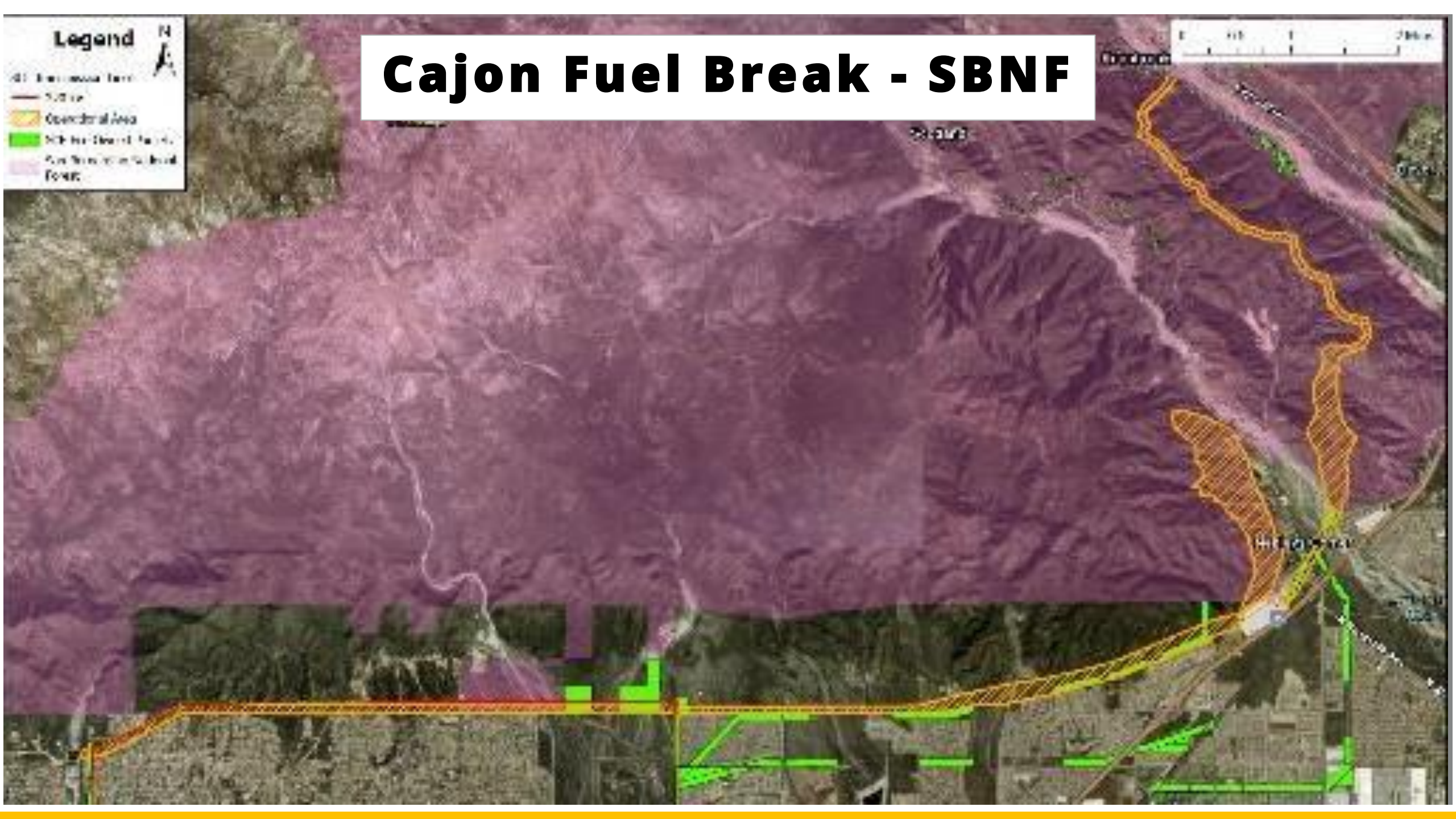
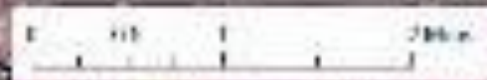
**27.3 %**

Avg. Building Loss Factor

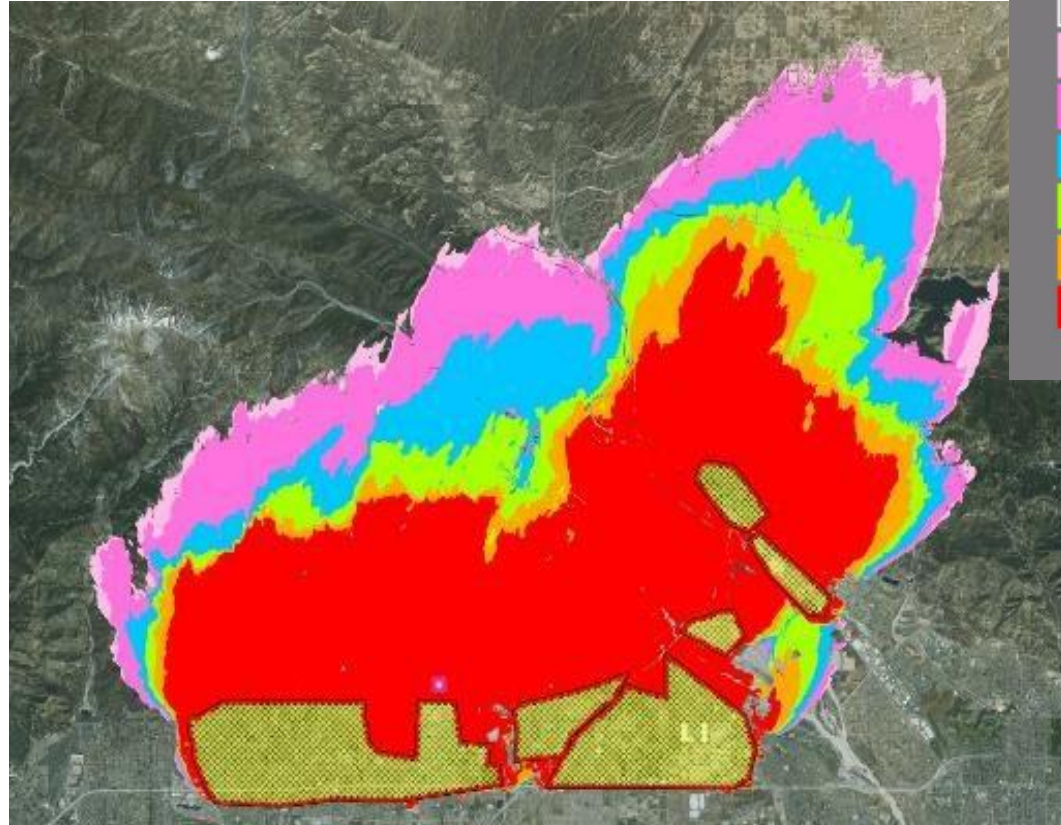
# Cajon Fuel Break - SBNF

**Legend**

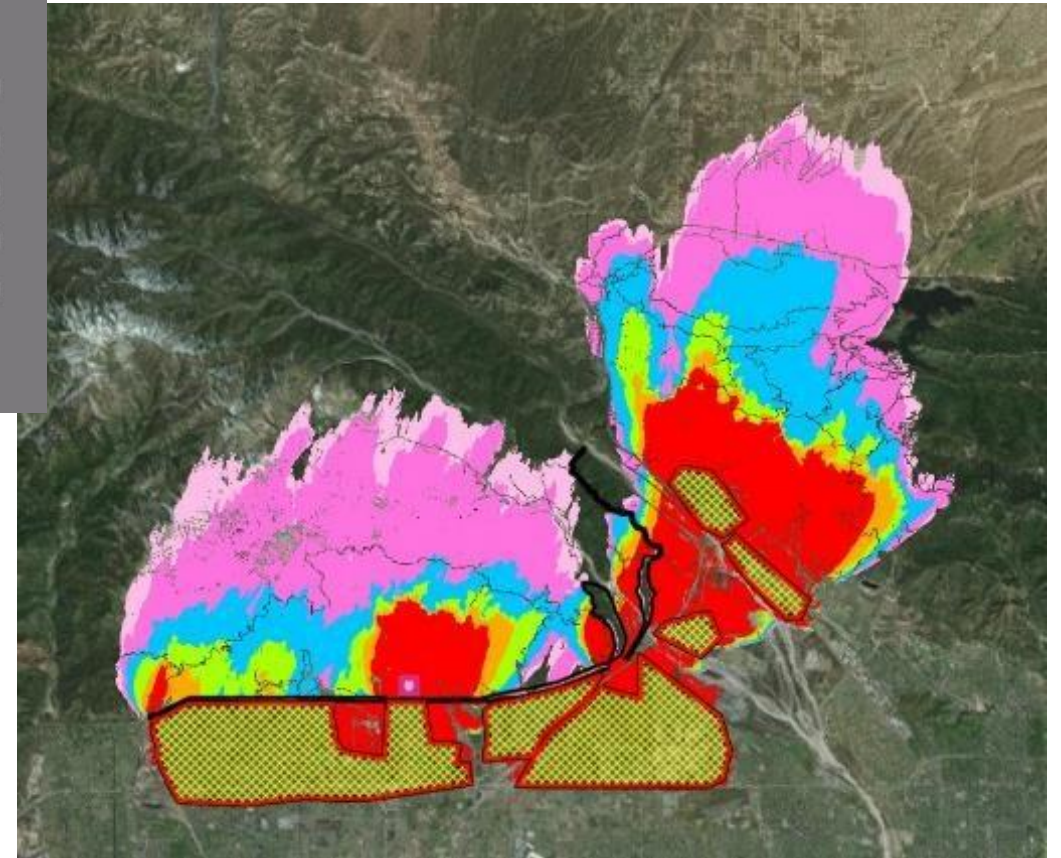
- 01: Boreas Forest
- 2: Road
- 3: Operational Area
- 4: SBNF Fuel Break
- 5: Fuel Break on Fuel Break



**Exposure Pre Mitigation**

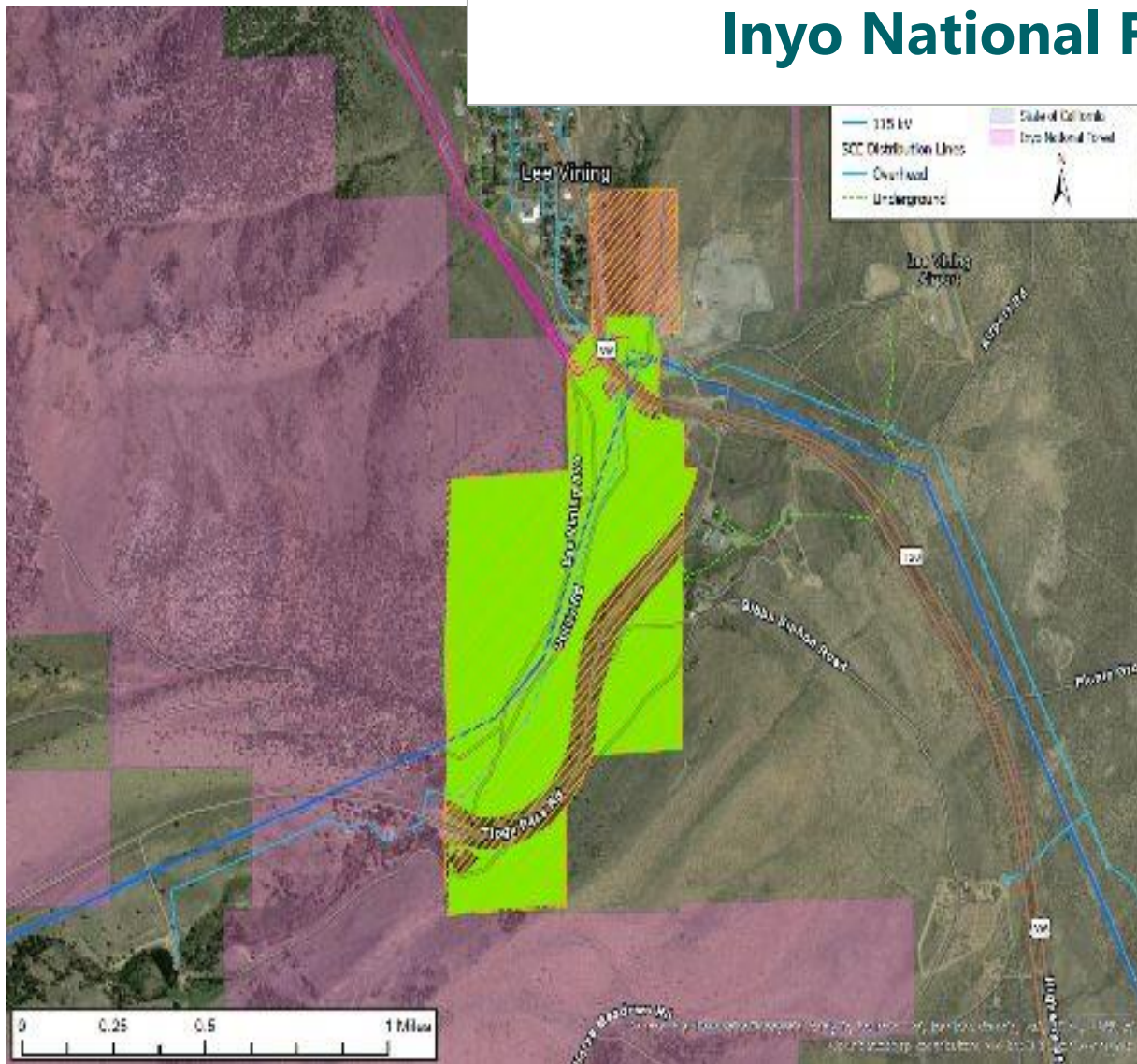


**Exposure Post Mitigation**

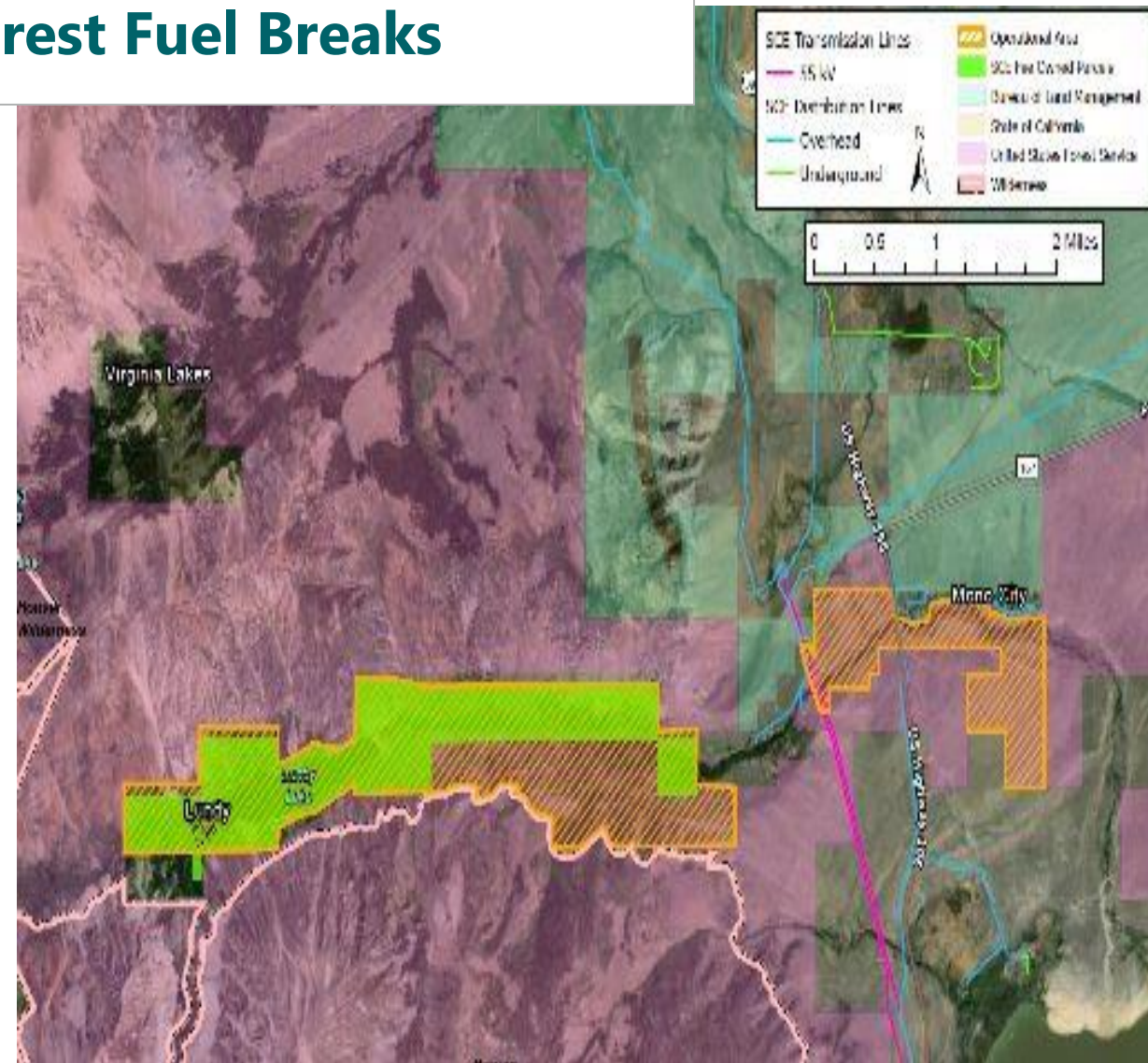


To evaluate the pre and post community exposure, fuel treatments were assumed to have landscape conditions that would produce low flame lengths and low rates of spread within the treated areas. Post treatment simulations indicated a 28.5% reduction in the post treatment community exposure simulation.

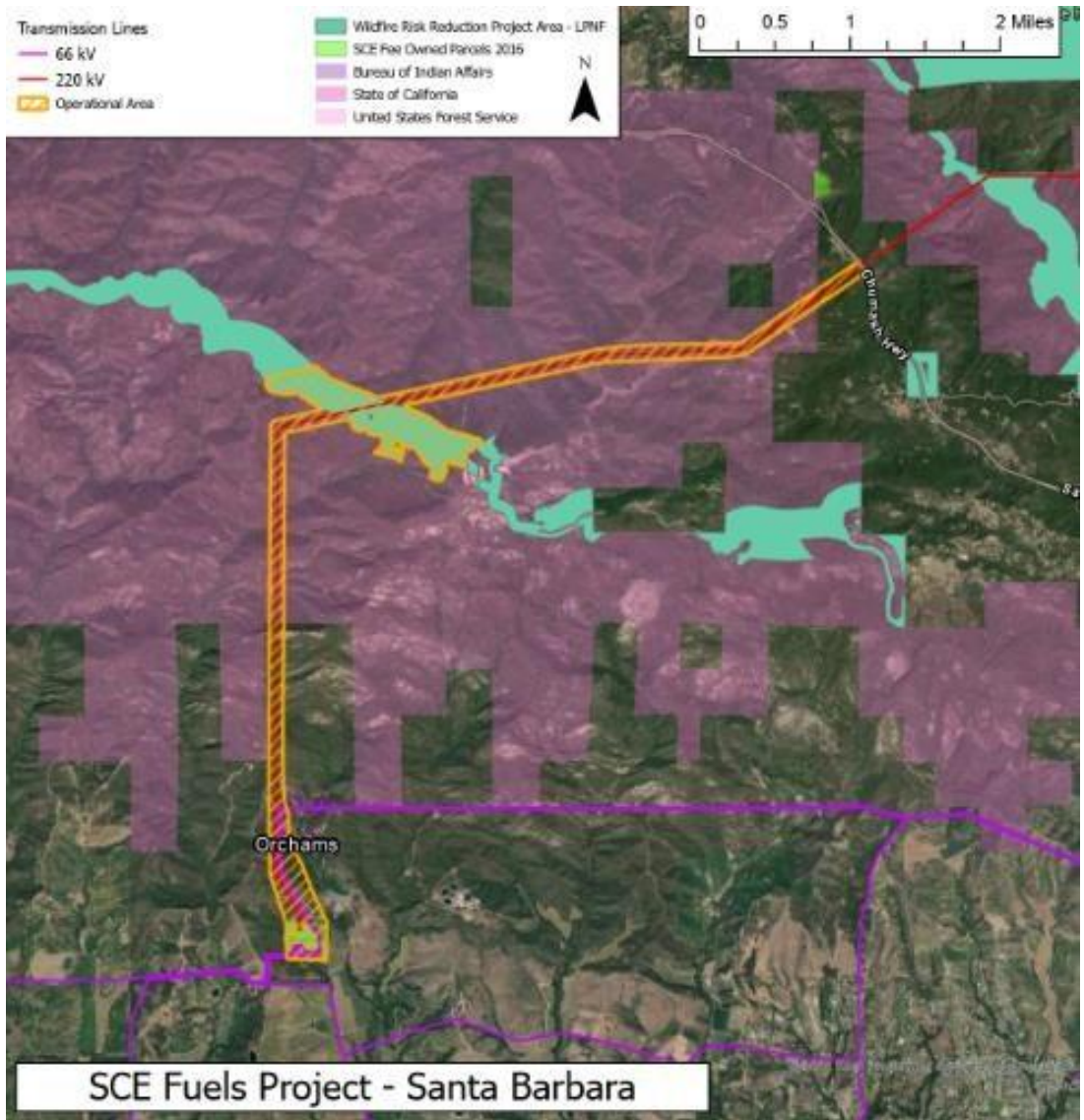
# Inyo National Forest Fuel Breaks



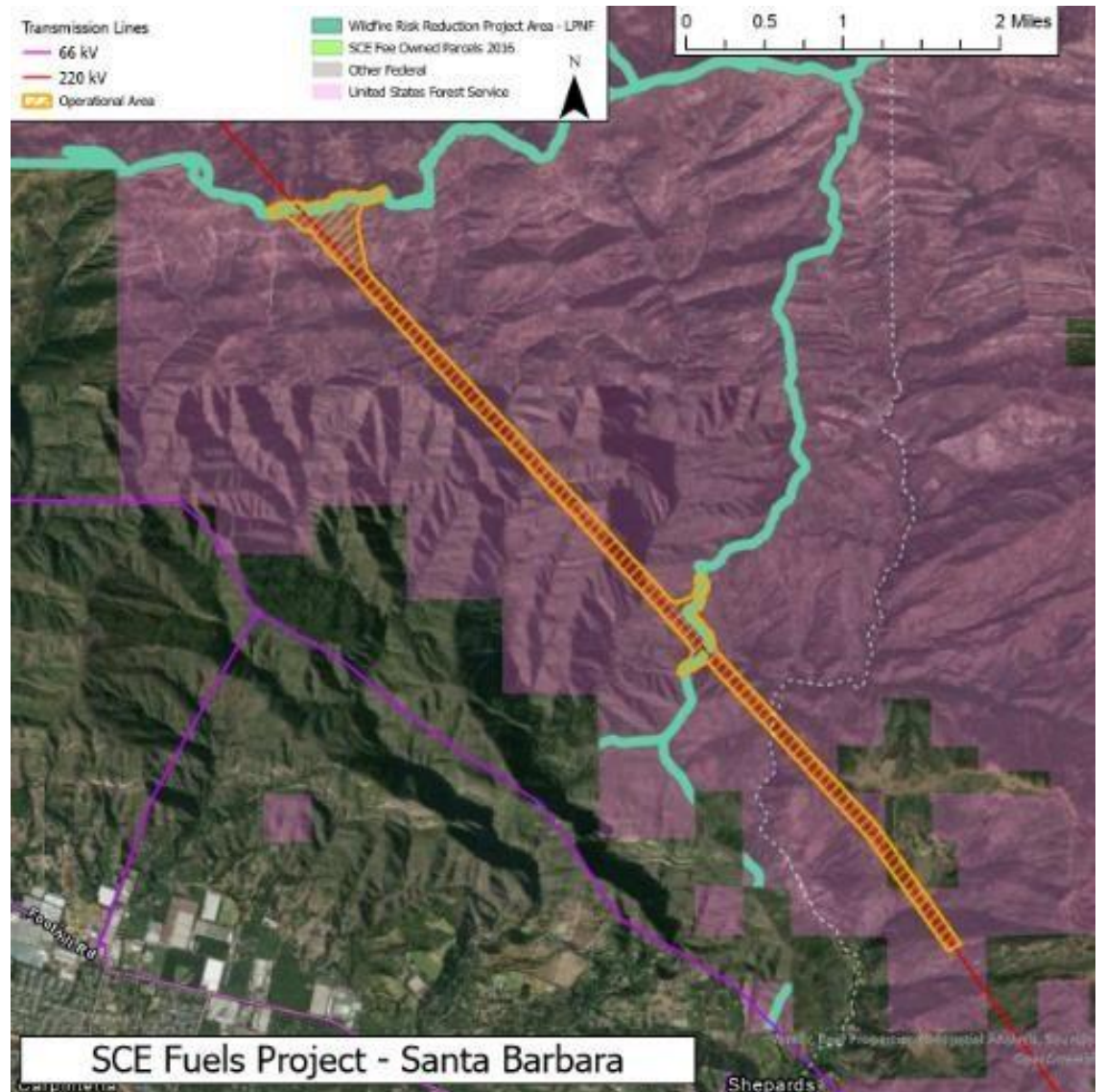
Lee Vining Fuel Break - INF



Lundy Fuel Break - INF



West Side



East Side

**Los Padres National Forest Fuel Break**

# SCE-USFS-CAL FIRE Partnership Site Visits



Site Visit at Inyo NF



Site Visit at San Bernardino NF

# Next Steps

- The fuel break projects are under review by CNRA/CalEPA with anticipated approval in the next 30-60 days.
- SCE and USFS to continue discussions around environmental compliance streamlining for federal requirements. Potential opportunities:
  - Using existing NEPA coverage
  - SCE providing resources to support new NEPA analysis as needed
  - Leveraging Master Special Use Permit approval processes

