

FRESNO-KINGS UNIT

FKU 2025 FIRE PLAN

FRESNO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



3-1-2025

UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Section Updated</u>	<u>Page Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Updated By</u>
3/20/2025	Appendix A	37-39	Fire Plan Projects	B. Garabedian
3/21/2025	Appendix B	39	Wildland Activities	B. Garabedian
3/26/2025	Appendix C	40-41	Updated Ignition Data	B. Garabedian
4/22/2025	Executive Summary	1-3	Update	B. Garabedian/ N. Kent
4/01/2025	Battalion 13	27	Name Change	B. Garabedian
4/22/2025	Vegetation Management	11-15	Update/Photos	B. Garabedian/ N. Kent
3/27/2025	Unit Maps	47	Battalion 13 Map	N. Meyer
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4/18/2025	Various	53	2024 Accomplishments	B. Garabedian/ N. Kent
4/22/2025	Vegetation Management	55-60	Update	B. Garabedian/ N. Kent
4/25/2025	2024 Summary	60-62	Graphs	B. Garabedian
4/22/2025	Various	All	Formatting	B. Garabedian/ N. Kent

Unit Strategic Fire Plan Amendments

UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN DEVELOPED FOR FRESNO-KINGS UNIT

This Plan:

- Has been collaboratively developed. The Fresno-Kings Unit has consulted with Federal, State, City, and County Agencies and other interested parties listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce impacts to 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.



Unit Chief
Dustin Hail

5/1/2025

Date



Fire Captain
Bryan Garabedian

5/1/2025

Date

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fresno-Kings Unit Strategic Fire Plan addresses achieving the goals and objectives of the California 2024 Strategic Plan, and in particular the aims of that plan that are specific to the Unit. This Fire plan was prepared with collaborative efforts from the various stakeholders in the Unit, including program managers, bureau managers and Battalion Chiefs. The Unit Pre-Fire Engineer has compiled the annual summary information from various available data sources and presents this plan as a comprehensive Strategic Fire Plan that is specific to the Unit that address the ever-changing conditions of the fire hazard environment.

The Unit's Fire Plan is integrated into one plan covering the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) within Fresno and Kings County, with CALFIRE Fresno-Kings Unit and the Fresno County Fire Protection District working together to accomplish this task. This document will be updated each year and reports the various accomplishments made to meet the goals and objectives as outlined by the Unit and the 2024 California Strategic Fire Plan.

The Fresno-Kings Unit Strategic Fire Plan is made up of seven key components:

Unit Overview

- The Fresno-Kings Unit has responsibility for protecting 951,832 acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA) and 1,527,022 acres of Local Responsibility Area (LRA) under a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with the Fresno County Fire Protection District. Total area of responsibility is 2,478,834 acres.
- During peak fire season, within the Unit there are thirteen (13) staffed State funded engines and fourteen (15) staffed District Funded fire engines.
- The Unit has the following Type 1 hand crews that respond to emergencies and perform work on pre-fire projects, two (2) Inmate crews, four (4) CNA crews, and one (1) CCC crew .
- The Unit has the following heavy equipment available for fire response: two (2) State bulldozers, and one (1) County funded bulldozer.

Collaboration

- The primary purpose of wildland fire protection in California is to protect the wide range of assets found on California wildlands. These assets include life and property, timber, range, recreation, water and watersheds, air quality, cultural and historic resources, unique scenic areas, historic buildings, wildlife and plants, ecosystem health, and cultural and historic values.
- The Unit collaborates closely and effectively with various local interest groups and local communities including Highway 168 Fire Safe Council, Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council, Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric, Sierra National Forest, Sequoia National Forest, Sierra Resource Conservation District, Local Tribal groups, towns and cities, and local Districts/Departments. These collaborative efforts increase the ability of the Unit to determine assets and values at risk needing protection and the best

means to achieve those protection goals.

- The Unit currently includes seventeen (17) communities that are listed on the Federal Registrar's "Communities at Risk" as high risk for damage from wildfire.

Pre-Fire Management Strategies

- This plan facilitates the development of a wide range of management strategies to protect public and private assets at risk that utilizes every program and tool available to the Department. Specific strategies are developed for each Battalion and Bureau within the Unit, in response to the various specific environmental and physical characteristics of each geographic area. Strategies on the west side and the east side of the Unit reflect the differences in vegetation, weather, topography and the appropriate fuel models.

Pre-Fire Management Tactics

- The specific priorities and goals that were developed to protect specific assets at risk in each Battalion and Bureau within the Unit require a slate of different tactics. Tactics are developed that use a combination of tools available including state of the art fire suppression equipment, fuels reduction methods, ignition management methods, current fire-safe engineering activities, building code development and enforcement, defensible space inspections, public education, and forest health and resiliency treatments.

Appendices, Annual Addendums and Exhibits

- Appendix A lists the Units' current Pre-Fire projects.
- Appendix B is the Unit Goals and Objectives which are reviewed and updated annually
- Other appendixes will be added as necessary to support the Unit Fire Plan.
- The exhibits include various maps of the Unit including Direct Protection Area (DPA) boundaries, current projects, and locations of State facilities.

Annual Supplements

- Each year, a report is completed based on the progress and success in reaching the Statewide and Unit specific goals and objectives. Each year annual ignitions summaries are included. A complete list of specific accomplishments within each of the Battalions and Bureaus is included detailing the objectives that have been worked on or completed.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The Fresno-Kings Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) has primary responsibility for over 1,543,481 acres of Direct Protection Area (DPA) lands. CALFIRE DPA lands are State Responsibility Area (SRA) and some intermingled Federal lands which are protected by CALFIRE. CALFIRE protects Federal lands in the State DPA under an agreement with Federal Forest agencies (Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service) which is the California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA). There are over 951,832 acres of SRA land in the Fresno-Kings Unit. SRA lands are the areas designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on which the state assumes fiscal responsibility for protecting natural resources from damage by fire. The Fresno County Fire Protection District (Fire District) has a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (Contract) with the State of California. As part of the contract with CALFIRE, Fresno-Kings Unit oversees the day-to-day operation of the Fire District and Protects an additional 1,527,022 acres of Local Responsibility Area (LRA) lands ranging from rural to urban use.

The Unit is divided basically in half by the San Joaquin Valley. This 70-mile east to west span presents some specific logistical and administrative challenges for the development of a Pre-Fire Management Plan. The fuel and topographic conditions, along with the human activity, risk, and ignition history of the Unit add to the diversity of the Unit. To better facilitate pre-fire management and fire suppression efforts, the Unit is divided into two (2) operational divisions, the Eastern Division and Western Division.

The Eastern Division expands from the floor of the San Joaquin Valley to an elevation of 7,300 feet along the Western slopes of the Sierra Nevada and incorporates two of Central California's major watersheds, the Kings, and San Joaquin Rivers. This Division is primarily vegetated at the lower and mid elevations by seasonal grasses, deciduous and evergreen oaks, and brush, while the higher elevations consist of conifers. The Eastern Division contains three (3) primary lake based recreation areas, Shaver Lake, Millerton Lake, and Pine Flat Lake. The recreational use in these areas is moderate to high. The Eastern Division also contains two (2) population centers, the Shaver Lake – Prather area along Highway 168 and the Yokuts Valley - Dunlap area along Highway 180. Both population centers have a steadily increasing growth pattern of new permanent residences. Fire hazards associated with the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) are a real and current concern in these areas.

The Western Division is made up of the lands from the eastern slope of the Coastal Mountain Range down to the Central Valley. Primary vegetation types consist of seasonal grasslands, deciduous and evergreen oak woodlands, and dense brushlands. There is high seasonal recreational use of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holdings, within the Division mainly off-road vehicle use and hunting. Residential impact in the area is light, with little indication of increased growth. Industrial use, which is primarily oil extraction is concentrated in some rural areas, and changes annually depending on the current economics associated with the petroleum industry.

FIRE HISTORY

Over the past 50 years the Fresno-Kings Unit has had a history of large, damaging fires with a low frequency of occurrence. The fire occurrences and size of fire is often associated with prolonged drought conditions and with isolated extreme weather conditions. In reviewing the large fire occurrences in the Unit, they can be grouped into the two different geographic areas, the Eastern Division, and the Western Division. Some of the largest fires in the Unit have occurred in the Eastern Division. The largest fires in the Western Division were the 2017 Garza Fire at 48,886 acres and the 2020 Mineral Fire at 29,666 acres. The largest fires in the Eastern Division were the 2015 Rough Fire at 151,546 acres and the 2020 Creek fire at 379,842 acres.

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

Fresno-Kings Unit Facilities

- Nine (9) CALFIRE Stations
- Fifteen (15) Staffed Fire District Stations
- Seven (2) Paid Call Firefighter (PCF) Fire District Stations
- Miramonte Conservation Camp
- Tollhouse Fire Center
- Mid Valley Crew 1
- Fresno Air Attack Base
- Fire Prevention/Protection/Planning Bureau
- Training Bureau
- Emergency Command Center

Initial Attack Resources during Peak Fire Season Staffing

- Thirteen (13) CALFIRE Schedule "B" Engines
- Fourteen (14) Schedule "A" Engines
- Two (2) Water Tenders
- One (1) Squad
- Seven (2) PCF Engines
- Two (2) CALFIRE Bulldozers
- One (1) Fresno County Bulldozer
- One (2) CCC Type 1 Hand Crew
- Up to four (4) CDCR Type 1 Hand Crews
- Four (4) California National Guard Type 1 Hand Crews
- One (1) Air Attack
- One (1) C-130 Air Tanker
- Two (2) CWN Helicopters
-

CALFIRE Departments that Fresno Kings Unit has mutual or automatic aid agreements with:

- Auberry Volunteer Fire Department

- City of Coalinga Fire Department
- City of Firebaugh Volunteer Fire Department
- City of Kingsburg Fire Department
- City of Reedley Volunteer Fire Department
- City of Sanger Fire Department
- City of Selma Fire Department
- County of Kings Fire Department
- County of Madera Fire Department
- County of Merced Fire Department
- Fresno Air National Guard Fire Department
- Pleasant Valley Prison Fire Department
- Orange Cove Fire Department
- Fresno City Fire Department
- Clovis City Fire Department
- North Central Fire Department
- Shaver Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Bald Mountain Volunteer Fire Department

Fresno-Kings Emergency Command Center (ECC) Provides Emergency Dispatch Services for:

- Fresno County Fire Protection District
- Orange Cove Fire District
- Coalinga Fire Department
- Shaver Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Big Creek Volunteer Fire Department
- Bald Mountain Fire Protection District
- Auberry Volunteer Fire Department
- Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department
- Pine Ridge Volunteer Fire Department
- Pleasant Valley Prison Fire Department
- Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department
- Selma City Fire Department
- City of Reedley Volunteer Fire Department
- Hume Lake Fire & Rescue Department
- Kingsburg City Fire Department

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan are included in the following table. Their organization and title are indicated below:

Plan Development Team:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Title</u>
• Highway 168 Fire Safe Council	Director
• Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council	Director
• Sierra National Forest	Fuels Specialist
• Sequoia National Forest	District Fire Management Officer
• Pacific Gas and Electric	Forester
• California State Parks	Lieutenant
• Army Corps of Engineers	Supervisor
• Department of Reclamation	Maintenance Supervisor
• Bureau of Land Management	Field Manager
• Department of Fish and Wildlife	Biologist
• Department of Public Works and Planning	Senior Planner
• Southern California Edison	Fire Ecologist
• Sierra Resource Conservation District	Director

SECTION III: VALUES

VALUES AT RISK

Assets susceptible to fire impacts are identified in the Fire Plan are air quality, rangelands, recreation, agriculture, structures, timber, water and watersheds, wildlife and habitat, and other resources (cultural, historical, and scenic). The focus of this plan and relative importance of each asset has been determined by reviewing input from local stakeholders and CALFIRE managers. The Fresno-Kings Unit Fire Plan has been designed to protect these assets at risk.

The priority resources at risk in the Unit are rangelands, forests, agriculture, and watershed. Cattle ranches encompass hundreds of thousands of acres of rangelands in the Unit while most of the floor of the San Joaquin Valley is in various agricultural crops or solar farms. Productive and healthy forests remain valued assets and are critical to the social and environmental well-being of the Unit. Agriculture is an important and large industry within the Unit primarily located on the valley floor. The agriculture businesses that support the farming community are also critical to the economic engine that drives the local economy.

There are several major watersheds in the Unit that provide significant water resources for domestic and agriculture purposes. Impacts to these water resources can be consequential to the local economy. The San Joaquin and Kings Rivers and the many tributaries to these rivers include numerous hydroelectric facilities that provide power to the State grid. Large and damaging fires in the San Joaquin and Kings River watershed can cause deleterious effects on the quality and quantity of water available for drinking supply, agriculture use, and use by hydroelectric facilities.

COMMUNITIES

During the spring of 2001, a field validation process was conducted in the Fresno-Kings Unit to identify and validate communities at risk. This process was conducted based on a request from Congress, through the FY 2001 Appropriation Bill, which called for a list of "...all urban wildland interface communities, as defined by the Secretaries, within the vicinity of Federal lands that are at high risk from wildfire, as defined by the Secretaries". The following criteria were provided to help identify communities at risk:

- **Interface** exists where humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuels.
- **Community** is a defined area where residents live and are provided with services such as fire protection, water, law enforcement, etc.
- **Vicinity** of Federal lands is defined as within the range in which fires can travel.
- **High-risk** exists where there is land condition that is characterized by high-risk fire regimes.

After receiving input from the USDA Forest Service and National Park Service, the following communities in Fresno and Kings Counties were identified as Communities at

Risk and were placed on the National list in the Federal Register.

Auberry, Dunlap, Piedra, Avenal**, Friant**, Pinehurst, Big Creek*, Hume*, Prather, Big Sandy, Lakeshore*, Shaver Lake, Dinkey Creek, Meadow Lake, Miramonte, Yokuts Valley, Tollhouse.

*Located in Federal Direct Protection Area

**Located in Local Responsibility Area

The significance of a Community at Risk designation has become apparent recently with most Federal grant proposals for wildfire protection requesting information about Communities at Risk in the proposed project to help rank the proposal.

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fresno-Kings Fire Prevention Bureau works to protect lives, property, and natural resources from unwanted fires by proactively investigating all Wildland fires and utilizing appropriate criminal, code enforcement, and civil procedures to deter activities that lead to unwanted human caused fires. The Fire Prevention Bureau also coordinates law enforcement activities through public education and information activities to educate the public. Additionally, the Unit educates local public safety agencies about specific activities that can increase fire risk and offers preventative measures that can be taken to eliminate or lessen the risk.

The Fresno-Kings Unit on average has 1,500 ignitions each year that include SRA and Local Responsibility Area (LRA). The greatest number of ignitions causes are from human causes. Playing with fire and “undetermined” combined are the second most frequent classifications of causes. Playing with fire cause classification is a priority to prevention staff although it sometimes is recorded as the cause of a fire in error due to Company Officers incorrectly using the classification; the Unit is working on educating our staff to correct this issue.

ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

Fire Prevention Bureau Goals

Based on the previous identified information the Fire Prevention Bureau has adopted the following actions to provide efforts for ignition mitigation to protect property, natural resource loss, and loss of life or injuries.

Protection and Planning

The protection and planning section will continue building plan checking in accordance with California Fire Code Requirements to provide for public safety. School programs and care facilities inspection will continue to be a high priority.

The Public Resource Code 4290/Fresno County Fire Safe Ordinance (Chapter 15.60) plans check and the defensible space inspections program will continue to increase the number of homes with defensible space and new homes with fire resilient construction. This program is essential with the expansion of single-family homes into the WUI environment throughout the east side of the Unit.

Law Enforcement

The enforcement of forest and fire laws will continue to be proactive in efforts to pursue and prosecute violators of statute. Efforts to reduce the miscellaneous cause category on the ignition statistics has improved. Fires must continue to be investigated in more detail. This may require some additional training of our fire personnel to assist them in origin and cause investigation and report writing. Our efforts to collect suppression cost on fires of negligent or criminal nature has improved. Emergency incidents are costly and the ability to collect suppression cost and punitive damages will remain active.

The law enforcement staff is given the authority and responsibility to identify, investigate and arrest subjects involved in criminal related acts. These incidents will be investigated and documented through proper case management. The management of these cases will be conducted with detailed documentation and proper security evidence. Given the correct legal circumstances the cases will be actively pursued and prosecuted. Creation and development of new processes relating to Safe and Sane fireworks permitting and use within the district will continue to ensure the safety of public and their properties from fire.

Fire Protection/Planning

The mission of the fire protection/planning bureau is to reduce losses and cost from fires within the Fresno-Kings Unit in both the SRA and LRA by enforcement and public education of applicable fire and public resource codes. Additionally, the mission of the bureau is to be proactive in its approach to preventing ignition, loss, and cost of all types of fires.

The priority areas for both SRA and LRA are any area within the Unit, with substantial residential and industrial development that has the potential to affect the Unit's firefighting resources. Although new developments have the potential to impact on the Unit's resources, a Community Facilities District was established and adopted to generate funds to ensure staffing and equipment are available to manage increased impacts of development. Priorities and Goals:

- **Web Based Protection and Planning:** Develop and implement web-based access to protection and planning requirements for contractors and individual developers. Build efficiency for staff by having available on the district web site all codes and requirements for new and existing construction and PRC 4290 standards.
- **Develop Inspector Guidelines:** Develop and implement standard operating guidelines for inspectors. Develop and implement new hire training and personnel standards.

- **NFPA 1142 Rural Water Supplies:** Developed and implemented the use of NFPA 1142 as an alternative guide for calculation of fire protection water systems for developments within the SRA or LRA areas of the Unit. The guide provides alternative methods while still considering fire and life safety factors.
- **Business Inspections:** Establish standard operating procedures for staff to conduct annual business inspections for compliance with California Fire Code Standards. Develop standards for conducting mandated inspections.
- **Sub-division Fire Protection System Maintenance:** Monitor new agreements established by Fresno County Planning and Development for new subdivisions within the County of Fresno to provide ongoing maintenance of fire protection systems. This agreement provides language for the establishment of a Homeowner's Association to provide maintenance of these systems.
- **Potential Fire Plan Opportunities, Needs & Problems:** The Unit protection and planning department works closely with the Fresno County Planning and Development Department. This relationship is critical for new projects in the county ensuring the implementation of California Fire Code standards. The process of project submission at the county level is complicated and requires the Unit to provide ongoing education of the fire code standards as it applies to projects.
- **Fireworks:** Continue to improve fireworks permitting and use processes to ensure the safety of the public and their properties from fire.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The information and public education outreach programs provide the Department with the ability to educate the public. These efforts will continue to be proactive in providing information to residents that reside in the WUI within the Fresno-Kings Unit. The program will also present homeowners with how they may participate as a stakeholder in Fresno and Kings Counties. This information will also continue to be proactively disseminated through safety messages, community groups, town hall meetings, fire safe councils and through local media outlets. The information and education bureau strive to reduce ignitions in the Unit. Through a collaborative effort with local allied fire agencies, Fire Inspectors, roadside public education signs, fire prevention education programs, and participation in various community venues has assisted in reducing the overall fire ignitions within the Unit. The Unit also supports the Firewise Community Program by helping to review plans and offering technical advice.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Program Framework

The current Vegetation Management Program in the Unit is the continuation of the Range Improvement Program that existed in California from the 1950's to the 1970's. The Range Improvement Program was conducted by cooperative groups of ranchers who would band together to conduct prescribed burns primarily for range improvement objectives. These cooperatives had the equipment and expertise to conduct burn projects with limited to no assistance from fire agencies. These groups continued their work until the mid to late 1970's. At about this time, increasing liability issues, lack of available cooperators and restrictive air quality restrictions combined to in effect bring to an end the non-governmental range improvement burning. This led to the passage of Senate Bill 1704, which was signed by Governor Brown Jr. on July 16, 1980. This bill authorized CALFIRE to assume the liability and project implementation for prescribed burns on private property and thus created the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) that is utilized by CALFIRE today. The program became operational with the adoption of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Chaparral Management Program (CMP) on May 18, 1981. More recently the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) was approved on December 20, 2019, and utilizes a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. CalVTP is specific for use with forestlands for fuel reduction, fuel break construction and maintenance and prescribed burning. CalVTP is an important component of California's strategy to increase the pace and scale of vegetation treatments to reduce wildfire risk and promote resiliency. The purpose of the CalVTP Program EIR is to streamline the CEQA review of later treatment projects, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168. Using the CalVTP Program EIR for CEQA streamlining will expedite the implementation of vegetation treatment while maintaining environmental protection. The program includes expansion of vegetation treatment activities through wildland-urban Interface fuel reduction, fuel break, and ecological restoration treatments within the State Responsibility Area. Treatment activities include prescribed burning, prescribed herbivory, mechanical and manual treatments, and use of herbicides.

The VMP and CalVTP provide CALFIRE the authority to cooperatively treat vegetation and fuels on private lands. While a vegetation management project obviously improves private property values for the landowner through reducing accumulated vegetation and increasing land management options, it also has benefits to the public. These benefits include wildlife habitat improvement, increased water yield, air quality benefits of controlled releases of smoke during a prescribed project versus the uncontrolled release of smoke during a wildfire, and most importantly the potential savings of significant taxpayers' funds and protection of life and property through increased success of fire suppression in areas treated with vegetation management projects versus areas not treated.

A specific example of the public benefit of VMP within the Fresno-Kings Unit is the Beal Fuel break. This fuel break is in the Pine Ridge area of Fresno County along Highway 168 east of Auberry. The Beal Fuel break is a segment of the historic 650-mile-long

Ponderosa Way Fuel break that was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. This project has been maintained periodically over the years to include brushing and road grading, and in 2019 was one of the Governors 45-Day priority projects in FKU. The arson caused Highway Fire, which burned from August 13-18 was ignited down-slope of the Beal Fire Road, and eventually burned up into the fuel break. The fire was controlled by CALFIRE at the fuel break which prevented it from spreading upslope and affecting numerous communities along Auberry Road.

CalVTP includes the use of prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, manual treatments, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory as tools to reduce hazardous vegetation around communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), to construct fuel breaks (shaded or non-shaded), and to promote ecological restoration. CalVTP can be used on timberlands and oak woodlands and conforms to a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). Standard practices used for fuel reduction under the VTP have been assessed in the PEIR Statewide and by following the requirements of the application and environmental checklist the potential impacts are reduced to less than significant or less significant with mitigation. If the impact of the work is equal or less than the impact identified in the PEIR the CalVTP can be used. This new CEQA process increases the amount of land that can be treated to help alleviate the wildfire crisis in California. The Unit has prepared several approved CalVTPs and has numerous new CalVTPs in planning throughout Fresno County SRAs.

For additional information on the PEIR see "Environmental Impact Report Handbook for Vegetation Management Program, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection," Prepared by Jones and Stokes, Sacramento, CA, July 2000. For additional information on the CalVTP Programmatic EIR refer to <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp-homepage-and-storymap/>

Fiscal Framework

The state funding support of the VMP and CalVTP programs recognizes the fact that many of the needed CALFIRE resources to conduct a vegetation management project are in place and funded for fire suppression activities. Thus, no added expenses for landowners are required to participate in CALFIRE initiated projects. Unit funding is intended to cover project expenses on Unit initiated projects. Within the Fresno-Kings Unit, as well as the Madera-Mariposa- Merced Unit, Tulare Unit and the Contract County Kern, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District charges up to \$7.00 per acre smoke mitigation fee for all non-hazard reduction (PRC 4291) broadcast burn projects and \$4.00 per acre for pile burns.

Program Setting

The Fresno-Kings Unit covers a remarkably diverse geographic area. It extends from the 4,000-foot elevation in the Coastal Range on the western side of the Unit then drops to near sea level through the San Joaquin Valley and then climbs again to approximately the 7,300-foot elevation in the Sierra Nevada Range, on the eastern side of the Unit. The vegetation complexes and corresponding fuel types change significantly as the topography, soils, and climate changes across the Unit from west to east.

Within the Unit, nearly all Behave Fire Model vegetation conditions can be found. The grass models can be found on the valley floor and the eastern and western foothills. The brush models can be found at the mid to upper elevations on the western side of the Unit and between the oak woodlands and conifer forests on the east side of the Unit. The timber models can be found at the highest elevations in the Coastal Range and in the upper elevations on the eastern side of the Unit. The slash models can be found primarily in the northeastern portion of the Unit, in particular in areas affected by the 2013-2015 drought mortality event, which increased bark beetle attacks that killed numerous pine and fir trees throughout all the forests above the 4,000 feet elevation level, and this is where most of the commercial timber harvesting occurs within the CALFIRE Direct Protection Area (DPA). However, limited harvesting does occur within the Coastal Range and the southeastern portions of the Unit.

As well as topography and fuels, land ownership patterns vary across the Unit. Within the Coastal Range portion of the Unit, ownership is primarily large single owners. These ownerships range from several hundred acres to many thousands of acres and are principally cattle ranches. The landowners typically are long-term owners who are truly knowledgeable of their lands and alternatives for land management. Another significant landowner in the CALFIRE DPA is public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Descending from the Coastal Range on the west side of the Unit and onto the valley floor, the ownership pattern changes to a mixture of smaller rural residential ownerships (less than an acre to several hundred acres) and agricultural production lands. Within the eastern portion of the Unit, from the valley floor up into the lower elevations of the Sierra foothills there is a mixture of smaller dispersed rural residential ownerships (two (2) to five (5) acre parcels), several hundred to several thousand-acre rangeland ownerships, and more recent subdivisions with lot sizes under two (2) acres. At the mid elevations, on the eastern side, there is a mixture of dispersed rural residential ownerships and mid-sized parcels up to approximately several hundred acres. At the upper slope portions of the east side, there is a mixture of small residential parcels (less than an acre); mid-sized parcels up to approximately several hundred acres and the largest parcels of industrial timberlands up to several thousand acres. The following communities are located within the DPA in the eastern portion of the Unit: Friant, Prather, Auberry, Tollhouse, Meadow Lakes, Shaver Lake, Piedra, Wonder Valley, Yokuts Valley, Dunlap, Miramonte, and Pinehurst. Near the town centers these communities tend to have high population concentrations and smaller parcel sizes.

Within the DPA in the eastern portion of the Unit are public lands managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, USDA Forest Service (Sierra and Sequoia National Forests) and BLM.

Program History in the Unit

The combination of diverse topography, fuels, and ownerships results in a diverse Vegetation Management Program for the Fresno-Kings Unit. Within the Unit, most VMP projects have focused on the western portion of the Unit. These projects were a mixture of range improvement and fuels reduction. The eastern portion of the Unit historically has

had primarily fuel break projects utilizing Notice of Exemptions, and more recently an increasing number of CalVTP projects. Many projects have been created in cooperation with the two National Forests. Cressman's Road and Comstock fuel break are examples of two recently completed fuels reduction projects in the eastern portion of the Fresno Kings Unit that include numerous small landownerships. Both projects have had the benefit of being done in collaboration with the Sierra National Forest and the Highway 168 Fire Safe Council. For a complete list of fuels reduction projects either planned, in progress or completed see Appendix A.

Future Program Direction

With the development of the Unit's Pre-Fire Management Plan, the Unit's Vegetation Management Program and fire suppression repair program, the Unit's projects will continue to increase in acreage treated. Projects will be developed and implemented to coordinate with Pre-fire objectives which are to increase and maintain strategic fuel breaks, increase the area of land treated with prescribed fire, and reduce fuel loads near communities. Fire suppression repair priorities will be based not only on best management practices (BMPs) for resource protections, but on tactical suppression needs in coordination with the Unit's strategic fuels reduction plan. New projects will focus on wildland urban interface (WUI) areas where possible. The advantage to the VMP and CalVTP projects is they are long term nature, which allows critical maintenance of vegetation to occur over time.



DANELL VMP



DANELL VMP



DANELL VMP



JOHNSON VMP



JOHNSON VMP



JOHNSON VMP



OLD BRETZ FUEL BREAK

BEFORE TREATMENT



AFTER TREATMENT



SECTION V: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

Miramonte Conservation Camp

The Miramonte Conservation Camp (Camp) in partnership with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) currently provides two (2) but depending on inmate population up to four (4) inmate hand crews. These crews are organized and supervised by CALFIRE Captains and CDCR Officers. The hand crews support fire operations, pre-fire activities and projects, and other public agencies and approved non-profit organization for public services. The Camp is located near the community of Miramonte in the South- East portion of Fresno County. When the hand crews are not assigned to emergency incidents, they serve as the key workforce for implementing pre-fire/resource management activities and projects. Typically, the Camp provides approximately three hundred crew days per year toward pre-fire/resource management activities and projects. Nearly all the fuel reduction projects listed in Appendix A are implemented by using Camp Crews. In terms of funding support for Camp Crews, various State and Federal Grants provide reimbursement funds to offset operational costs to support grant funded fuels treatment projects. Fire safe councils may utilize camp crews for community fuels treatment projects. The Camp is instrumental in completing most of the fuel reduction projects within the Unit and without them it would be difficult to achieve priorities and goals that have been outlined in this plan.

Tollhouse Fire Center

Task Force Rattlesnake moved from Millerton Fire Station to the Sierra Elementary School in the fall of 2022. This new location is now called the Tollhouse Fire Center and currently houses four (4) National Guard crews led by CalFire Captains and Engineers. Modifications are ongoing to the facility to bring it up to date. When the hand crews are not assigned to emergency incidents, they serve as the key workforce for implementing pre-fire/resource management activities and projects. Typically, Tollhouse crews provide 2-4 crews per day during the year that work on pre-fire/resource management activities and projects. Nearly all the fuel reduction projects listed in Appendix A are implemented by using Tollhouse crews, which are instrumental in completing most of the fuel treatment projects within the Unit, without these hand crews it would be difficult to achieve priorities and goals that have been outlined in this plan.

Mid Valley Fire Crew

CALFIRE and the CCC (California Conservation Core) are partnered and provide one (1) fire crew, Mid Valley 1. The station for now is at the Mid Valley Training Center in Del Rey. When the hand crews are not assigned to emergency incidents, they serve as a key workforce for implementing pre-fire/resource management activities and projects. Mid Valley provides one (1) Crew per day during the year that works on pre-fire/resource management activities and projects. Mid Valley 1 is instrumental in completing many of the fuel treatment projects within the Unit and without them it would be difficult to achieve priorities and goals that have been outlined in this plan.

Battalion 11 - Millerton Battalion

The Battalion is situated on the eastern foothill edge of the San Joaquin Valley with elevations ranging from 300 feet to 2,800 feet. The pre-dominate terrain within the Battalion is gently sloped foothills. The San Joaquin River Drainage is a significant topographic feature and presents fire suppression challenges due to steep slopes, difficult access, and spot fire potential across the river onto the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. Unique to the area is the basalt lava table topped mountains. The vernal pools on the tabletops contain sensitive plant and animal species, requiring modified fire suppression tactics when possible. Most of the tabletop mountains are owned by the Sierra Foothill Nature Conservancy.

The Millerton Battalion is located on the north end of the Fresno-Kings Unit and includes the communities of Friant, Prather, and Auberry. CALFIRE wildland fire protection resources are located at the Millerton and Hurley fire stations. CALFIRE protects 98,020 acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA) within the Battalion. The Fresno County Fire Protection District, via a Schedule A Contract with CALFIRE, protects approximately 1,629 acres of Local Responsibility Area (LRA). Approximately 81,790 acres of SRA are concurrently within the Fresno County Fire Protection District. Approximately 19,314 acres of SRA are concurrently within the County of Fresno Community Service Area (CSA) 51, also known as the Auberry Volunteer Fire Department. Additionally, the Battalion protects approximately 5,070 acres of Sierra National Forest land under CALFIRE Direct Protection Responsibility (DPA).

The Battalion is moderately populated with structures on ranch/farmlands and suburban type subdivisions. The communities of Friant, Prather, and Auberry contain some light commercial and retail occupancy. The Fire Hazard Severity Zone classifications in the battalion are "Moderate" and "High. Most fires in the area travel quickly due to the light fuels and pose an immediate threat to structures. The Millerton Lake recreational area attracts large numbers of people during the summer months and poses a considerable risk for ignitions. The San Joaquin River below the Friant Dam is in the LRA and receives heavy recreational use during the summer months. Fires originating in the river bottom often pose an immediate threat to the SRA. CALFIRE and Fresno County Fire Protection District also respond to several swift-water rescue incidents at the river each year.

The wildland fuels are predominately fuel model 1 (annual grass) and fuel model 2 (annual grasses / oak / grey pine). A brush component is introduced along the northern slope aspects of the San Joaquin River Drainage and at the upper elevations of the Battalion. The upper elevations contain fuel model 4 (mature brush), fuel model 6 (intermediate brush) and fuel model 2 (grass / oak / pine). The north and east slope aspects contain a significant dead fuel load.

Weather

Situated near the San Joaquin Valley Floor, the area experiences much of the same hot and dry weather as the valley. Daytime temperatures over 100 degrees with minimal cooling at night are common during the months of July and August. The area occasionally experiences severe fire weather as frontal systems approach or thunderstorms develop. Critical winds do not occur frequently. The last significant fire

activity caused by lightning was in 2006. Average annual precipitation is approximately 14 inches.

Fire History

The recent major wildland fires are the Powerhouse Fire in 1989 and the Valerie Meadows Fire in 1979. The Battalion typically experiences a few extended attack fires in the 30 – 300 acres range each year. Most of the lands at the upper elevations have experienced fire within the past fifty years. Fires at the lower elevations generally do not offer fuel reduction benefits in the following year(s) due to re-growth of annual grasses.

Priorities and Goals

1. Defensible Space Inspections

CALFIRE personnel enforce Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 by conducting defensible space inspections (LE-100). Engine crews and inspectors (when funded) conduct inspections for the purpose of educating property owners/tenants about fire safety and enforcing the 100 foot defensible space law. There are an estimated 2,500 structures in the Battalion and the goal each year is to inspect 90% of them.

The Fresno County Fire Protection District has a Weed Abatement Ordinance which is primarily enforced in the LRA. The Sky Harbor Subdivision, which is in the SRA, has small parcels with less than 30-foot setbacks. Property owners / tenants are not able to achieve 100 feet of defensible space around their houses due to the small parcel size. Since this area is concurrently within the Fire District and there is a high potential for structure loss, the weed abatement ordinance is applied to vacant parcels that are adjacent to structures. The Weed Abatement Ordinance is similarly applied to the Mira Bella, Ventana Hills, Brighton Crest, and any future subdivisions.

2. San Joaquin River Drainage

The San Joaquin River is the boundary line between Fresno and Madera counties. The terrain is steep, and fuels are heavy on the northern slope aspect (Fresno County side). The mouth of the drainage is aligned with the prevailing wind. Strong up canyon winds create potential for a fire to spread to both sides of the river and move up-canyon quickly, threatening the communities of Prather, Auberry, Meadow Lakes, and Shaver Lake. Of particular concern along the drainage is the Powerhouse Road area, which has experienced several fires in the past 25 years. The community of Auberry was partially burned over during the Powerhouse Fire in 1989 which started in the San Joaquin River Drainage.

CALFIRE is using Federal grant funds to construct a fuel break, known as the “Comstock Fuel break,” to help protect assets near the San Joaquin River Drainage. Construction of the fuel break started in 2011 and will help protect Auberry, and the Big Sandy Tribal Rancheria from fires originating in the San Joaquin River Drainage near the Powerhouse Road area. The fuel break will also protect the communities of Meadow Lakes and Shaver Lake from fires originating in the Auberry area. The 400 feet wide fuel break is

approximately 3 miles long and covers approximately 160 acres.

3. Morgan Canyon

Morgan Canyon is south of the community of Prather. State Highway 168 travels through the canyon. The area is moderately populated with structures on 5 – 20 acre parcels. Many houses and roads in the area were constructed before the SRA Fire Safe Regulations were implemented. Steep slopes, a brush fuel component, and inadequate private road systems pose significant challenges for fire perimeter control, structure defense, and civilian evacuation. Structure defense is an immediate priority due to population density.

To protect the assets in the Morgan Canyon area, CALFIRE personnel conduct defensible space inspections. Personnel conduct inspections for the purpose of educating property owners/tenants about fire safety and enforcing the 100 foot defensible space law. Defensible space inspections are conducted throughout the Battalion.

4. Sky Harbor Subdivision

The Sky Harbor Subdivision is located at the upper end of Millerton Lake. The subdivision has approximately 40 houses tightly arranged mid-slope on steep terrain in a stand of grey pines. Property owners are not able to achieve 100 feet defensible space due to small lot sizes. There is significant potential for wildland fire ignitions from recreationists and residents. Structure defense is an immediate concern during a fire situation.

The Sky Harbor Subdivision is concurrently within the SRA and the Fresno County Fire Protection District. The Fresno County Fire Protection District has a Weed Abatement Ordinance which is enforced on vacant and inhabited parcels within the subdivision to reduce the flammable vegetation that poses a threat to houses. CALFIRE maintains a pre-suppression fire line along Sky Harbor Road for approximately two miles. This fire line helps to slow the spread of fires originating along the roadside near the Sky Harbor Subdivision.

5. Millerton Lake State Recreational Area

The Millerton Lake State Recreational Area provides day use camping areas and boating access which is used during the summer months. The recreational area attracts thousands of people and poses significant potential for wildland fire ignitions.

CALFIRE coordinates with State Parks personnel to prevent unwanted fires. CALFIRE personnel conduct high visibility patrols and public education during the recreation area speak use times. CALFIRE maintains roadside fire prevention signs along the main roadways to/from the recreational area.

6. Friant Dam

The United States Bureau of Reclamation operates the Friant Dam at Millerton Lake. The dam is a homeland security concern as there are many assets below the dam that would be destroyed if a failure were to occur. CALFIRE and the Fresno County Fire Protection District provide confined space rescue response to the dam facility. CALFIRE and the Fresno County Fire Protection District participate in disaster planning exercises.

7. Pre-Attack Plans and Business Pre-plans

Development of Battalion Pre-Attack plans is essential for pre-identifying the needed resources of a large and rapidly expanding incident. Additionally, this will allow the Battalion personnel to be proactive in the communities, meet with local business owners, ranchers, and local school district personnel to develop positive public relations and interaction.

Collaborators with the Millerton Battalion:

- Highway 168 Firesafe Council
- Sierra National Forest
- California State Parks
- Millerton Lake State Recreational Area
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Sierra Foothill Nature Conservancy
- Fresno County Sheriff's Department
- Table Mountain Tribal Rancheria
- Big Sandy Tribal Rancheria
- California Highway Patrol
- CAL TRANS
- Pacific Gas and Electric

Battalion 12 – Shaver Lake Battalion

The Shaver Lake Battalion of the CALFIRE Fresno-Kings Unit is in Central California and makes up part of the Eastern San Joaquin Valley. The Battalion consists of 121,192 acres of State responsibility land under direct CALFIRE protection. The Battalion is bordered on the east side by the Sierra National Forest.

The elevation of the Battalion ranges from about 400 feet along the western SRA border to the highest point of over 7,300 on the eastern border. Highway 168 runs through the Northern part of the Battalion. This provides a high volume of visitor traffic through the Battalion each day to the many recreation areas within the Battalion and Sierra National Forest. Shaver Lake is in the northern part of the Battalion and provides a high volume of summertime traffic. This reservoir is one of many that supply the San Joaquin River that runs through the Central Valley.

The Battalion has two (2) fire roads which incorporate 11 miles of access that must be maintained annually. The Battalion's diverse elevation provides for an array of fuels which relate to the overall potential fire behavior. The primary fuel models at the lower end of the Battalion consist of seasonal grasses which quickly transition into deciduous and evergreen oaks. In the middle of the Battalion, the fuel models transition to California brush models and continue to increase in size and complexity while moving to conifer models, the upper end of the Battalion is timber interspersed with many residential structures. This provides the Battalion with many different fire behavior characteristics to be concerned with and a potential for large fire growth if weather, fuel, and topography come into alignment with an ignition.

The entire Battalion has seen a major increase in population over the past several years. This provides for an increase potential in ignitions along with the added WUI problems that are associated in the foothill and mountain areas of California. Recent Battalion fire history indicates an average of 18 ignitions per year over the last decade. We have seen several large extended attack fires during the last few years in the Battalion. The last major significant event, the Creek Fire, occurred in 2020 and burnt 379,895 acres. The common denominators for large wildfires are fuel, slope, weather, and assets at risk. We cannot change slope or weather, but we can modify fuels and ensure that the individual homes and communities have a defensible space. All new homes being built are subject to PRC 4290 regulations which assist us in the defense of these newest additions to the watershed. Three new CalVTP projects are currently being developed by the Unit Pre-Fire Division with the assistance of the Highway 168 Fire Safe Council to take the place of several Notice of Exemption projects and add several new properties in the Pine Ridge, Upper Auberry Road, and Shaver Lake area. These new CalVTPs will allow additional treatment activities including herbicide use for fuel break maintenance and improved and widened fuel breaks.

Priorities and Goals:

1. Defensible Space Inspection program (PRC4291)

CALFIRE personnel enforce Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 by conducting

defensible space inspections (LE100). Engine crews and inspectors (when funded) conduct inspections for the purpose of educating property owners/tenants about fire safety and enforcing the 100 foot defensible space law. Approximately 2000 inspections are completed in the Battalion each year.

2. The Beal Fire Road

The Beal Fire Road has been in place for many years. It is a joint venture with CALFIRE, USFS, local homeowners and the Highway 168 Fire Safe Council. The road extends from Highway 168 at the 4 Lanes of HWY 168 to Auberry Road below Meadow Lakes. The purpose of the project is to reduce fuel accumulations and to decrease the potential of wildfire that would cause damage to natural resources including wildlife habitat in the Beal Fire Road area. This fuel break is the first defense for fires starting on the lower Highway 168 corridor. The last VMP done on the Beal Fire Road was begun in 1994. It was a three (3) year project. Road grading occurs on a yearly basis on parts of the Beal Fire Road. Future needs for the Beal Fire Road include placement of cement water tanks at strategic points along the Fire Road for fire suppression use and brushing of all the Fire Road. The project will be combined into one VTP project this year to update the CEQA analysis which will also cover herbicide treatment of resprouting brush. Highway 168 Fire Safe Council is conducting maintenance with the use of grant funding and continued maintenance is ongoing.

3. Meadow Lake / Meadow Lake North

The Bald Mountain ridge top is a significant fire hazard area. There is immense potential in the area for large dollar losses due to fire activity. Currently, the Beal Fire Road stands as the only defense against large fires rising from the slopes below the Meadow Lakes area. The first phase of line was constructed at the top of the ridge along Radio Lane. The second phase of line is computed and runs from the North end of Radio Lane to Auberry Rd. and the South end of the Acorn/ Sugarloaf Fuel break. The first phase was completed by the Highway 168 Fire Safe Council using grant funding. The second phase was completed by CALFIRE using USFS grant funding.

4. Cressman's

The community of Cressman's contains approximately 80 homes. It is located on a mid-slope on a south facing slope. Peterson Mill Road is located below the community of Cressman's. Wildflower subdivision is located above Cressman's. The fuel in the community itself is mainly Fuel Model 8. Fuel below would fall into Fuel Model 4. CALFIRE response time is 15 minutes. Fire damage potential is extreme.

Cressman's fuel break was completed by the Highway 168 Fire Council which was started in 2000 to reduce the fuel loading along the single lane main road in the subdivision. This will enhance emergency exit for civilians and make access easier for emergency equipment responding to the area. It will also help slow the spread of wildfire approaching from below. This project was completed in 2004, and maintenance is ongoing dependent on funding.

5. Bald Mt. Subdivision

The Bald Mt. Subdivision area contains approximately 350 homes. They are located at the ridge top of a south/west –facing slope. It is up slope of a Fuel Model 4. The ridge top is mainly Fuel Model 4 with 8 and 9 mixed. CALFIRE response times are a minimum of 15 minutes. There is a high fire history in the area. Meadow Lakes North and the Acorn/Sugarloaf Fuel Breaks are in position to help protect the communities around the Bald Mountain Area. This project is being done by CALFIRE, Highway 168 Fire Safe Council and by the USFS on Federal lands.

6. Peterson Mill Road

This project was ultimately started due to the success of the Cressman Road Project. The demonstration project began in the spring of 2005. This project, which is to reduce fuel loading (Fuel Model 4), is dependent upon “Prop 40” funding, the cooperation of the Fire Safe Council, and that of the stakeholders in the area involved. As with the Cressman project, this project will also aid in the emergency access of civilians and emergency equipment on a single lane road and will help slow the spread of wildfire. This project was completed by the Highway 168 Fire Safe Council with grant funds in 2008. Additional grant funding should be sought to provide maintenance to this project.

7. Linson Lane and Shaver Springs

Linson Lane and Shaver Springs subdivisions have approximately 75 homes between them. They are both located at or near the top of a drainage. Drainage fuels consist mainly of Fuel Model 4 type. CALFIRE’s response time to the area is approximately 15 minutes. Fire history has been moderate in the area but has high potential. The Lower Beal fuel break when it is completed would serve to reduce or prevent the spread of wildfires originating in the Tollhouse area upslope into the Linson Lane subdivision. The Highway 168 Fire Safe Council is working on the project.

8. Four Lane Pre-Suppression Fire Line

Construction of a Pre-Suppression Fire Line near the bottom of the 4 Lane on Highway 168 at Backbone Mountain is a cooperative project in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service. The purpose of the line is to prevent the spread of fires starting from material dislodged from hot brake shoes. This is an annual project supported by CALFIRE Crews.

9. Shaver West Fuel Break

This fuel break runs along the east side of developed properties that are east of Highway 168. This was an effective fuel break that helped stop the spread of the 2020 Creek Fire. Annual maintenance work is done on this fuel break primarily by the Fuels Crew and the Tollhouse Fire Crews.

10. Roadside Fire Prevention Signs

The Battalion has a total of eight (8) Fire Prevention signs. Two (2) are in Blasingame’s

first in area and six (6) are in Shaver Lake's first in area. Shaver Lake Station has an annual fire prevention sign plan which includes Shaver Lake and Bald Mountain regions. This project is done in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. The signs are situated along Highway 168 and Auberry Road. Throughout the Battalion, the signs are changed regularly to indicate seasonal messages. Sign examples include: "Ready, Set, Go," "It's flu season."



Clean your chimney," "Burn permits required," "Clear brush 100 feet around your house", "No Burning" and fire danger indicators. Ongoing projects include replacing and repainting existing signs that are in poor repair.

Collaborators with the Shaver Lake Battalion:

- Sierra National Forest
- Fresno County Fire Protection District
- Highway 168 Fire Safe Council
- Bald Mountain Fire Protection District
- Pine Ridge Volunteer Fire Department
- Shaver Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department
- Southern California Edison – Resource Management
- Fresno County Roads
- National Forest Foundation

Battalion 13 – Bear Mountain Battalion

The Bear Mountain Battalion of the CALFIRE Fresno-Kings Unit is in the Central California and makes up part of the Eastern San Joaquin Valley. The Battalion consists of 151,117 acres of State Responsibility Land under direct CALFIRE protection. The Battalion is bordered on the east side by both the Sierra and Sequoia National Forest.

The elevation of the Battalion ranges from 400 feet along the western SRA border to the highest point of 5,500 on the eastern border. Highway 180 runs through the middle of the Battalion. Also, known as Kings Canyon, it is the gateway to the Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park. This provides a high volume of visitor traffic through the Battalion each day. Pine Flat Reservoir is in the northern part of the Battalion and provides a moderate to high volume of summertime traffic. This reservoir supplies the Kings River that runs through the Central Valley.

During the years of 2014-2017 the Bark Beetle infestation devastated conifers and specifically Ponderosa Pine above 3000' elevation. The conifer tree mortality due to the infestation ranged from 46% to 90% within the Battalion and Unit. Over the next decades there will be increased fuel loading on the forest floor due to the mortality which will create more BTUs when there is a fire within the tree mortality areas.

The Battalion's diverse elevation provides for an array of fuels which relate to the overall potential fire behavior. The primary fuel models at the lower end of the Battalion consist of seasonal grasses which quickly transition into deciduous and evergreen oaks. At the upper end of the Battalion, the fuel models transition to California brush models and continue to increase in size and complexity while moving to conifer models. This provides the Battalion with many different fire behavior characteristics to be concerned with and a potential for large fire growth if weather, fuel, and topography come into alignment with an ignition.

The entire Battalion has seen an increase in population over the past several years. This provides for an increase potential in ignitions along with the added WUI problems that are associated in the foothill and mountain areas of California. Recent Battalion fire history indicates an average of 20 ignitions per year over the last decade. The Rough Fire in 2015 burned up to the Battalion edge and was the last major fire near the Battalion. The last significant event in the Battalion since the 1950's occurred in 2015 and burned 151,623 acres. History indicates that it's not of matter of "if" we have a fire, but rather "when" we will have a fire. The common denominators for large wildfires are fuel, slope, weather, and assets at risk. We cannot change slope or weather, but we can modify fuels and ensure that the individual homes and communities have a defensible space. All new homes being built are subject to PRC 4290 regulations which assist us in the defense of these newest additions to the watershed.

Several new CalVTPS are planned for the coming year and work has begun on signing on landowners. One new large CalVTP is located in the vicinity of northern Hopewell Road and will include large broadcast burn units and upgrading and maintaining the White Deer fuel breaks. The Unit is in discussions with Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest about prescribed burn units that are connected between the Federal and SRA lands. The goal is to reduce brush levels and increase grazing land.

Priorities and Goals:

- 1. Sequoia Lake CalVTP**
- 2. White Deer VMP**
- 3. Bear Mountain Road Clearance**
- 4. Brookside Fuel Break-Fire Safe Council**
- 5. Pinehurst-Miramonte Ingres/Egress Roadside Fuel Break- Fire Safe Council**
- 6. Miramonte Fuel Break-Fire Safe Council**
- 7. Pre-Fire Lines (Rat Trailing)**

Utilize the Fire Crews to construct hand lines along high ignition prone roadways to slow and contain potential fire spread.

- Highway 180
- Hills Valley Road
- Sand Creek Road

8. Fire Control Road Maintenance

- Work with property owners and other agencies to repair White Deer Fire Control Road.
- Brush along the sides of Greeley Fire Control Road and chip or burn the piles.
- Grade Fish Creek Fire Control Road
- Grade Cleveland Fire Control Road
- Grade Miramonte Budget Fire Control Road

Collaborators with the Bear Mountain Battalion:

- Sierra National Forest
- Sequoia National Forest
- Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park
- Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council
- Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Orange Cove Fire District
- Hume Lake Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Great Basin Institute
- Fresno County Roads

Battalion 14 – Coalinga Battalion

The Coalinga Battalion of the CALFIRE Fresno-Kings Unit is in Central California and makes up part of the Western San Joaquin Valley. The Battalion consists of 563,076 acres of State responsibility land under direct CALFIRE protection. The Coalinga Battalion also has 151,967 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Direct Protection Area (DPA). CALFIRE provides fire protection for most of the BLM properties within the Coalinga Battalion. The total CALFIRE DPA of the Coalinga Battalion is 715,043 acres. The Battalion is bordered by CALFIRE Units of San Luis Obispo, San Benito Monterey, Mariposa Madera Merced, and Kern County. The Coalinga Battalion is also boarded by the Local Government of Kings County, Fresno County Fire Protection District and The City of Coalinga.

The elevation of the Battalion ranges from 400 feet along the eastern SRA border to the highest point of 5,000 on the western border. Interstate 5 runs 80 miles along the Eastern SRA boundary of the Battalion. This provides remarkably high transit traffic. State Highway 198 and Los Gatos Creek Road are east west routes to State Highway 101. These routes have high traffic as well.

The Coalinga Battalion has three (3) primary fire roads which incorporate 42 miles of access that has historically been maintained annually by the Unit. There are many ranch roads which provide access to the Battalion. There are several oils fields in which crude oil and natural gas are produced and stored and transported by pipeline. This creates unique issues with fire control. The Battalion's diverse elevation provides for an array of fuels, which relate to the overall potential fire behavior. The primary fuel models at the lower end of the Battalion consist of seasonal grasses, which quickly transition into deciduous and evergreen oaks. At the mid-slope to higher elevations of the Battalion, the fuel models transition to California brush models. There are areas within the Battalion that contain stands of evergreen and conifer trees. These are located at the highest elevations of the Battalion. There are several areas which are inaccessible, or control measures will be difficult due to steep topography. This provides the Battalion with many different fire behavior characteristics to be concerned with and a potential for large fire growth if weather, fuel, and topography come into alignment with an ignition.

The Battalion has not seen a significant increase in population over the last decade. Predominately, the Battalion is cattle ranches with large land ownership. The Battalion's WUI areas are along Hwy 198, Los Gatos Creek Road, and some areas of Kings County. About 500 structures are in these areas. There are an unknown number of structures located within the ranches located within the Battalion. Recent Battalion's fire history indicates an average of 10 ignitions per year over the last decade. Most fires will reach 100 acres or more due to the significant response time of initial attack resources to the Battalion. The Battalion has a significant large fire every five (5) years on average.

Priorities and Goals:

1. Defensible Space Inspection program (PRC4291)

CALFIRE personnel enforce Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 by conducting defensible space inspections (LE-100). Engine crews and inspectors (when funded) conduct inspections for the purpose of educating property owners/tenants about fire safety and enforcing the 100 foot defensible space law. Approximately 200 inspections are completed in the Battalion each year. With the large geographical area within the Battalion, it is hard to complete defensible space inspections on all inhabited structures each year.

- Inspection priorities will be the Los Gatos and Warthan Canyon areas due to the higher concentration of inhabitable structures.
- We will continue to track inspections utilizing GPS coordinates to help provide better tracking and improvement of the GIS layer in CAD and Toughbook's.

2. Fire Control Roads - Tar Canyon, Juniper Ridge, Mud Run

Although these roads are in entirely different locals, they are important to the philosophy of keeping fires small which will keep costs to a minimum. For a minimum investment in late spring, we can provide ourselves with not only access to some very inaccessible country but also create a secondary defense to stop a wildland fire. The maintenance of these fire roads is imperative to the mission of controlling fires at the earliest possible moment.

- Juniper Ridge Fire Road is located west of the City Coalinga running from Highway 198 north to Los Gatos Road. Its most apparent use would be for controlling a fire that originates in the oil fields or the foothills west of Coalinga.
- The Tar Canyon Fire Road is in Kings County, beginning just south of Avenal on Highway 33 going west through the hills towards Pacheco Rock. It provides access to some very rough country in and around the Black Hole Quadrant.
- Mud Run is a North /South fire control road that starts at the Los Gatos Canyon Road. It continues through several private ranches and ties into Warthan Canyon Rd. The significance of this control road is to provide access into an area that would otherwise be inaccessible to firefighting equipment. It also provides a control point prior to wildfire moving into an area of WUI.

3. Los Gatos Canyon

Los Gatos Canyon is a sparsely inhabited area of the Los Gatos Creek drainage on Los Gatos Road west of Derrick Avenue to the County line. It is populated mostly by longtime residents of the area which have a better than average knowledge of fire safe regulations and practices. It is this knowledge, which makes them unique in that they are exceptionally low maintenance regarding fire prevention, allowing Battalion crews to concentrate on the newer residents to the area. The fuel models consist of mostly 1 and 4 with the biggest challenge in the off-road areas being access. Although fire history

does not support a tremendous problem there has been some activity usually related to ranch activities or lightning. This asset is protected by LE-100 inspections, fire control roads, roadside prevention signs and VMP Burns.

4. Warthan Canyon

This area lies up on the Warthan Creek drainage along Highway 198, south the City of Coalinga to the County line and south on Parkfield Road to the County line. Its characteristics are not so different from those of the Los Gatos Canyon area with its problems and solutions being very much the same. Fuel Models are 1 and 4 and fire history has been limited with most causes being equipment oriented mostly off the highway. This asset is protected by LE-100 inspections, fire control roads, roadside prevention signs and VMP Burns.

5. Oil fields

The Oil fields lay in both the SRA and the LRA and although crisscrossed with roads are a definite threat to the wildland to the west should a fire escape from this area. Its fuel model is a 1 and the primary cause for fires in this area has been power line related. These are not the normal utility lines in that they are owned privately by the oil companies and are maintained by them. We have an ongoing process of keeping the oil companies educated regarding their responsibilities for maintenance and the liability if their lines are responsible for causing a fire. Through this process, along with our enforcement and cost collection procedures, the number of fires has been reduced. This asset is protected by meeting with company owners and educating them on clearances around their lines.

6. Kings County SRA

The Kings County SRA lies along the Highway 33 corridor to the west from Coalinga to the Kern County line. Since the closing of the Cottonwood FFS, the response times have become considerable with the first in initial attack equipment now coming from CALFIRE/SLU, Kern County Fire, or the Kings County Fire Department. The primary fuel model is 1 and 4. The extended response times can make this an interesting problem regarding suppression if IA resources do not have a positive effect regarding suppression. Fire causes are generally a result of coming off Highway 33. Support and interface with the cooperative agencies tend to keep a handle on this area's problems. Additionally, there are two 230 KV electrical transmission lines. The Diablo-Gates and the Templeton-Gates are in the south, in and around the junction of the Kings, Fresno, and Monterey County lines.

7. Vegetation Management Program Burns

In the last 5 years the Unit has been able to put about 5,000 acres under VMP. This past year alone the Unit was successful in completing 2000 acres of broadcast burning and 300 acres of pile burning. The Battalion is continuing to work with the larger property owners to put acres under VMP or CalVTP project. The Unit is also beginning discussions with BLM to plan and assist on prescribed burns and containment lines next to the VMP projects, which will allow for more effective projects covering more area.

8. Pre-Attack Plans and Business Pre-plans

Development of Battalion Pre-Attack plans is essential for pre-identifying the needed resources of a large and rapidly expanding incident. Additionally, this will allow the Battalion personnel to be proactive in the communities, meet with local business owners, ranchers, and local school district personnel to develop positive public relations and interaction.

9. Fire Prevention Displays: Horn Toad Derby and Coalinga Fest

Each year the City of Coalinga has two (2) major events, the Horned Toad Derby, and Coalinga Fest. Both are considerable in size and attended by a vast majority of the residents, as well as visitors to the area. The parade provides a venue to display Smokey and entice the public to a Fire Prevention booth where we can reach out to the youth of the area and to put forth any fire prevention message that is pertinent at the time.

10. Roadside Fire Prevention Signs

The roadside fire prevention signs are located throughout the Battalion on the main arteries. These signs provide the public with information that will make them a friendlier user of the wildlands, both private and public.

Collaborators with the Coalinga Battalion 14:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Hollister Fresno County Fire Protection
- District City of Coalinga
- County of Kings Fire Department
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Corrections

Battalion 91 Fresno County Fire Protection District

Battalion 91 is in the central and western area of the Fresno County Fire Protection District (FCFPD) in the Fresno Kings Unit. The Battalion consists of 730,970 acres of Local Responsibility Area (LRA) making up part of the Central San Joaquin Valley. The Battalion is bordered by Merced County Fire to the North, North Central Fire and FCFPD, Battalion 18 to the East, Kings County Fire Department to the South, and FCFPD, Battalion 14 which includes 563,076 acres of SRA to the West. The San Joaquin River acts partially as the north edge boarder, and the Kings River acts as partial boarder on the south edge of Battalion 15.

The elevation within the Battalion ranges from 150 in the valley and 600 feet along Interstate 5. Interstate 5, State Highways 180, 33, 41, 145, and 269 all run through Battalion 15. Due to the number of highways, Battalion 15 experiences high volumes of daily traffic.

The Central San Joaquin Valley is primarily used as agricultural land for crops, orchards, and milk dairies. This contributes to the high volume of commercial and agricultural vehicle traffic on highways and local roadways. The communities of Laton, Riverdale, San Joaquin, Mendota, and Firebaugh are encompassed in Battalion 15. FCFPD provides fire protection for the City of San Joaquin and Mendota.

The Mendota Wildlife refuge consisting of 14,000 acres and a portion of the California Aqueduct is also encompassed in Battalion 91.

Primary fuels for Battalion 91 are Fuel Model 1, annual grasses. This fuel is present along roadways, canals, fallow fields, within the housing areas and cities in Battalion 91. The fuel models along the various rivers' edges within the Battalion are Fuel Model 2, 5. Fuel Models in the Wildlife Refuge are 1, 3 and 5.

Priorities and Goals:

1. City of Mendota

The City of Mendota unemployment remains high per capita in the state of California. Due to the unemployment rate, an increase in foot traffic throughout the city occurs both day and night on city streets and on foot trails throughout the city. This has resulted in regular nuisance fires caused by arson or playing with fire. With the establishment of Mendota PD, fires within the city have significantly dropped. Nuisance fires still occur within the city; both the CALFIRE/Fresno County Fire Protection District and The Mendota PD remain diligent on Fire Prevention through public education.

- Weed Abatement and Public Education will help reduce the number of nuisance fires.

2. Pre-Plans

Update existing preplans and preplan any new businesses in the battalion. This contact allows the station personnel to be proactive, meet business owners and school district personnel in their area and create positive public relations.

- Priority of preplans: Schools, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Target Hazards, and Industrial Businesses with large workforces.
- Engine Companies continue to update existing preplans and preplan new businesses in the battalion.
- Continue to work with and support Department IT personnel on development of a server-based application to make the preplans available to CAD and Toughbook's.

3. Weed Abatement

Continue inspections to meet the intent of the weed abatement program. Work with the Unit's Prevention Bureau with enforcement of the program.

- Work with communities within the battalion to gain compliance in the program.

4. Public Education

Continue efforts with communities, community leaders and local schools on fire prevention education.

- Stations and Engine Companies participate in Parades, carnivals, station tours.
- Continue school programs and outreaches.
- Continue involvement with community leaders to promote fire prevention education within their communities through established monthly mailers.

5. Mendota Wildlife Area (Alkali Sink)

Assist the California Department of Fish and Game with their efforts for enhancement of wildlife and endangered plants in the Alkali Sink Reserve through noxious non-native vegetation removal.

Collaborators within Battalion 91:

- Laton Community Services District
- Riverdale Community Services District
- City of Firebaugh Fire
- Department California Department of Fish and Game

Battalion 71-Fresno County Fire Protection District

The Metropolitan Area of the Fresno County Fire Protection District is identified as Battalion 71 of the CALFIRE Fresno-Kings Unit (FKU). It is in Central California and makes up part of the Central/Eastern San Joaquin Valley. The Battalion consists of 113,810 acres of Local Responsibility Area (LRA) land that is under contractual agreement with CALFIRE to provide personnel services and management on behalf of the Fresno County Fire Protection District. The Battalion is bordered on the North and East sides by State Responsibility Area (SRA) under direct protection of CALFIRE.

The elevation of the Battalion ranges from 250-400 feet along the western SRA border. State Highways: 41, 99, 168, and 180 run through the Battalion. This highway infrastructure contributes to a high volume of commuter and visitor traffic through the Battalion each day. The primary fuel models within the Battalion consist of seasonal grasses adjacent to roadways, within suburban living areas, and transitioning to rural agricultural areas. The entire Battalion has seen an increase in population over the past several years and as a result has the highest population density of all the Battalions within the Fresno- Kings Unit. The population density coupled with the high traffic transportation corridors provides for an increase's potential for wildland fire ignition.

The mission of the Battalion is to provide the highest level of customer service while reducing the costs and losses from fire through education of the public, active involvement in school programs and communities and maintaining a positive and professional relationship with allied agencies.

Priorities and Goals:

1. Preplans

Update existing preplans and preplan any new businesses in the Battalion. This contact allows the station personnel to be proactive, meet business owners and school district personnel in their area and create positive public relations. There are numerous industrial complexes in the Battalion which can be identified and updating contact numbers or special circumstances pertaining to that business or school.

- Goal of completing or updating 25% of preplans each year.
- Priority of preplans: Schools, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Target Hazards, and Industrial Businesses with large workforces.
- Specific Target Hazards: Hazardous material distribution facilities, fireworks storage facilities, large petroleum and propane facilities and Mega Commercial Warehouses

2. Addresses

A frequent problem found throughout our County is the lack of addresses posted, or they are posted but unreadable. This not only increases response times but creates a safety problem as we are trying to search for addresses in the dark or fog. Some viable solutions would be to:

- Send out fliers explaining the importance of posting legible addresses.
- Enlisting the help from schools, either as a school project or after school activity.
- Using PCF Companies to fund raise for their companies. If the Unit and County can adopt a standard for posting addresses, such as having a sign with their numbers, perhaps the PCF Companies can make these to sell.

3. School Program Plan

Be more involved with the schools in our response areas. We do participate in some activities, but more intervention would go a long way in developing a strong relationship with the communities. Programs such as Career Days, Fire Safety, Fire Prevention Day, or Station Tours are some ways we can interact with the children.

Collaborators within Battalion 71:

- Clovis Fire Department
- Fresno Fire Department
- California Air National Guard Fire Department
- North Central Fire Protection District

Battalion 81-Fresno County Fire Protection District

The mission of Battalion 81 is to provide the highest level of customer service while reducing the costs and losses from fire through education of the public, active involvement in school programs and communities and maintaining a positive and professional relationship with allied agencies. Battalion 81 is a suburban to rural area of Fresno County in the San Joaquin Valley of California. The Battalion consists of 186,950 acres of Local Responsibility Area (LRA) land. The Battalion contains many of the medium to smaller communities in Fresno County such as Sanger, Del Rey, Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, Reedley, and Orange Cove.

The elevation of the Battalion ranges from 260 feet along the Kings River to 1,752 feet on Campbell Mountain on the East side of the Battalion. State Highways 43, 99 and 180 run through the Battalion. This highway infrastructure contributes to a high volume of vehicular traffic through the Battalion every day. The Kings River also runs through the Battalion and contributes to a large volume of recreational traffic and related water rescue incidents.

The primary fuel models within the Battalion consist of seasonal grasses to oak woodland along the Kings River. Most of the land in the Battalion is in agricultural production.

Priorities and Goals:

1. Preplans

Update existing preplans and preplan any new businesses in the Battalion. This contact allows the station personnel to be proactive, meet business owners and school district personnel in their area and create positive public relations. There are numerous industrial complexes in the Battalion which can be identified and updated contact numbers or special circumstances pertaining to that business or school.

- Continue to complete these preplans in order as identified by importance:
- Schools (concurrent with inspections)
- Care or Foster facilities (rest homes)
- Any Industrial complexes creating mass evacuations i.e., cold storage, bulk hazardous material storages.
- Industrial businesses with large workforces. Schools (concurrent with inspections)
- Continue to work with and support Department IT personnel on development of a server-based application to make the preplans available to CAD and Toughbook's.

2. School Programs

Be more involved with the schools in our response areas. We do participate in some activities, but more intervention would go a long way in developing a strong relationship with the communities. Programs such as Career Days, Fire Safety, Fire Prevention Day, or Station Tours are some ways we can interact with the children.

- Continue to contact schools and the Fire District Public Information Officer to

coordinate programs. This will be in conjunction with the annual school inspection program.

3. Kings River

The section of Kings River between Adams Avenue and Dinuba Avenue contains a high fuel loading both on the riverbanks and islands. Due to increased usage of the river water ways and urban interface, fires and rescues have become more frequent. These types of incidents require many resources and extended commitment times. Firebrands from resultant fires have potential for ignition of roof fires in the City of Reedley and adjacent urban residences.

The Kings River Plan identifies access points to the Kings River for first responders during all types of emergency incidents. The access points are identified on photocopies of topographical maps. The maps cover the Kings River from the Fresno-Tulare County line to Trimmer Springs. The Plan needs to be updated utilizing GIS to include addresses and parcel numbers printed on aerial images and topographical maps. The mapping should also extend above the Pine Flat Reservoir to Kirch Flat. A component of the Kings River Plan update could include identifying areas for fuel reduction projects to help reduce fire behavior and improve access to the river for water rescues. Coordinate with Reedley City Fire Department and the Fresno County Sheriff's Office to update and distribute the plan.

Collaborators within Battalion 81

- Sanger Fire Department
- Selma Fire Department
- Fowler Fire Department
- Kingsburg Fire Department
- Reedley Fire Department
- Orange Cove Fire Department
- North Central Fire Protection District

APPENDIX A: PRE-FIRE PROJECTS



**CAL
FIRE**

PRE-FIRE PROJECTS

Fresno-Kings Unit (FKU)

01/01/2024 thru 12/31/2024

Fresno-Kings Unit (FKU)

PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	Project Status	Treatment Footprint Acres	Treatment Footprint Miles	
CFIP	Ackerman CFIP 2022	Active	138.05		FKU
Fire Plan	Auberry Road and Peterson Road Fuel Breaks	Active	437.70		FKU
Fire Plan	Beal Fuel Break	Complete in Maint.	426.08		FKU
Fire Plan	Bear Mountain Access	Active	50.61		FKU
Fire Plan	Big Sandy Rancheria Hazard Fuels Reduction F	Active	31.81		FKU
Fire Plan	Black Mountain	Active	65.21	0.86	FKU
Fire Plan	Blue Rush Fuel Break	Complete in Maint.	112.11		FKU
Fire Plan	Brookside Fuel Break	Complete	636.79		FKU
CFIP	Bushell CFIP 2023	Complete	89.52		FKU
CFIP	Castlewood CFIP 2021	Complete	130.10		FKU
CFIP	Cates CFIP 2024	Active	39.34		FKU
CFIP	Cedars CFIP 2023	Active	11.47		FKU
Fire Plan	Creek Fire Resilience and Recovery	Active	21,571.80		FKU
Fire Plan	Cressman Fuel Break Expansion	Complete in Maint.	236.51		FKU
VMP	Danell VMP	Active	368.96	6.66	FKU
CFIP	Dotta CFIP 2022	Complete	81.53		FKU
Fire Plan	Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Ti	Active	669.26		FKU
VMP	Edison VMP	Active	3,841.50		FKU
Fire Plan	Elwood Kencade Fire Control Road	Complete		4.92	FKU
Forest Heal	Eshom Ecological Restoration Project Phase I	Active	3,811.00		FKU
Forest Heal	Eshom-Rough-Castle Ecological Restoration P	Active	5,718.31		FKU
Fire Plan	Fire Escape Roads	Complete in Maint.	14.81		FKU
CFIP	Goodman CFIP 2021	Complete	81.80		FKU
Fire Plan	Greeley Fire Control Road	Complete in Maint.	127.32	5.13	FKU
VMP	Gun Club VMP	Active	156.33		FKU
CFIP	Hall CFIP 2021	Complete	112.41		FKU
CFIP	Herrick CFIP 2022	Complete	99.54		FKU
Fire Plan	Highway 168 Pre Suppression Line	Complete in Mainte		0.78	FKU
Fire Plan	Highway 180 Pre Suppression Line	Complete in Mainte	3.90	5.40	FKU
Fire Plan	HSRD SHAVER SPRINGS FUEL REDUCTION	Complete	31.35		FKU

VMP	Johnson VMP	Active	2,251.85		FKU
Forest Heal	Jose Basin Fuels Reduction	Active	8,740.38		FKU
Fire Plan	Lost Bluff Fuel Break	Active	270.07		FKU
CFIP	Marriott CFIP 2022	Complete	57.33		FKU
CFIP	Mathias CFIP 2022	Complete	99.51		FKU
VMP	McKenzie VMP	Planned			FKU
CFIP	McMahan CFIP 2021	Complete	58.18		FKU
Fire Plan	Meadow Lakes North	Complete in Maint.	108.63		FKU
CFIP	Messer CFIP FKU 2019	Complete	2,335.43		FKU
CFIP	Michaels CFIP 2021	Complete	40.88		FKU
Fire Plan	Miramonte Emergency Ingress and Egress	Cancelled			FKU
Fire Plan	Miramonte Fuel Break	Active	121.07		FKU
Fire Plan	Musick Fuel Break	Active	455.60		FKU
Fire Plan	Old Bretz	Active	72.20		FKU
CFIP	Old Pine Ridge CFIP 2021	Complete	543.86		FKU
CFIP	Parr CFIP 2021	Complete	97.30		FKU
Fire Plan	Pinehurst Community Fuel Break	Complete in Maint.	88.11		FKU
Fire Plan	Pinehurst Community Fuel Break (Local Unit)	Active	76.90		FKU
Fire Plan	Pinehurst/Miramonte Ingress/Egress Fuel Brea	Active	131.33		FKU
CFIP	Reed Land Holdings CFIP 2023	Complete	148.44		FKU
Forest Heal	Restoring fire resilience and stabilizing carbon	Active	3,941.39		FKU
Fire Plan	Sandcreek Pre Suppression Line	Complete in Maint.	1.56		FKU
CFIP	Shaver Ranch IV CFIP 2023	Active	1,171.94		FKU
VMP	Shaver South 2020 VMP	Active	897.76		FKU
Fire Plan	Shaver Springs Fuel Break	Complete in Maint.	151.91		FKU
Fire Plan	Sky Harbor Pre Suppression Line	Complete in Maint.		5.64	FKU
CFIP	The Cedars CFIP 2014	Complete	121.41		FKU
Fire Plan	The High Sierra Front Country Fuel Breaks Pro	Active	748.99		FKU
CFIP	TKO CFIP 2023	Active	541.17		FKU
Fire Plan	Tollhouse Fire Center Reduction Project	Active	11.81		FKU
CFIP	Verduzco CFIP 2023	Complete	123.14		FKU
VMP	VMP Comstock	Complete in Maint.	236.82		FKU
VMP	VMP SCE Shaver Lake	Active	831.55	5.53	FKU
VMP	VMP White Deer	Active	369.97		FKU
Cal VTP	VTP Sequoia Lake	Active	93.11		FKU
Cal VTP	VTP Shaver Ranch	Active	55.01		FKU
CFIP	White CFIP 2022	Complete	85.09		FKU
Fire Plan	White Deer Fuel Break	Complete in Maint.	227.34		FKU

Fire Plan	Wildfire Preparedness Program	Active		FKU
CFIP	Wintersteen CFIP 2021	Complete	90.05	FKU
		Totals	64,492.21	34.92

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

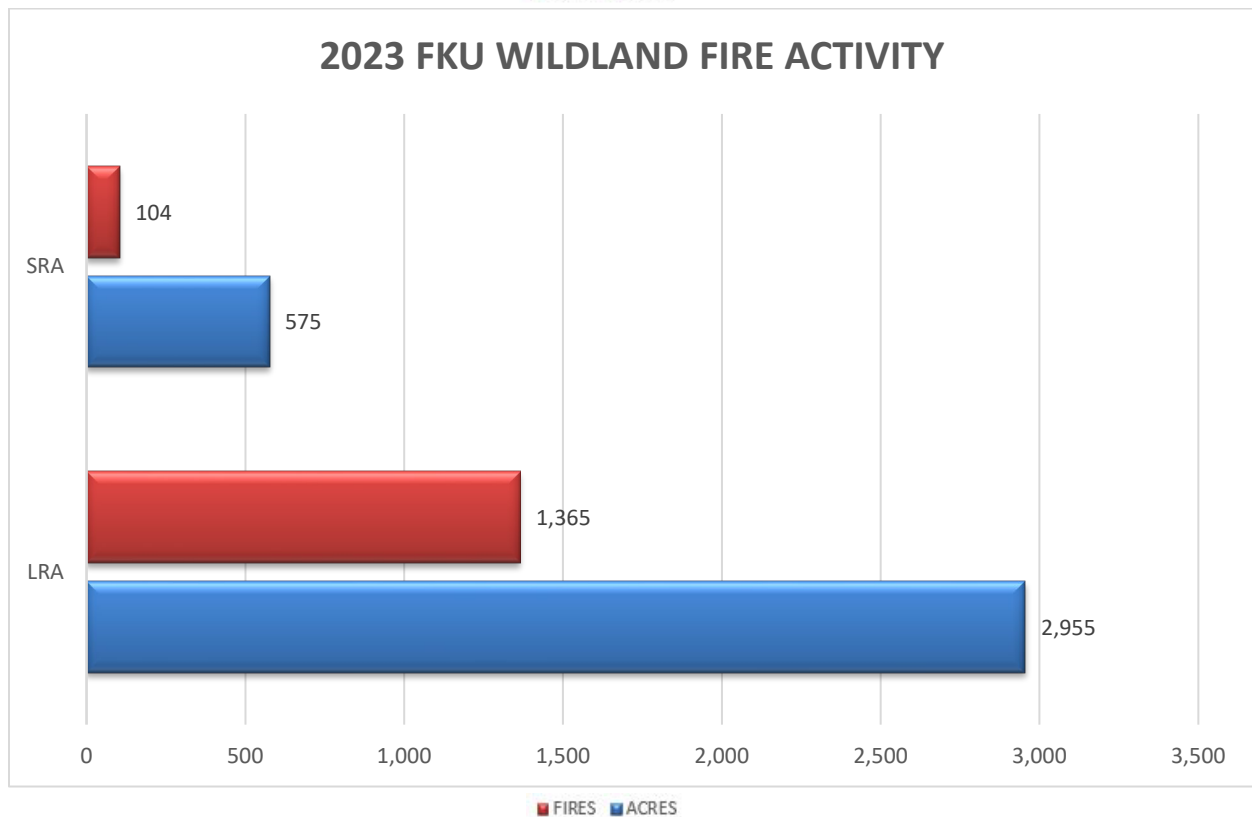
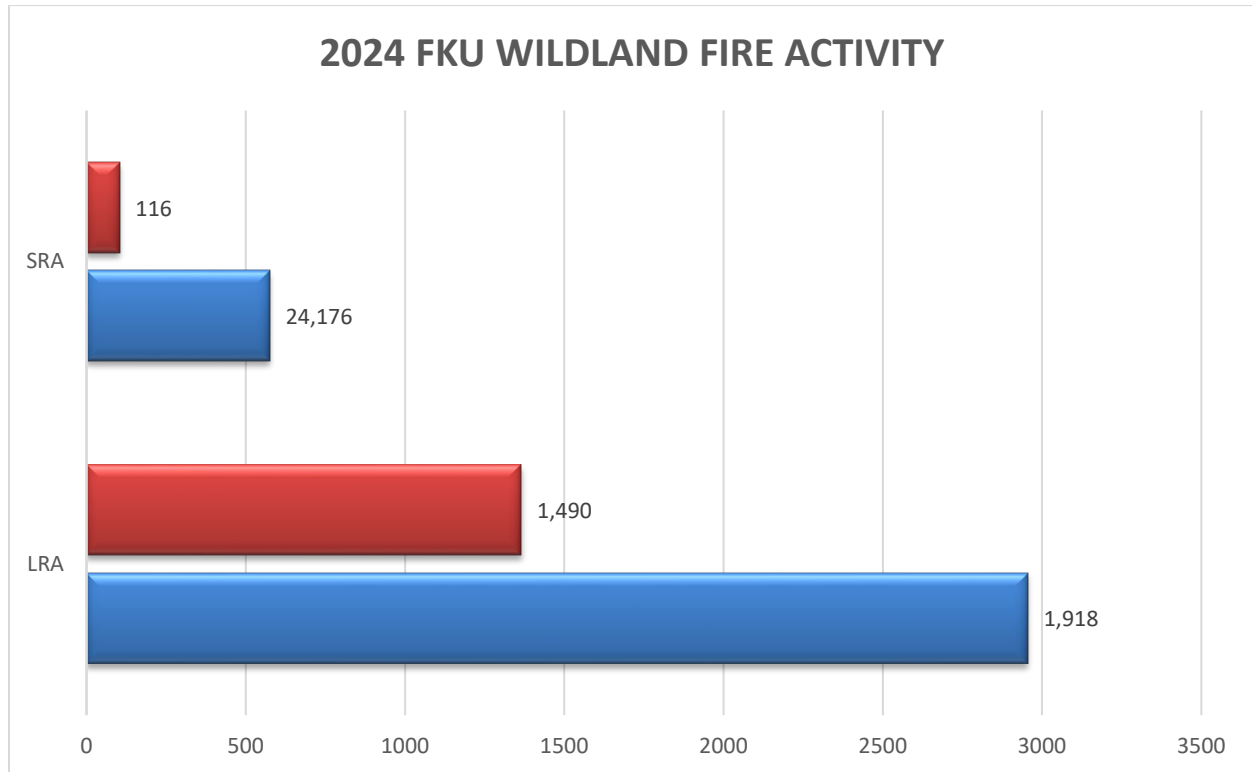
The Goals from the 2024 California Strategic Fire Plan:

- Attract, hire, and retain quality employees.
- Ensure all employees understand how the Department's various programs and job duties contribute towards efficiently achieving the CALFIRES mission.
- Promote a culture that values equitable access, embraces diverse backgrounds and experiences, and actively removes barriers to cultivate a more inclusive environment.
- Leverage technology to modernize internal human resources processes and create efficient and effective innovative solutions to promote, support, and enhance employee experience.
- Strengthening the Department's physical and digital infrastructure and streamline equitable access to information across ore services.
- Identify core capabilities and strengthen operational capacity.

The Fresno-Kings Unit management intends to support this Fire Plan and make it successful. With the limited availability of funds, creative ways to accomplish fuel reduction projects will remain a top priority. We will work proactively with stakeholders to secure funds to implement our priority projects. We will also focus on the maintenance of completed projects; this step will allow benefit from the strategic value of projects for the present and years to come. Converting Notice of Exemption projects to CalVTP projects is a high priority in 2025 to allow additional fuel break maintenance methods such as prescribed herbivory and herbicide treatment. Fire Control Road maintenance is prioritized, and a maintenance schedule has been developed. We will continue to collect, analyze, and prepare data to assess communities at risk for those that are most in need of fuel reduction, fuel breaks, and prescribed burning. We will continue our active participation with the two local fire safe councils. The Unit strives to educate the public on fire prevention and incorporating fire resistant landscaping and construction to their property, as well as hazardous fuel reduction to keep their lives, homes, property, and natural resources safe from catastrophic wildfires, and we will continue our outreach efforts to the communities in the State Responsibility Area with our Defensive Space Inspection program and other public outreach efforts.

We will continue to build on our commitment and capabilities to pre-plan for emergency situations and to enhance our critical infrastructure protection plan in high-risk areas by creating and producing well-coordinated and informed pre-attack plans.

APPENDIX C: IGNITIONS DATA



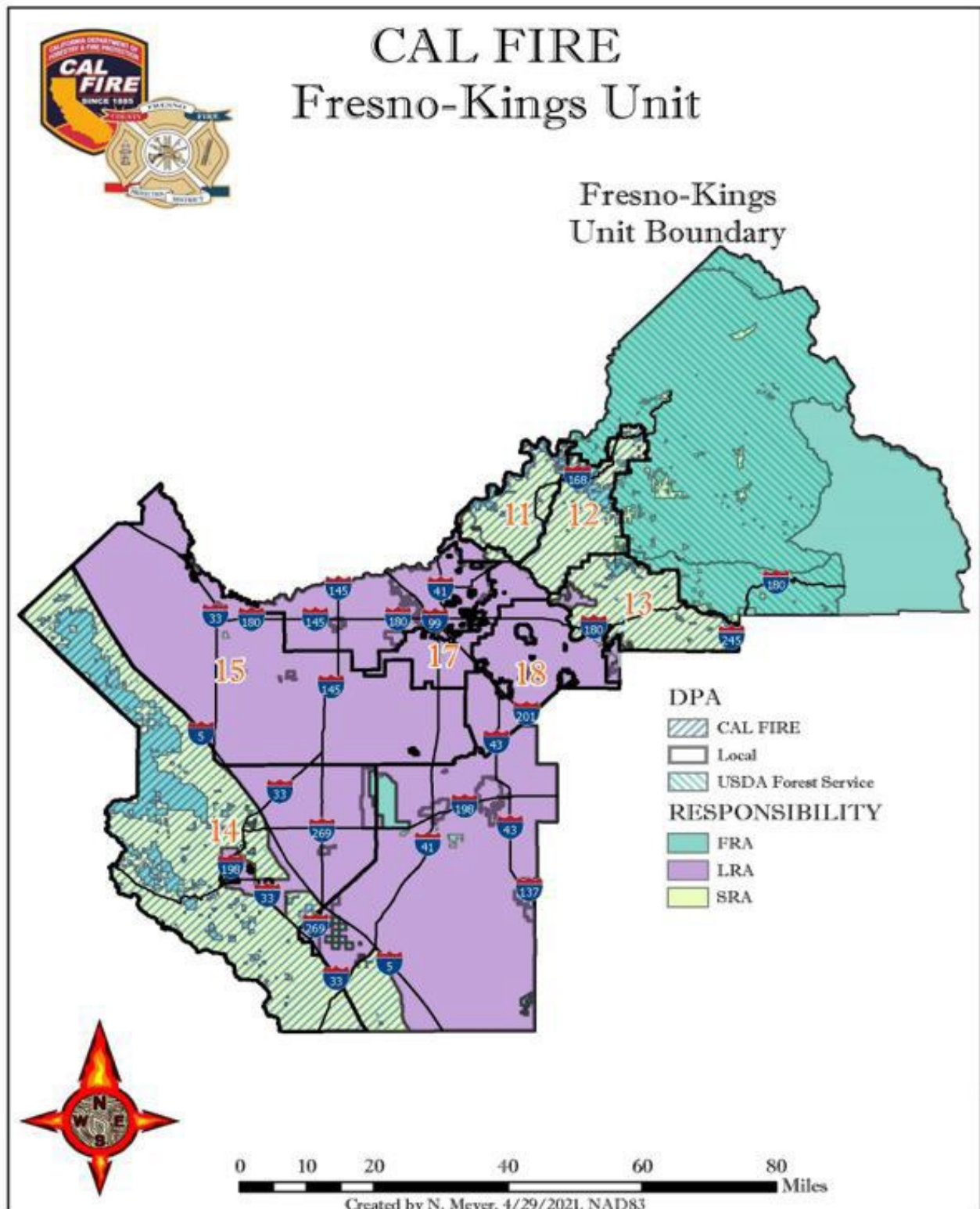
2024 SRA WILDLAND IGNITIONS

Cause	Total
Arson	2
Debris and Open Burning	6
Equipment	19
Exposure - Other	5
Exposure - Vehicle	3
Misuse of Fire by a Minor	1
Natural	14
Other	7
Power Generation/Transmission/Distribution	8
Undetermined	15
Vehicle	14
(blank)	22
Grand Total	116

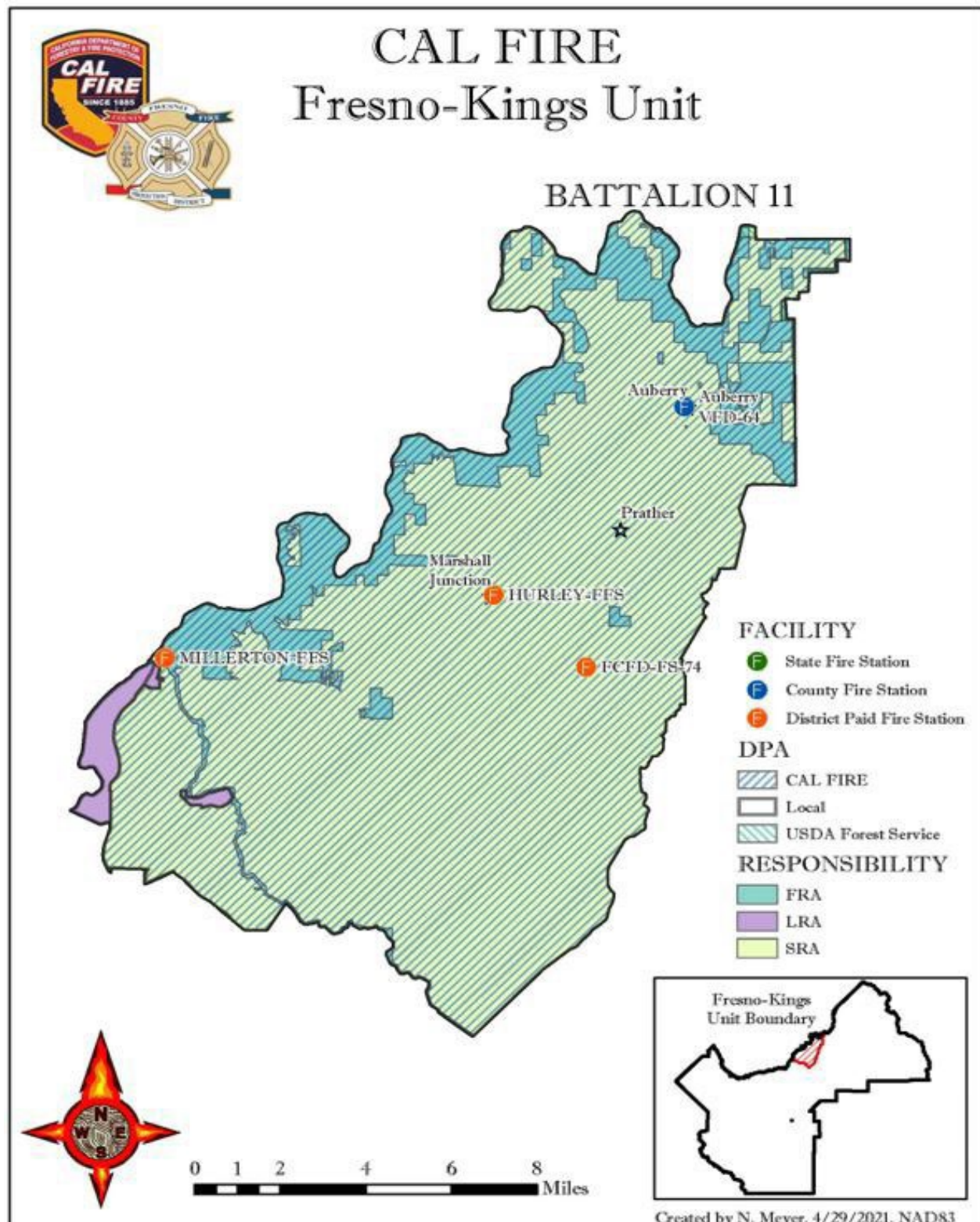
2024 LRA WILDLAND IGNITIONS

Cause	Total
Arson	73
Debris and Open Burning	53
Equipment	53
Exposure - Other	5
Exposure - Structure	4
Exposure - Vehicle	4
Misuse of Fire by a Minor	12
Natural	12
Other	36
Power Generation/Transmission/Distribution	26
Recreation and Ceremony	4
Smoking	5
Undetermined	133
Vehicle	54
(blank)	1016
Grand Total	1490

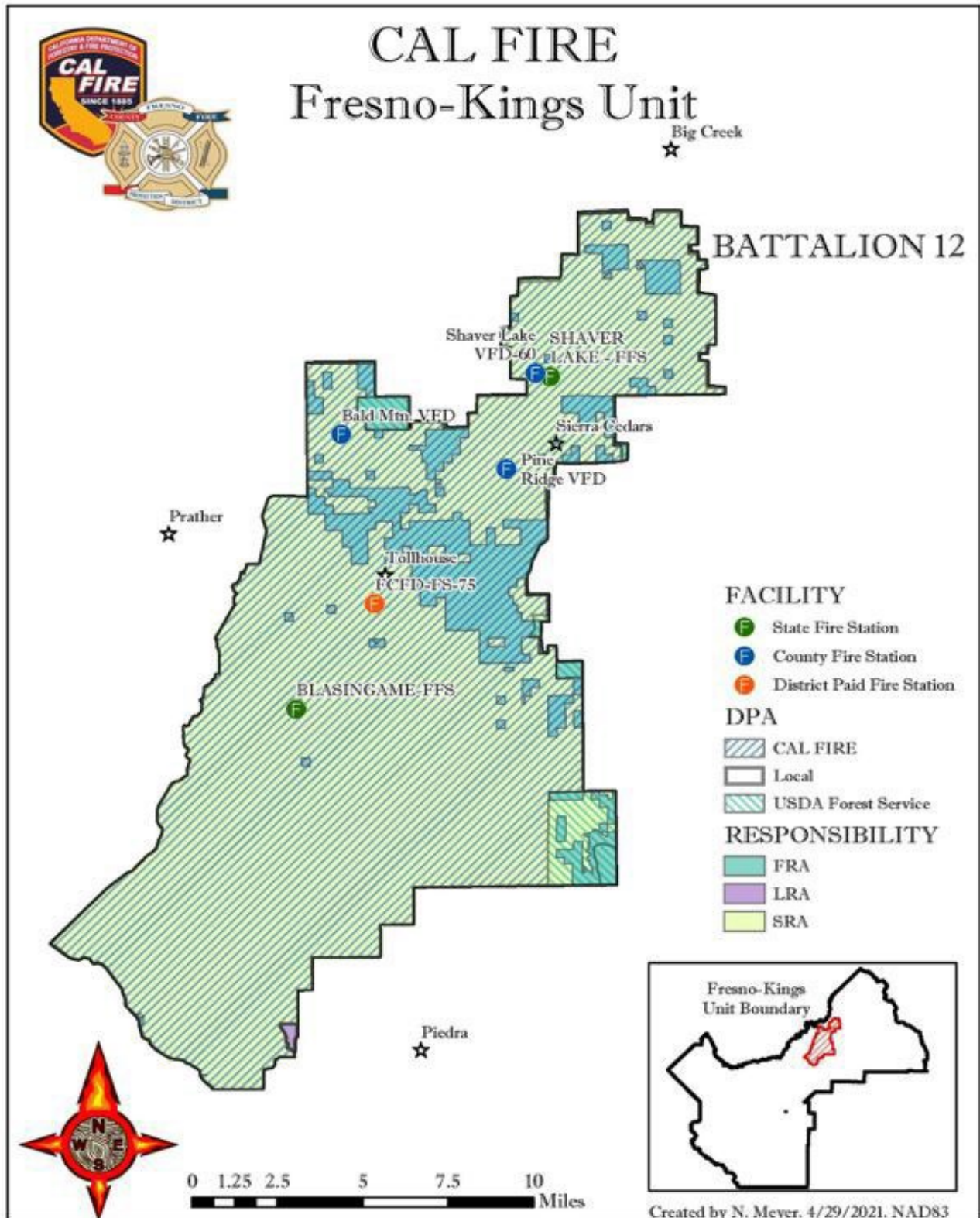
EXHIBITS: MAPS: Figure A: Unit Maps



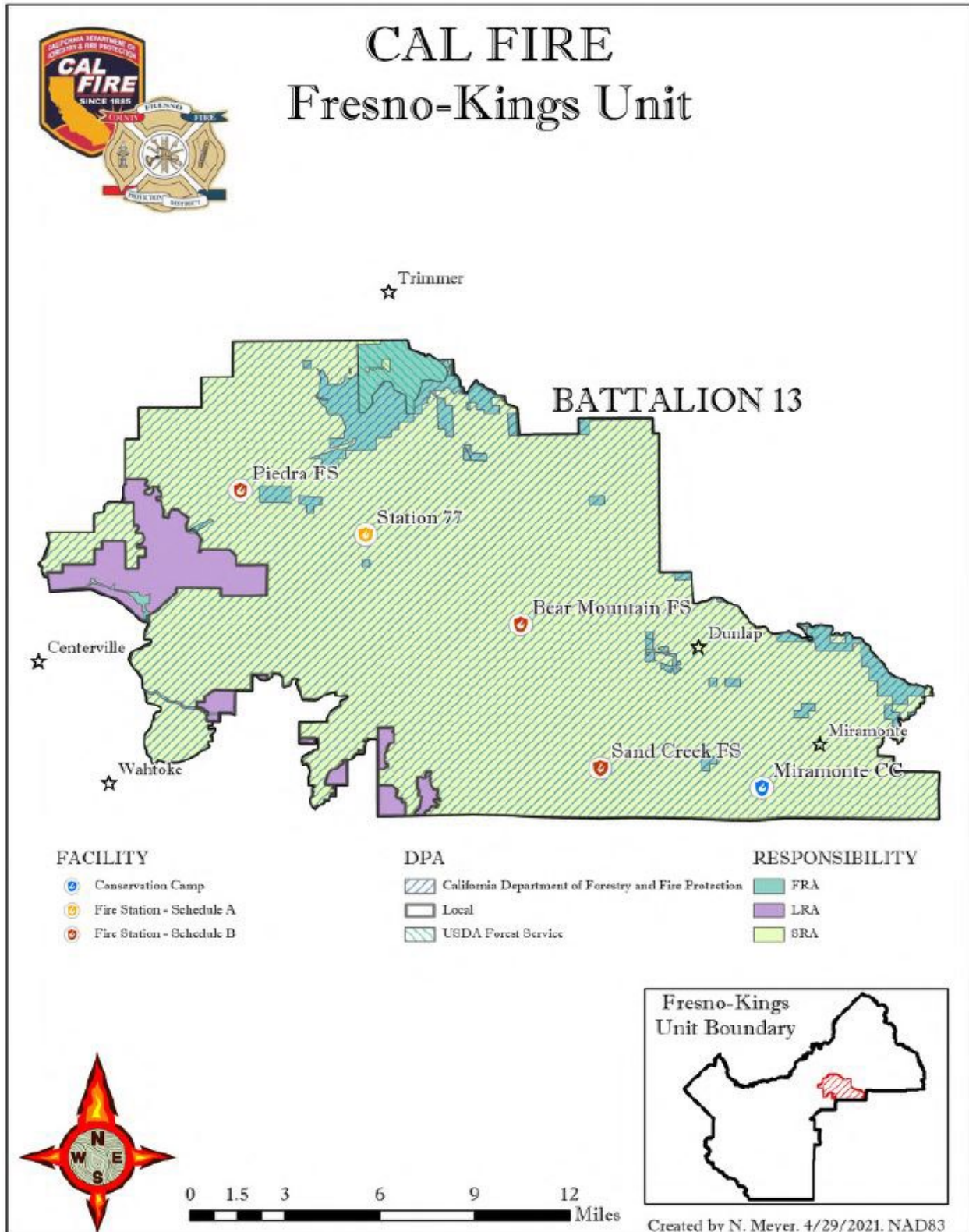
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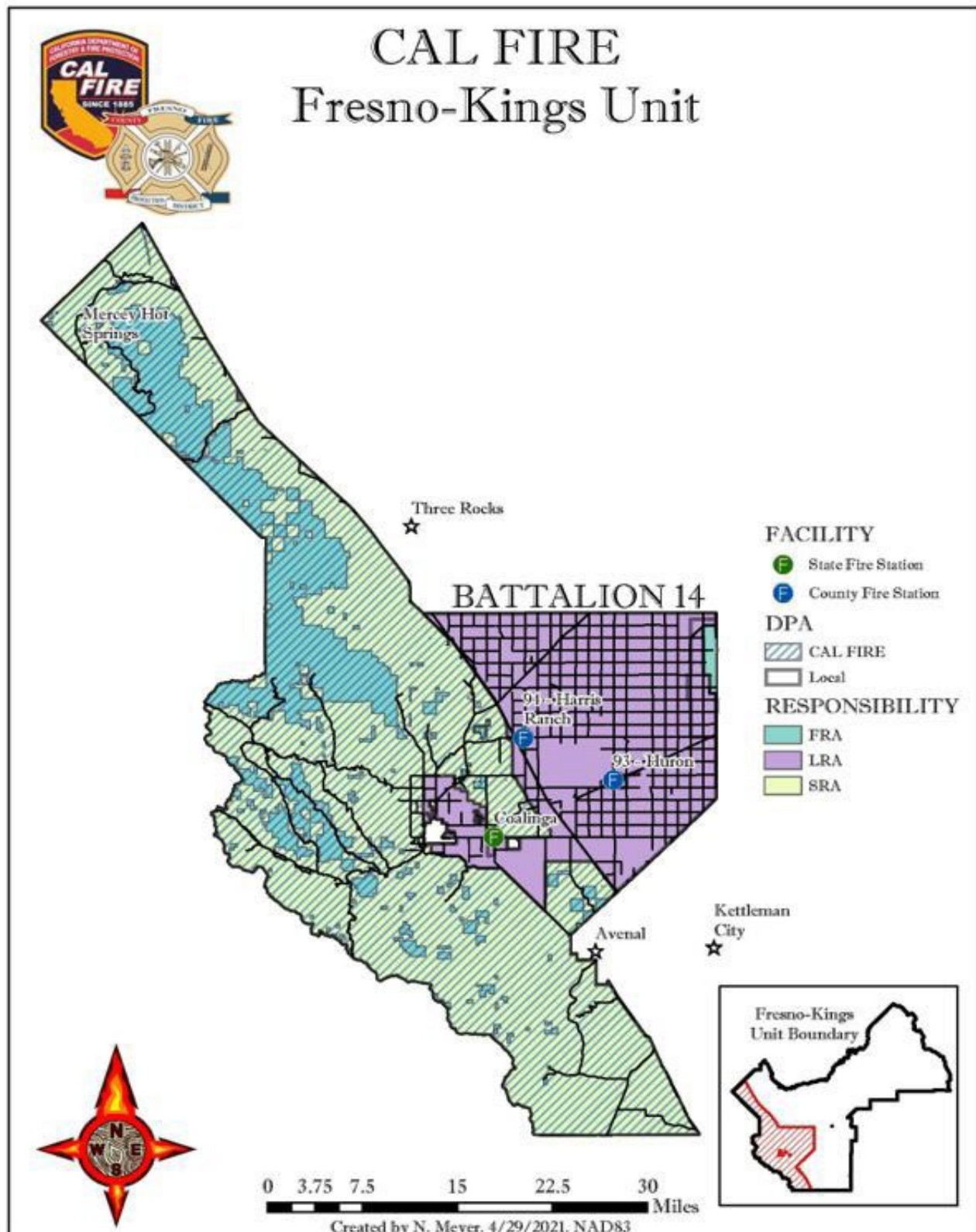
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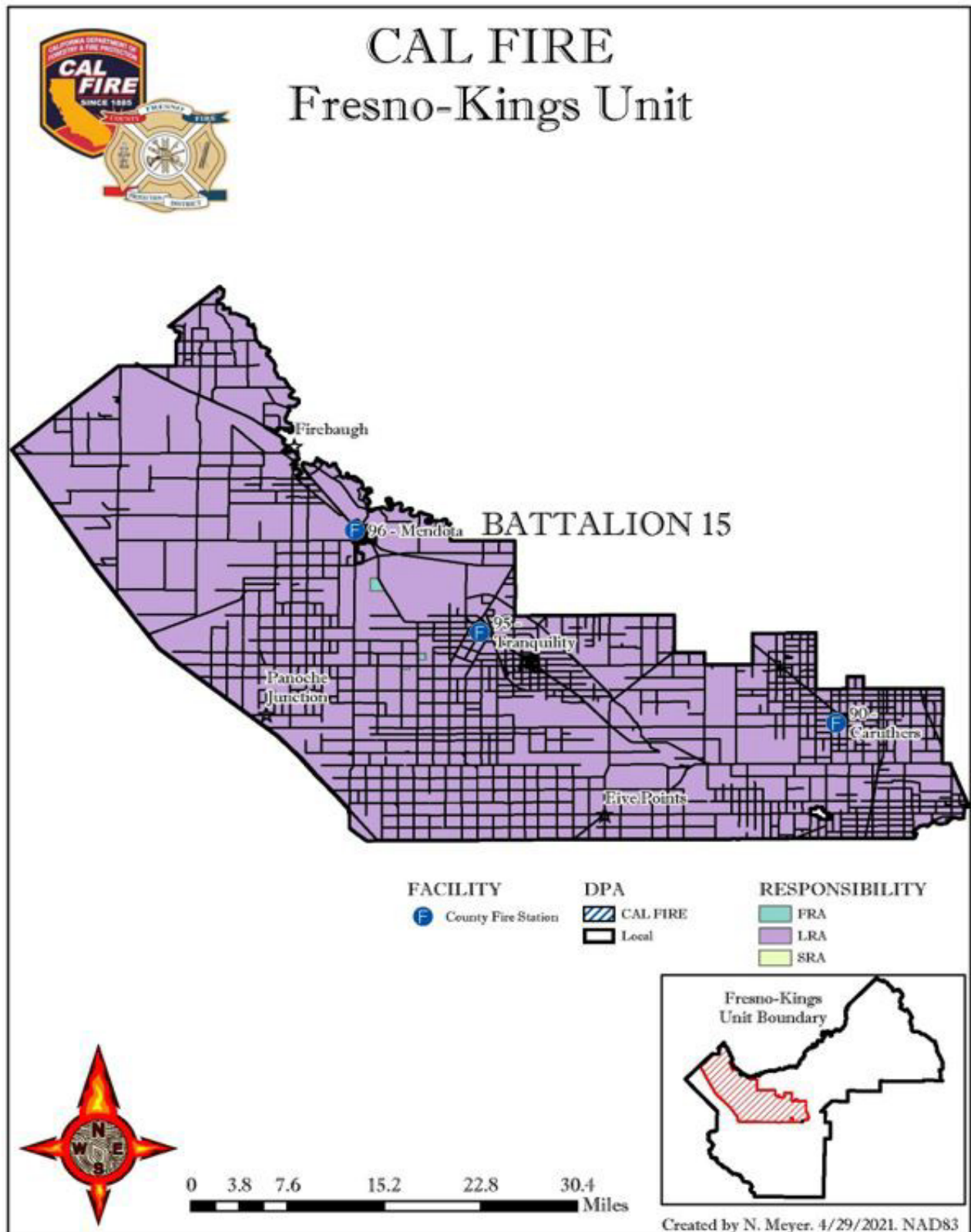


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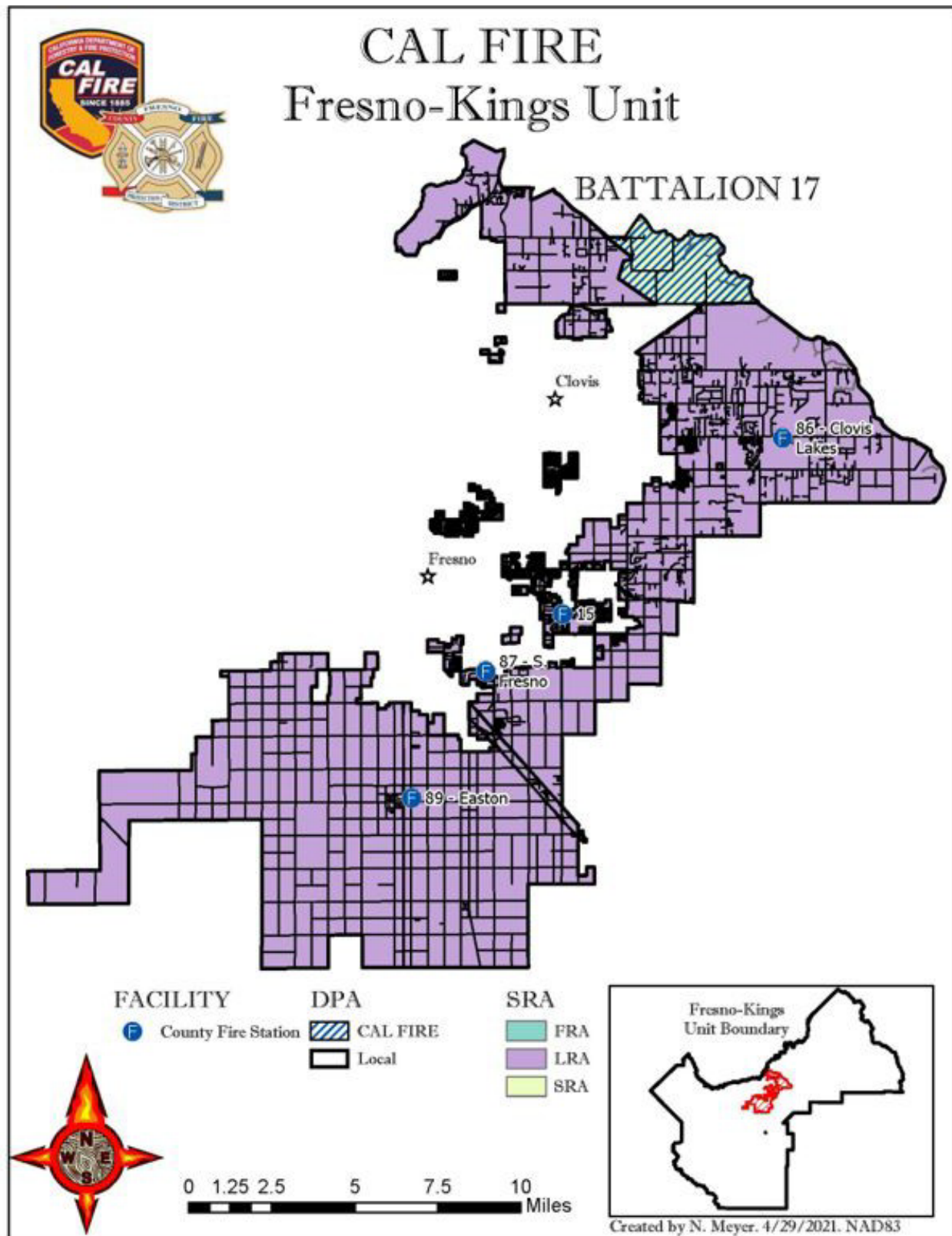


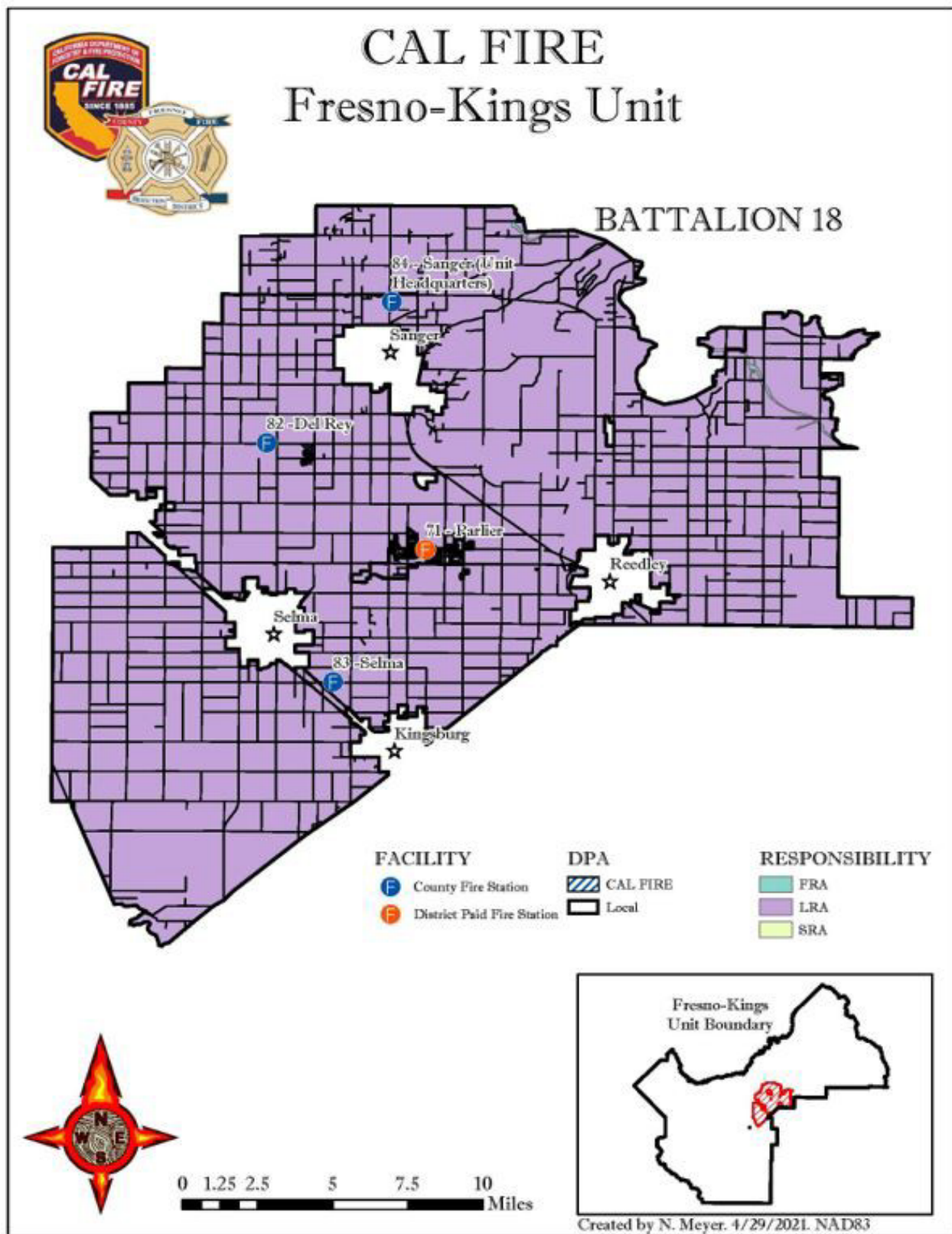
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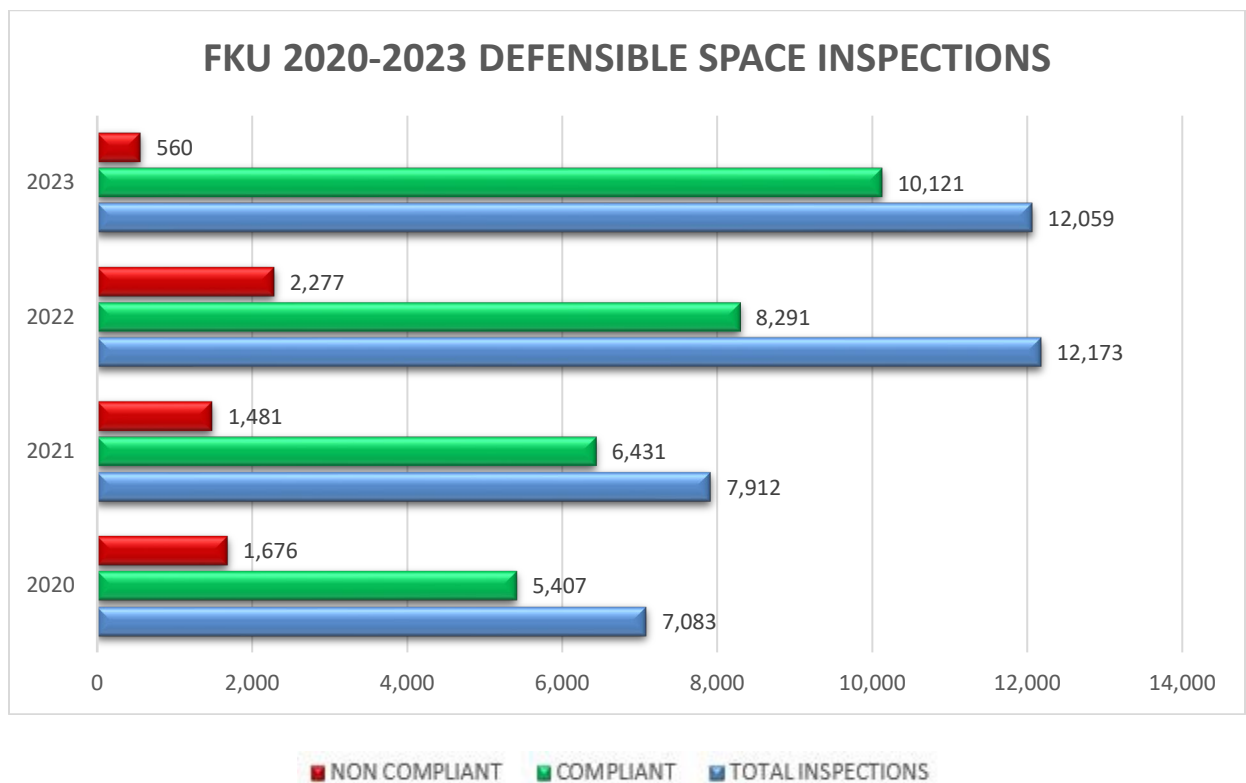
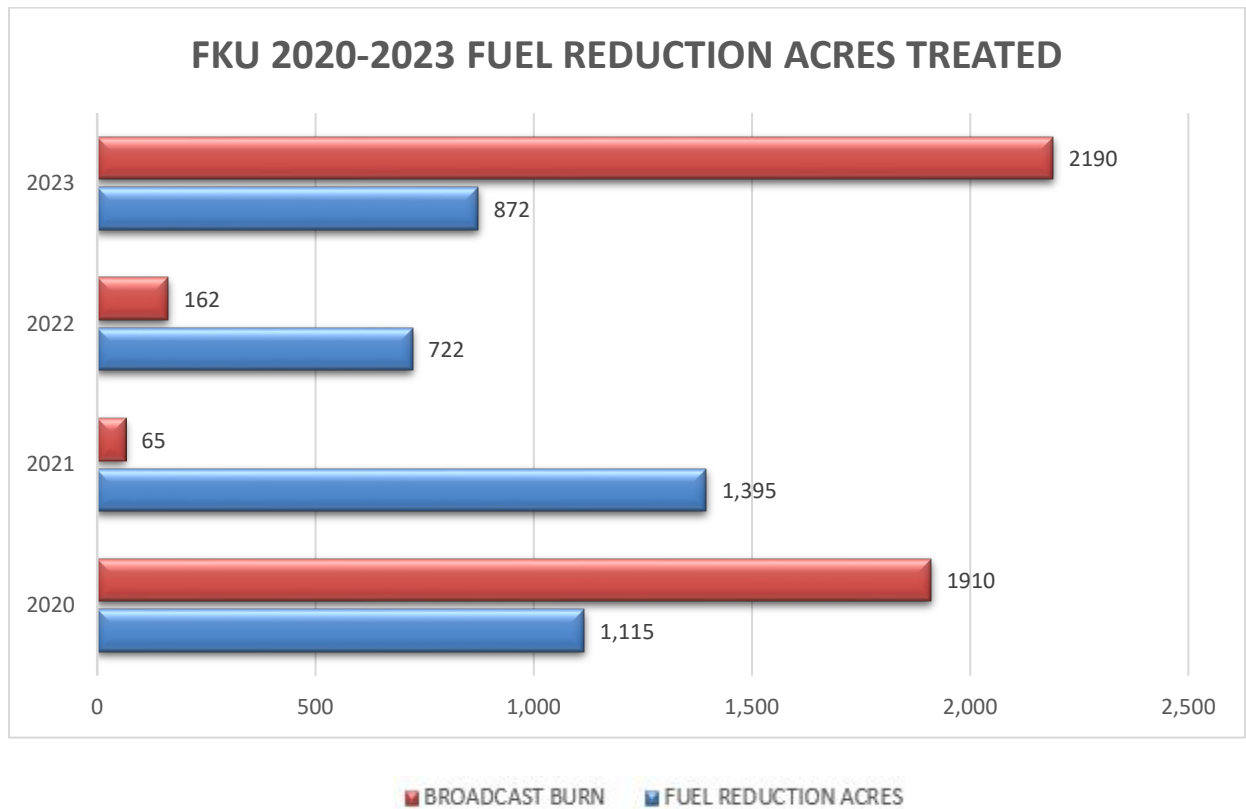


Battalion 71





2020-2023 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTING



ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING (2024)

Fire Planning

During the 2024 season, the Fresno-Kings Unit continued its dedication to fuel reduction by pile burning, broadcast burning, mastication, manual thinning, tree felling, biomass removal, and piling current projects. The location and prioritization of 2024 FKU fuels projects remained focused on Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFSZ), Unit VMP's CalVTP's and assisting our NGO, Federal (USFS), and private partners on fuel reduction work in the Shaver Lake community and Pinehurst community. Working in this capacity takes a coordinated effort by multiple agencies as well as full support from the Unit Executive Staff and unit resources.

Work was completed by CALFIRE fuels crews, crews from Tollhouse (Task Force Rattlesnake), Miramonte CDCR crews, CCC Mid Valley crew, CALFIRE engines and HFEO's operating tree mortality equipment and private contractors. In 2022 the Unit moved Task Force Rattlesnake crews from the Millerton Fire Station to the Sierra Elementary School in Tollhouse – now named the Tollhouse Fire Center. Efforts continue to provide barracks, training rooms and a full Fire Center at this location. The Tollhouse Fire Center currently is home to four Task Force Rattlesnake crews. Having that kind of workforce available to the Unit for fuels reduction, fuel break, and RX projects proved to be highly beneficial.

The Fresno County Wildfire Task Force, formally known as the wildfire Prevention and Recovery Coordination Group and the Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (FCTMTF), continues to be an impactful group for collaboration. In 2024 the group made progress working with other groups to coordinate efforts and use each other's expertise more fully. Several Wildfire Prevention Grants were completed and operated on which were beneficial in opening strategic roadways for safe ingress and egress for property owners and firefighters and as fuel breaks by the Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council and the County of Fresno. A large fuel break was nearly completed to protect the Southern California Edison Dinkey tract and neighboring SRA properties.

The Unit continues looking for new VMP/ VTP's to establish and maintain our current fuel breaks while actively searching for opportunities to implement new fuel breaks, The Unit is committed to implementing the goals of the 2024 Strategic Fire Plan for California. The drought of 2012-2015 and the subsequent large scale tree mortality highlight the need to manage the natural environment for increased resilience; improve buildings and infrastructure that they are more fire-resistant; and inform the public to be more aware of and responsive to the threats of wildland fire and aware of the benefits of prescribed burning; and work collaboratively with local, state, federal, tribal, NGO, and private partnerships to meet these goals.

Investigations and Enforcement

In 2024 the Fresno-Kings Prevention Bureau responded to approximately 448 calls for service ranging from fire and law enforcement responses, to assisting other law enforcement agencies within the State Responsibility Area and the Fresno County Fire

Protection District. Of those total 448 calls, 205 of them officers investigated 54 structure fires, 110 wildland fires, 11 vehicle fires, 20 refuge fires, 6 AG products, and 6 other agencies assist. Officers responded to approximately 243 calls related to law enforcement, 46 citations were issued, 8 total arrests: 5 arson arrests and 3 arrests were related to other crimes or warrants.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

The Public Resource Code 4291 (LE-100) Inspection Program continues to make great progress in the number of inspections; and educating the public on how to create their defensible space in hopes of reducing homeowner risk and damage of advancing wildfire. The unit has maintained a high goal of inspections for the past several years. The program was staffed with four defensible space inspectors which created a coordinated inspection program with the support of field personnel (station personnel and Battalion Chiefs). Personnel completed 14,420 LE-100 inspections, which includes second inspections. More than 56 Public Resources Code 4290/County Ordinance 15.60, inspections took place in the Unit. During these inspections, such items as roadway length and width, fuel modification, maintenance of defensible space, and water tanks were inspected to confirm compliance with the regulations by the field Battalion Chiefs. The Fire District Protection and Planning office monitors new construction and strives to maintain the safety of the public and their property. The services involved the preparation of 129 conditioning letters to the Fresno County Building Department, held 89 consultation meetings; Protection and Planning staff conducted 384 plan reviews, and our Field Inspectors conducted a total of 941 inspections related to the new construction of both residential and commercial projects, underground systems, new business inspections, local jail, court inspections, and 47 retail fireworks stands.

The fire inspectors continue to maintain an aggressive weed abatement program in the Local Responsibility Areas, where station personnel conduct the initial inspections of all parcels and additional work to gain compliance by the public is conducted by this office. Within the Fire District, we conducted 2602 inspections, and approximately 975 violation notices were issued.

Cost Recovery

During the 2024 calendar year, the Fresno Kings Unit submitted 4 reports to Civil Cost Recovery for fires within the SRA. The cause of these fires was a result of negligence and or a violation of law, therefore the party responsible was issued a letter of demand related to extinguishment and investigation of the fires.

Education and Information

Public information and Education remain vital tools in promoting fire safety, enhancing community awareness, and reducing disaster risks. These efforts foster transparency and provide valuable insight into the department's operations, strengthening our connection with the communities we serve. Through purposeful outreach, our Public Education Department has led the charge in educating and empowering community members of all

ages about fire hazards at home and work, as well as essential safety practices. Our programs emphasize fire prevention, the importance of escape plans, and the critical role of early detection systems, all of which contribute to better emergency preparedness, reduced fire risks, and improved community health and safety. In 2024, the Fresno-Kings Unit made a remarkable impact by participating in over 110 community events. This included more than 20 career days, 14 formal fire safety presentations, engaging over 900 students from kindergarten through 8th grade. We also participated in key events such as the 9/11 Memorial, Breakfast with Blue, and collaborations with Valley Children's Hospital and the Community Regional Medical Burn Center. Additionally, our department took part in various parades, carnivals, fire station tours, and trunk-or-treats, contributing to more than 5,000 hours dedicated to fire prevention. Our largest event, the Big Fresno Fair, drew over 400,000 attendees during its 12-day run. Over our four Educational Days, we reached more than 20,000 students from across the valley. These interactions provide opportunities for the community to learn about fire prevention firsthand, through educational content, personal engagement, and professional demonstrations, providing an in-depth look into our department's unwavering commitment to public safety and education. Last year our communities faced significant wildland fire threats, including the June Lightning Complex and the Boone Fire, as well as several other county-wide incidents.

Throughout these emergencies, our Public Information Office played a crucial role in disseminating real-time situational updates, incident reports, evacuation warnings, and orders. By leveraging our sturdy partnerships with the Fresno County Sheriff's office and the office of Emergency Services, we helped ensure the safety of Fresno County residents. To meet the increasing demands of daily operations and emergency incident reporting, our Public Information Office has been restructured to include two full-time Fire Captains and a Battalion Chief, enhancing our capacity to support both routine and emergency communications.

Vegetation Management

The 2024 Fuel reduction season was productive with more acres put under management. Vegetation Management Program (VMP), California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP), and CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) were all utilized in 2024 and encompassed a diverse set of projects developed for rangeland improvement, fuels reduction, firefighter and equipment operator training, roadside brushing for safe ingress and egress, tree mortality mitigation, and environmental protection. All Fresno-Kings fuels reduction projects are consistent with the priorities described in this plan.

Fuel reduction efforts have been successful on many projects in the Unit ranging from roadside brushing and pile burning on the Bear Mountain Road, and broadcast burning on the Gun Club NOE, and Edison VMP. Mechanical thinning, hand thinning, and pile burning have occurred on many other projects in the unit including Sequoia Lake VTP, Comstock VMP, White Deer VMP, Shaver South VMP, Musick NOE, Edison's Dinkey Tract VMP, and the Tollhouse Fire Center NOE.

In addition to all the work by the California National Guard Crews, Fuels Crew 4349, CCC crews, and the CDCR Crews who all combined efforts into the overall successes

mentioned above, we had contractor crews assist on a few projects in the unit as well. Our contractor working on the Musick VMP made great progress in clearing dead fuels left from the Creek Fire along Auberry Road and Sharon Woods Road.

Multiple prescribed burns are planned for the fall/winter 2025 and 2026 spring seasons. A priority annual spring burn is planned again for the Gun Club VMP in Battalion 11. Additionally, we are planning new prescribed burn entries on the Sequoia Lake VTP, White Deer VMP, Edison VMP's, the new Oak Ridge VTP, and Miramonte Camp NOE. We were able to burn acres in 2024 and are in preparation for approximately 2,000 to 3,000 acres to broadcast burn this year. Several Fire Control Roads now have NOEs in place and the critical roads are being cleared and graded including Elwood-Kincade, Greeley, Hog Mountain, Badger-Miramonte, Juniper Ridge, Tar Canyon, and Mud Run. New projects being worked on or in planning stages this year are Dinkey Creek Road VTP, Blue Rush VTP, Bear Creek VTP, Upper Millwood VTP, Pond VTP, West 198, Cressman South, Shaver Springs, and Stillwell Fire Control Road. Several existing NOEs 2019 Governor's Emergency Projects, and new project areas are being combined into two large VTPs: the Jose Basin VTP which includes Shaver West, Barron 40, Rock Haven, Musick NOE, and Old Pine Ridge; and the Pine Ridge VTP including Beal NOEs, Alder Heights NOE, Acorn Sugarloaf NOE, Meadow Lakes NOE, Old Bretz NOE, and Cressman's NOE.

EDISON VMP



Volunteerism

The Fresno-Kings Unit Volunteers in Prevention (VIP's) program currently has four volunteers that did assist with school programs, career days, and the Fresno Home & Garden show, and the Big Fresno Fair.

SCHOOL EVENTS



Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation

The Fresno-Kings Unit continues to collaborate with CALFIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), local cooperators, and various CALFIRE programs to assist with data collection techniques, information presentation and dissemination, landscape mortality assessment, and site-specific fuel reduction mitigations. The unit's ground mitigation response that began in 2015 and increased in pace and scale in 2019, continued in 2024. Each fuel break was strategically created to reduce fuel loading in and around communities at risk of fire danger. The fuel breaks are constructed in a manner which makes access and egress much safer during an emergency. In the winter and spring of 2024, the unit made it a priority to get the piles on the fuel breaks burnt and ready for the upcoming fire season. With the addition of the Environmental Specialist position in the unit we have begun designing a fuel monitoring program. This will include evaluating existing fuel's treatments, planned treatments, and monitoring the effects of prescribed fire. The Unit implemented these techniques on a VMP in Shaver Lake with our partners at Edison. Pre and post treatment monitoring by FKU Environmental Specialist showed that the prescribed fire treatments on this VMP effectively changed the Fuel type from a Fuel Model 13 (Heavy Logging Slash) to a Fuel Model 2 (Timber grass and understory) which dramatically reduced the potential fire behavior.

These pre and post treatment monitoring results were identified throughout our fuel reduction projects within the timber fuel type in 2022. In addition to the projects in the timber, our oak woodland fuel reduction projects had similar results. We converted oak woodland fuel types from Fuel Model 5 (Brush) to Fuel Model 1 (short grass) which dramatically reduces fire behavior in this type of plant community. An additional finding was that fuel treatments in oak woodland habitats significantly reduced the abundance of the invasive grasses and thick thatch allowing native botanicals to flourish.

Like past years, the unit supported an all-hands-on deck approach to getting the remaining piles burned and the fuel breaks fully operational. Three state engines, four California National Guard crews, Fresno's fuels crew 4349, Mid Valley 1 (CCC crew), two HFEO's running excavators and skid steers to bone pile (push in) large log deck piles, as well as Miramonte crews, all had a part in ensuring this goal was met. Several of our fuel breaks which were created through the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement with the U.S.F.S. and spanned across SRA and FRA were burnt in a joint effort between the two agencies. The unit continued its partnership with Southern California Edison (SCE) and facilitated several broadcast burns on one of our VMP projects, with many more planned for the future. The unit is proud of the continued healthy working relationship between the two agencies which allows them to provide a higher level of protection for the citizens who work, travel through, and live in the communities at risk within the County of Fresno.

SLASH PILES ON THE GRAND BLUFFS FUEL BREAK IN SHAVER



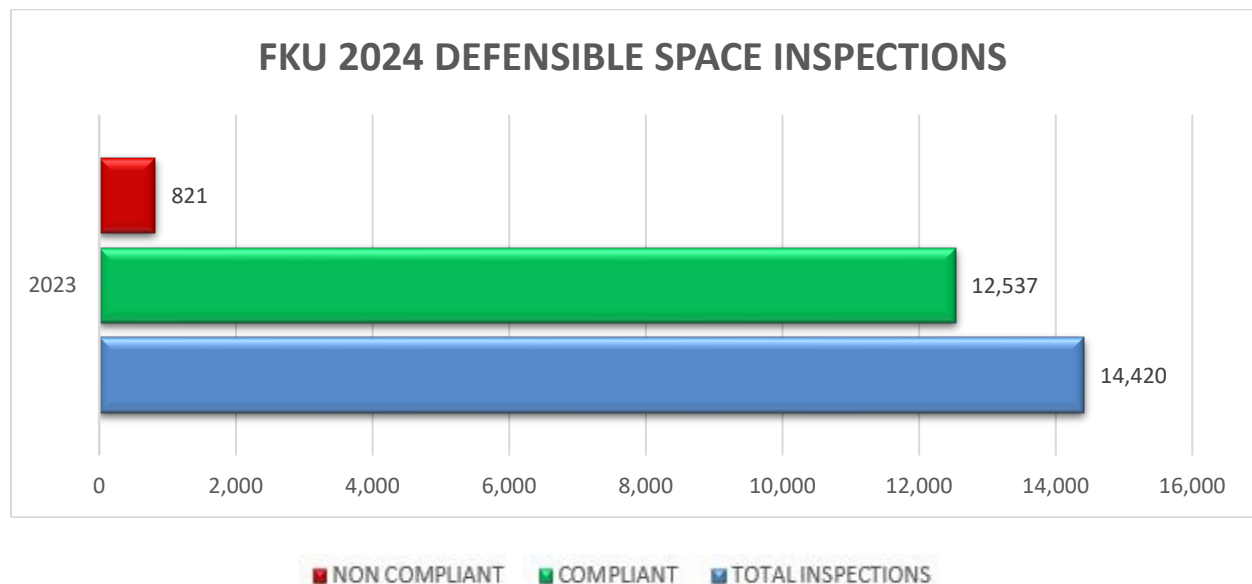
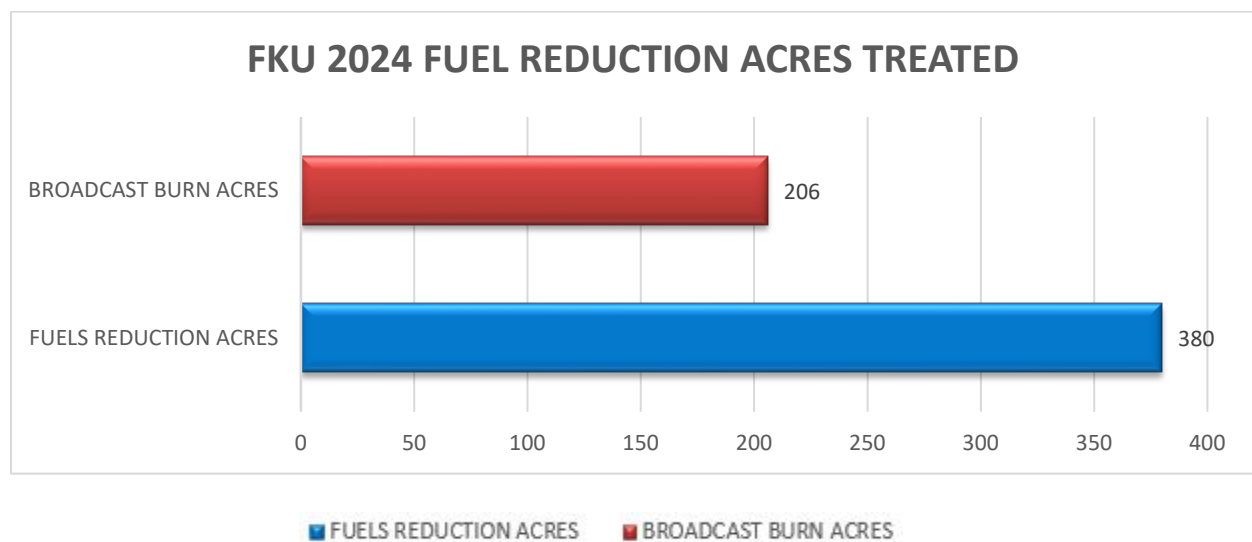
SLASH PILES ON THE GRAND BLUFF FUEL BREAK IN SHAVER



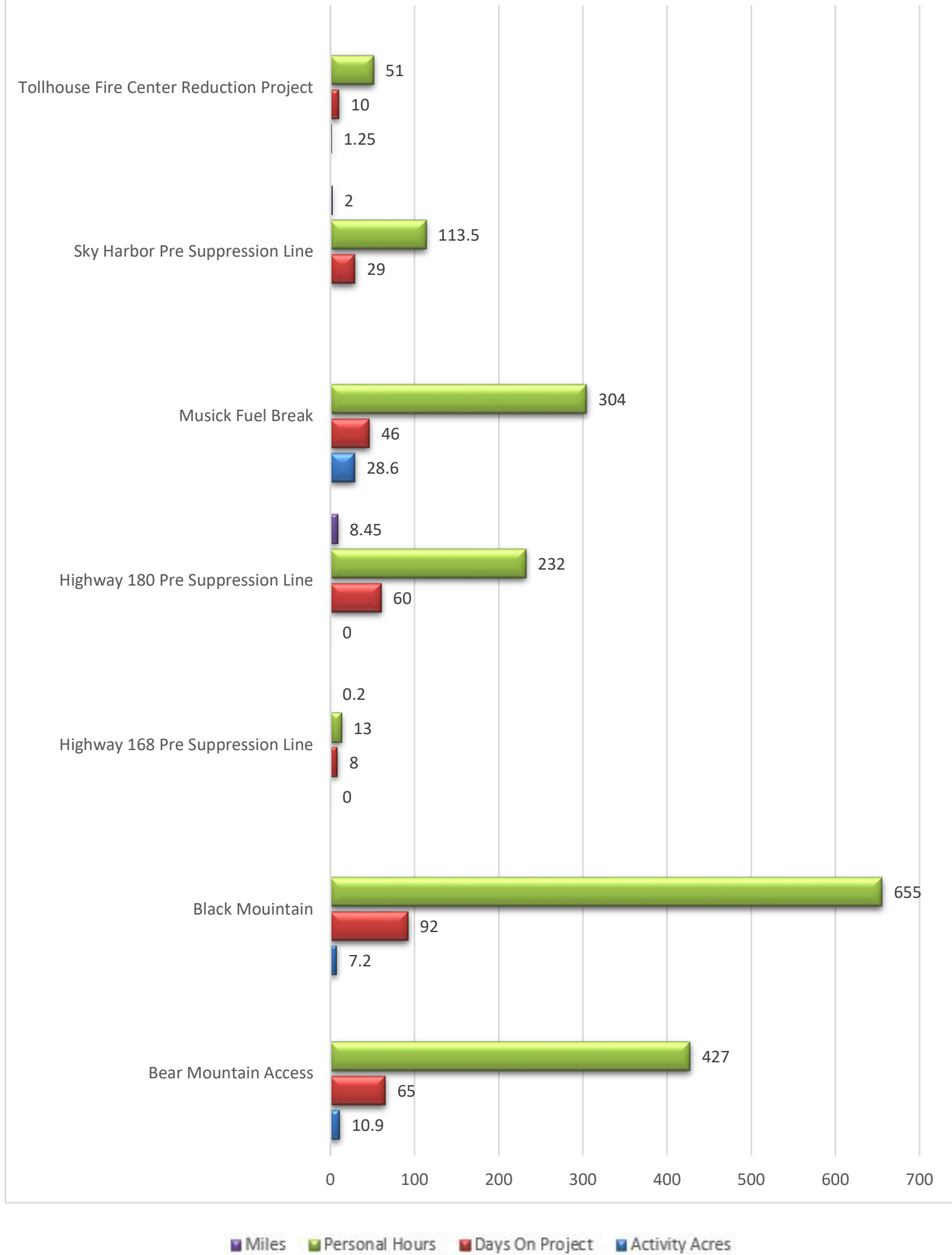
Additional fuel breaks have been identified and are ready for implementation through the planning process. In addition to Fuel Breaks, the Unit has several VMP/VTP's shovel ready and will start prep work in 2025. Some of these VMP/VTP's are the Auberry Gun Range VMP, and the Shaver Ranch VTP. Assessment and planning efforts continue for long term fuel reduction needs. A critical component of the unit's total response includes close collaboration with our cooperators. The unit works with the U.S.F.S., Local Fire Safe Councils, Utility Companies like SCE, and Fresno County to prioritize tree removal and fuels reduction work and the utilization of our collective resources directly adjacent to communities, ingress and egress routes and infrastructure.

The following graphs and charts represent fuel reduction efforts and activities completed by the Fresno-Kings Unit in 2024. These totals are pulled from Cal Mapper and represent all project efforts.

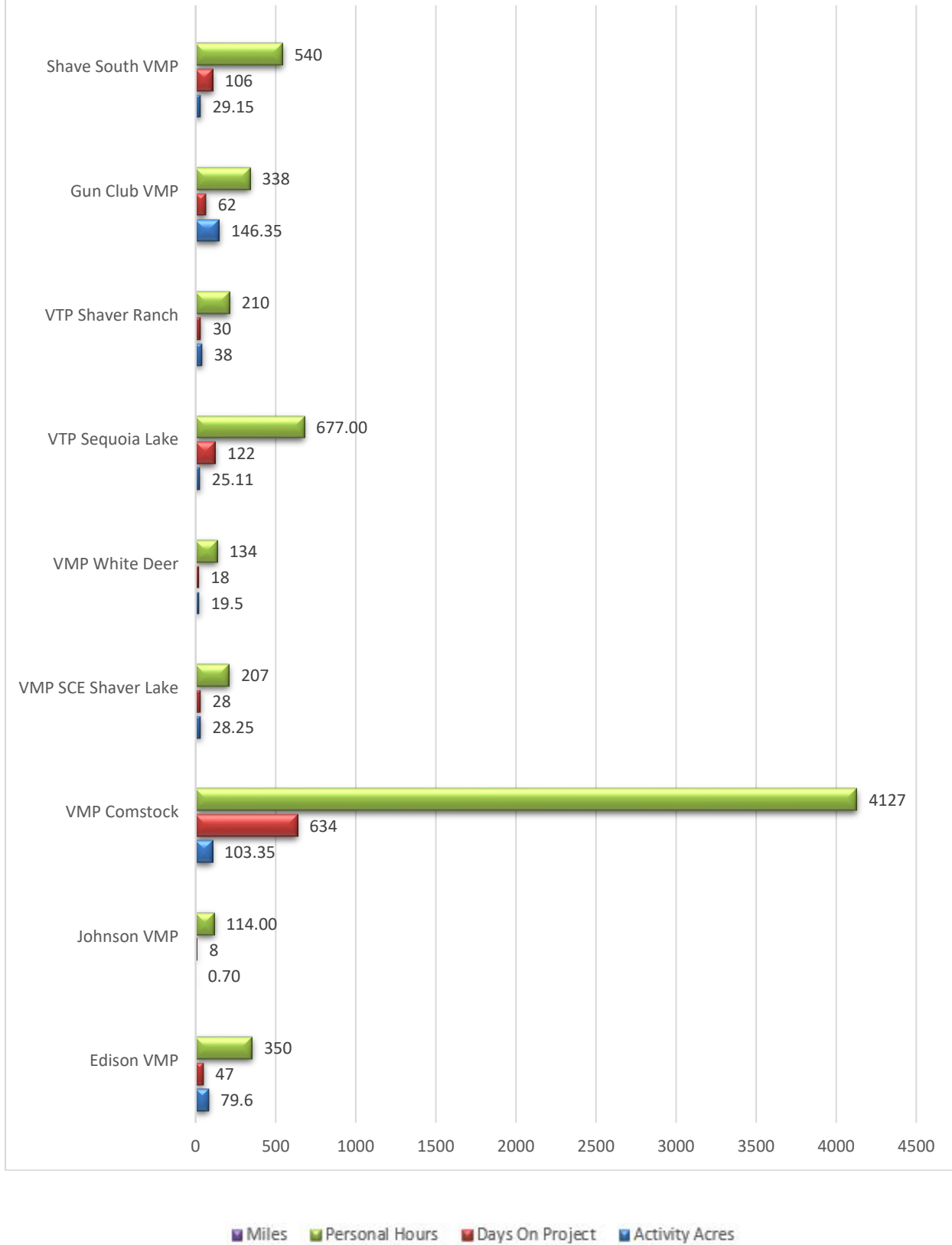
2024 FUEL REDUCTION EFFORTS BY PROJECT



FKU 2024 Fuel Reduction Activity Report



FKU 2024 VMP/VTP Fuel Reduction Activity Report



EDISON VMP



AUBERRY GUN LUB VMP

