

UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN

Lassen-Modoc Unit



Last update: April 11, 2023

UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Date	Section Updated	Page Numbers Updated	Description of Update	Updated By
3/15/2012	Appendix D	37-38	2011 Numbers	J.Berglund
6/5/2012	Appendix E	39	2011 Numbers	J.Berglund
6/5/2012	Appendix A	23-28	Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	S. Henry
6/5/2012	Appendix C	35-36	2011 Numbers	J.Berglund
6/13/2012	Signatures Page	1	New Template	J.Berglund
4/15/2013	Signatures Page	1	Update Chief	S. Henry
4/15/2013	Ignition Workload Assessment	11	Deferred Until PFE Assigned	S. Henry
4/15/2013	Section V Battalion Programs	18	Battalion Programs Updated	S. Henry
4/15/2013	Appendix A	25	Battalion Pre Fire Projects Updated	S. Henry
4/15/2013	Appendix B	31	Unit Goals Reviewed	S. Henry
4/15/2013	Appendix C	38	Response Report Tables Updated	S. Henry
4/15/2013	Appendix D	40	Ignition Report Tables Updated	S. Henry
4/15/2013	Appendix	NA	Rainfall report & Lightning Plan Deleted	S. Henry
4/21/2013	Supplement	48	Unit accomplishments for 2012	L. Sandberg
6/1/2013	Program Plans		Camp Program Descriptions	L. Sandberg
4/1/2014	Appendix C, D and E		Appendix C, D and E Removed	L. Sandberg
4/1/2014	Unit Overview	3-4	Updated to add Plumas Info and Map	D. Beaudry
4/1/2014	Ignition Analysis	12-13	Ignition Analysis Updated w/charts	D. Beaudry
4/1/2014	Battalion Projects	26-29	Battalion Projects Updated	D. Beaudry
4/1/2014	CalMapper Pre-Fire Projects	30-31	Project Table Updated	L. Sandberg
4/1/2014	Supplement	44-45	Unit Accomplishments Updated	L. Sandberg
10/1/2014	Battalion Projects	29-30	Battalion Projects Updated	L. Sandberg
11/20/14	Battalion Projects	30	Plumas County Additions	D. Beaudry
4/1/2016	Battalion Projects	30	Update FSC Projects	L. Sandberg
4/1/2016	Unit Accomplishments	48	Unit Accomplishments Updated	L. Sandberg
4/1/2016	CalMapper Table	35	Updated Table	L. Sandberg
4/1/2016	CalMapper Table	36-38	Updated Table	L. Sandberg
4/1/2016	Unit Accomplishments	50-51	Unit Accomplishments Updated	L. Sandberg
4/1/2016	Battalion Projects	26-35	Updated FSC Projects	L. Sandberg
4/1/2016	Ignition Analysis	12-13	Updated Stats and Analysis	L. Sandberg
4/1/2016	Tree Mortality	3	Added Section on This Topic	L. Sandberg
6/1/2016	Re-organize Plan		Moved battalion projects under battalion section. Moved ignition stats to end of plan, etc.	L. Sandberg
2/1/2017	Unit Accomplishments	48-49	Added Unit Accomplishments for 2016	L. Sandberg
2/1/2017	Tree Mort Info	3-4	Updated Tree Mortality Section	L. Sandberg
2/1/2016	Ignition Analysis	12-13	Updated Ignition Stats	L. Sandberg
2/1/2016	Values Section	9-10	Updated Values Section	L. Sandberg
2/1/2016	Battalion Projects	18-30	Added new projects deleted old	L. Sandberg
3/7/2018	Battalion Projects	16-26	Added new projects, deleted old	L. Sandberg

Date	Section Updated	Page Numbers Updated	Description of Update	Updated By
3/7/2018	Ignition Analysis	35-36	Updated Ignition Stats	L. Sandberg
3/7/2018	Unit Accomplishments	42-43	Added Unit Accomplishments for 2017	L. Sandberg
3/15/2018	Pre-Fire Projects	29-32	Updated	L. Sandberg
3/9/2019	Battalion Projects	18-30	Added new projects, deleted old	L. Sandberg
3/9/2019	Ignition Analysis	39-40	Updated Ignition Stats	L. Sandberg
3/9/2019	Unit Accomplishments	41-42	Added Unit Accomplishments for 2018	L. Sandberg
3/9/2019	Pre-Fire Projects	34-36	Updated	L. Sandberg
3/9/2019	Format	1-47	Rearranged and added Pictures	L. Sandberg
4/9/2020	Battalion Projects	18-30	Added new projects, deleted old	L. Sandberg
4/9/2020	Ignition Analysis	36-37	Updated Ignition Stats	L. Sandberg
4/9/2020	Unit Accomplishments	38-39	Added Unit Accomplishments for 2018	L. Sandberg
4/9/2020	Pre-Fire Projects	34	Updated	L. Sandberg
4/12/2021	Pre-Fire Projects	34	Updated	S. Clement
4/12/2021	Unit Accomplishments	41-42	Updated Stats	S. Clement
4/12/2021	Battalion Projects	18-30	Added and subtracted projects	S. Clement
4/12/2021	Ignitions Analysis	36-37	Updated stats	S. Clement
5/4/2021	Camp and Training Center	32	Updated status	S. Clement
4/11/23	Camp and Training Center	46-48	Updated stats	S. Clement
5/1/2023	Battalion Projects	18-30	Add, delete projects list	S. Clement

Table of Contents

SIGNATURE PAGE	1
SECTION I: OVERVIEW	3
UNIT DESCRIPTION.....	3
UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES	5
LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS	6
SECTION II: COLLABORATION	7
COMMUNITIES/AGENCIES/FIRE SAFE COUNCILS	7
SECTION III: VALUES	8
VALUES	8
COMMUNITIES AT RISK.....	9
FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES	11
SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	13
FIRE PREVENTION	13
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	15
SECTION V: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS	17
SECTION VI: BATTALIONS/CAMPS/TRAINING CENTER	18
BATTALION 1.....	18
BATTALION 2.....	22
BATTALION 3.....	27
BATTALION 4.....	30
CAMPS AND TRAINING CENTER.....	32
APPENDIX A: PRE-FIRE PROJECTS	34
APPENDIX B: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	35
APPENDIX C: IGNITION ANALYSIS	36
APPENDIX D: 2019 UNIT ACCOMPLISHMENTS	38
EXHIBITS: UNIT AND BATTALION MAPS	41

SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for Lassen-Modoc Unit:

This Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, and County agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.



5/20/2023

Scott Packwood
Unit Chief

Date



5/20/2023

Steve Clement
Pre-Fire Engineer

Date

The Lassen Modoc Unit includes Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties and portions of Shasta and Siskiyou Counties. The Unit's Fire Management Plan is intended to provide information to CAL FIRE personnel, various County Boards of Supervisors, Fire Safe Councils and other stakeholders focused on identifying specific problem areas and solving the mutually agreed upon fire issues.

The Lassen Modoc Unit Fire Management Plan documents the assessment of the fire situation in the Unit. It includes stakeholder contributions and priorities which identify strategic targets for proactive approaches and project based solutions.

While the Unit Fire Management Plan addresses local needs, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection also has legislative mandates dating back to 1945 requiring it to determine the "intensity" or appropriate level of fire protection for all state responsibility areas in California (*Public Resources Code §4130*). The Unit Fire Management Plan is the means of focusing efforts on local needs while working within the framework of the California Fire Plan as adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

It is intended to be an ever-evolving working document which can be used to identify potentially hazardous areas or communities at risk, provide guidelines for fire prevention and protection projects and to assist the Fire Safe Councils and community groups with useful information in making their communities fire safe. This document should be used as a guide that can be amended over the years as necessary and as the basic framework for fire prevention projects within the Lassen Modoc Unit.

The *California Fire Plan (2010)* is outlined within this document. It is the goal of the Unit to apply the California Fire Plan to accomplish a systematic assessment of the fire problem. Through this assessment, the Unit strives to develop "Fire Safe" communities and reduce the potential occurrence of devastating wildfires. In an effort to implement the California Fire Plan, the Lassen Modoc Unit utilizes computer-based data and Geographic Information System (GIS) to comprehensively analyze fire hazards, assets at risk and the level of service, all of which are included in the Unit Fire Management Plan.

The Lassen Modoc Unit's Fire Management Plan systematically assesses the existing levels of wildland protection services, identifies high-risk and high value areas that are potential locations for costly and damaging wildfires, ranks the areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribes actions that can be taken to reduce future losses.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION



Lassen-Modoc Unit is located in the northeastern corner of the State. It consists of Lassen, Modoc, Plumas and portions of Shasta, Sierra and Siskiyou Counties.

The Cascade Mountain Range ends near the Almanor Basin. The Sierra Nevada Range begins and runs to the South along the Diamond Mountains on the Southwest edge of the honey Valley. The unit encompasses the Northeastern Plateau of California with an average elevation of 5,000 feet above sea level.

Vegetation types range from mixed conifer, ponderosa and lodge pole pines along the West side of the Unit, to sagebrush, oaks, and annual grasses mixed with juniper in the desert to the East. The Eastern boundary of the Unit is the beginning of the Great Basin, which continues east to the Great Salt Lake of Utah.

The majority of the populated areas are located in the Honey Lake Valley, Lake Almanor Basin, Big Valley, Alturas and Quincy. The Honey Lake Valley is home to the City of Susanville, and the communities of Janesville, Standish, Litchfield, Wendel, Milford, Herlong, and Doyle.

The Almanor Basin consists of the City of Chester, Almanor, Almanor West, Prattville, Peninsula, Hamilton Branch, Canyon Dam, Clear Creek and Westwood. The Big Valley area includes the communities of Bieber, Nubieber, Lookout, and Adin. The Alturas area consists of the City of Alturas and the towns of Likely, Canby, Cedarville, Davis Creek and the community of Cal Pines. Plumas County consists of Quincy, the county seat and several smaller towns, including Blairsden, Canyon Dam, Cromberg, Meadow Valley, Clio, Portola, Taylorsville, Greenville, Chilcoot, LaPorte, Crescent Mills, Beckwourth, East Quincy, and Graeagle

The Unit administers the Natural Resource Management Program for Plumas County which includes enforcement of the California Forest Practice Act, review of timber harvesting plans and watershed restoration and enhancement. The LMU Fire Prevention Bureau works with Plumas County Agencies, private land owners, and developers to ensure compliance with minimum fire safety standards relating to defensible space around property and structures within state responsibility areas. The majority of Plumas County consists of federal land. The state land that is located within Plumas County and that is outside of Battalion 2's response area is the U.S. Forest Service's direct protection area (DPA). (See map below)

Tree Mortality and Drought Impacts

Over the past several years, LMU has experienced varying levels of drought impact. The Unit has been consistently monitoring live fuel moisture in green leaf manzanita and over the past couple of years these measurements have shown extremely low live fuel moisture at the most critical time during fire season. Streams, ponds and reservoirs that have been historically counted on by fire suppression resources for water sources have been problematic where some have gone dry earlier than ever before. As a result of on-going drought, the level of tree mortality has been steadily on the rise.

In 2016, an Aerial Detection Survey was completed by the U.S. Forest Service. The survey indicated an increase in tree mortality. Following is a section of that report:

“Tree mortality throughout northeastern California is generally elevated but has not reached the extremely high levels observed in the central and south Sierra Nevada range. However, some forested areas have experienced substantial mortality resulting in increases in the number of hazard trees along roadways and powerlines and increases in fuel loads that can lead to more damaging wildfires. These areas include, but are not limited to, the Warner Mountains and Manzanita Mountain (Modoc National Forest and Modoc County), the Lake Brittan and Fall River/Big Valley areas (Lassen National Forest and Shasta and Lassen Counties) and the lower elevation ponderosa pine forests on the west side of the Lassen, Plumas and Tahoe National Forests and adjacent private lands in Tehama, Butte, Yuba, Nevada and Placer counties. In total, NE California accounts for approximately 5.5 million of the 62 million dead trees observed statewide in 2016. The highest number, 1.8 million, was observed in Modoc County.”

Salvage harvesting where possible on industrial timberlands is an ongoing effort within the Unit, but they will not be capable of mitigating the broad scale impacts that are anticipated. Resultant fuel loading potential across the landscape due to drought mortality is of concern. Grant funded hand crew work within and adjacent to the communities has been successful in some instances at reducing fuels on a much smaller scale where industrial land management treatment is not feasible.

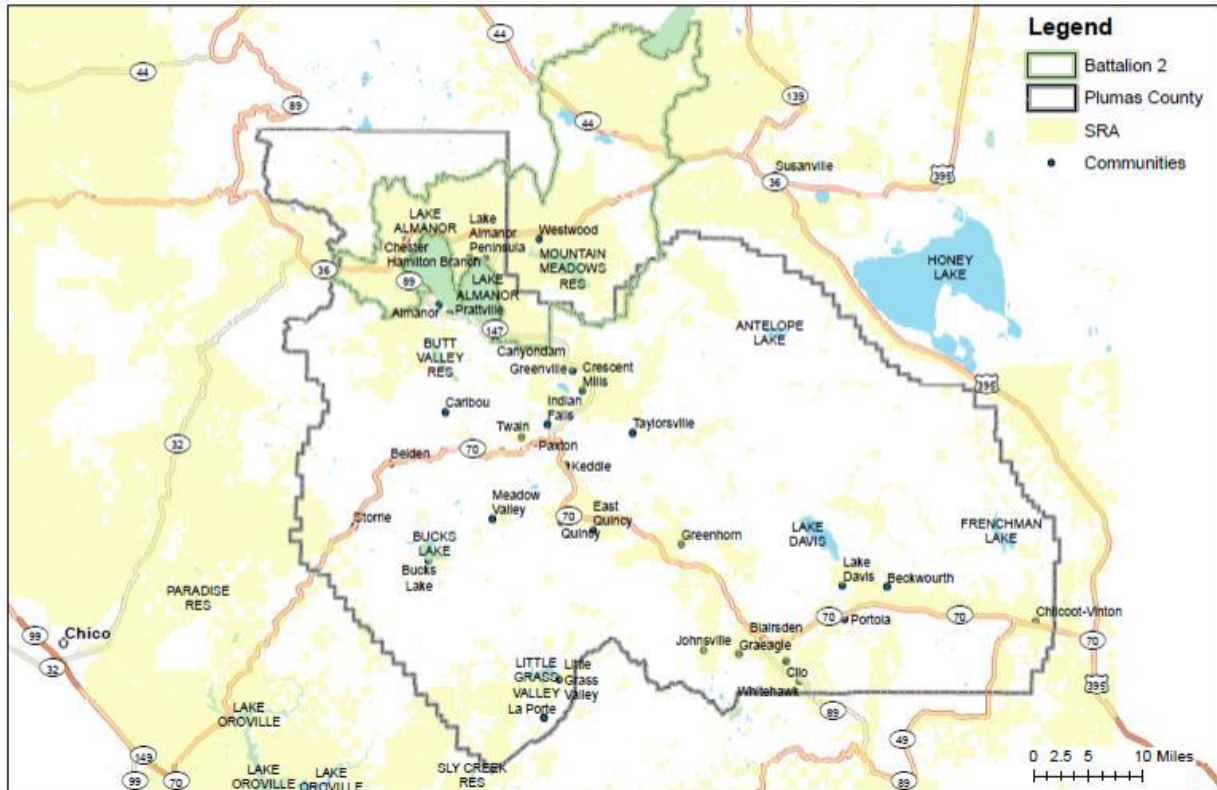


Projects that have been undertaken within the communities and along the edges of the wildland urban interface areas have mostly been partnered through the various Fire Safe Councils depending on grant funding and priority ranking. Several projects over the last year have focused on hand thinning of brush and pruning limbs up to reduce ladder fuels. This coupled with biomass thinning and mastication have aided in preparing fuel breaks adjacent to

residential areas. More of these partnered projects are anticipated in the future as more emphasis is placed on treating areas within and adjacent to communities and infrastructure.



Plumas County



UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

U.S. Highway 395 runs north to south along the east side of the Unit, from Lakeview, Oregon to Reno, Nevada. State Highways 70, 139, 299, 44 and 36 transect the Unit west to east and State Highway 89 runs north to south along the west side of the Unit traveling through Lassen National Park. Numerous visitors travel these routes throughout the year, as well as interstate commerce from the Sacramento Valley and Oregon in search of a shorter way to the east bound interstate highways.

Logging, correctional institutions and recreation are the major industrial economic factors to the region. Over the past few years, logging has diminished due to environmental concerns and regulations from the Federal and State governments. Although very seasonal, recreation flourishes during the spring and summer months. Watersheds from the Lassen Modoc Unit flow to the Feather and Sacramento River. Most of these watersheds are the headwaters to these two major rivers in the state.

At the peak of firefighting preparedness, Lassen-Modoc Unit suppression resources include approximately 70 career personnel and 120 seasonal personnel. The Lassen-Modoc Unit is geographically divided into four fire battalions. Within these battalions the Unit has resources and facilities strategically located. These include: the Susanville Interagency Fire Center, eight fire stations, three conservation camps, the Susanville Inmate Training Center, three medium dozers, one medium helicopter with crew, and five fire lookouts. During summer months, thirteen schedule "B" engines, three dozers, twelve fire crews, and up to five fire lookouts are staffed. The fire lookouts are staffed based upon fire, weather and lightning activity levels. In the winter months, Lassen-Modoc Unit staffs four stations in Alturas, Bieber, Susanville and Westwood.

The Susanville Interagency Fire Center provides emergency dispatch services for all of the Federal, State and local government fire agencies in Lassen County and the Almanor Basin. Plumas County Sheriff's office dispatches local government fire agencies in the remainder of Plumas County. The Modoc County Sheriff's office dispatches the local government fire agencies within Modoc County.



Cooperating government agencies within the Lassen-Modoc Unit include:

USDA - Lassen National Forest

USDA - Plumas National Forest

USDA - Modoc National Forest

USDI - Lassen Volcanic National Park

USDI - Lava Beds National Monument

USDI - Bureau of Land Management

USDI - Bureau of Indian Affairs

Natural Resource Conservation Service

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Department of Transportation

California Highway Patrol

Department of Defense, Herlong Army Depot

Lassen County Sheriff's Office & Lassen County Office of Emergency Services

Plumas County Sheriff's Office & Plumas County Office of Emergency Services

Modoc County Sheriff's Office

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The Lassen-Modoc Unit is very appreciative of its local fire departments. A large number of these departments are staffed completely by volunteers whose personnel are often the first to arrive at fires, medical aids and



other types of emergencies. Often these departments are located within Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) or Community Services Districts (CSDs) and are typically governed by elected boards of directors that have authority to levy taxes to support their work. Within the Lassen-Modoc Unit, CAL FIRE reciprocates emergency services using Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreements.

The following local fire departments exist within the Lassen-Modoc Unit:

FIRE DEPARTMENTS	
Adin Fire Protection District	Lake Forest Fire Department
Alturas Fire Department	Likely Fire Department
Alturas Rural Fire Department	Little Valley Community Service District
Big Valley Fire Protection District	Lookout Fire Protection District
California Pines Community Services District	Madeline Fire Department
Canby Volunteer Fire Station	Milford Fire Department
CCC Fire Department	Peninsula Fire Department
Cedarville Fire Protection District	Prattville Almanor Fire Department
Chester Fire Department	Sierra Army Depot Fire Department
Clear Creek Volunteer Fire Department	Spalding Fire Department
Davis Creek Volunteer Fire Department	Standish-Litchfield Fire Department
Doyle Fire Department	Stones Bengard Community Services District
Eagleville Fire Protection District	Susan River Fire Protection District
Fort Bidwell Fire Protection District	Susanville City Fire Department
Hamilton Branch Fire Department	West Almanor Fire Department
Herlong Fire Department	Westwood Fire Department
Janesville Fire Department	Willow Ranch Fire Protection District
Lake City Fire Department	

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan are listed below:

- Lassen County Fire Safe Council
- Modoc Fire Safe Council
- Plumas County Fire Safe Council

SECTION III: VALUES

VALUES

The primary goal of wildland fire protection in the Lassen-Modoc Unit is to safeguard the wide range of assets found within the Unit from the effects of wildfire. The assets at risk, both public and private, are to be protected. The following have been identified as assets at risk to wildfires and include both economic and non-economic assets: people, structures, timber, watershed, wildlife, unique scenic and recreation areas, and range. The table below provides a description of the evaluated assets.



Hydroelectric

Muck Valley Hydroelectric Plant is located in Lassen County. The plant is owned and operated by the Malacha Hydro Limited Partnership and cost \$70 million to build. There are 18 miles of 115 KV lines in this area. The plant sells power to Pacific Gas & Electric, averaging 92.5 gwh per year.

Scenic

Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties are filled with scenic lakes and campgrounds that are the destination of travelers and campers during the summer season.

Recreation

Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties are areas of high recreation during the summer months.

LogTimber

There are three national forests with the Unit: Lassen National Forest, Modoc National Forest and Plumas National Forest. These three forests total over four million acres of land and are utilized by campers, wood cutters and hunters throughout the year. In addition to the national forests, there are five major timber companies that manage over 715,830 acres of timber within Unit boundaries.

These companies include Soper Wheeler (29,899 acres), Sierra Pacific Industries (366,346 acres), Fruit Growers (44,242 acres), Collins Pine (86,000 acres) and Beatty (189,346 acres).



Range

Raising cattle is still a way of life in Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties and is the livelihood of many of the large land holders.

Farming/Ranching

Farming and ranching is still a way of life in Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties. Families that settled here over 100 years ago still raise cattle, hay and alfalfa.

Historic buildings

History is rich in Lassen, Modoc and Plumas County. Alturas, the county seat of Modoc County still contains many of the historic buildings that were there when the town was established in 1871. Susanville, the county seat of Lassen County, also contains many historic buildings which are still in use today.

Game Wildlife

Within Modoc County is the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge in Alturas which consists of 7,021 acres of wetland, reservoir, riparian, sagebrush-steppe, and cropland habitats. The Ash Creek Wildlife Area is located in Lassen County and consists of 14,400 acres of wetlands. Lassen County also contains the Willow Creek Wildlife Area and the Honey Lake Wildlife Area.

COMMUNITIES AT RISK

To help protect people and their property from potential catastrophic wildfire, the National Fire Plan directs funding to be provided for projects designed to reduce the fire risks to communities. A fundamental step in achieving this goal was the identification of communities that are at high risk of damage from wildfire. These high-risk communities identified within the wildland-urban interface (WUI), the area where homes and wildlands intermix, were published in the Federal Register in 2001. At the request of Congress, the Federal Register notice only listed those communities neighboring federal lands. The list represents the collaborative work of the 50 states and five federal agencies using a standardized process, whereby states were asked to submit all communities within their borders that met the criteria of a structure at high risk from wildfire.

The “Communities at Risk” in Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties are listed in the table below.

[Communities at Risk: Lassen County](#)

Community Name	County Name	Federal Threat
Bieber	Lassen	✓
Clear Creek	Lassen	
Doyle	Lassen	✓
Hallelujah Junction	Lassen	✓
Herlong	Lassen	✓
Janesville	Lassen	✓
Johnstonville	Lassen	

Community Name	County Name	Federal Threat
Leavitt	Lassen	
Litchfield	Lassen	✓
Little Valley	Lassen	✓
Madeline	Lassen	✓
Milford	Lassen	✓
Nubieber	Lassen	
Pine Town	Lassen	
Ravendale	Lassen	✓
Spaulding	Lassen	✓
Standish	Lassen	✓
Stones Landing	Lassen	✓
Susanville	Lassen	✓
Wendel	Lassen	✓

Communities at Risk: Modoc County

Community Name	County Name	Federal Threat
Adin	Modoc	✓
Alturas	Modoc	✓
Cal Pines Lower Units	Modoc	✓
Cal Pines Upper Units	Modoc	✓
Canby	Modoc	
Cedarville	Modoc	✓
Copic	Modoc	✓
Davis Creek	Modoc	✓
Day	Modoc	✓
Eagleville	Modoc	✓
Fort Bidwell	Modoc	✓
Likely	Modoc	✓
Lookout	Modoc	✓
New Pine Creek	Modoc	✓
Newell	Modoc	✓
Willow Ranch	Modoc	✓

Communities at Risk: Plumas County

Community Name	County Name	Federal Threat
Almanor	Plumas	✓
Beckwourth	Plumas	✓
Belden	Plumas	✓
Blairsden	Plumas	✓
Bucks Lake	Plumas	✓
Canyon Dam	Plumas	✓
Caribou	Plumas	✓
Chester	Plumas	✓
Clio	Plumas	✓
Crescent Mills	Plumas	✓
Cromberg	Plumas	✓

Community Name	County Name	Federal Threat
Delleker	Plumas	✓
Genesee	Plumas	✓
Graegle	Plumas	✓
Greenville	Plumas	✓
Hamilton Branch	Plumas	✓
Indian Falls	Plumas	✓
Johnsville	Plumas	✓
Keddie	Plumas	✓
La Porte	Plumas	✓
Meadow Valley	Plumas	✓
Mohawk	Plumas	✓
Paxton	Plumas	✓
Portola	Plumas	✓
Prattville	Plumas	✓
Quincy-East Quincy	Plumas	✓
Seneca	Plumas	✓
Taylorville	Plumas	✓
Twain	Plumas	✓

1. Federal Threat code of ✓ indicates some or all of the wildland fire threat to that community comes from federal (e.g., US Forest Service, BLM, Dept. of Defense) lands.

FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

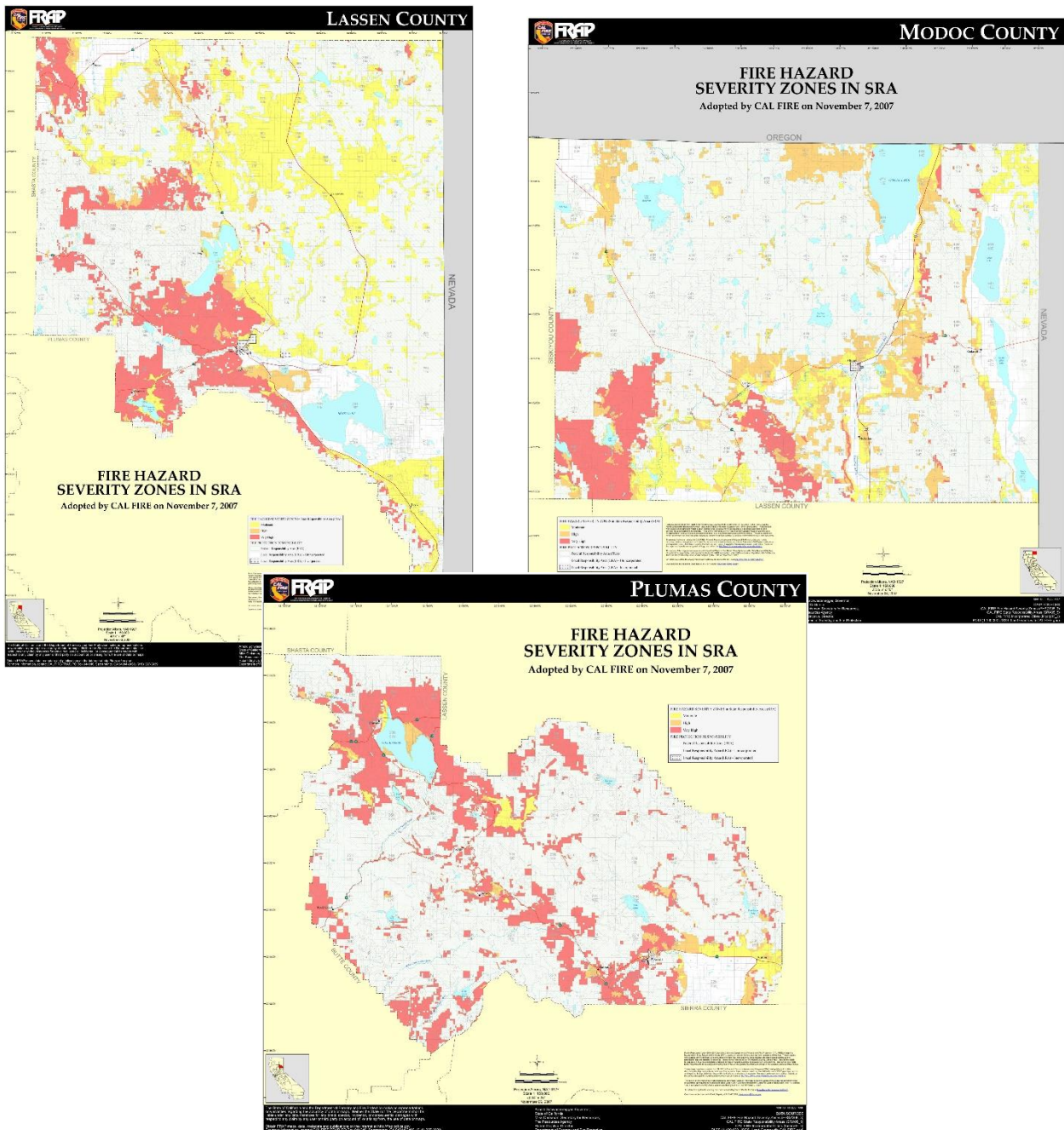
While the counties of Lassen, Modoc and Plumas are subject to varying degrees of fire hazard, there are specific features that make some areas more hazardous than others. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is required by law to map areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather and other relevant factors. These maps were developed using science-based and field tested computer models that assign a hazard score based on factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior. Many factors are considered such as fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical weather for the area. There are three hazard zones in state responsibility areas: moderate, high and very high. These maps identify fire hazard and not fire risk. “Hazard” is based on the physical conditions that give a likelihood that an area will burn over a 30 to 50-year period without considering modifications such as fuel reduction efforts.

“Risk” is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, including any modifications such as defensible space, irrigation and sprinklers, and ignition resistant building construction which can reduce fire risk. Risk considers the susceptibility of what is being protected.

These maps are intended to be used for:

- Implementing wildland-urban interface building standards for new construction.
- Natural hazard real estate disclosure at time of sale.
- 100-foot defensible space clearance requirements around buildings.
- Property development standards such as road widths, water supply and signage.
- Consideration in city and county general plans.

Visit the CAL FIRE Website to determine the fire hazard severity in a specific area.



SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

FIRE PREVENTION

The Lassen-Modoc Unit Fire Prevention Bureau is comprised of one Battalion Chief, three Fire Captains and one Fire Prevention Specialist II. Fire Prevention activities include, but are not limited to, all of the following: fire history, engineering and structural ignitability, protection planning, code enforcement, building inspection, information and education and civil cost recovery.

Fire History

Wildfire history is a significant factor of the pre-fire management planning process. The fire plan assessment framework incorporates detailed information for determining the most beneficial locations for pre-fire management projects, an idea of the level of service in SRA for the unit, and information about the various assets at risk. Fire history is a piece of the puzzle that allows unit personnel to learn from our past and make an attempt to prepare for future fire behavior. Having knowledge of fire history provides an account of historic fire travel in a particular area armed with knowledge of historic fire spreads, fire suppression forces are better equipped to predict fire spread potentials.

Identifying where the largest and most damaging fires have occurred is a necessary step in preparing for future wildfire. The most significant aspect of fire history in Lassen-Modoc Unit is that personnel are able to compare the relationship between identified assets at risk and the historic burning patterns of wildfire that allows for more informed decision making processes when preparing fire planning documents and procedures.



Engineering & Structural Ignitability

Title 24 (addresses fire apparatus access, water requirements, building materials, and construction methods as of 2007)

The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practices to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures, and premises, and to provide safety and assistance to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

Title 19, PRC 4290 (addresses fire apparatus access and water requirements)

These regulations have been prepared and adopted for the purpose of establishing minimum wildfire protection standards in conjunction with building, construction and development in State Responsibility Areas (SRA). These regulations became effective September 1, 1991. The future design and construction of structures, subdivisions and developments in State Responsibility Area (SRA) provide for basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection measures as specified in PRC 4290. These measures provide for emergency access; signing and building numbering; and vegetation modification. The fire protection standards contained within PRC 4290 shall specify the minimums for such measures.

PRC 4291 (addresses defensible space around structures)

To ensure continued maintenance of properties in conformance with the defensible space requirements outlines in PRC 4290 and to assure continued availability, access, and utilization of the defensible space provided during a wildfire, provisions for annual maintenance shall be included in the development plans and/or shall be provided



as a condition of the permit, parcel or map approval. To facilitate in the conformity of homes, the Unit has 4 Defensible Space Inspectors that travel throughout the counties to visit communities and residences to perform inspections. PRC 4291 is the law requiring annual defensible space be provided around all structures in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material.

This law was enacted to prevent fire that originates in structures or on premises to spread into forested areas. It was also created to minimize the chances of a forest fire entering into populated areas and destroying improved property and endangering human life. The history of damaging fires has shown the most devastating danger is the risk of fire originating in the wildland and transmitting itself into improved areas. Most statutory hazard reduction requirements and other hazard reduction measures are based upon this concept. However, the risk of wildfire originating on or about structures and their premises is great, and also causes historically damaging fires. The statutory hazard reduction requirements, and other hazard and risk measures, also mitigate the occurrence of structure and premise wildfire ignitions.

Protection Planning

(Fire Protection planning is reviewed at the subdivision and parcel map level and typically implemented at the development stages of a project.) CAL FIRE is responsible for enforcing Public Resources Code 4290 (SRA only) and Public Resources Code 4291 within Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties. Lassen County has adopted CAL FIRE as the County Fire Warden. The

Lassen County Fire Warden is responsible for enforcing Public Resources Code 4290 (SRA only), Public Resources 4291 and Lassen County Ordinance 502 in relation to improvement standards on all new building construction (commercial and residential), parcel splits, subdivisions and use permits within Lassen County.

Code enforcement

CAL FIRE enforces forest, state and county laws and regulations to include Public Resource Code, Health and Safety Code. CAL FIRE also enforces building standards adopted by the State Fire Marshall and published in the State Building Standards Code relating to fires or to fire prevention and protection.

Building inspections

The goal of the fire prevention program is to educate homeowners of measures to prevent the ignition and spread of unwanted human-caused fires. Emphasis should be placed on loss reduction and prevention of large and damaging fires and to provide firefighter safety. One of the necessary tools utilized to accomplish this goal is the structural fire prevention inspection. Inspections are a fire prevention engineering activity. Coordinated with other ignition management activities, the inspections are aimed at eliminating or reducing fire hazards and risks by changing the environment through removing or reducing the heat source, modifying or reducing the fuels, and modifying the act or omission, allowing the heat source to contact the ignitable fuels.

Information and Education

Information Program

The Unit provides information to the public through the Fire Prevention Specialist who acts as the Unit's Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO uses the local newspapers, radio stations and the Unit Facebook and Twitter account to share information regarding burning restrictions, burn permit requirements, tips about burning safely, information on creating defensible space, etc.

During emergency incidents, the PIO provides the public with information about the incident; location, acreage, road closures, evacuations, etc. This is accomplished through news releases, radio announcements, social media posts and via public meetings, information centers and call centers.

It is through education and information that the Unit reduces ignitions. This is accomplished by educating children when they first enter school and continuing that education through adulthood.

Education Program

The Unit's Education Program reaches people of all ages. The Unit's Fire Prevention Specialist teaches children from preschool through junior high about 9-1-1, Stop, Drop and Roll, (EDITH) Exit Drills in the Home, the Consequences of Playing with Fire, etc. Education is delivered to the schools in Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties through assemblies, class room training, field trips to CAL FIRE stations and more. In addition to school programs the Unit participates in a variety of other events where there is an opportunity to teach children and adults about fire safety, the requirements of PRC 4291, and the advantages of removing ignition sources from around their homes.



The Fire Prevention Bureau of the Lassen-Modoc Unit has a Juvenile Firesetter Program used to identify and educate youth ages 2-14 about the consequences of playing with fire. The program is two-pronged: it involves intervention with juveniles caught playing with fire and education for juveniles at risk of fire play behavior.

The Unit works with Fire Safe Councils and other local, state and federal agencies to educate the public about the importance of preparing for wildfires, encouraging homeowners to work together to protect their communities. CAL FIRE works with agencies to educate the public about the benefits of community fuel breaks and the advantages of reducing the fuels around their homes.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The Lassen-Modoc Unit Resource Management Program is comprised of one Forester II and three Forester Is. Unit Resource Management staff is responsible to enforce the California Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules for timber operations on private timberlands. This enforcement starts with the review of the initial project, and continues through the harvesting of timber to completion. During the review of commercial timber harvesting plans, Unit staff has opportunities to provide written recommendations to project proponents designed to facilitate a positive change in the methods in which timber operations are conducted. We continually look for ways to improve forest health, fire safety, hazard reduction, public safety, vehicular access, water sources, timing of operations, wildlife benefits, and other site specific mitigating measures necessary to support the California's Strategic Fire Plan. The treatment of logging slash to reduce the overall fuel hazard must comply with the rules and regulations, which generally apply around structures and along roads.

Fuels Reduction

Attainment of the fuel reduction goals of the Lassen–Modoc Unit Fire Plan will require on-the-ground effort. The use of CAL FIRE and CDCR crews and equipment will continue to be necessary in many areas where stakeholders do not have the finances or resources to do an effective job individually or as a group. The Vegetation Management program (VMP) is currently a vehicle where CAL FIRE may use resources on privately owned lands. Recently the local Fire Safe Councils have utilized grant funding to promote fuel reduction in high fire danger areas adjacent to communities using a combination of paid Licensed Timber Operator contractors on larger areas and use of CDCR crews for smaller areas near sensitive locations that do not lend well to mechanical equipment. The Unit continues to participate in a joint effort to target at-risk communities and high fire danger areas in the wildland urban interface (WUI) areas in cooperation with the US Forest Service, BLM, Industrial timberland owners and the local Fire Safe Councils.



Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

In place since 1981, the VMP program has been an effective fuels reduction / rangeland improvement tool. Because of increasing competition for smoke allotments, CAL FIRE's use of fire to reduce fuel load is in jeopardy. As a result, chipping will likely become the primary disposal method in the future. VMP is a cost-share program; the State's share of a project's cost may range from zero to ninety percent. This is based on a public benefits formula -- the greater the benefit to the public, the greater the share of the cost of the project CAL FIRE may assume. Fuels reduction projects in critical areas within the Unit as identified in this plan have a high public to private benefits ratio therefore the Unit's efforts should be concentrated in these areas. For example, a project in the Janesville area

that reduced fuels around the community would have a high public/private benefit ratio and lower landowner participation is then justified. Conversely, potential projects that are essentially range improvement burns that are not near population concentrations will require a higher degree of landowner effort and proportional costs.

This is not to say that rangeland burning is of minor importance. Through this century, range improvement burns have been vital in managing wildland fuels on a landscape basis. However, increasing population in the rural areas has brought constraints such as smoke management and liability concerns. Such constraints have made the LE-7, range improvement project less attractive and has put VMP projects in higher demand with managers from the timber industry and ranchers.

The unit had experienced a sharp decline in VMP projects due to a series of factors including: a very narrow burn window for large acreage projects, a lack of available resources and staff, and funding to accomplish VMP projects. The fire seasons of 2017 and 2018 however, with fires such as the Thomas, Carr and Camp Fires, prompted the Governor to increase CALFIRE's budget to include funding for additional staff, resources and equipment dedicated towards forest management and fuel reduction. In 2020 between Unit projects and local agency assists, staff was able to burn 923 acres.

Thinning Projects

Intermountain, Devils Garden and Antelope Crews have continued to work on CAL-TRANS right of way roadside thinning projects under the direction of CAL-TRANS where visibility is being improved along the roadway and fuel reduction for fire safety is being achieved. In addition, all three camps have seen an increase in fuel reduction and watershed restoration projects for the Bureau of Land Management, USFS, local fire safe councils and resource conservation districts.



SECTION V: PRE-FIRE Management Tactics

The Lassen-Modoc Unit Pre-Fire Management Program has been in place since 1997. During the past eighteen years, data has been validated and processed in order to assess vegetative fuels, assets at risk, fire weather, and level of service calculations. The assessments now include changes in the dynamics of the actual on-the-ground work that has been accomplished. This is an ongoing process.

The development of a method for incorporating the current and past Timber Harvest Plans, Emergency Notices, Exemptions, and Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans into a GIS format is under way. The data to be collected and utilized will include the locations and types of fuels treatments in areas containing assets having the greatest value. This information can be utilized in many aspects by the unit and cooperating agencies.

Unit Fire Plan Data Layers

The Unit Fire Management Plan Data layers, which consist of fuels, weather, fire history, emergency activity reporting, assets at risk and level of service have been completed to date, however, conditions are dynamic in nature and must be re-validated on a regular basis.

Unit Fire Management Plan Integration into Daily Operations

Over the years, many of our managers and supervisors have had priorities and goals to reduce fuels around many of the communities within the Unit. The development of the Unit Fire Management Plan was based on the strong support and assistance from the Fire Safe Councils. Many of the ideas from these collective influences are now coming to fruition.

The California Fire Plan (2010)

The *State Board of Forestry (BOF)* and the *California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)* drafted the *California Fire Plan (2010)*. This document is a comprehensive fire plan for the wildland fire protection in California. The fire plan consists of a planning process that considers: level of service measurements, assets at risk assessments, incorporates the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis.

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the *California Fire Plan* is to reduce the total losses and ever increasing costs from wildland fires in California by protecting the assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and improving the potential of initial attack success.

Ranking of Pre-Fire Projects

The Lassen Modoc Unit has developed an objective ranking process to prioritize prospective fuels treatment and modification projects. The ranking process was developed by local subject matter experts and is designed to emphasize the benefits to public safety and to assist in the prevention of large costly fires.

Identification of communities at risk was determined by California Fire Alliance. Information from the Fire Threat Map developed using statistical information from the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) was also utilized. A formula using fire history, potential fire threat and proximity to fire suppression resources was developed to aid in the prioritizing of projects for communities at risk for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Approved pre-fire projects are included in the section for the battalion in which they are located.

SECTION VI. BATTALIONS/CAMPS/TRAINING CENTER

BATTALION 1

Battalion 1 (B-2211 Susanville Battalion Chief) is located in the central and southeastern portion of Lassen County, with the communities of Susanville, Johnstonville, Janesville, Standish, Litchfield, Lake Forest Estates, Stones Landing and Spaulding. The incorporated City of Susanville lays is in the center of the Battalion.



U. S. Highway 395 travels through the Battalion on its east side. State Highways 44, 139 and 36 also travel through the Battalion and intersect with U.S. 395. The elevation of the Battalion is approximately 4500' in the Honey Lake Valley to 7700' on Diamond Mountain, with an average elevation of approximately 5800' on the northeastern plateau of California.

Approximately 32,000 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Lands; the only Local Responsibility Land is located within the Honey Lake Valley area, in Susanville City, and portions of the communities of Standish, Janesville and Johnstonville. The highest housing and population concentration in the Unit is located in Battalion 1.

Fuels

The vegetative cover in Battalion 1 is comprised of standing timber on the west and northwest sides of the Battalion and high desert sage, bitterbrush and juniper on the mid and east side of the Battalion. Most of the large fires in Lassen-Modoc Unit over the years have occurred in Battalion 1 in the timbered areas.

Fire Weather

Fire weather in Battalion 1 can be extreme because of its location and elevation. Most of the 32,000 acres are in a very dry climate due to being in the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada Cascade Range. Single digit relative humidity during the summer months is not uncommon and many of the forest fuels remain ready to burn in the late spring to early summer, prior to the finer fuels drying. Lightning is the main cause of fires in the battalion. Battalion 1 experiences diurnal winds influenced by the Honey Lake Valley. Hot air from the valley rises, creating downslope winds off the escarpment that runs from Diamond Mountain south to Milford. Battalion 1 has experienced several large fires including the Eagle Fire in 1989, the Goat Fire in 2000, and the Devil Fire in 2001. In 2012, the Unit experienced one of the largest fires of its history which was caused by lightning and burned on federal land. This was the Rush Fire which burned over 271,000 acres.

Battalion 1 Resources

B-2211 Susanville BC

Susanville Station

2- Fire Engines
1- Bull Dozer
1- Reserve Fire Engine
Landon Lookout

Grasshopper Station

2- Fire Engines
Fredonyer Lookout

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments within Battalion 1

California Correctional Center
Susanville City Fire Department
Susan River Fire Protection District
Janesville Fire Protection District
Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District
Doyle Fire Protection District
Eagle Lake Fire Protection District
Stones-Bengard Fire Protection District
Lake Forest Fire Protection District
Milford Fire Protection District
Sierra Army Depot Fire Department
Spaulding Volunteer Fire Department
Herlong Volunteer Fire Department

Battalion 1 Projects

Battalion 1 is working closely with the Lassen Fire Safe Council. (LCFSC)

The following communities and projects have been identified.

Cheney Creek Fuel Break

The Cheney Creek project is a future planned project that will create a fuel break approximately 6 miles in length spanning from Susan River south to Gold Run Road with the intention of stopping the spread of fire into the community of Susanville. A large portion of this project will focus on thinning, pruning and treatment of ground fuels through the Devil Fire and Willard Fire plantations on private industrial timberland. Treatment options will include both mechanical and hand treatments.

Baxter

The Baxter project is a future planned project that will include approximately 2,000 acres, much of which are timberland. The project borders the Sheep fire footprint to the east, to west of Janesville and continues south of Elysian Valley. The intent of the project is to reduce fuel loading and reduce the potential of catastrophic fire in the areas of Wingfield Road, Baxter Creek and Elysian Valley. Project activities will focus on thinning, pruning and treatment of ground fuels through mechanical and manual means with the goal of re-introducing prescribed fire onto the landscape.

Diane Vegetation Fuel Reduction Project

CAL FIRE is planning a VMP spanning from highway 395 south of Johnstonville west to Wingfield Road. The proposed project will require cooperation from CDFW and several large private landowners in the area. The main purpose of the project is to establish a fuel break for the communities located east of Wingfield Road and south of Richmond Road to the east, Diamond Crest, Single Tree Lane and Diane Drive. The treatment method may include mastication, hand cutting, chipping and piling of vegetation as well as prescribed fire.

Old Mill

CAL FIRE is planning a fuels reduction project south of Susan River from Sunkist Drive in Susanville to Highway 36 east of town. The proposed project will include approximately 300 acres of private lands. The main purpose of the project is to establish a fuel reduction zone for the residential and commercial structures in the Riverside Drive and Sierra Road areas. Operations may include mechanical and manual treatments as well as prescribed fire.

Spaulding Fuel Reduction Planning and Risk Assessments

LCFSC will be seeking funds to perform risk assessments in the home ignition zone and fuel reduction treatments within and around the Spaulding community in Lassen County. Work will complement previously completed work by LNF. They may be asking for funding and/or assistance from, CFSC, CalFire, Lassen County RAC or USFS.

Letter Box

LCFSC will be seeking funds for commercial thinning of overstocked stands to achieve the desired stocking level (approximate BA of 80sq. ft.) to increase health and vigor. Commercial and non-commercial sanitation harvest of trees to control insects and disease.

Doyle Fuel Treatments and Risk Assessments

LCFSC, in conjunction with the Plumas National Forest and Bureau of Land Management, is in the initial planning stage of assisting the community of Doyle in gaining Firewise Community status, and with a possible fuels treatment project that could include fuel breaks in sagebrush areas surrounding the community. Also under consideration is private land forest thinning with cooperating landowners that are adjacent to Plumas National Forest.

LFSC is working with Honey Lake Valley RCD (HLVRCD) on implementing a Beckwourth Complex forest restoration/fire recovery project on private non-industrial timberland owners near Doyle.

Thompson Peak Initiative

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council will partner with Cal Fire for the Thompson Peak Initiative which covers approximately 92,000 acres of private and public lands (federal lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management). The project is situated between the unincorporated communities of Milford and Janesville, and the 2019 54,608-acre Walker Fire. The project spans across the North Slope and top of the Diamond Mountains and lies entirely within the Wildland Urban Interface of the Milford and Janesville areas.

Implementation of the CALFIRE funded TPI grant is ongoing in the Janesville area.

Implementation of the forest thinning Bootsole Project funded by SNC will resume in the summer of 2023. LFSC is working with the Plumas National Forest on writing NEPA on 57,000 acres of USFS land from the escarpment west under the Eastside Communities Protection project.

Dixie Fire East

As part of the Thompson Peak Initiative, LFSC and HLVRCD has applied for CALFIRE funding for dead tree removal and reforestation of non-industrial timberland owners impacted by the Dixie Fire in the TPI planning footprint.

As of February 2023, LFSC and HLVRCD operating off of Hicks Road under a HLVRCD forest service grant.

Diamond Mountain Forest and Watershed Restoration

LCFSC has received funding to conduct approximately 4,400 acres of fuel treatments from the CAL FIRE CCI/FH program. This is a collaborative forest and watershed restoration project developed by the Diamond Mountain Initiative, whose principal partners include LCFSC, USFS, BLM, CAL FIRE, Lassen County and others. The project will treat USFS land and matching funds will treat adjacent private land. Treatments will consist of the thinning of mixed conifer forest and aspen stands, using uneven-aged management to increase stand complexity and carbon sequestration within all forest types.

LCFSC is also completing a 900-acre Forest and Watershed Restoration project on private land that was funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

LFSC has received additional funds from Sierra Nevada Conservancy to conduct fuel treatments on USFS land as part of the Diamond Mountain Initiative.

Education Program

LCFSC has applied for CAL FIRE CCI/FP funds to support the “Firewise in the Classroom” 6th grade education program. This program is a one week long, one hour per day, youth education curriculum on forest health and fire safety which includes family involvement in the development of their family disaster plan. The program follows the State educational framework and is implemented in 10 different schools in Lassen, Shasta and Modoc Counties. The application would also provide funds for the countywide distribution of fire prevention educational materials.

McBride Springs Upland Restoration

This project is through the Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI), and its partners LCFSC and Pit Resource Conservation District, in cooperation with the USFS. CSSRI continues to look for possible sources to fund the treatments on private and USFS lands. Project would restore an important watershed along the Highway 139 corridor. Invasive juniper would be removed through biomass utilization in an effort to reduce hazardous fuel loads and restore the watershed and wildlife habitat.

McClelland Watershed/Wildlife Habitat Restoration

A 583-acre portion of the project was completed in 2012. This proposed project connects with the CSSRI South Knob projects. Work consists of the removal of invasive juniper through biomass utilization in an effort to reduce hazardous fuel loads and restore the watershed and wildlife habitat. CSSRI, through its partners PRCD and LCFSC continues to look for possible sources to fund the treatments on McClelland Ranch, private lands in North Grasshopper Valley.

South Eagle Lake WUI Fuel Treatments

LCFSC has received funding to conduct approximately 5,600 acres of fuel treatments from the CAL FIRE CCI/FP program. Project continues Lassen County Fire Safe Council’s landscape scale WUI hazardous fuel reduction and removal fuel treatments, including dead and dying trees, within the South Eagle Lake watershed. The project is located in the northwest quadrant of the greater Susanville, California community where we have recently completed 1,462 acres of private land treatments under the first CAL FIRE GHG pilot grant program. With this project, they will be implementing 5,737 acres of hazardous fuel reduction and removal treatments, including dead and dying trees, on private land within the SRA, all within the Very High Hazard Fire Severity Zone. The project will reduce wildland fire risk for 3,520 habitable structures within the 49,238-acre Project Area/Area of Influence. The entire project area lies within a Wildland Urban Interface Zone (WUI).

Lassen Creek Forest Restoration Project

The Honey Lake Valley RCD has received partial funding for this project. They are seeking funds to continue implementing fuel reduction projects (mechanical thinning, hand thinning, mastication, pruning, piling/burning, prescribed fire) within the project area that create a fire resilient forest that is still capable of producing timber at maximum sustained yield while retaining ecosystem function for wildlife and the watershed and providing a landscape level fire break for the Susanville and Janesville communities.

Peg Leg Lookout Tower

In 1984, Peg Leg Lookout Tower was dismantled on its site on Peg Leg Mountain to make room for a new lookout tower. The old tower was reconstructed at the Lassen County Fairgrounds through a joint effort by the Northeastern California Fire Prevention Council (NCFPC). The lookout tower is used each year to educate the public about the use of lookouts by state and federal fire agencies and to teach about fire prevention. Over 90,000 people visit the fairgrounds each year. The LCFSC will seek funds to repair the lookout tower which is in desperate need of attention.

Honey Lake Valley Wildlife Area – Dakin and Fleming Units (500 - 700 acres)

Honey Lake Wildlife Area is a cooperative project between the Lassen Modoc Unit and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Wildlife Area is managed for multiple uses for wildlife and public benefit and has been treated historically using a variety of vegetation management options, including disk pulling tractor equipment and past use of fire. The current project effort will be to continue in partnering with the Wildlife Area managers to assist them with treating fuels and vegetation where practical.

Hog and Sheep Fire restoration –

LFSC in conjunction with CALFIRE, FEMA/ CAL OES, and Honey Lake Valley RCD is conducting dead/dying tree removal and reforestation treatments in the entire Sheep Fire footprint (private) and several landowners in the hog fire.

Hog flat & Clear Creek Fuel Treatment

LFSC was awarded a direct grant from CALFIRE to conduct fuels treatments and maintenance on the existing fuelbreaks at Hog Flat and Clear Creek (Lassen County side).

BATTALION 2

Battalion 2 (Battalion 2212 Westwood Battalion Chief) is located on the west side of Lassen County and includes the Almanor Basin in Plumas County. The communities of Westwood, Pinetown, Clear Creek, Hamilton Branch, Canyon Dam, Prattville, Almanor West and Chester are all within Battalion 2.



Those areas of state land within Plumas County that are outside of Battalion 2's response area are protected by the U.S. Forest Service and lie within their Direct Protection Area (Federal DPA). Fire protection to the residents in that area is provided by local paid and volunteer fire protection agencies.

State Highways 36, 147, 89 and 44 traverse through Battalion 2. The elevation of the Battalion is approximately 4500' in the Chester area to 7500' on Dyer Mountain, with an average elevation of approximately 5100' in the community of Westwood and the Mountain Meadows area.

In Battalion 2 approximately 13,000 acres are State Responsibility Lands. Local Responsibility Land is located in the town of Chester and the community of Westwood. The population is concentrated in Westwood and the immediate area surrounding Lake Almanor. Battalion 2 is home to approximately 25,000 people. However, this number drops dramatically during the winter months.

Fuels

The vegetative cover in Battalion 2 is predominately standing timber, with some grass, and sage cover.

Fire Weather

Battalion 2 typically receives the most precipitation within the Lassen Modoc Unit. As much of the area is shaded by Dyer Mountain and Keddie Ridge, the snow pack can linger well into the late spring. Single digit relative humidity during the summer months is not uncommon and many of the forest fuels remain ready to burn in the late spring to early summer, prior to the finer fuels drying. Fires in Battalion 2 are fuels driven; examples of that being the Moonlight Fire which started in September of 2007 and burned over 64,000 acres and the Dixie Fire in 2020, which burned 963,309 acres.

Battalion 2 Resources

B-2212 Westwood BC

Westwood Station

2- Fire Engines

Peg Leg Lookout

Dyer Mountain Lookout

Eagle Lake Station

1 – Fire Engine

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments within Battalion 2

Westwood Community Services District and Volunteer Fire Department

Chester Fire Department

Almanor West Fire Department

Hamilton Branch Fire Department

Clear Creek Volunteer Fire Department

Prattville Fire Protection District

Peninsula Fire Protection District

Battalion 2 Projects

Battalion 2 is actively working with the communities of Westwood, Clear Creek and the Lake Almanor Basin. The Basin Communities include Hamilton Branch, Peninsula, West Almanor, Prattville and Chester. Battalion 2 is also working closely with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Lassen Fire Safe Council (LFSC). To this effort, the following communities and projects have been identified.

Dyer Mountain Initiative

LFSC has completed over 900 acres of the project to date in the Clear Creek Area. The new Dyer Mountain Initiative now stretches from Pine Town on the east to Hamilton Branch on the east. Partners include: Clear Creek & Westwood Community Service Districts (and their fire Departments, CAL FIRE, SPI, W.M. Beaty & Associates and PG&E. Forests will be thinned and brush fuels will be masticated where they pose a threat to homes and/or are within potential evacuation corridors. We will also perform additional Risk in the Home Ignition Zone/structure ignitability assessments with community residents, provide additional treatments around homes and construct additional fuel breaks. Additional treatment funds are being requested from CAL FIRE to perform more mastication, thinning and community treatments that will restore the watershed and reduce hazardous fuel loads within and around the Clear Creek community.

Mountain Meadows

The project will treat fuels along SPI's MM-Line on the south side of Mountain Meadows Reservoir. Fuels loads will be reduced by lopping and scattering and by mastication. The area receives moderate recreational use by the public for activities such as walking, fishing and hunting. Resources at risk include: residential and commercial structures (Westwood and Clear Creek); utility infrastructure (Indian Ole Dam and associated electric lines); critical wildlife habitat; private and federal timberland.

Butterfly Valley Fuel Reduction Project

CAL FIRE is planning a fuel reduction project in the Butterfly Valley area of Plumas County and includes both public and private lands. The project is approximately 85 acres in size and is situated north of Maxwell and Wildwood Roads and west of Butterfly Valley Twain Road. The project will establish a fuel reduction zone within and around the community and help prevent or lessen the threat of catastrophic wildfire impacting the small community. Treatment methods may include hand cutting and piling of vegetation and chipping as well as the introduction of prescribed fire.

Plumas Underburn Cooperative

The PCFSC has partnered with the Feather River Resource Conservation District to support a citizen's Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) for landowners wishing to safely and efficiently burn on their properties. The Plumas Underburn Cooperative provides coordination, training, and equipment to undertake burning on private lands. The Plumas Underburn Cooperative provides a resource to meet Plumas County's need to reduce woody material and surface fuels on private property and to maintain previous fuels treatments.

Plumas County Chipping Program

The PCFSC administers a county-wide chipping program addressing perennial green waste issues and encouraging creation of defensible space. The program manager collaborates with community volunteers to conduct outreach, ensures program guidelines are followed, and inspects chipping contractor work. 2022 will be the seventh year of continuous operation of the program.

Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance Program

The PCFSC administers a county-wide defensible space assistance program available to senior and physically disabled residents. The program utilizes contractors to bring participants into compliance with PRC 4291. The program has been in operation for 17 years.

Plumas Collaborative Forest Health Project

PCFSC is utilizing CCI Forest Health funds to implement 8,000+ acres of fuels treatments on the Mount Hough Ranger District and private lands in the East Branch North Fork Feather River Watershed. The project incorporates a cross-boundary underburn, biomass utilization, reforestation, mastication and hand-thin treatments. This project fully implements several Quincy Library Group planning projects as well as treatment in the surrounding communities for Meadow Valley, Genesee Woods, and Red Clover Creek.

American Valley East Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

The PCFSC is in the process of implementing 164 acres of private land treatments around the community of Quincy in the American Valley. Treatments include mastication and hand thinning. The project contributes to a near-continuous reduced fuel zone around Quincy.

Lake Almanor Peninsula

PCFSC is working with the Peninsula Fire Department, Plumas County Public Works, and large private landowners adjacent to Lake Almanor Peninsula communities and Hamilton Branch to create fuel breaks identified in the communities' Firewise assessments. A planning proposal for 750+ acres has been submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Mohawk Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

The PCFSC has contracted layout and environmental compliance documents for 250+ acres in Mohawk Valley, which includes the communities of Graeagle, Whitehawk Ranch, Smith Creek Ranch, Clio, Sierra Estates, and Valley Ranch. The PCFSC is working in collaboration with the Graeagle Firewise Committee to develop the project, which will compliment fuels projects on adjacent Forest Service lands.

Greenhorn Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

The PCFSC has completed environmental compliance for a 148-acre fuel break on Sierra Pacific Industries, and undeveloped private lands owned by the Community Services District.

Lakes Basin Forest Health

In partnership with Plumas National Forest the PCFSC is contracting hazardous fuel reduction work on 1,700 acres of federal lands in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Plumas Disadvantaged Communities Hazardous Fuel Reduction

The PCFSC is utilizing a CAL FIRE grant to undertake 580+ acres of hazardous fuel reduction on non-industrial private lands over 5-acres around the communities of Quincy and Chester.

Quincy Wildfire Protection Project

The PCFSC is utilizing a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant to undertake 151 acres of hazardous fuel reduction on private lands south of Quincy. The majority of the project is on CHY company industrial lands, which are adjacent to Plumas District Hospital.

Eastern Plumas Wildfire Prevention Project

The PCFSC is undertaking a 3,400+ acre private lands project in eastern Plumas County, which includes the communities of Grizzly Ranch, Portola, Gold Mountain/Nakoma, C-Road, and Clio. It also encompasses implementation of the Mohawk Valley HFR project.

Plumas Emergency Forest Restoration Team

The Feather River Resource Conservation District in partnership with PCFSC, UC Cooperative Extension, Sierra Institute, and the Maidu Summit Consortium have developed a post-fire restoration assistance program for non-industrial private land owners impacted by the 2020/2021 fires in Plumas County (North Complex, Dixie, Beckwourth Complex).

Plumas Home Hardening Incentive Program

the Plumas County CWPP and the Plumas County LHMP have identified a Home Hardening Incentive Program as a high priority mitigation action. The Fire Safe Council is the mitigation partner that has been tasked with undertaking the development of this program for Plumas residents. The PCFSC has requested grant funds from CAL FIRE to establish the program.

Quincy Watershed Improvement Project Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

The Plumas Audubon Society has completed environmental compliance for Boyle Ravine, owned by the American Valley Community Services District. The PCFSC is available to implement the project as needed.

Bucks Lake Highlands Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

A single landowner has requested Fire Safe Council assistance with Hazardous Fuels Reduction on 170 acres.

Defensible Schools Program

PCFSC is collaborating with the Plumas Unified School District to develop a defensible schools program.

Plumas County Wildfire Evacuation Plans

The Plumas County Sheriff's Office and Plumas County Office of Emergency Services has completed community wildfire evacuation maps with suggested primary and secondary evacuation routes. These maps were developed as an interagency effort and are available online at Plumas County's Office of Emergency Services webpage.

This factor is critical to agencies providing emergency services, not only for wildland fire purposes, but all emergency vehicle access. Plumas County strives to have all residences and communities meet Public Resource Code 4290 requirements for road and address signage. Currently a standard exists in Plumas County for new construction, but not older structures. The County is considering modifying code measures which may include, but not be limited to, requiring proper signage upon sale.

Plumas CWPP Update

In 2019, the PCFSC updated the Plumas Communities Wildfire Protection Plan and Hazardous Fuel Assessment to identify needed updates and will pursue funds to implement the updates.

Hamilton Branch Community Fuelbreak

The fuel break is approximately 280 acres in size located on Sierra Pacific Industries lands. Much of the area received hand treatments in 2010 which included understory thinning and pile and burn. The project spans from State Highway 147 to the east, west to Plumas County Road A-13, and follows A-13 to Highway 36. CEQA has been completed for the project. Treatments include hand and mechanical thinning operations, pile burning as well as prescribed fire. Portions of the project have recently been masticated as well as hand thinning with pile and burn.

Dyer Mountain WUI Fuel Treatment

LFSC has funding and is currently implementing fuels treatments and community hazard tree removals in the WUI near Westwood and Clear Creek. Biomass removal, mastication, and herbicide treatments scheduled for 2023.

Hog Flat

The project is located on Sierra Pacific Industries along Highway 44 approximately 3 miles northwest of the junction of Highway 36 from the western edge of the Goat Fire to the Goumaz Road, along both sides of Highway 44. The Lassen Modoc Unit implemented a hand thinning treatment approximately 10 years ago within the project area. Current project is focusing on maintenance treatments including hand thinning, removing fuels from the base of commercial conifers, pruning and cutting brush to reduce fuel loading along with prescribed fire. The project has approved CEQA documentation and work is ongoing within the project area.

West Almanor Forest Health Grant (West Almanor/USFS/Private Industry/Residential WUI)

This project area incorporates three different private industrial ownerships and portions of the Lassen National Forest. A smaller area includes summer cabins and residential parcels in the south. The area spans (piecemeal) from along State Highway 36, west of Chester in Plumas County to near Childs Meadows in Tehama County, the West Almanor area along Highway 89 and portions located near Rock Creek and upper Robbers Creek in Lassen County. The Grant work is to include forest health benefitting treatment and monitoring and study. The grantee will contract out work in some instances in order to facilitate fulfilling the time constraint of the grant.

Clear Creek

This is a CAL FIRE project located on Sierra Pacific Industries properties. The project is 315 acres in size and is located approximately one mile west of the town of Westwood along State Highway 147 to just east of Hamilton Branch as well as along Indian Ole Road south of 147 to Mountain Meadows Reservoir. The purpose of the proposed project is to maintain/establish a vegetation fuel reduction zone along main routes of travel as well as to help protect the communities of Clear Creek, Westwood and Hamilton Branch from wildfire. In general, the proposed project will involve the treatment of both live and dead vegetation that is currently present in the project area through a combination of hand and mechanical treatments as well as prescribed fire.

Officeview Fuel Treatment

The project will treat fuels along the State Highway 36 in the vicinity of the 101 Ranch. Fuels loads will be reduced by timber operations, biomass thinning and mastication. Highway 36 receives large volumes of commercial and personal vehicle traffic during the fire season. Resources at risk include residential, recreational and commercial structures (Westwood and Coppervale); utility infrastructure (LMUD); critical wildlife habitat; private and federal timberland.

V-line Dyer Fuel Treatment

The project will treat fuels along SPI's V-Line on the north and west slope of Dyer_Mountain. Fuels loads will be reduced through biomass thinning and mastication. The area receives moderate recreational use by the public for activities such as walking and hunting. Resources at risk include residential and commercial structures (Westwood and Clear Creek); utility infrastructure (Indian Ole Dam and associated electric lines); critical wildlife habitat; private and federal timberland.

BATTALION 3

Battalion 3 (Battalion 2213 Bieber Battalion Chief) is located in the northwest portion of Lassen County, southwest corner of Modoc County and borders to the west along Shasta – Trinity and Siskiyou Units. The communities of Bieber, Nubieber, Day, Lookout, Little Valley and Adin are located within its boundaries.



State Highways 299 and 139 traverses through the Battalion. Approximately 17,260 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Lands; Local Responsibility Land is located in the Big Valley area around the towns of Bieber, Nubieber, and Pittville. The population within the Battalion is found in Bieber, Nubieber, Lookout, Day, Little Valley and Adin. Battalion 3 is home to approximately 1,400 people.

Fuels

The vegetative cover in the Battalion 3 is predominately standing timber with grass/sage cover. The Big Valley area of the Battalion is agricultural with much of the land committed to the production of hay. Many fires in this Battalion grow quite quickly, due to its remoteness and the lack of roads.

Fire Weather

Fire weather in Battalion 3 is typically wetter than that of Battalions 1 and 4 that are located in the rain shadow of the Sierra/Cascade Mountains. However, as most of the terrain is unshaded, snow pack usually melts off by early spring. Single digit relative humidity during the summer months is not uncommon and many of the forest fuels remain ready to burn in the late spring to early summer, prior to the finer fuels drying. Fires in Battalion 3 are started predominantly by lightning. The area experiences thunderstorms followed by high pressure with southwest winds. Examples of large lightning fires include the Scarface Fire in 1977, the Crank Fire in 1987, the Widow Fire in 1994 and the Day Fire in 2014.

Battalion 3 Resources

Battalion 2213 Bieber BC

Bieber Station

2- Fire Engines

1- Helicopter and crew

Snag Hill Lookout

Happy Camp Station

1 – Fire Engine

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments within Battalion 3

Big Valley Fire Protection District

Lookout Volunteer Fire Department

Adin Volunteer Fire Department

McArthur Volunteer Fire Department (Day Bench)

Little Valley Community Services District

Battalion 3 Projects

Battalion 3 is working closely with the Modoc County Fire Safe Council, The Lassen County Fire Safe Council as well as Local Government Fire Fighting Agencies towards community preparedness in the event of wildland fire threats. To this effort, the following communities and projects have been identified.

McBride Springs Upland Restoration

This project is through the Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI), and its partners LCFSC and Pit Resource Conservation District, in cooperation with the USFS. CSSRI continues to look for possible sources to fund the treatments on private and USFS lands. Project would restore an important watershed along the Highway 139 corridor. Invasive juniper would be removed through biomass utilization in an effort to reduce hazardous fuel loads and restore the watershed and wildlife habitat.

McClelland Watershed/Wildlife Habitat Restoration

A 583-acre portion of the project was completed in 2012. This proposed project connects with the CSSRI South Knob projects. Work consists of the removal of invasive juniper through biomass utilization in an effort to reduce hazardous fuel loads and restore the watershed and wildlife habitat. CSSRI, through its partners PRCD and LCFSC continues to look for possible sources to fund the treatments on McClelland Ranch, private lands in North Grasshopper Valley.

Big Valley Mountain WUI Fuel Treatments

Project continues Lassen County Fire Safe Council's landscape scale WUI hazardous fuel reduction and removal fuel treatments, including dead and dying trees, within the Big Valley Mountain range. With this project we will be implementing 13,400 acres of hazardous fuel reduction and removal fuel treatments, including dead and dying trees, on private land within the SRA, primarily within the Very High and High Hazard Fire Severity Zones. The project will reduce wildland fire risk for 491 habitable structures within the 51,826-acre Project Area/Area of Influence. The vast majority of the project area lies within a Wildland Urban Interface Zone (WUI). The project merges and implements three previous CWPP projects: Day Lassen Bench, Lookout and Big Valley Mountain Fuelbreak.

Lookout Watershed Restoration & WUI Treatments

LCFSC and Pit Resource Conservation District (PRCD) have completed treating 3,000 acres and will be applying for additional funding as opportunities arise. This project reduces hazardous fuel loads and restores the forest, watershed and critical wildlife habitat. Invasive western juniper will be removed and pine stands will be thinned to 40-50% crown closures. The previous phase was funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the California Fire Safe Council. CAL FIRE has committed conservation crews to assist with follow-up hand treatments. This phase will focus on fuels west of the railroad tracks. Additional treatments will be conducted within the

Lookout Ranchettes if sufficient funding is available. The project lies within Lassen and Modoc Counties and is also a top priority in the Modoc County Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan.

Madeline

Project to include a Community Assessment, Firewise Community recognition, Risk Assessments in the Home Ignition Zone/Structural Ignitability Assessments, Fuel Treatments Around Structures and Landscape Scale Fuel Treatments. Project merges our previous Ash Valley IV and Spooner Reservoir projects.

Little Valley Forest & Meadow Restoration Project

LCFSC has received partial funding for this project. They will continue to seek funds to complete project. Primary work is the removal of invasive western juniper and forest thinning in overstocked pine stands. The project will also assist community homeowners with treatments within the Little Valley residential neighborhood and protect community infrastructure (PG&E electric lines). Risk in the Home Ignition Zone/structure ignitability assessments within and around the community will also be part of the project. Project may also include prescribed fire follow-up/maintenance of previously completed treatments.

Ash Watershed Restoration

CSSRI will continue planning with the Modoc National Forest (MDF) on a collaborative fuels treatment project west and north of the Ash Valley Community. MDF will be the lead for USFS land and LCFSC will be the lead for private land within the project area. It is anticipated CSSRI will be asking for assistance from CFSC, CalFire, NRCS and USFS with funding.

Ash Valley III Watershed Restoration

CSSRI has implementing this watershed restoration project on private and BLM managed land since BLM completed NEPA in 2011. Partial funding has been obtained from Lassen RAC, NRCS, SNC, DWR, USFWS and private landowner contributions. Project connects the BLM South Ash Valley, CSSRI Ash Valley I, II & IV and the CSSRI South Knob projects. Work consists of the removal of invasive juniper through biomass utilization in an effort to reduce hazardous fuel loads and restore the watershed and wildlife habitat. The balance of the mechanical treatments await completion.

Ash Valley IV Watershed Restoration

CSSRI will continue planning with the Modoc National Forest (MDF) on a collaborative fuels treatment project west and north of the Ash Valley Community. MDF will be the lead for USFS land and LCFSC will be the lead for private land within the project area. It is anticipated CSSRI will be asking for assistance from CFSC, CalFire, NRCS and USFS with funding.

County Road 91/SPI Fuel Break

This is a future Vegetation Management Program (VMP), cooperative project, being prepared in consultation with the Bieber Battalion 3 and a private industrial landowner. The location is along the middle to northern end of County Road 91 and incorporates area along both sides of the county road right of way and into the timber stands. The area is currently included in an

active Timber Harvest Plan (THP). When harvest is completed and all required work is done, the THP will be signed off and a VMP project will be prepared. This may include a suite of fuel reduction and fuel treatment practices based on hand crews and limited mechanical operations

Foothill Road Fuel Break

The Intermountain Inmate Camp had a fuel break installed around the camp following a wildland fire that threatened evacuation. The future proposed project will be located south of Intermountain Camp along Foothill Road and tying into the west side of Highway 299 to the south. The project would largely consist of creating a shaded fuel break coupled with mastication, pruning, pile and burn and possibly prescribed fire.

Ash Creek Wildlife Area (100-200 acres)

Ash Creek Wildlife Area is a cooperative project between the Lassen Modoc Unit and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Wildlife Area is managed for multiple uses for wildlife and public benefit and has been treated historically using a variety of vegetation management options, including past use of fire. The current project effort will focus on preparing a fuel reduction and vegetation treatment plan to be used in partnering with the Wildlife Area managers.

Service Gulch

Service Gulch is a 317-acre fuel reduction project located on SPI lands approximately 10 miles north northwest of Lookout, CA. The project includes several mainline seasonal roads such as the Service Gulch Road as well as County Road 91. Treatments include mechanical and manual methods, treating understory and ladder fuels in preparation for broadcast prescribed fire operations. The intent of the project is to eliminate continuity of continuous fuel loading in to prevent or slow the spread of catastrophic wildfire.

BATTALION 4

Battalion 4 (Battalion 2214 Alturas Battalion Chief) is located in the northeastern portion of the Lassen-Modoc Unit. It is situated on the east half of Modoc County with Oregon to the north and Nevada to the east. The southern end of the Battalion is within the northeastern part of Lassen County. The communities of Alturas, Canby, Likely, and Madeline are located within its boundaries. Battalion 4 also services the communities of Davis Creek, New Pine Creek, Willow Ranch, Cedarville, Eagleville, Lake City and Fort Bidwell.



U. S. Highways 395, 299 and State Highway 139 traverse through the Battalion. Approximately 21,500 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Area; Local Responsibility Area surrounds the community of Alturas and extends south to Likely. Battalion 4 is home to approximately 4,500 people.

Fuels

The vegetative cover in the Battalion is predominately standing timber in the mountains, with juniper grass/sage cover in the eastern half of the battalion where the terrain is at a lower elevation. Many fires in this Battalion grow quite quickly due to the remoteness of the area and lack of roads.

Fire Weather

Fire weather in Battalion 4 is drier on average than Battalion 2 and 3 with Battalion 4 being in the rain shadow of the Sierra Cascade/Mountains. Snow pack accumulates in the Upper Cal-Pines area and is shaded by Manzanita Ridge. Valley areas usually receive limited snow fall that rarely lingers. Single digit relative humidity during the summer months is not uncommon and many of the forest fuels remain ready to burn in the late spring to early summer, prior to the finer fuels drying. Many of the large fires in Battalion 4 are started by lightning and are in remote areas. The Bison Fire in 1988 is a good example of this, as is the Blue Fire in 2001, the Cove Fire in 2017 and the Stone Fire in 2018.

Battalion 4 Resources

Alturas Station
2- Fire Engines
Likely Mountain. Lookout

Deer Springs Station
1 – Fire Engine

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments within Battalion 4

Alturas City Fire Department
Alturas Rural Fire Protection District
Cal Pines Community Service District
Canby Fire Protection District
Cedarville Fire Protection District
Davis Creek Fire Protection District
Eagleville Fire Protection District
Fort Bidwell Fire Protection District
Lake City Fire Protection District
Likely Fire Protection District
Madeline Fire Protection District
Willow Ranch Fire Protection District
New Pine Fire Protection District

Battalion 4 Projects

Battalion 4 works closely with the Modoc Fire Safe Council (MFSC), Modoc County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and Local Government Fire Fighting Agencies towards community preparedness in the event of wildland fire threats. To this effort, the following communities and projects have been identified.

Modoc County Defensible Space and Residential Chipping Program

Residents of Modoc County, i.e. the elderly, disabled, or U.S. veterans, can receive assistance through the countywide Defensible Space and Residential Chipping Program. The Defensible Space and Residential Chipping Program runs annually from June 1st to October 31st providing an invaluable service to reduce fire danger and improve defensible space around homes. Residents countywide have expressed gratitude for the defensible space program run by the MFSC. MFSC will continue to seek funding yearly to continue this program.

Modoc County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Update

The CWPP for Modoc County was updated in 2022 through MFSC's collaboration with fire prevention/fuels specialists from the federal, state, local, and non-profit sectors; as well as other interested parties. The CWPP working group identified and prioritized areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatments, and recommended the types and methods of treatment that will protect Modoc County. The projects were ranked accordingly.

Modoc County Roadside and Community Fuels Reduction Project

The Modoc County road structure provides ingress and egress to communities for evacuation routes and acts as a fuel break to communities and recreational areas in the event of a fire. While the Modoc County Road Department currently works to reduce hazardous fuels along county roads, the department is seeking funds to obtain a dedicated fuels reduction crew to enhance and improve the Modoc County road structure for communities who are at risk in the event of a fire. The reduction of overgrown hazardous fuels will increase the effectiveness of the county roads to perform as an effective firebreak and create improved evacuation routes for our rural communities and forest recreational areas in the event of high-intensity wildfire. The recent fire tragedies in California highlight the urgent need for this project to protect Modoc County communities, lives, and property from fire.

Byrne Ranch VMP

The Byrne Ranch VMP is a 1500-acre fuel reduction project located on the Byrne Ranch approximately 25 miles north on Canby along Highway 139. This project will decrease the overgrowth of juniper trees and brush to promote natural grazelands. This project will also decrease natural vegetation fuel loading near and adjacent to critical energy infrastructure of both electricity and natural gas entering California from Oregon.

Surprise Valley Fire Mitigation and Education Project

In the easternmost valley of the County of Modoc, is Surprise Valley. Rising in the west of Surprise Valley are the Warner Mountains. From Fort Bidwell in the north to Eagleville in the south, approximately 50 miles, there are an estimated 1,235 residents living in this region with a logical estimate of 400 habitable structures with roughly 3 persons per household. Located between Fort Bidwell and Eagleville are two additional settlements, namely, Lake City and Cedarville, including Granger Canyon. Between the more densely established settlements are many historic homesteads and ranches with the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) lining the foothills of the Warner Mountains. The Fort Bidwell Indian Community also has an existing firebreak in need of expansion and maintenance. The ultimate goal is the creation of 10,000 acres of shaded fuel break along a 50-mile project area from Fort Bidwell to Eagleville in the WUI zone. This will be performed in 2 phases. The hazardous fuel reduction treatment will include the removal of various mixed conifer. This fuel break will be 2,000 feet wide, wherever applicable. Thereby, reduce threats to communities from large, severe wildfires by clearing vegetation from roadways and critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread by eliminating the vertical and horizontal continuity of vegetative fuels. Improve ingress and egress along roads used by the public and emergency responders using roads during fire suppression activities to protect both the communities and the watershed of the areas.

Public Education

Battalion 4 is looking for new locations throughout Modoc County for Fire Prevention/Education signs. This is an effort to assist with communication in areas without cellular phone or internet service. Message boards will include Defensible Space messaging, Burn Permit requirements, Burn Suspension, and Seasonal Fire Safety.

Upper Cal-Pines

MFSC is going to partner with USDA Modoc National Forest on acreage located between Rush Creek and Cal Pines adjacent to their Kresge Fuels Reduction Project. The MFSC will be seeking funding for planning and fuel break construction on all private property in the vicinity. The project will benefit the Cal Pines Upper Subdivision and Rush Creek Subdivision. Because of the size and complexities of this project, MFSC will divide this project into stages. This stage approach will provide for work to be focused on areas of extreme overgrowth while providing for clear fiscal reporting. The MFSC partnered with Lassen Fire Safe Council, Modoc National Forest, Sierra Pacific Industries, Beatty & Assoc., and California Deer Association to apply for planning funds through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Prop 68 Funds.

Cal-Pines Community Fuel Reduction and Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

The Cal-Pines road structure provides ingress and egress to the community for evacuation routes and acts as a fuel break in the event of a fire or natural disaster. While the Cal-Pines Community Service District works to maintain the roads. Funds are needed to improve the easement areas along all roadways within the development. Years of overgrowth and drought conditions within the entire community of mostly undeveloped parcels has led to conditions which will compare to devastating fires such as the Dixie or Sheep in the last few years in

Plumas and Lassen Counties. A community approach must be done to have a profitable impact. Shaded fuel breaks have been worked put in place on the south west border of the community between private and federal lands. Continued Reductions must be done to prevent a catastrophic incident.

Lake City Community Fuel Reduction and Fuel Break Project

The Community of Lake City is located on the eastern side of the Warner Mountains in the Surprise Valley area of Modoc County. The community is nestled against a drainage thick with timber and junipers. A Community approach of fuel reduction and a fuel break along the west side of the community is needed to protect the historic area of a wildland. Roads are overgrown preventing the ingress of equipment and egress of residence. The project would protect both the community and watershed of the area.

Summerland Community Fuels Reduction

The Summerland Community fuels reduction project is utilizing the tools of fuel load reduction, pile burning, roadway clearance and thinning of overgrown forest to create shaded fuel breaks. This project will take multiple years to complete. This project will provide for a healthier watershed, safe roads for access of emergency equipment and decrease the fuel loading for approximately 30 residences. This project is in cooperation with the Summerland residence, Modoc County Fire Safe Council and CAL FIRE.

CAMPS AND TRAINING CENTER

ANTELOPE CAMP

Antelope Camp is operated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The camp is located in the California Correctional Center, eight miles east of Susanville in Lassen County.



Opened in 1963, the facility houses 120 level-one inmates, and provides five 17-man fire crews. Antelope Camp is an excellent resource for the local community and the state in emergency response and conservation work. Conservation projects include fire hazard removal at local cemetery, school and fire districts, brushing along the right-of-way of county roads and state highways, and fuel breaks around communities for the local Fire Safe Council. Antelope Camp has a canvas shop which produces canvas products for local and state agencies.

Antelope Camp is staffed by CAL FIRE and CDCR personnel. CAL FIRE staff includes one Division Chief, one Office Technician, and 11 Fire Captains.

INTERMOUNTAIN CAMP

Intermountain Camp is operated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The camp is located east of Redding, outside the community of Bieber in Lassen County. It sits on a beautiful site, nestled in the pines at the base of Big Valley Mountain.



Opened in 1962, the facility houses 80 level-one inmates, and provides four 17-man fire crews. Intermountain Camp is an excellent resource for the local community and the state in emergency response and conservation work. Conservation projects include fire hazard removal at local cemetery, school and fire districts, brushing along the right-of-way of county roads and state highways, fuel breaks around communities for the local Fire Safe Council, and trail maintenance for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Intermountain Camp has a metal fabrication shop which produces metal products for local and state agencies.

Intermountain Camp is staffed by CAL FIRE and CDCR personnel. CAL FIRE staff includes one Division Chief, three Heavy Fire Equipment Operators, one Water & Sewer Plant Operator and 8 Fire Captains.

DEVIL'S GARDEN FIRE CENTER

Devil's Garden Camp was operated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation until the end of 2020. Due to the depopulation of inmates with the California Camp Program, Devils Garden Camp is being renamed into Devils Garden Fire Center, housing up to 80 Firefighters. The Fire Center is located seven miles south of Alturas, in Modoc County. It sits on the Devil's Garden Plateau which spans all the way from Alturas to Oregon.



Opened in 1989, the facility housed 120 level-one inmates, and provided five 17-man fire crews. Devil's Garden Camp is an excellent resource for the local community and the state in emergency response and conservation work. Conservation projects include fire hazard removal at local cemetery, school and fire districts, brushing along the right-of-way of county roads and state highways, and fuel breaks around communities for the local Fire Safe Council. Devil's Garden Camp has a sign shop which produces wood and plastic signs for local and state agencies.

In 2020, Devil's Garden Camp was staffed by CAL FIRE and CDCR personnel. CAL FIRE staff includes one Division Chief, three Heavy Fire Equipment Operators, one Office Technician, one Water & Sewer Plant Operator and 10 Fire Captains. As of 2023, the Fire Center will be staffed with 1 Division Chief, 1 Battalion Chief, 7 Fire Captains, 7 Fire Apparatus Engineer, and 80 Firefighter 1's to staff 2 Fire Crews. Additionally, there are 1 Forestry Logistics Officer, 1 Water & Sewer Plant Operator, 1 Heavy Equipment Mechanic, 3 Heavy Fire Equipment Operators, 1 Staff Services Analyst, 2 Cook 1's, 2 cook 2's and 3 Food Service Techs.

SUSANVILLE TRAINING CENTER

Susanville Training Center is operated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and is one of two training centers providing inmate fire fighters to conservation camps statewide. Susanville Training Center is located in the California Correctional Center eight miles east of Susanville in Lassen County.



The training center provides highly trained inmates to conservation camps located in the north state. Inmates undergo one week of classroom training and a week of field training, covering wildland fire safety and attack, hand tool use, teamwork, and crew expectations. In addition to receiving education in firefighting and safety, each inmate is trained and evaluated for physical fitness.

Susanville Training Center was staffed by CAL FIRE personnel which included one Battalion Chief, one Office Technician, and 6 Fire Captains. On January 1st, 2023, the Training Center was closed. Staff and personnel were moved to other locations throughout the Unit.



PRE-FIRE PROJECTS

Lassen-Modoc Unit (LMU)

01/01/2022 thr 12/31/2022

PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	Project Status	Treatment Footprint Acres	Treatment Footprint Miles
Fire Plan	5GA21111 Service Gulch Fuel Break	Active	343.37	LMU
Fire Plan	5GA21112 Clear Creek and Hog Flat Fuel	Active	832.32	LMU
Fire Plan	ATP Chester CT	Active	483.81	LMU
Fire Plan	ATP Chester SP FR	Active	150.96	LMU
Fire Plan	ATP Coppervale	Complete in	34.87	LMU
Fire Plan	ATP Egan FR	Complete in	41.51	LMU
Fire Plan	ATP Hwy 139/A-1 Brushing	Complete in	237.41	LMU
Fire Plan	ATP Lassen County Roads	Active	9.02	LMU
Fire Plan	ATP Moonlight	Active	20.13	LMU
Fire Plan	ATP Spalding CSD	Complete	15.92	LMU
Fire Plan	Big Valley Mountain WUI Fuel Treatments	Active	14,216.50	LMU
Fire Plan	Cal Pines N. Overland Roadside Shaded Fuels	Active		LMU
Forest	Collins Almanor Forest Dixie Fire Restoration	Active	15,322.11	LMU
Forest	Collins Modoc Reforestation Project – Phase I	Active	9,960.55	LMU
Forest	Collins Modoc Reforestation Project- Phase II	Active	9,960.55	LMU
Forest	Diamond Mountain Forest & Watershed	Active	5,672.23	LMU
Fire Plan	DVG Modoc County Roads	Complete	6.08	LMU
Fire Plan	DVG Summerland FR	Active	494.36	LMU
Fire Plan	DVG Surprise Valley Electric FR	Complete		LMU
Fire Plan	Dyer Mountain WUI Fuel Treatments	Active	6,101.76	LMU
Fire Plan	Eastern Plumas Wildfire Prevention	Active	1.07	LMU
CFIP	Fendley_CFIP_2020	Active	65.68	LMU
Fire Plan	Greenville Rancheria Fire Prevention Education	Active		LMU
Forest	Hog and Sheep Fire Forest Restoration	Active	19,327.31	LMU
Forest	Indian Valley Wildfire Recovery Project	Active	11,899.78	LMU
Fire Plan	INT Big Valley Summit	Complete in	73.75	LMU
Fire Plan	INT Big Valley Summit Prep	Active	11.35	LMU
Fire Plan	INT Big Valley Summit RX	Active	47.25	LMU
Fire Plan	INT Caltrans Adin	Planned		LMU
Fire Plan	INT COTP FR	Cancelled		LMU

Fire Plan	INT Park Piles	Active	29.16	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Allen Piles	Active	254.13	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Bald RX	Complete	254.10	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Bieber Station Piles	Planned		LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Cary Ranch RX	Planned		LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Clear Creek Fuelbreak	Active	11.23	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Fitzgerald Rx	Complete	162.60	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU FRC Rx	Active	10.93	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Hamilton	Cancelled		LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Hamilton Branch Fuel Break	Active	339.84	LMU
VMP	LMU Hog Flat VMP 2020	Active	465.79	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Honey Lake FG 21	Complete	1,012.69	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Knobcone Rx	Cancelled		LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Modoc Refuge Rx	Complete	573.04	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Nelson FR	Active	26.57	LMU
VMP	LMU Service Gulch VMP 2020	Complete	26.91	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Steele FR	Active	55.82	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Warner Valley FR	Active	119.94	LMU
Fire Plan	LMU Woods Piles	Complete	19.38	LMU
Forest	Plumas Collaborative Forest Health Project	Active	7,845.49	LMU
Fire Plan	Plumas County Community Chipping Program	Complete		LMU
Fire Plan	Plumas Wildfire Mitigation Assistance	Active		LMU
Fire Plan	Portola Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Complete	124.28	LMU
Fire Plan	Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance	Active	84.79	LMU
Fire Plan	Service Gulch Fuel Break	Active		LMU
Fire Plan	South Eagle Lake WUI Fuel Treatments	Complete	4,806.58	LMU
Forest	South Lassen Forest Health and Workforce	Active	1,415.21	LMU
Forest	South Lassen Watersheds Group Collaborative	Active	1,852.95	LMU
Fire Plan	Thompson Peak WUI Fuel Treatments	Active	3,236.43	LMU
Fire Plan	Upper Pit River Fire Prevention Project	Active	1.10	LMU
Forest	Upper Pit River Forest Health Project	Active	11,316.61	LMU
Forest	Upper Pit River Forest Health Project, Phase 2	Active	15,213.07	LMU
Fire Plan	Upper Rush Creek and CalPines Wildfire	Complete	345.99	LMU
		Totals	144,934.28	

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

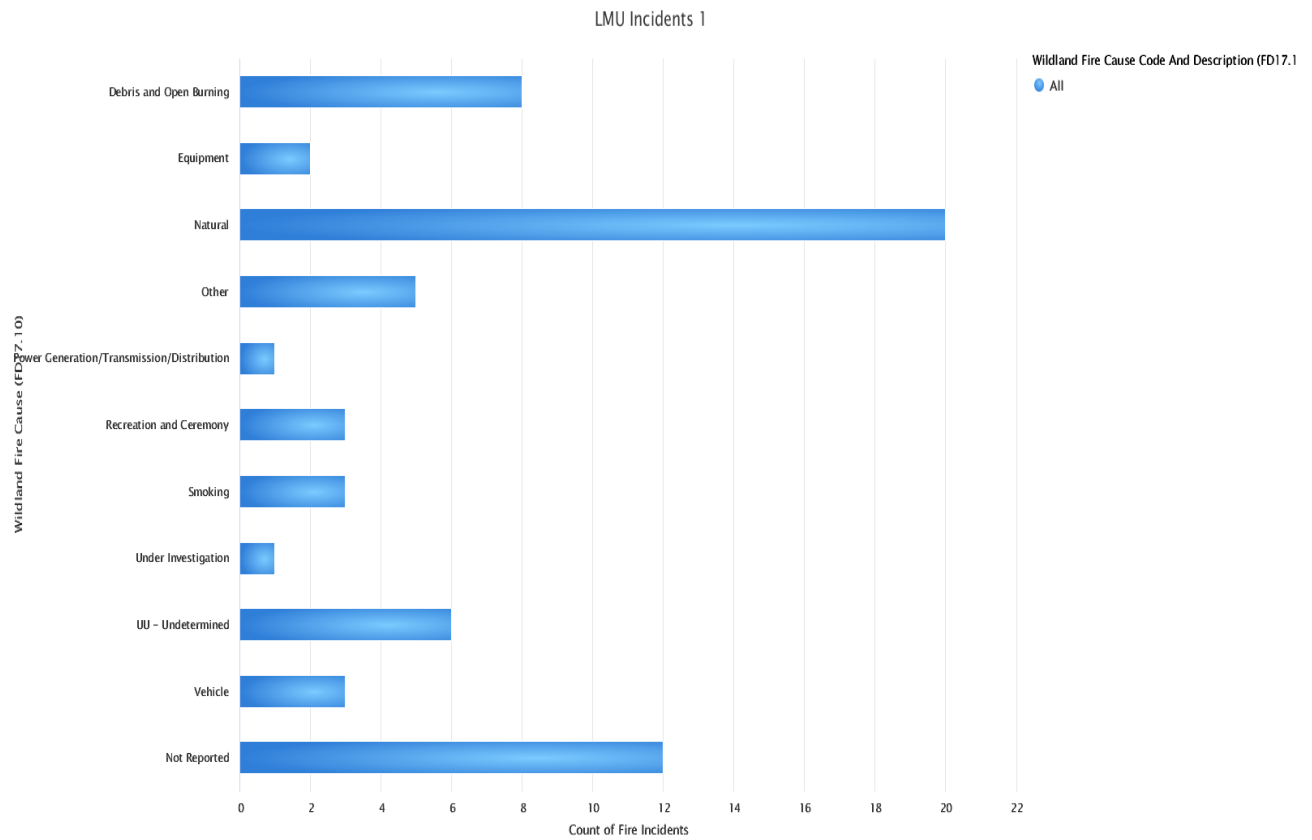
- Develop strong relationships with all stakeholders and agencies within the Unit.
- Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups to validate and prioritize the assets at risk and identify, prioritize and implement pre-fire projects.
- Conduct defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations.
- Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities.

APPENDIX C: IGNITION ANALYSIS

Ignition Analysis

All State Responsibility Area fires within CALFIRE Lassen-Modoc jurisdiction are included in this analysis. The most common ignition cause in 2022 was “lightning” which accounted for 30% of the fires in the Unit. The second most common cause was “Unknown” for 18% and “Debris Burning” accounting for 12%.

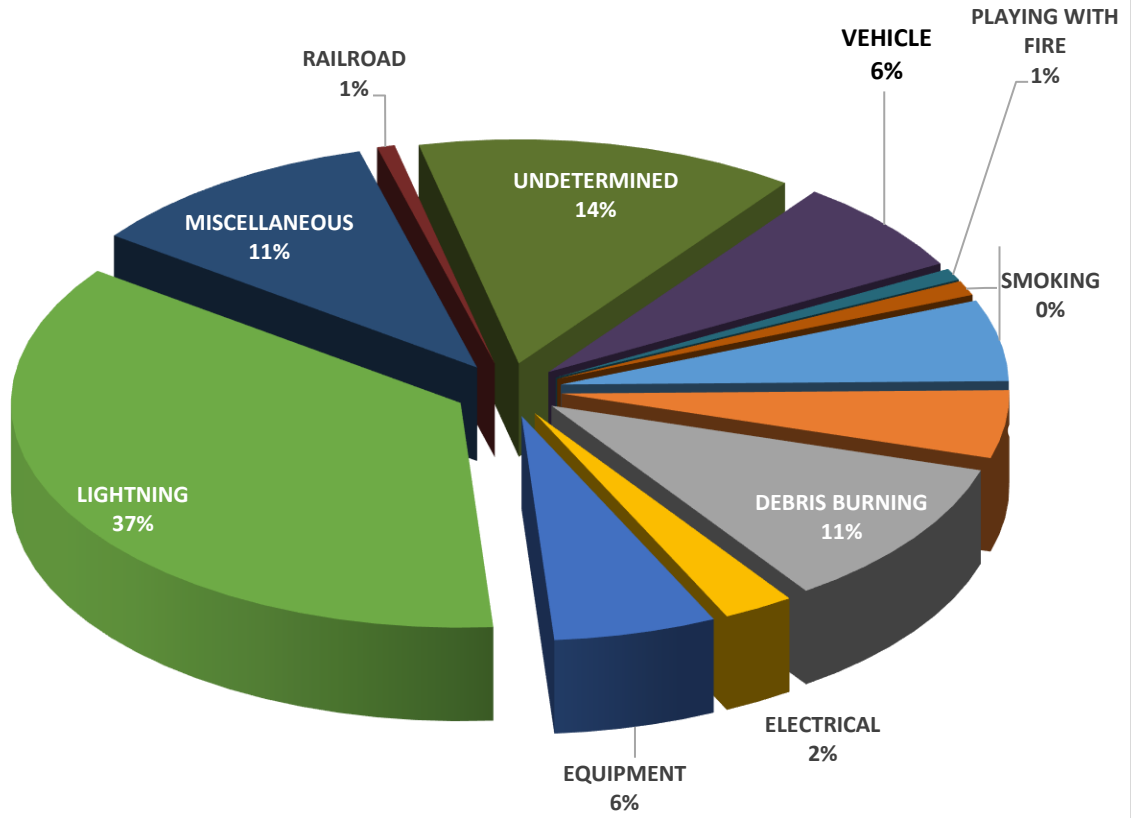
Ignitions within the Unit from 2014 through 2020 indicate the most common source remained “lightning” at 37%. This is due to the change in reporting which occurred in 2013 when all lightning fires were entered separately, rather than as a Lightning Coordination Area event entered with one incident number. The second most common cause was “undetermined” at 14%. Both “debris burning” and “miscellaneous” accounted for 11% of the fires.



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ImageTrend.com

Fire Causes: 2014-2020



APPENDIX D: 2019 UNIT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fire Safe Councils

In 2019 Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) had its most successful year ever. Over 2,500 acres were treated on their South Eagle Lake Project and hazard trees were removed from around 60 homes. Over 900 acres were treated on their Diamond Mountain/USFS Project. They completed their Diamond Mountain/Beaty Project, treating just under 900 acres. They completed their 1,400-acre South Eagle Lake Greenhouse Gas Reduction Project. They removed hazard trees around 40 homes and constructed a 98-acre fuelbreak on their partnered Clear Creek Project. They started a new Thompson Peak Initiative and applied for \$3,341,389 in CAL FIRE CCI implementation funds. All 10 Lassen County Firewise communities were recertified including Clear Creek, Day Lassen Bench, Janesville, Lake Forest, Little Valley, Lookout, Milford, Spalding, Stones Bendgard & Susanville.



In 2019, LCFSC treated over 6,000 of the 13,400 acres on their Big Valley Mountain WUI Fuel Treatment Project. This project involved the use of masticators to reduce hazardous fuels, including dead and dying trees, on private land within the SRA, primarily within the Very High and High Hazard Fire Severity Zones. This project reduces wildland fire risk for 491 habitable structures within the 51,826-acre Project Area/Area of Influence. The vast majority of the project area lies within a Wildland Urban Interface Zone (WUI). The project merges and implements three previous CWPP projects: Day Lassen Bench, Lookout and Big Valley Mountain Fuelbreak.



In 2019 the Modoc Fire Safe Council (MFSC) held the 2nd Annual Wildfire Preparedness Community CleanUp Day in Rush Creek Estates in honor of Wildfire Preparedness Week. Residents living in Rush Creek Estates worked alongside Modoc Fire Safe Council Volunteers, CALFIRE and Modoc National Forest taking action to reduce the impacts of damaging wildfire by reducing flammable vegetation around homes and alongside roads.

MFSC also wrapped up the Franklin Canyon Fuels Reduction project. This project constructed a 65' shaded fuel break around a 300-acre parcel and an 80-acre parcel. Funding for this project came from two different funding sources, the California Fire Safe Council Grant and a CALFIRE SRA Grant.

In 2019 the Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PCFSC) supported six Firewise certifications, bringing the total number of Firewise sites to twenty in Plumas County. The Fire Safe Council's Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program provided services to 112 qualifying residents, creating or maintaining a zone of reduced fuels 100' around the homes of individuals who otherwise lack the financial or physical ability to undertake the work themselves. The Council's Community Chipping program chipped piles at 326 locations across the county - a total of 4,720 linear feet of material. This no-cost program incentivized fuel reduction and provided an alternative to pile burning. The Council's Hazardous Fuels Reduction program provided fuels reduction on 286.9 acres of private lands. Collaborative projects with Plumas National Forest addressed fuels on approximately 1,217 acres of public lands. Layout for hazardous fuel reduction projects was completed on 282.1 acres of private lands, and is layout is underway for 200+ acres, that are scheduled to be treated in 2020. In 2019 the Plumas County Fire Safe Council hosted two public field tours, four screenings of the film *Wilder than Wild*, and a Dutch oven cook-off fundraiser to promote the Plumas Underburn Cooperative.



In 2019, the PCFSC completed the Dixie Valley Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project. The project was developed to reduce fuels on private parcels, particularly in areas that impact the community's only ingress/egress. The project, funded with Plumas National Forest Stevens Funds, masticated fuels on 72.6 acres. The prescription was thinning from below of conifers up to and including 10" DBH. Approximately 80% of surface fuels within 5 feet of overstory conifer dripline were also targeted for treatment.

Conservation Camp Program

Crews were busy with conservation work and fire response in 2022, providing assistance to local, state and federal agencies.

- During 2022, Intermountain Conservation Camp provided the local communities with 16,434 hours of project and conservation work. In addition, crews dedicated 950 hours of work assisting with vegetation management burns. The fire season of 2022 saw Intermountain Crews dispatched to 20 incidents and logging over 28,696 hours of fire suppression.
- During 2022, Devil's Garden Conservation Camp provided the local communities and Federal partners with 634 hours of project and conservation work. The fire season of 2022 saw Devil's Garden Crews dispatched to 20 incidents and logging over 1,317 hours of fire suppression.

- During 2022, Antelope Conservation Camp provided the local communities with 25,560 hours of project and conservation work. State agencies benefited from 10,984 hours. The fire season of 2022 saw Antelope Crews dispatched to 26 incidents and logging over 21,211 hours of fire suppression.

Susanville Training Center

During 2021, the Susanville Training Center held 52 classes and graduated 383 inmates from the Forestry Fire Training Program. The training center provides highly trained inmates to conservation camps located in the north state. Inmates undergo one week of classroom training and a week of field training, covering wildland fire safety and attack, hand tool use, teamwork, and crew expectations. In addition to receiving education in firefighting and safety, each inmate is trained and evaluated for physical fitness. In addition to the training provided to inmates, the Susanville Training Center provided Emergency Firefighter (EFF) training to 37 CDCR medical personnel for the Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) and 26 CDCR Officers.

Prevention Program

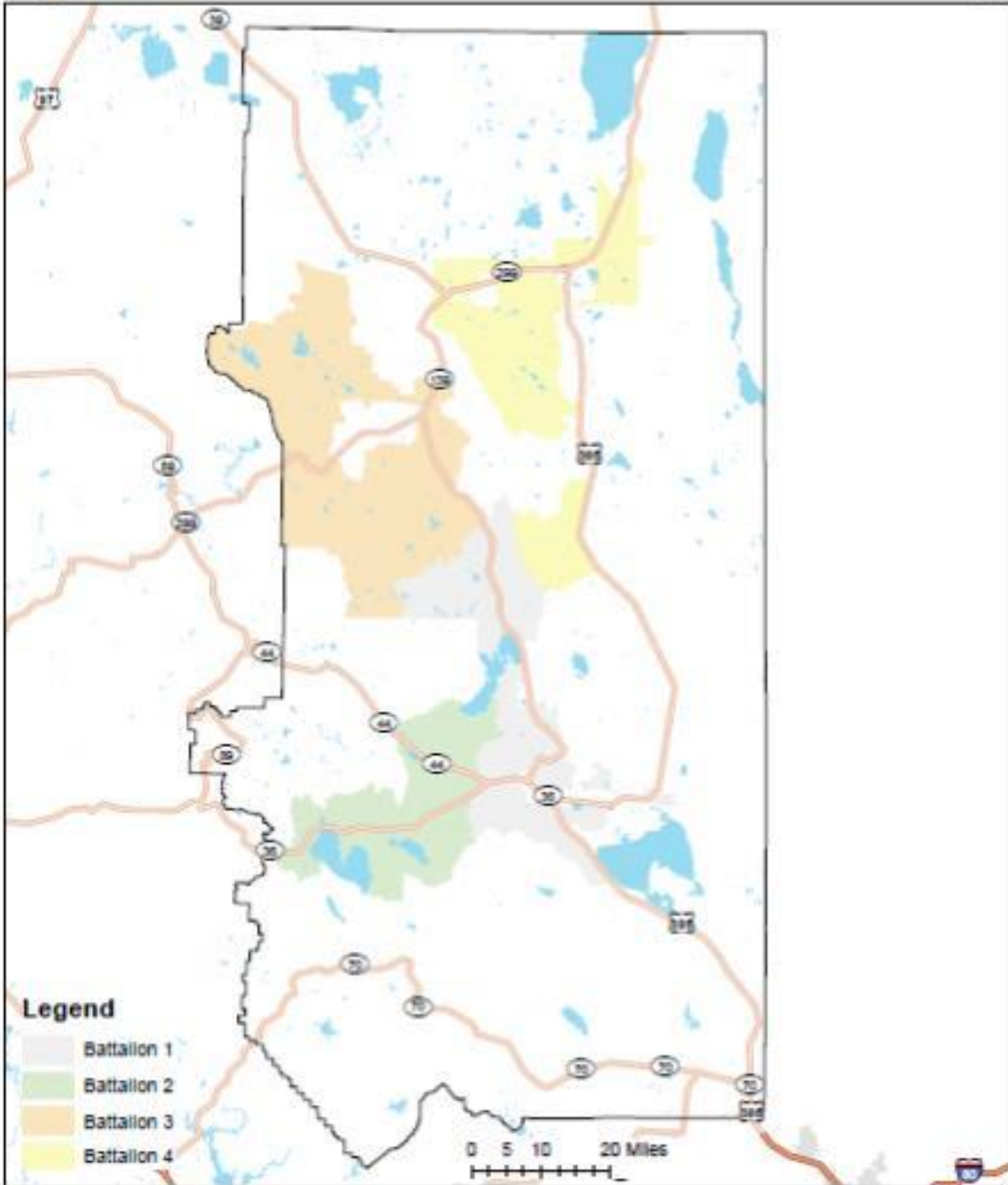
In 2022, Unit staff provided over 2500 hours of fire prevention education hours through 35 school programs within Modoc, Lassen, and Plumas Counties. Additionally, provided education and outreach through multiple public events throughout the Unit. The Modoc Fire Prevention Education Group collaboratively purchased a fire prevention message on a billboard located outside the Alturas area to remind residence about fire safety. The Peg Leg Lookout located inside Smokey Bear Park will be restored this summer by a local construction company. This restoration project will allow the Lookout to be utilized once again for educational purposes.



EXHIBITS: UNIT & BATTALION MAPS

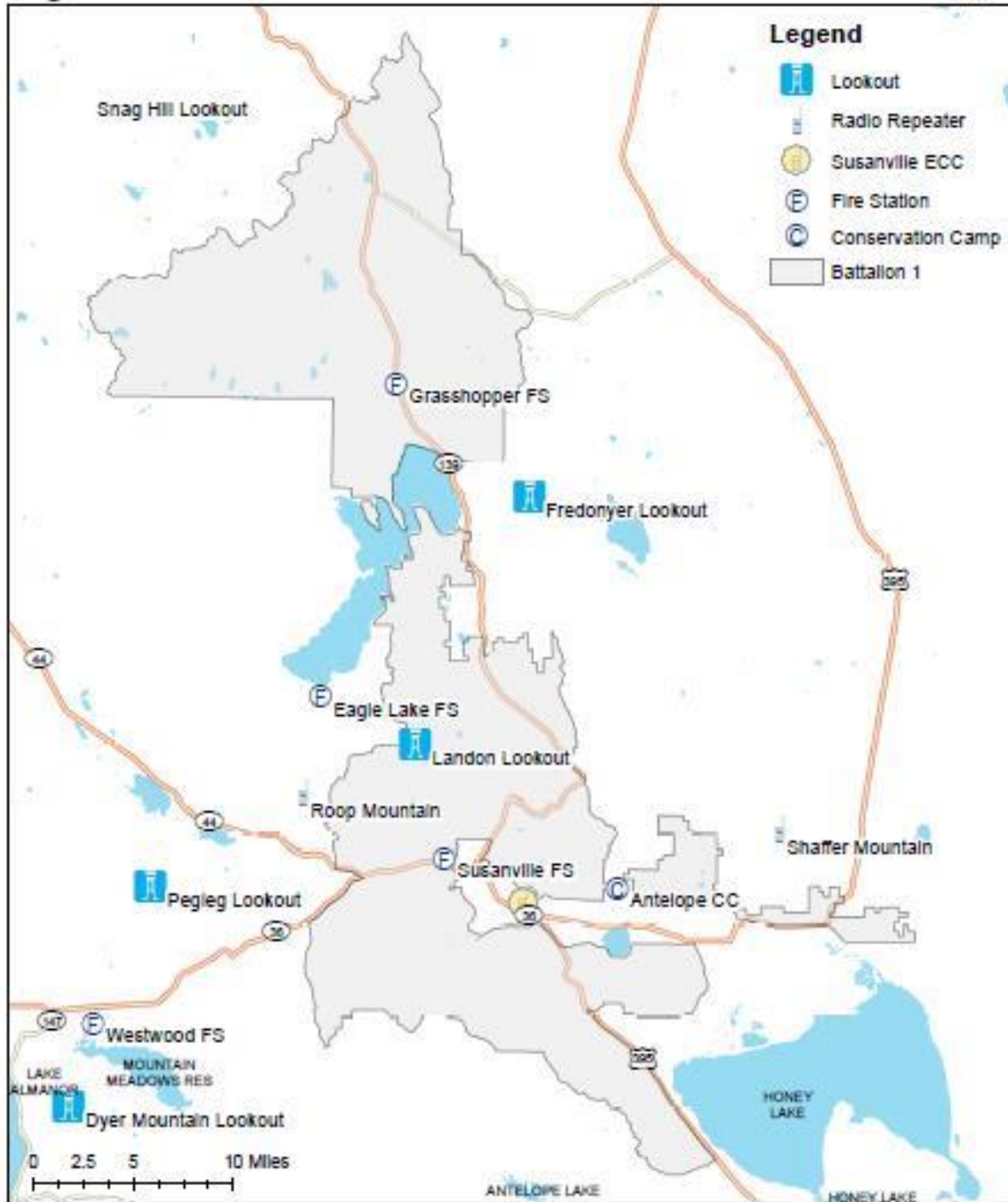


CAL FIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit





Battalion 1



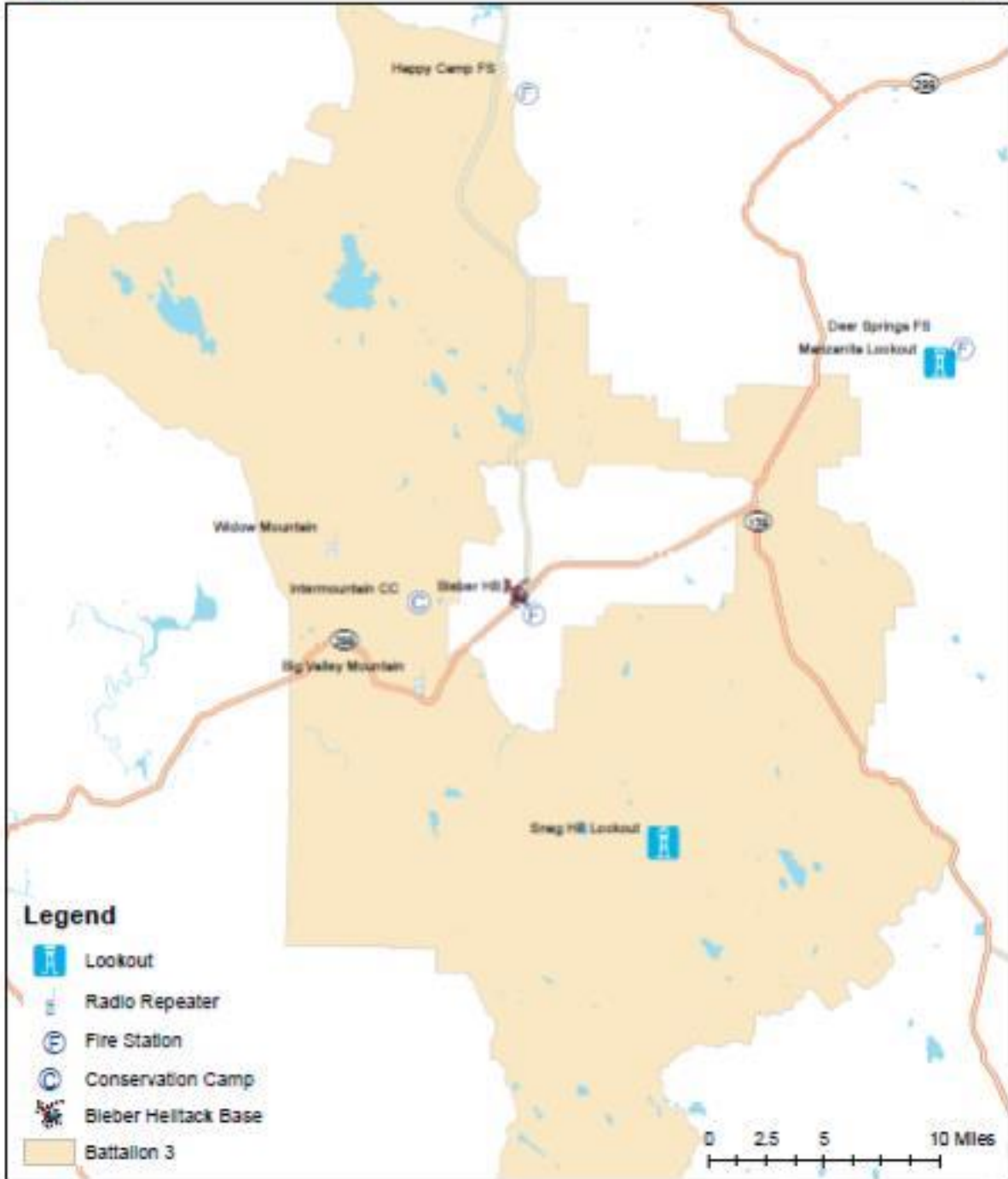


Battalion 2





Battalion 3





Battalion 4

