

2026 Strategic Fire Plan

Amador-El Dorado Unit



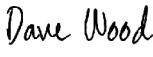
SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for the Amador-El Dorado Unit

This Plan:

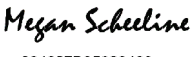
Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, Tribal, County and City agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan.

- Identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- Is intended to be used 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.

DocuSigned by:

48997932F9A74E1...
Unit Chief
David Wood
6/12/2026
Date

DocuSigned by:

EF9F8B40873747E...
Assistant Chief- Community Risk Reduction
Jeff Hoag
6/12/2026
Date

DocuSigned by:

064627B95629468...
Unit Forester
Megan Scheeline
6/11/2026
Date

Signed by:

312BFEEE4EDA4AF...
Battalion Chief – Wildfire Planning
Bryan Pooley
6/11/2026
Date

Signed by:

A7C07AD7890A4FA...
Fire Captain - Pre-Fire Engineer
Greg Schwegler
6/11/2026
Date

DocuSigned by:

DF2B9F6C848D497...
Research Data Specialist I
Laura Spellman
6/11/2026
Date

Contents

SIGNATURE PAGE	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW	5
Fire History	5
Topography	7
Socioeconomic	8
Divisions / Battalions / Programs	10
SECTION II: VALUES AT RISK AND HAZARD.....	21
SECTION III: VIBRANT PLANET PLATFORM	27
Unit Strategic Planning Areas	30
North Division	30
South Division	38
East Division	44
Critical Access Route Maps	51
CAL FIRE - AEU Review	56
SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.....	57
Amador-El Dorado Unit Wildfire Resilience Strategy	57
Fire Safe Councils	60
Homepage El Dorado Fire Safe Council	60
El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR)	61
Tribal Partnerships	66
Utilities	66
Good Neighbor Authority	66
SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS	68
Defensible Space Inspections, Home Hardening, and Enforcement.....	68
Landscape-Level Tactics: VMP, Technology, Evaluation.....	69
Strategic Project: South Placerville Fuel Break	75
APPENDIX A: CURRENT PRE-FIRE PROJECTS.....	77
North Division	80
South Division	81
East Division	81
APPENDIX B: AMADOR – EL DORADO UNIT PLANS	82
Defensible Space Inspection Plan.....	82
AEU Ignition Management & Fire Prevention Plan.....	86
EXHIBITS: AMADOR – EL DORADO CHARTS/MAPS	100
Exhibit A: AEU Unit Statistics	101

Exhibit B: Unit Map	102
Exhibit C: Battalion Maps	103
Exhibit D: Unit DPA Map	110
Exhibit E: Resiliency Corridors	111
Exhibit F: Tiger Creek GNA.....	112
Exhibit G: Vibrant Planet Data and Science.....	113
Exhibit H: Unit Fire Plan Methodology.....	118
StoryMap – Amador – El Dorado Unit Strategic Fire Plan 2026	122



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) is to reduce the loss of life, property, watershed values, and other assets at risk from wildfire through a focused pre-fire management Strategy and increased initial attack success.

The above statement is clear; however, the roadmap to accomplish this involves collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and communities, each of which presents different complexities related to project implementation and priorities regarding the threat of a wildland fire. The purpose of this Strategic Fire Plan is to provide effective direction to departmental staff and communities within the Administrative Unit to direct resources and personnel commitments towards the implementation of this Strategic Fire Plan.

The Amador-El Dorado Unit Strategic Fire Plan has been prepared with the following objectives in priority order:

1. **Improve community protection and suppression effectiveness** by identifying, supporting, and implementing strategic fuels reduction and pre-fire planning efforts that reduce fire intensity, improve firefighter access, strengthen emergency ingress and egress, and protect communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources.
2. **Support fire-safe development** through collaboration with local government planning departments and consistent implementation of California's Minimum Fire Safe Regulations in State Responsibility Areas.
3. **Increase structure and parcel-level readiness** through defensible space inspections, home hardening education, real estate inspection coordination, and risk-based outreach in communities with elevated wildfire exposure.
4. **Reduce wildfire ignitions** through targeted prevention, public education, enforcement, and coordination with local agencies, landowners, utilities, and community partners.
5. **Coordinate wildfire risk reduction efforts** with Resource Conservation Districts, Fire Safe Councils, allied fire agencies, utilities, local governments, and land management partners to connect projects and focus resources where they provide the greatest benefit.
6. **Use risk-based planning and operational intelligence** to prioritize prevention, fuels reduction, defensible space, and community wildfire preparedness efforts at the parcel, community, and landscape scales.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

Unit Description

The CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit encompasses a diverse and highly complex wildfire environment characterized by extensive wildland vegetation, steep topography, dispersed rural development, and rapidly expanding wildland-urban interface communities. Much of the Unit consists of high to very high wildfire hazard fuels, primarily dense brush fields, mixed chaparral, oak woodland, and heavy timber stands capable of supporting large, fast-moving wildfire under critical fire weather conditions. The Unit's landscape is heavily influenced by steep, rugged terrain and deeply incised river canyons that limit accessibility, reduce opportunities for direct suppression, and constrain the use of mechanized equipment in many areas. These terrain features, combined with narrow road systems, limited ingress and egress routes, and challenging operational conditions, increase suppression complexity and firefighter exposure while reducing the effectiveness of traditional firefighting tactics in portions of the Unit.

In addition to the challenging physical environment, the Unit contains a significant and expanding wildland-urban interface where residential development is interspersed within hazardous vegetation. This pattern of development creates increased exposure to life, property, infrastructure, and critical community assets during wildfire events. As a result, wildfire risk within the Unit is driven by the combined influence of hazardous fuels, topographic constraints, weather, and the close proximity of communities to fire-prone landscapes.

Key Issues:

- Increasing risk for loss of life, property, and natural resources due to increasing wildfire activity.
 - Inadequate community ingress/egress routes.
 - Difficulty of fire suppression due to challenging terrain and hazardous conditions, leading to increased safety risks for firefighters.
 - Longer intervals between fires in certain vegetation types, leading to the accumulation of fuel and increased fire severity.
 - Increasing fire intensities, escalating the potential for catastrophic wildfire events.
 - Rising taxpayer costs and asset losses because of more frequent and severe fires.
- Increased population density and recreational activity in wildland-urban interface areas, contributing to a higher frequency of human-caused ignitions.

Fire History

The Unit's fire history is one of numerous small fires with large fires occurring every thirty to forty years. Fire season 2025 was moderate with 18 fires exceeding 10 acres, with the largest being the Coyote Fire at 624 acres. In September 2022, the Mosquito Fire burned in Placer and El Dorado Counties and was the State's largest fire that year. The Mosquito Fire burned a total of 76,788 acres and destroyed 78 structures. The last large fire completely within the Unit boundary was the Caldor Fire in 2021 (221,835 acres) which started on the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) and spread into State Responsibility Area (SRA). Over the past 20 years, population growth and development in the wildland have placed many additional homes and businesses at

risk. Currently, small fires often create wildland-urban interface fire protection problems previously only found in the most densely populated areas of Southern California. In 2008, CAL FIRE updated its fire mapping requirements to include mapping grass fires 300 or more acres, brush fires 50 or more acres, timber fires 10 or more acres, and wildland fires destroying three or more residential dwellings or commercial buildings.

Apart from the King (97,717 acres) and Butte (70,868 acres) fires, most large fires in AEU are aligned east to west. This orientation is due to two factors, seasonal winds and terrain. Western El Dorado and Sacramento Counties are more likely to experience fires which run from the north to the south due to north wind events affecting the Sacramento Valley. The King Fire was an exception as it ran south to north, influenced by wind and topography alignment. The Butte Fire was influenced by a north wind during very hot and dry conditions that pushed the fire south.

Fire Weather & Terrain

Weather conditions within the Unit can change rapidly and can produce extreme fire behavior during periods of low humidity, high temperatures, unstable atmospheric conditions, and strong wind events. These conditions can quickly increase fire intensity and challenge suppression efforts, particularly during peak fire season.

Topography further compounds these conditions throughout the Unit. Steep slopes, rugged terrain, and deeply incised river canyons influence fire spread patterns, channel winds, limit access, and reduce opportunities for direct suppression tactics. Terrain-driven fire behavior can significantly increase operational complexity and firefighter exposure in many portions of the Unit.

Understanding the influence of weather and topography is essential to evaluating wildfire risk, identifying strategic control opportunities, and developing effective prevention, preparedness, and suppression strategies across the Unit.

Fire Weather

Fire weather for AEU is typically dominated by three general weather phenomena: the delta push influence, north wind events, and east foehn winds caused by high pressure development in the Great Basin. All three weather conditions cause potential increases in fire intensity and size. The delta influence is the most common and surfaces frequently throughout summer.

Typically, high pressure systems will dominate Northern California in the summer months, bringing extremely hot and dry conditions over much of the region. As these systems develop, they tend to originate near the Delta and Sacramento areas, bringing marine influence to the Unit. This is generally considered a good thing for fire behavior; slightly cooler afternoon temperatures and increases in relative humidity. The downside is the strong winds that typically accompany these patterns can override any benefit that may come from marine air. Typically, this type of wind will subside after sundown causing fire behavior to drop off dramatically.

The Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) is periodically affected by northerly and easterly wind patterns, with the strongest events typically occurring in the late fire season. These winds, known as foehn winds in the Sierra/Cascade Region or Santa Ana winds in Southern California, are characterized by warmth and dryness due to air compression as they descend from higher elevations. This creates an ideal environment for rapid fire escalation and large-scale fire growth. While fire behavior is primarily wind-driven, as these events subside, fire behavior can shift to being influenced by fuel and topography, often pushing fires in unpredictable and challenging directions. The intensity and unpredictability of these wind events make them a critical factor in fire management, significantly amplifying the spread and severity of wildfires in AEU.

Topography

Topography in AEU is much like most other Sierra Units; flat near the valley bottom and increasingly steep as the Unit reaches higher elevations. More important is the relationship of vegetation change with that of topography. Fuel loads tend to increase significantly as the topography becomes more rugged.

The area near the Central Valley and Delta region, which is characterized by rolling hills and flat valley bottoms, is generally dominated by grass and oak woodlands. The fire behavior is generally wind driven short duration fires, typically lasting no more than one burning period. (Typically, between 10:00 A.M. and sundown.)

As the terrain approaches the upper foothills the vegetation changes dramatically to brush and tree dominated fuel types. These areas are generally steeper and longer sloped which will tend to cause more fuel and topography dominate fire behavior. Heavier fuels over steeper slopes cause marked increases in fire intensity and fire size; this combination makes firefighting efforts increasingly more difficult. This is primarily due to the demands that heavier fuels on steeper terrain can have on resources during active suppression and mop up operations.

Higher elevation areas of the Unit are typically steeper than those of the upper foothill region. Fuels are generally Sierra Mixed Conifer, which is made up of heavy timber and significant loads of accumulated dead fuels in many areas. Fire spread is typically fuel and slope driven but winds can cause long range spotting. A major topographic feature that can lead to increased fire spread and intensity is the canyon alignment of the major river systems within the Unit. All the major river systems are generally aligned in an east/west direction which coincides with the general prevailing westerly wind patterns over the Unit. This alignment can have the effect of “channeling” which can increase the wind speed and turbulence along these river systems. This alignment can often cause fire to spread farther and with greater intensity.

Geographic/Ownership

AEU is in the Northern Central Sierra. It includes Amador, El Dorado, Alpine and portions of Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. AEU encompasses 2,668,048 acres. AEU's Direct Protection Area DPA serves approximately 947,910 acres (**refer to Exhibit A – [AEU Unit Statistics Chart](#)**). The United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) manage lands that are protected by AEU. Conversely, in addition to national forest lands, the USFS provides direct wildland fire protection to private lands within the Eldorado and Toiyabe National Forest. Even with the USFS providing that protection, the Unit is still actively engaged in wildland fire suppression and pre-fire projects with federal cooperators.

Within AEU, there are two all season trans-Sierra highways, US Highway 50 in El Dorado County and State Highway 88 in Amador County running east-west. Historic State Highway 49, on the west side of the Sierra and State Highway 89 in the Lake Tahoe Basin on the east side of the Sierra both run north-south. Most population growth has historically occurred along the two east-west highways (Hwy 50 and Hwy 88). The population growth can be attributed to the proximity of Sacramento, as many people living in the Unit that commute daily to the Sacramento area for work, prefer to live in the foothills.

AEU contains all or part of three major watersheds, the Middle and South Forks of the American River, the North Fork of the Mokelumne River, and the Cosumnes River Basin. Numerous water agencies and power companies utilize the resources of these rivers and their tributaries for generation of hydroelectric power, and acquisition of drinking and irrigation water. In addition, these watersheds offer many outdoor recreational opportunities to residents and visitors.

Socioeconomic

The approximate resident population in AEU's DPA is 320,053. El Dorado County's highest population densities are found along the Highway 50 corridor from El Dorado Hills to Pollock Pines. The areas of Pleasant Valley and along State Highway 49 south of the community of El Dorado are also experiencing population growth. In Amador County, the population densities are greatest along the State Highway 88 corridor from the City of Jackson to the Pioneer area. A significant seasonal population increase occurs in mid-spring and continues to gradually increase due to the influx of seasonal workers seeking employment during the apple and grape harvests in the late fall.

The easy access to the Lake Tahoe Basin, recreational areas, summer homes, and tourist attractions are also major factors that influence the population during fire season. Even though most of these areas are located within the Eldorado National Forest, visitors must travel through CAL FIRE's DPA to reach them. Since most of the fires are human caused, this increase in population usually results in more wildland fire ignitions.

The Unit is home to numerous key industries that drive the local economy including timber, tourism, recreation, wine and fruit production, construction, and a range of service-oriented businesses. Each of these sectors has experienced disruptions due to wildfire in the past. Beyond direct damage, wildfires can lead to prolonged business closures, workforce displacement, and interruptions to transportation routes. For example, closures along Highway 50 during peak travel periods have historically

resulted in significant economic impacts for both east and west slope communities. These examples highlight the broader economic risks wildfires pose to the region's long-term resilience and recovery.

<i>County</i>	<i>Population</i>
Alpine	1,204
Amador	40,474
El Dorado	191,184
Sacramento	1,585,046
San Joaquin	779,233
Unit Total	2,597,141
	² 2020 Census Data
² 2020 Census Data	

Collaborative Strategy & Interagency Coordination

The Amador–El Dorado Unit (AEU) Fire Plan provides a risk-based framework for identifying wildfire hazards and implementing mitigation strategies that support CAL FIRE's mission of wildfire prevention and suppression. The Plan is built on the understanding that meaningful wildfire risk reduction requires coordinated, cross-jurisdictional action among state, federal, tribal, and local partners.

CAL FIRE AEU integrates Battalion-level operational capabilities with strategic planning to prioritize projects that reduce wildfire impacts to communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources. Because CAL FIRE is not a primary landowner within the State Responsibility Area (SRA), implementation of landscape-scale fuels reduction and resilience projects depends on strong partnerships with Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), local governments, fire districts, federal agencies, utilities, and organizations such as the El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR).

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are central to this collaborative approach. Across El Dorado, Amador, Alpine Counties, and the Tahoe Basin, CAL FIRE AEU works with partners to ensure CWPPs reflect local priorities while aligning with regional and state objectives. The Unit provides technical expertise, data analysis, and risk assessment to support CWPP development and updates, ensuring plans remain current as conditions change due to climate, vegetation, fire history, and continued development in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI).

CWPPs serve as the primary mechanism for identifying and prioritizing fuels reduction and community protection projects. These plans are widely recognized as eligible, competitive foundations for state and federal grant programs, including CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), and other resilience funding opportunities. Projects that are clearly identified and prioritized within CWPPs are better positioned to secure funding and move efficiently into implementation.

Fuel reduction and resilience projects prioritized through the Fire Plan and CWPPs focus on:

- Improving firefighter access and operational space
- Enhancing evacuation routes and ingress/egress
- Reducing hazardous fuels in the WUI and around critical infrastructure
- Increasing structure survivability through defensible space and home hardening

CAL FIRE AEU works collaboratively with partners to develop, fund, and implement these projects. Partners play a key role in grant development, community engagement, and project delivery—often enabling work across ownership boundaries that would not otherwise be feasible. This coordinated approach allows the Unit and its partners to leverage multiple funding sources, align priorities, and maximize the effectiveness of investments in wildfire resilience.

Through ongoing coordination, joint planning, and shared prioritization, CAL FIRE AEU and its partners reduce duplication of effort and ensure that projects deliver the greatest benefit to life, property, and natural resources. In addition, the Unit prioritizes treatments that support ecological health and long-term landscape resilience, ensuring that fuels management strategies are environmentally appropriate and sustainable. By aligning the Fire Plan with CWPPs and partner-driven initiatives, CAL FIRE AEU strengthens regional collaboration and positions projects for successful grant funding and implementation. This integrated, partnership-based approach is essential to achieving long-term, measurable reductions in wildfire risk across the Amador–El Dorado Unit

Divisions / Battalions / Programs

North Division

The North Division is overseen by Division Chief Jeff Loveless and is responsible for the oversight of Battalions 1 & 2, and Growlersburg Camp.

The west-slope of El Dorado County consists of 492,796 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into all or portions of CAL FIRE Battalion's 1, 2, and 5 (See [Exhibits](#) for Battalion Boundary Maps) El Dorado County consists of low-lying grass and brush lands to the west and productive timber lands on the eastern boundary. Amongst the brush and timber terrain of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, El Dorado County has a productive agricultural community; apple orchards and vineyards line the southern aspects and lush valleys. Highway 50 not only provides easy access to and from South Lake Tahoe but provides an easy Sacramento commute for those thousands of residents wanting to live in a rural community.

Battalion 1

Battalion 1 encompasses approximately 583,238 acres in El Dorado and Sacramento counties. El Dorado County communities within the Battalion include Camino, Diamond Springs, El Dorado, El Dorado Hills, Logtown, Latrobe, Nashville, Cameron Park, Placerville, Pleasant Valley, Pollock Pines, Rescue, Shingle Springs, and Grizzly Flats.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada, there exists a significant wildland-urban interface (WUI) threat within Battalion 1. There are several large, well-populated subdivisions within the Battalion that are at risk from a catastrophic fire occurrence. The Unit proactively works with residents, Sierra Pacific Industries, Pacific Gas & Electric, El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado Fire Safe Council, and our Federal, Tribal, and Local cooperators to reduce these risks.

Battalion 1 is an active Battalion in the Amador-El Dorado Unit regarding vegetation fire response it has the highest urban interface population density in the Unit. Within Battalion 1 there are two CAL FIRE facilities and two unstaffed fire lookouts.

Camino Fire Station 20 and Amador El Dorado Unit Headquarters

Camino Fire Station 20 is responsible for all risk response to the areas including Camino, Pollock Pines, Placerville, Pleasant Valley, Grizzly Flats, Omo Ranch, the American River Canyon / Highway 50 corridor and is the second due CAL FIRE-AEU engine into the Lake Tahoe Basin.

El Dorado Fire Station 43

The response area for El Dorado Fire Station 43 includes eastern Sacramento County, El Dorado Hills, Shingle Springs, Latrobe, Cameron Park, Placerville, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, Gold Hill, Nashville, Omo Ranch, Pleasant Valley, Grizzly Flats, and Rescue.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie, at least partially within Battalion 1 boundary lines are:

- El Dorado County Fire Protection District
- El Dorado Hills Fire Department
- Cameron Park Fire Department
- Rescue Fire Protection District
- Pioneer Fire Protection District
- Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Battalion 2

CAL FIRE Battalion 2 lies primarily on the Georgetown Divide in northern El Dorado County. The communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, Pilot Hill, Cool, Mosquito, Kelsey, Coloma, Lotus, Auburn Lake Trails, Rescue, and a portion of El Dorado Hills are within the Battalion. The total area of the Battalion is 357,726 acres. In November 2024, an additional 21,564 acres were added to AEU's DPA within Battalion 2 in the Volcanoville area. Fuel types within the Battalion consists of, 54% brush, 27% grass/oak woodland and 19% timber.

Like most Sierra Nevada areas, Battalion 2 has a significant wildland-urban interface problem. Most construction in the area took place prior to the adoption of the Fire Safe Regulations. This has led to areas with inadequate ingress and egress routes and insufficient defensible space clearance around structures. An example of this problem was the destruction of fourteen homes in the 1994 Kelsey fire. The Unit proactively works with residents, Sierra Pacific Industries, Pacific Gas & Electric, El Dorado Fire Safe Council, and Federal and Local cooperators to reduce these risks. Battalion 2 has multiple Vegetation Management Plans (VMP) located within its boundaries. Lyon, Georgetown-Divide and Auburn Lake Trails VMPs remain as a priority in the Battalion and unit for fuels reduction and range improvement projects, to help prevent the spread

of major fire and protect the surrounding communities.

Battalion 2 consists of two CAL FIRE stations, Growlersburg Conservation Camp and one staffed Fire Lookout.

Garden Valley Station 50

Garden Valley Station 50 is responsible for all-risk response to the areas including Garden Valley, Georgetown, Mosquito, Greenwood, Volcanoville, Coloma, Lotus and areas of Rescue.

Pilot Hill Station 70

Pilot Hill Station 70 is responsible for all-risk responses to areas including Pilot Hill, Cool, Coloma, Lotus, Rescue and areas of El Dorado Hills. Pilot Peak Fire Lookout is currently staffed during summer months with Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) members, to help with early detection of any new fires in the area.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie at least partially within Battalion 2 boundary lines are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Garden Valley Fire Protection District | • Rescue Protection District |
| • Georgetown Fire Protection District | • El Dorado County Fire Protection District |
| • Mosquito Fire Protection District | • El Dorado Hills Fire Department |

Growlersburg Conservation Camp

Growlersburg Conservation Camp was established in 1967, Growlersburg Camp is a joint CAL FIRE and CDCR facility located near Georgetown, CA. The camp plays a vital role in wildland firefighting, emergency response, and ongoing conservation efforts across the region. Staffed by trained, incarcerated individuals, Growlersburg maintains five type I hand crews that support wildland fire suppression, fuels reduction, trail maintenance, and community service projects.

Sacramento County

Sacramento County consists of 113,574 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into portions of CAL FIRE Battalion 1 and Battalion 4 (See [Exhibits](#) for Battalion Boundary Maps). Much of Sacramento County is provided with fire protection by local government cooperators; Sacramento Metropolitan Fire, Folsom Fire Department, Cosumnes Fire Protection District, Herald Fire Protection District, and Wilton Fire Protection District.

South Division

The South Division is overseen by Division Chief Mike Boyce and is responsible for the oversight of Battalions 3 & 4, and Pine Grove Camp.

Amador County consists of 293,657 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into Battalions 3 and 4. (See [Exhibits](#) for Battalion Boundary Maps).

The Amador County terrain consists of low-lying grasslands to the west and productive timber lands on the eastern boundary. In the center of Amador County there is a flourishing agricultural community. These low mountain ranges are thick with brush and trees, and the valleys are lush with vineyards making Amador County a very popular area to live in as well as a great travel destination.

Battalion 3

CAL FIRE Battalion 3 covers 282,349 acres and includes portions of El Dorado and Amador counties. The communities of Pioneer, Pine Grove, Volcano, and Lockwood in Amador County, and Omo Ranch and Mt. Aukum in El Dorado County, fall within the Battalion's boundaries. The total area of the Battalion is diverse, with fuel types ranging from 45% timber, 48% brush, to 7% grassy oak woodland.

Like many areas in the Sierra foothills, Battalion 3 faces significant wildland-urban interface challenges. There are several large, densely populated subdivisions within the Battalion that are at high risk of catastrophic fire events. As a Unit, CAL FIRE is proactively working with a variety of partners, including residents, Sierra Pacific Industries, Pacific Gas & Electric, the Amador Fire Safe Council, and other federal and local cooperators, to reduce fire risk and mitigate potential wildfire damage.

Pine Grove Station 80

Pine Grove Station is in Pine Grove and is responsible for all-risk response in the surrounding areas, including Pine Grove, Volcano and Lockwood. The station is staffed with two Type III engines and a Battalion Chief. It is an essential base of operations for initial attack fires and provides vital support for pre-fire treatment projects throughout Amador County.

Dew Drop Station 10

Dew Drop Station, located east of Pioneer, is responsible for all-risk response in the nearby communities of Pioneer, Pine Grove, Lockwood and other surrounding areas. The station is staffed with one Type III engine, and during fire season, it also benefits from staffing provided by an engine from the Eldorado National Forest. This collaboration enhances the station's ability to respond quickly to fire events and provides additional support during the peak of fire season.

Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp

Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp, located in Pine Grove, provides up to four Type I hand crews that are instrumental in fuel reduction and vegetation management projects across Amador County. The camp is staffed with young adults aged 18-25, under contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), making it the last remaining youth camp in the state. Crews provide hundreds

of hours of work for local projects such as vegetation management, fuels reduction, and work for the Amador Fire Safe Council, State Parks, and local municipalities (including Jackson, Sutter Creek, and Lone). The crews also serve as a critical resource during wildfire events, providing hands-on support for suppression efforts.

Mount Zion Lookout

Mount Zion Lookout, located within Battalion 3, has been staffed with Volunteers in Prevention (VIPs) during peak staffing. This staffing is essential for early detection of wildfires in the region, allowing for quick responses to emerging fire threats.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie at least partially within Battalion 3 boundary lines are:

- Pioneer Fire Protection District
- El Dorado County Protection District
- Lockwood Fire Protection District
- Amador Fire Protection District

Battalion 4

AEU Battalion 4 covers 650,425 acres and encompasses portions of Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 15% timber to 34% brush, and 51% grass/oak woodland.

Like the other Battalions in the Unit, there exists a significant wildland-urban interface problem within the Battalion. There are several large, well-populated subdivisions that are at risk of large catastrophic fires. As a Unit, we are proactively working. The Unit proactively works with residents, Sierra Pacific Industries, Amador Fire Safe Council, and Federal and Local cooperators to reduce these risks.

Sutter Hill Station 60

Sutter Hill station staffs one Type III engine year-round and a second Type III engine and bulldozer during peak staffing. Sutter Hill station is also the location of an automotive shop, and the Unit's training classroom.

River Pines Station 30

Station 30 in River Pines, staffs one Type III engine. There are no CAL FIRE stations in Sacramento or San Joaquin counties.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie at least partially within Battalion 4 boundary lines are:

- CAL FIRE Training Center
- Lone City Fire
- Jackson City Fire
- Amador Fire Protection District
- Jackson Valley Fire Protection District
- Lockwood Fire Protection District
- Mule Creek State Prison Fire
- Plymouth City Fire

- Sutter Creek Fire Protection District
- Clements Fire District
- Liberty Rural Fire Protection District
- Herald Fire Protection District
- Wilton Fire Protection District
- Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
- Pioneer Fire Protection District

San Joaquin County

San Joaquin County consists of 24,877 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Areas with the Amador-El Dorado Unit and is part of CAL FIRE Battalion 4 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map). San Joaquin County terrain consists of mostly grazing grassland and agriculture. Fire protection is provided by CAL FIRE AEU, TCU and local government cooperators.

East Division

The East Division is overseen by Division Chief Jed Gaines and is responsible for the oversight of Battalion 6, and the Tahoe-Meyers Fire Center.

Battalion 6

CAL FIRE Battalion 6 includes most of Alpine County and those portions of Lake Tahoe Basin that lie within El Dorado County. The only portion of Alpine County that does not fall within Battalion 6 is Bear Valley, California, which is administered by the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit of CAL FIRE. The Communities of South Lake Tahoe, Meyers, Fallen Leaf Lake, Phillips, Meeks Bay, Twin Bridges, Kirkwood, Woodfords, and Markleeville are within Battalion 6. The Lake Tahoe Basin is highly complex with fire service jurisdiction split between two states, five Counties, seven local fire districts, one city fire department, two CAL FIRE Units, the Nevada Division of Forestry, and U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. For this reason, the Amador-El Dorado Unit coordinates closely with the adjoining Nevada-Yuba-Placer CAL FIRE Unit for operational, administrative, prevention, and grant funding decisions within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Amador-El Dorado Unit has direct wildland fire protection responsibility for all State Responsibility Area lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Alpine County is included within the administrative boundaries of Battalion 6. Alpine county is largely made up of Federal National Forest and designated Wilderness Area lands. CAL FIRE has resumed Direct Protection Authority over State Responsibility Areas (SRA) in Alpine County, while continuing to utilize the closest resource concept through the California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA). The total area of the Battalion is approximately 790,003 acres and is comprised of mostly high-altitude conifer stands common to the high elevation (5,000 – 10,000+ feet) Sierra Nevada Mountains. In November 2024, an additional 23,443 acres were added to AEU's DPA in Battalion 6, all near Markleeville. The primary fuel type of the State Responsibility Area is Jeffery Pine Mixed Conifer Forest, Pinyon-Juniper, and East Side Sage Brush.

Land previously protected by the United States Forest Service (USFS) formally became SRA land due to recommendations made in 2008 by the Emergency California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission; a Commission convened by the

Governors of California and Nevada following the devastating Angora Fire the previous year. In 2008, because of a Governor's Executive Order, CAL FIRE AEU began staffing one fire engine in the Basin

Lake Tahoe Fire Station 5

CAL FIRE staffs one Type III fire engine at a leased facility located within the Lake Valley Fire Protection District. Lake Tahoe Station 5 is one of two CAL FIRE facilities located in the Tahoe Basin with the other located in Carnelian Bay on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe-Meyers Fire Center

On May 3, 2021, CAL FIRE began the implementation of two (2) Type 1 CAL FIRE/CCC Fire Crews to bolster the number of hand crews available for fire suppression response and fuel reduction projects.

The Tahoe-Meyers Fire Center consists of 2 Battalion Chiefs, 4 Fire Captains, 3 Fire Apparatus Engineers and 2 Fire Crew modules, each staffed with 15 Corpsmembers. The Fire Center provides crew availability 7 days a week and is actively engaged with state and local cooperators in fuels reduction and vegetation management projects throughout the year.

The Lake Tahoe CAL FIRE station also works closely with Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC), assisting with their firefighter academy, teaching classes and assisting in training drills. Additionally, the Amador El Dorado Unit Training Bureau's current training contract is hosted by LTCC.

Meyers Administrative Offices

Division and Battalion Headquarters are both located at administrative offices CAL FIRE maintains in Meyers, California. The East Division Chief, Battalion Chief, SRA funded staff work from this facility.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie at least partially within Battalion 6 boundary lines are:

- Lake Valley Fire Protection District
- Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Community Service District
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (under agreement with North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District)
- Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- South Lake Tahoe Fire Department
- Eastern Alpine County Volunteer Fire Department
- Kirkwood Fire Department

Alpine County

Alpine County consists of 474,266 acres, with 23,006 acres of CAL FIRE DPA. However, 34,374 of those acres are private lands making them SRA (approximately 7%). Alpine County is part of CAL FIRE Battalion 6 (See [Exhibits](#) for Battalion

Boundary Maps) and consists of mostly National Forest and Wilderness lands. Fire protection is mostly provided by Federal cooperators (USFS, BLM).

West Division

The West Division is overseen by Division Chief Kalan Richards. The administration and operation of the Cameron Park Fire Department Agreement, and the McClellan Airtanker Base.

Battalion 5 – Cameron Park Fire Department (Cooperative Agreement)

Located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the Cameron Park Fire Department sits within the unincorporated community of Cameron Park at 4,328 total acres. It serves the community, its citizens, visitors, and neighboring areas under the direction and governing Board of the Cameron Park Community Services District. Situated along the Highway 50 corridor, the Fire Department provides a wide array of fire and emergency services to those living in the community as well as those passing through for business and leisure activities.

The Fire Department serves the community from two full-time staffed fire stations situated in the north and south ends of the district. Station 88 is located on the North side of town at the intersection of Cameron Park Drive and Alhambra. Station 89 serves the South side of town and is located on County Club Drive. Each engine is staffed with a minimum of two personnel each day and provide paramedic services 24 hours per day.

Cameron Park Fire Department, in a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE, strives to provide its citizens, business members and visitors with fire and emergency services that meet or exceed expectations.

From fire prevention education through participation in school programs, static displays, and community events, to fire prevention inspection and enforcement, it is our goal to make Cameron Park a fire safe community.

The Local Fire Agencies that immediately surround Battalion 5 are:

- El Dorado County Fire Protection District
- El Dorado Hills Fire Department
- Rescue Fire Protection District

McClellan Airtanker Base

McClellan Airtanker Base (MATB) originated in 2008. Located in McClellan at the McClellan Airport, MATB, is the only airtanker base for CAL FIRE that can load every type of airtanker. The base was designed to handle multiple Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT) at one time, to be dispatched throughout the state.

McClellan Airport is a general aviation airport situated at the 76.8-foot elevation with a 10,599-foot- long runway. The airport can support any air tanker, large helicopter operations and air attack platforms. There is a full time staffed C-130 assigned to McClellan Airtanker Base

CAL FIRE's fire protection objective is to contain 95% of all fires to 10 acres or less. Aviation assets are instrumental in meeting and maintaining this objective. Air Attack and Helitack base locations are designed to reduce the number of large fires throughout the State. The purpose and capability of air tankers and helicopters is to place fire retardant and personnel at the fire scene before ground forces, and to support those forces.

Aircraft initial response criteria have been established to deliver retardant to the fire scene (on state responsibility lands) within 20 minutes of dispatch and to provide follow-up aircraft as needed. This response criteria plan was developed to include the use of USFS and BLM aircraft on a closest forces concept. Air assets located at MATB can respond to a fire anywhere in California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho and nationally depending on the fire activity.

Central Division

The Central Division is overseen by Division Chief Jeff Reyes and consists of the administration and operation of the Ponderosa Fire Center and the AEU Training Bureau.

Ponderosa Fire Center

In the summer of 2020, due to a reduced number of California Department of Corrections (CDCR) crews, CAL FIRE initiated a pilot program for Fire Fighter 1 hand crews. The success of these crews statewide led to CAL FIRE permanently funding them. By 2022, the Ponderosa Fire Center secured full funding for 2 Battalion Chiefs, 7 Fire Captains, 6 Fire Apparatus Engineers, and 80 firefighters, enabling the deployment of 2 Fire Fighter I hand crews daily.

In January 2024, additional funding was granted to expand staffing to 2 Battalion Chiefs, 10 Fire Captains, 9 Engineers, and 120 Firefighters, resulting in three Fire Fighter 1 crews daily. The establishment of the new Ponderosa Fire Center in Cameron Park offers a more suitable location to accommodate the increased number of Fire Fighters and proximity to various vegetation management programs and cooperative fuels reduction projects within the Unit. Moreover, its central location facilitates a more efficient response throughout the Unit.

CAL FIRE Firefighter I Hand Crews are highly trained firefighters who specialize in wildland fire operations and all hazard incident operations. Their primary responsibility while assigned to a wildland fire is constructing handline with chainsaws and hand tools. These crews are also used to defend structures during wildfire. While FF I Hand Crews are utilized primarily for wildland fire operations, they can also assist in efforts to contain and mitigate any of California's major disasters, including floods, earthquakes, heavy snow, and search and rescue operations. When not assigned to a wildland fire or emergency incident, these crews focus on fuels reduction and vegetation management project work in communities.

Training Bureau

The primary responsibility of the AEU Training Bureau is to coordinate and provide training for all employees assigned to the CAL FIRE Amador El Dorado Unit. Additional responsibilities include the coordination of State, Region and outside training in support of the Department's mission. The Training Bureau assists with scheduling and

facilitating the required training and testing of the Unit's California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC) employees. This is accomplished by the development of an annual training plan that serves the needs of the Department and all personnel within the Unit. The Unit's training plan is used to develop and support comprehensive training for all employees, ensure compliance with state and policy mandated training, enhance employee's incident qualifications, and develop career tracks that benefit the Department's mission as a leader in all risk emergency response and incident command. The Department training program operates within a traditional chain of command process, from the Department to the Region, then to the Unit.

All Training is prioritized and allocated utilizing the following criteria:

Mandatory / Position Required Training (required by policy, law, or statute)
Incident Command System Training (based on the ERD needs in support of Department's Mission)
Career Enhancement and Employee Development

Camino Interagency Command Center (CICC)

Battalion 9

The Camino Interagency Command Center (CICC), located at CAL FIRE's Camino Headquarters, serves as the central hub for command and control of all incidents within State Responsibility Area (SRA), Local Responsibility Area (LRA), and Federal Responsibility Area (FRA) across Amador, El Dorado, Alpine, and Sacramento Counties, including the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (TMU). Operated cooperatively by CAL FIRE and the United States Forest Service, CICC exemplifies an integrated interagency approach to emergency response, ensuring seamless coordination of local, state, and federal resources.

CICC's mission is to provide professional, efficient, and cooperative command and control services that support the safety of residents and visitors throughout the region. Through coordinated fire protection, aviation management, emergency medical response, law enforcement, and rescue operations, the center prioritizes the most effective and economical use of available resources while maintaining a high level of service to the communities it serves.

Co-located within the Emergency Command Center are Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU), Eldorado National Forest (ENF), and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (TMU) personnel, enabling real-time collaboration and resource sharing. This interagency environment enhances situational awareness and strengthens unified decision-making during both initial attack and extended incidents.

CICC continuously monitors fire weather conditions across the Unit, utilizing four Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) to inform daily staffing and dispatch level decisions. Pre-established Standard Response Plans aligned with dispatch levels ensure the rapid and appropriate mobilization of resources for vegetation fires and other emerging incidents.

Resource coordination is facilitated through systems such as the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) and the Hired Equipment Management System (HEMS), which maintain critical data on personnel qualifications, equipment availability, and vendor resources.

CICC is fully capable of managing incidents that escalate beyond Initial Attack (IA). For emerging extended attack or large-scale incidents, the Expanded Emergency Command Center is activated to manage incident-specific ordering and coordination, allowing the primary ECC floor to maintain focus on new and ongoing IA incidents. Staffing within Expanded is scaled to match incident complexity, ensuring sustained operational effectiveness throughout the duration of the event.

Community Risk Reduction Program

The Assistant Chief of Community Risk Reduction Jeff Hoag oversees all pre-fire mitigation and community risk reduction efforts within the Unit.

The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Program serves as the organizational framework for CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit’s pre-fire mitigation, wildfire planning, prevention, and fuels reduction efforts. The program integrates strategic planning, project development, community engagement, and field implementation to reduce wildfire risk across the Unit while supporting CAL FIRE’s mission of protecting lives, property, and natural resources.

The Assistant Chief of Community Risk Reduction provides overall leadership and strategic direction for the program, establishing priorities for wildfire mitigation projects, fuels reduction treatments, prevention initiatives, and grant-funded activities. Through risk-based planning and alignment with the Unit Fire Plan, the Assistant Chief guides project development, funding allocation, and program performance to ensure resources are directed toward the highest-priority wildfire risk reduction needs.

The Community Risk Reduction Program is implemented through two complementary functional areas. The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) Battalion Chief leads operational project delivery, coordinating fuels reduction treatments, prescribed fire operations, resource scheduling, contract administration, and field implementation activities. This position serves as the operational link between strategic planning and on-the-ground execution, ensuring projects are completed safely, efficiently, and in accordance with environmental and regulatory requirements.

The Wildfire Planning Battalion Chief leads Unit planning, prevention, and community engagement efforts. Responsibilities include development and maintenance of the Unit Fire Plan, implementation of defensible space and home hardening programs, land use planning review, Fire Safe Regulations compliance, wildfire prevention initiatives, and coordination with community partners. The position also oversees data-driven risk assessment and supports public outreach, stakeholder engagement, and grant development activities that strengthen community wildfire resilience.

Together, these positions create an integrated approach to wildfire risk reduction by combining strategic leadership, community planning, prevention programs, and operational project implementation. This coordinated structure ensures that mitigation investments are prioritized effectively, projects are delivered efficiently, and wildfire resilience is enhanced across the diverse landscapes and communities within the Amador–El Dorado Unit.

SECTION II: VALUES AT RISK AND HAZARD

Values at Risk and Hazard

Values at Risk and Hazard identify the critical assets, resources, and areas most vulnerable to wildfire within the Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU). These values include the Wildland-Urban Interface or Intermix (WUI), ecological resources, watersheds, critical infrastructure, and key access routes, all of which are essential to community safety, environmental health, and effective emergency response.

Associated hazards—such as prolonged drought, insect-driven tree mortality, fuel loading, and conditions identified within Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)—significantly influence wildfire behavior and risk. Understanding the interaction between these hazards and identified values at risk enables CAL FIRE to conduct risk-based assessments, prioritize projects, and strategically allocate resources to areas where mitigation efforts will have the greatest impact.

Values

Values at risk encompass significant societal, ecological, and cultural resources that are susceptible to wildfire damage or loss. These values are evaluated and ranked based on a combination of factors, including their importance, vulnerability, and potential consequences of wildfire impact.

Public Safety & Critical Infrastructure

- Structures (residential and commercial)
- Critical structures and emergency service facilities
- Communication infrastructure and monitoring stations
- Energy facilities and transmission lines
- Water facilities and dams
- Critical access roads and evacuation routes
- CAL FIRE subdivision and SRA development areas (PRC §4290)
- Structure transmission zones and WUI areas

Environmental & Ecological Resources

- California oak woodlands and acorn harvest areas
- Sensitive vegetation types
- Wildlife habitat
- Managed timberlands and rangelands
- Riparian areas, wetlands, lakes, and perennial rivers/streams
- Forests
- Watershed resources

Public Welfare, Cultural & Recreational Resources

- Historic and cultural resources
- Recreation areas and trail systems
- Air Quality

Each value is assessed using ranking methodologies that consider ecological significance, infrastructure importance, fire susceptibility, and potential impacts to life, property, and natural resources.

Communities at Risk

Protecting communities from wildfire is a primary focus of AEU's wildfire management strategy. The Unit prioritizes proactive measures to reduce risk and enhance community resilience, particularly in areas where development intersects with wildland fuels.

CAL FIRE utilizes the statewide list to identify and prioritize communities most vulnerable to wildfire impacts. This list, combined with local data, field intelligence, and planning tools, helps guide mitigation efforts toward areas with the greatest need. The identification of communities at risk is based on three primary factors:

Fuel Hazard Ranking: Evaluation of vegetation types based on potential fire behavior and intensity.

Probability of Fire: Likelihood of a large, damaging wildfire occurring within a given area.

Housing Density in the WUI: Presence of intermix or interface development where structures and wildland fuels coexist.

California's Communities at Risk List includes 1,329 communities statewide, many of which are located adjacent to or influenced by federal lands, increasing complexity and risk.

Within the AEU, communities identified as being at risk include, but are not limited to:

Alpine County:

Bear Valley, Kirkwood, Markleeville, Paynesville, Woodfords, Woodfords Community (Indian Reservation)

Amador County:

Amador City, Fiddletown, Ione, Jackson, Pine Grove, Pioneer, Plymouth, River Pines, Sutter Creek, Volcano

El Dorado County:

Cameron Park, Coloma, Cool, Diamond Springs, El Dorado Hills, Georgetown, Glenridge, Grizzly Flats, Kelsey, Latrobe, Logtown, Meeks Bay/Tahoe Hills, Omo Ranch, Outingdale, Pilot Hill Estates, Placerville, Pleasant Valley, Pollock Pines, Rubicon, Shingle Springs, South Lake Tahoe, Tahoma

Sacramento County (SRA Influence):

Folsom, Galt, Rancho Murieta, Sacramento

Many of these communities are identified as having federal threat adjacency, meaning

they are located near or influenced by lands managed by federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management.

Communities At Risk List

Community Risk Reduction Approach

AEU's approach to addressing communities at risk is centered on increasing resilience through coordinated mitigation and preparedness efforts. These include:

- Defensible space inspections and compliance (PRC §4291)
- Home hardening and structure survivability improvements
- Public education and outreach programs
- Emergency preparedness and evacuation planning
- Strategic fuels reduction and shaded fuel break development

These efforts are implemented in collaboration with CAL FIRE, local fire agencies, county governments, Fire Safe Councils, and community stakeholders to ensure a coordinated and effective approach.

Strategic Application

Understanding the type, scale, and geographic distribution of values at risk is essential for effective fire protection planning. Given finite resources, AEU prioritizes mitigation and response efforts in areas where wildfire would have the greatest impact on life, property, infrastructure, and natural resources.

This risk-informed approach supports:

- Strategic allocation of firefighting and allied agency resources
- Prioritization of fuels reduction and prevention projects
- Development of targeted community outreach and preparedness programs
- Grants to support collaborative, landscape-scale mitigation efforts, helping to implement critical projects identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and the Unit Fire Plan.

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps (FHSZ) in the Amador-El Dorado Unit

Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps are a regulatory tool for understanding wildfire hazard in the Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU). These maps, required by Public Resources Code Section 4201, provide an assessment of the relative fire hazard across the state, helping guide fire prevention and mitigation strategies.

The Fire Hazard Severity Zone map evaluates "hazard," not "risk". The map is like flood zone maps, where lands are described in terms of the probability level of a particular area being inundated by floodwaters, and not specifically prescriptive impacts. "Hazard" is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period without considering mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfire, or fuel reduction efforts. "Risk" is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, accounting for any modifications such as fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction.

WHAT DO FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES MEASURE?



Fire Hazard Severity Zones measure

HAZARD, not **RISK**.

Hazard is about the environment.

Risk is about potential impact and cost.

HAZARD

What it measures:

The environment and natural conditions that influence wildfire.



Includes environmental factors:



CLIMATE

Temperature, dryness, wind, rainfall



TOPOGRAPHY

Slope, elevation, aspect



VEGETATION TYPE

Fuel type, density, arrangement



FIRE HISTORY

Past wildfires, frequency, fire return interval



Hazard looks at the **likelihood and expected fire behavior** over time based on these environmental conditions.

RISK

What it is used for:

Risk assessment is used by **insurance companies** to determine coverage levels and cost.



Risk considers:



BUILDING & PROPERTY

Construction type, age, ignition-resistant features



MITIGATION & DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Fuel reduction, landscaping, fire breaks



EXPOSURE & VALUE

Proximity to assets, replacement cost, community factors



Risk looks at the **potential damage and financial impact** under current conditions.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Hazard = the environment and natural conditions that could cause a fire.

Risk = the potential impact and cost to people and property.



INSURANCE COMPANIES

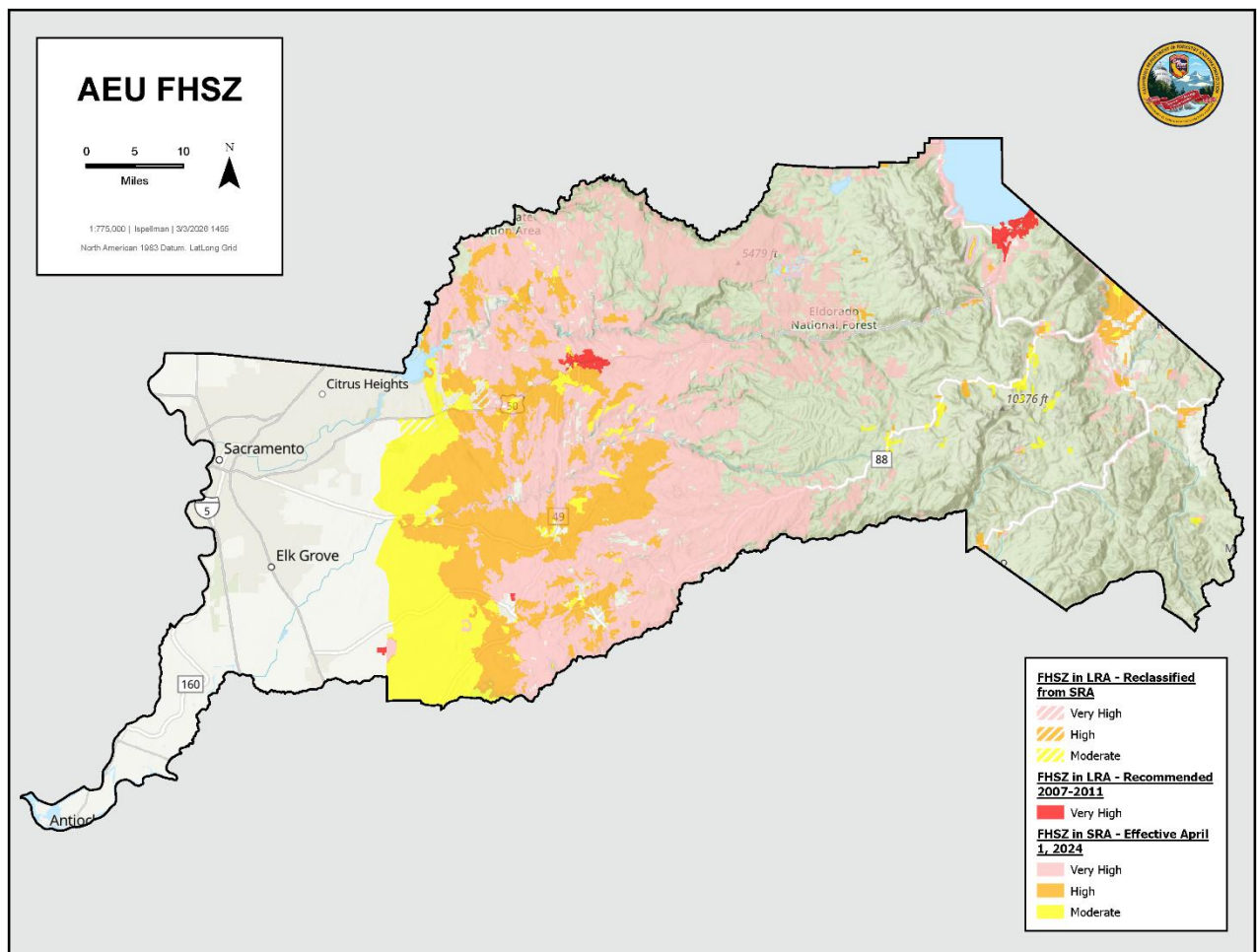


DETERMINE COVERAGE LEVELS AND COST

Key factors considered in the creation of FHSZ maps include:

- **Fuel Types:** The type and density of vegetation that can sustain a fire, such as grass, brush, or forested areas.
- **Terrain and Slope:** Steep and rugged terrain increases fire spread, particularly in areas with difficult access.
- **Weather Patterns:** The impact of seasonal winds (like northerly or easterly winds) and local climate conditions, which can drive the intensity and spread of wildfires.
- **Fire History:** Past fire events help predict future fire behavior in certain areas.
- **Ember Cast:** The potential for embers to be carried by wind, igniting structures and other fuels in the vicinity.
- **Proximity to Structures:** The risk of structures igniting based on their proximity to wildland fuels.

These factors combine to create an overall "fire hazard" score, which is used to designate areas into different hazard zones. The FHSZ maps categorize areas into **High**, **Very High**, or **Moderate** fire hazard zones, which assist in identifying where fire mitigation efforts should be concentrated.



The maps are updated every seven years or as necessary to reflect changes in fuel conditions, landscape features, or other factors that may affect fire hazard severity. The most recent update was completed in mid-2023, with new maps adopted on April 1, 2024. These updated maps offer a more accurate depiction of fire hazard levels in AEU, considering changes in fuel loads, vegetation conditions, and other key factors since the previous update in 2007.

FHSZ maps to inform land use planning, building codes, and fire prevention efforts. In AEU, these maps guide the development of fire prevention strategies and help direct resources toward areas with the highest fire hazard.

As CAL FIRE AEU advances wildfire mitigation efforts, Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) provide a foundational understanding of where wildfire hazard exists across the landscape. These hazard designations help inform planning and prioritization, but they are only one component of the Unit's decision-making process. Future sections of this plan outline strategies for reducing wildfire risk through vegetation management, fuel reduction, and community resilience initiatives.

To support project prioritization, CAL FIRE AEU also utilizes the Vibrant Planet platform, a landscape-scale decision support tool that integrates local data, stakeholder input, and multiple risk factors. Unlike the environmental modeling used to develop FHSZs, Vibrant Planet is designed to evaluate and prioritize potential treatments based on a broader set of objectives, including community protection, ecological benefits, operational feasibility, and long-term landscape resilience. AEU combines these analytical tools with local knowledge, field experience, and partner input to make final project investment decisions.



For more information about Fire Hazard Severity Zones, please visit the Office of the State Fire Marshall's website.

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones>

SECTION III: VIBRANT PLANET PLATFORM

The Vibrant Planet Platform is a cloud-based decision support tool used by CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit (AEU) to support wildfire risk reduction planning and project prioritization across more than two million acres. The platform integrates a wide range of data layers, including Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas, critical evacuation and access routes, utility and community infrastructure, subdivision and development review information, fire history, vegetation conditions, and partner-provided datasets. By analyzing these factors together, AEU can identify and prioritize hazardous fuels reduction, prescribed fire, and community resilience projects that provide the greatest potential benefit for reducing wildfire risk.

Importantly, the Vibrant Planet analysis is separate from CAL FIRE’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) mapping process. While FHSZ maps identify and classify wildfire hazard based on statewide modeling and statutory requirements, the Vibrant Planet platform provides a localized, operational risk assessment used specifically for project planning and prioritization within AEU. The analysis is updated annually to reflect current conditions, including completed fuel treatments, changes in vegetation, new development, infrastructure improvements, and emerging risk factors. This allows AEU to continuously refine project priorities and focus resources on areas where mitigation efforts will have the greatest impact on reducing wildfire risk and improving community resilience.

The platform’s real-time adaptability enables Unit personnel to evaluate changing conditions, compare treatment scenarios, and make data-informed decisions regarding project development and funding opportunities. AEU also makes the platform available at no cost to cooperating agencies and organizations, including local fire districts, Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, and other partners. This shared access promotes a common operating picture, allows partners to align projects with Unit priorities, and enhances coordination across jurisdictional boundaries to maximize the effectiveness of wildfire mitigation investments.

While the platform provides a powerful analytical framework for identifying priorities, project selection and implementation decisions are ultimately informed by professional judgment, operational experience, local knowledge, stakeholder input, environmental considerations, and field verification. Together, these factors ensure that wildfire mitigation efforts are strategically targeted to the areas of highest risk and greatest potential benefit across the Amador–El Dorado Unit.

Strategic Project Areas

The Strategic Project Areas identified in the following section represent the areas within Amador-El Dorado Unit that have the greatest opportunity to reduce wildfire risk to community and landscape values — including homes, critical access roads, and wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas.

Data-Driven Process

To develop these areas, AEU staff conducted a thorough analysis of wildfire hazard and risk across the landscape using the [Vibrant Planet Platform](#) (the Platform), a cloud-based decision support tool for wildfire risk mitigation planning. The Platform provided a comprehensive assessment of vegetation structure, wildfire hazard, and risk to

landscape features with societal value. The tool enables the Unit to use a data-driven approach to identifying treatment priorities.

Cooperator Engagement

These areas are intended to identify the Unit's priorities for Hazardous Fuels Reduction and to guide cooperators in understanding where treatment efforts are most needed. Cooperators with questions about the Strategic Project Areas or how to apply them are encouraged to reach out to [contact/unit staff] to learn more.

Strategic Project Area Methodology

Planning at the Division Level

To account for ecological and sociological variation across the unit, project development occurred at the Division level, with three Divisions - North, South, and East. Planning at the Division level enabled Unit staff to plan within locations containing similar wildfire hazard and a similar distribution of values-at-risk.

Emphasizing Community Protection

Within each Division, Strategic Project Areas were designed to protect lives, property, and their associated values-at-risk. Key values emphasized for wildfire risk reduction included:

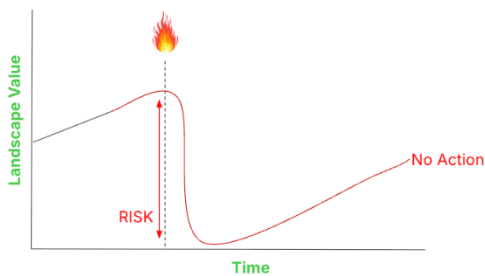
- Structures and wildfire transmission zones to structures
- Critical access routes
- Public utilities infrastructure
- Firefighter operational space within the Wildland Urban Interface & Intermix
- Subdivision Review Index areas
- Emergency facilities and communication infrastructure
- Critical businesses like gas stations, grocery stores, and local commercial centers that provide essential goods and services; protecting them reduces disruption, supports emergency response, and strengthens community recovery after wildfire events.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction goals vary by geographic area. In WUI Interface, potential Hazardous Fuels Reduction actions focus on preventing fire spread to structures and initiation of urban conflagration, while in WUI Intermix, potential Hazardous Fuels Reduction actions may focus more heavily on maintaining safe operational space for firefighters.

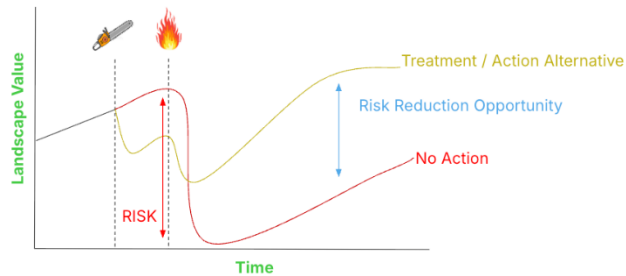
Risk Reduction Opportunity

Within the Platform, Vibrant Planet calculates a unique Risk Reduction Opportunity (RO) score for each geographic location. To calculate the RO score, each landscape feature with societal value is exposed to the modeled wildfire hazard to determine potential loss in value due to wildfire, also known as risk. The Platform then analyzes all Hazardous Fuels Reduction options to reduce the risk and determines a single 'recommended' Hazardous Fuels Reduction option that reduces the most amount of risk to the landscape value. See the diagrams and further explanation below.

Risk



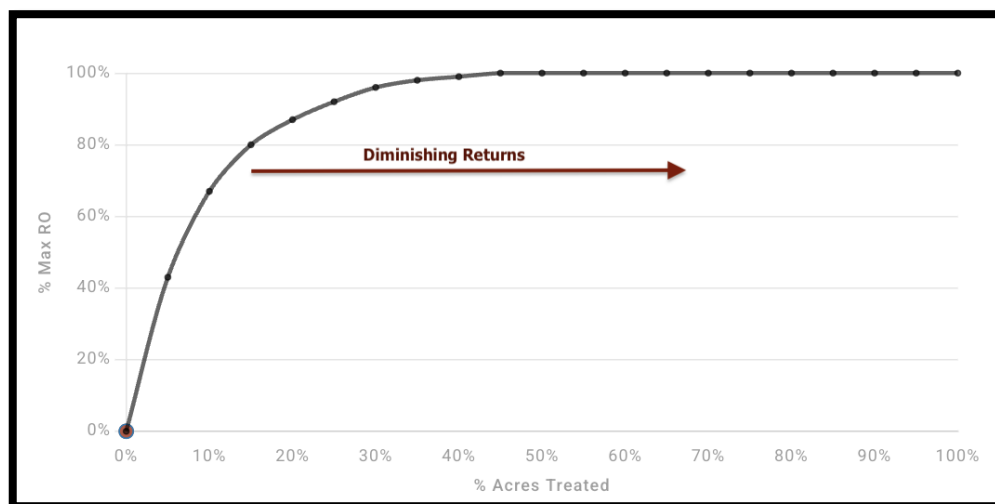
Risk Reduction Opportunity



The graph on the left shows the loss in value of a landscape feature following a wildfire (risk). The graph on the right shows the difference in value following a wildfire with no Hazardous Fuels Reduction vs. the value following a Hazardous Fuels Reduction action by implementing the 'recommended' Hazardous Fuels Reduction option selected by the platform. The difference in value between no action/post modeled wildfire and post-implementation action/post modeled wildfire is RO. Vibrant Planet calculates RO for each landscape feature. When multiple features are present in an area, their scores are combined.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Targets & Goals

Risk reduction opportunity (RO) is not evenly distributed across the landscape. Landscape values tend to be clustered in certain areas (e.g. around communities), meaning some locations face disproportionately higher risk. Treating the top 10% of the most at-risk areas on the landscape will generally be more efficient in reducing landscape-wide risk than the next 10% of areas and so on (see graph below).



The Strategic Project Areas identified within the Unit are designed to maximize risk reduction efficiency while also acknowledging limited resources for hazardous fuels reduction fuels.

Three sets of sub-areas were created for each Division based on the value-at-risk emphasis and Hazardous Fuels Reduction targets described above:

- WUI Interface
- WUI Intermix & Subdivision Review Index areas
- Remaining Areas

Using the RO efficiency graph above, the Strategic Project Areas targeted:

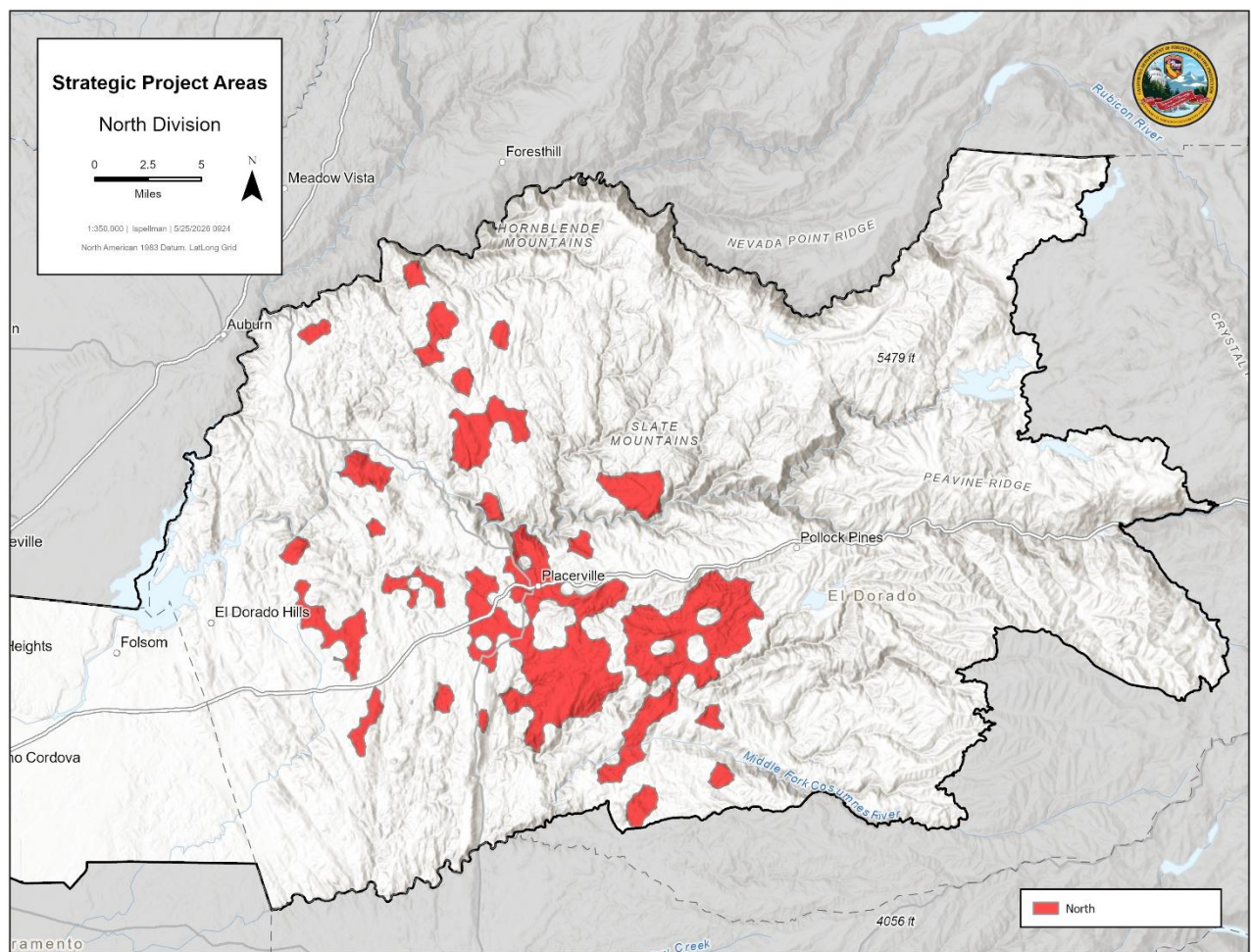
- 50% RO in WUI Interface
- ~4% of each Division, ranging from 30% - 70% RO among the Divisions

Risk distribution varies within each Division so the resulting RO and acres treated per Division also varies. See Division Assessment Tables for statistics.

Unit Strategic Planning Areas

The following are the three strategic planning areas North, East, and South with the outcomes from the use of the Vibrant Planet Platform. Greater detail on the planning area maps can be seen on the AEU Story Map.

North Division



Assessment Table

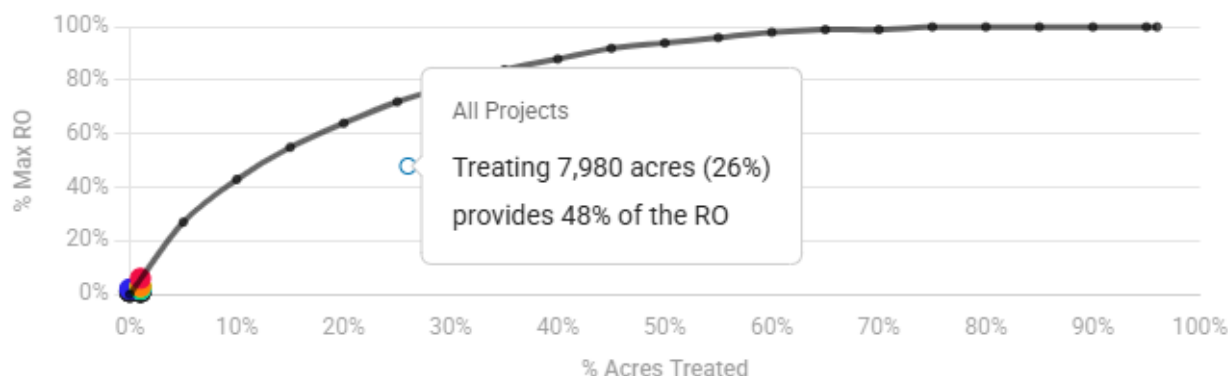
The North Division Assessment goals are to reduce the greatest amount of risk to Safety and Asset values-at-risk (see ‘*Values-at-Risk*’ discussion above) with the most efficient hazardous fuel reduction actions (see ‘*Hazardous Fuels Reduction Targets*’ and ‘*Mapping Division Strategic Project Areas*’ discussion above). The table below summarizes the North Division Assessment.

Area of Assessment	Total Assessment Acres	Strategic Project Areas	% of Assessment Area	Predicted Risk Reduction
WUI Interface	30,351 acres	7,980 acres	26%	48%
Full Division w/ emphasis on WUI Intermix + Subdivision Review	924,621 acres	37,499 acres	4%	34%
		<i>Acres prioritized in both assessments</i>		346 acres
		Total Proposed Project Areas		45,124 acres

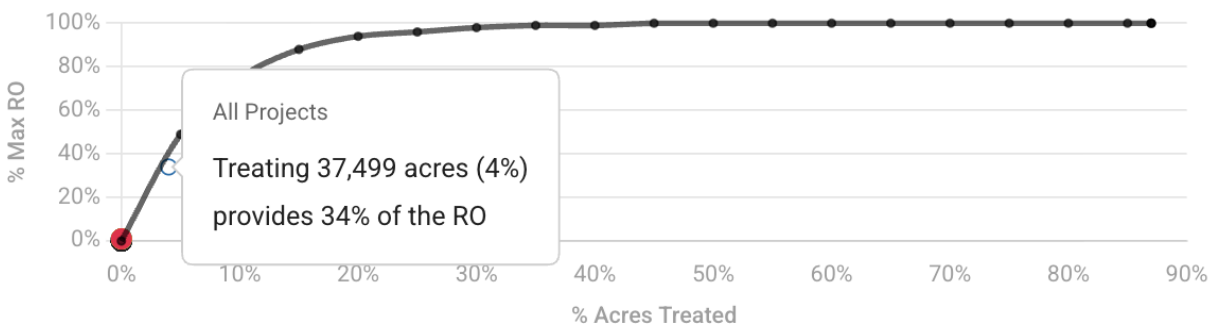
Risk Reduction Efficiency Graphs

As discussed in *Hazardous Fuels Reduction Targets* (above), Risk Reduction Opportunity (RO) is not evenly distributed across the landscape. SARAs tend to be clustered in certain areas (e.g. around communities), meaning some locations face disproportionately higher risk. The strategic project areas identified within the North Division are designed to maximize risk reduction efficiency while also acknowledging limited resources for hazardous fuels reduction. The two graphics below demonstrate the efficiency of hazardous fuel reductions specifically within the North Division's WUI Interface and across the entirety of the Division.

WUI Interface



Full Division



Recommended Hazardous Fuels Reduction Options & Financial Estimates Table

The Vibrant Planet Platform evaluates a combination of seven different Hazardous Fuels Reduction options to determine the most efficient way to reduce risk for any given area on the landscape. The applicability of the Hazardous Fuels Reduction options are based on a series of operational constraints. Considerations such as vegetation type, steepness of slope, and other factors apply - based upon best Hazardous Fuels Reduction practices and considerations used by natural resource and land management agencies.

The following Hazardous Fuels Reduction types (summarized below) were recommended based on their efficiency in reducing risk in the Proposed Project Areas. Actual costs will be regionally variable and project dependent. Average cost estimates listed below are based on the recommended Hazardous Fuels Reduction portfolio.

Land Ownership Table

The table below summarizes land ownership/Hazardous Fuels Reduction across the North Division's Strategic Project Areas.

Ownership Type	Total Acres in WUI Interface - Strategic Project Areas	Total Acres in Full Division - Strategic Project Areas
Private Landowners	7,943 acres	36,049 acres
Federal Land	8 acres	1,375 acres
State Land	-	29 acres
Local Government	29 acres	62 acres
Non-Governmental Organization	-	8 acres

Recommended Management Options & Financial Estimates

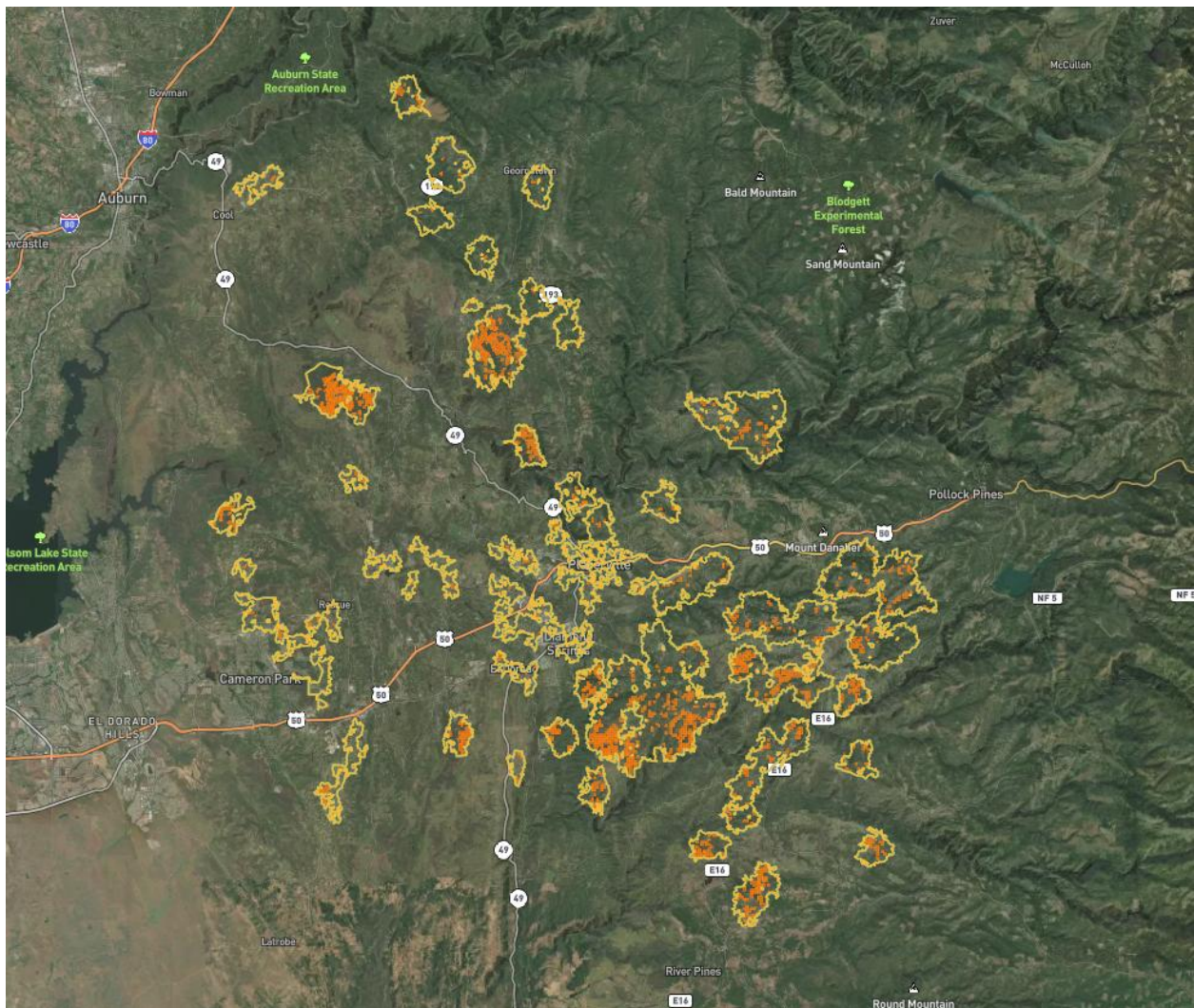
The following management types were recommended by the platform based on their efficiency in reducing risk in the Strategic Project Areas:

Management Type	Acres in WUI Interface - Strategic Project Areas	Total Acres in Full Division - Strategic Project Areas
Complex Mechanical Removal	3,433 acres	4,700 acres
Herbivory	1,531 acres	1,054 acres
Manual	1,003 acres	5,761 acres
Mechanical Rearrangement	372 acres	12,856 acres
Mechanical Removal	1,637 acres	12,546 acres
Rx Fire*	4 acres	606 acres
Total Proposed Project Area	7,980 acres	37,499 acres
Average Estimated Cost	\$3,980/acre	\$2,830/acre

*While the Vibrant Planet Platform recommends management types based on the highest likely efficiency in reducing risk, it also evaluates the feasibility of alternative management options that still will substantially reduce risk. See additional table and map below.

Management Type	Total Acres in Strategic Project Areas
Prescribed fire as a primary management	606 acres
Prescribed fire as a feasible alternative	6,239 acres

The area below visualizes the areas within our strategic planning areas that could benefit from prescribed fire. Highlighted in Orange.



Predicted Hazard Reduction from Strategic Project Areas

If implemented, the Strategic Project Areas outlined in the WUI Interface and Full Division Assessments would reduce wildfire hazard across the landscape, especially within the Strategic Project Areas. The Table below summarizes this reduction.

Metric	Outcome Scale	% Change
Total Wildfire Hazard <i>Wildfire hazard is a combination of how likely an area is to burn and the intensity at which it burns. High hazard may reflect frequent fire, high flame lengths, or a combination of the two.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	-83%
	Change to Division	-6%

Additional Predicted Outcomes from Strategic Project Areas

The following table summarizes the estimated change in hazard, and risk to value, across the North Division if/when the recommended hazardous fuel reduction actions (Hazardous Fuels Reductions) are implemented. These predicted outcomes include the combination of Division-wide and WUI Interface Strategic Project Areas.

Metric	Area of Assessment	Pre-Treatment	Post-Treatment	% Change
Acres of WUI with Extreme Fire Behavior <i>Flame lengths >11' are considered extreme fire behavior and basically prevent most fire suppression efforts during a fire event.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	4,290 acres	25 acres	-99%
	Change to Division	16,855 acres	12,590 acres	-25%
The reduction in flame lengths –of the most extreme class– creates more opportunities for fire suppression activities during a wildfire incident.				
Predicted Structure Loss if Wildfire Occurs <i>Hazardous fuel reduction efforts can shift structures from high exposure to lower exposure. Significantly reducing wildfire exposure to those structures could avoid as much as \$1,040 million in losses, based on an average rebuild cost of \$300/sq ft and an average structure size of 1,500 sq ft.</i>	Change to Division	\$4,619M	\$3,579M	-23%
Reducing wildfire exposure to structures, with adjacent hazardous fuel reduction, is a crucial step in reducing the wildfire risk to structures.				
Rate of Spread <i>Spread rate indicates how quickly a wildfire will grow.</i>	Change to Strategic Project	0.094 mph	0.028 mph	-70%

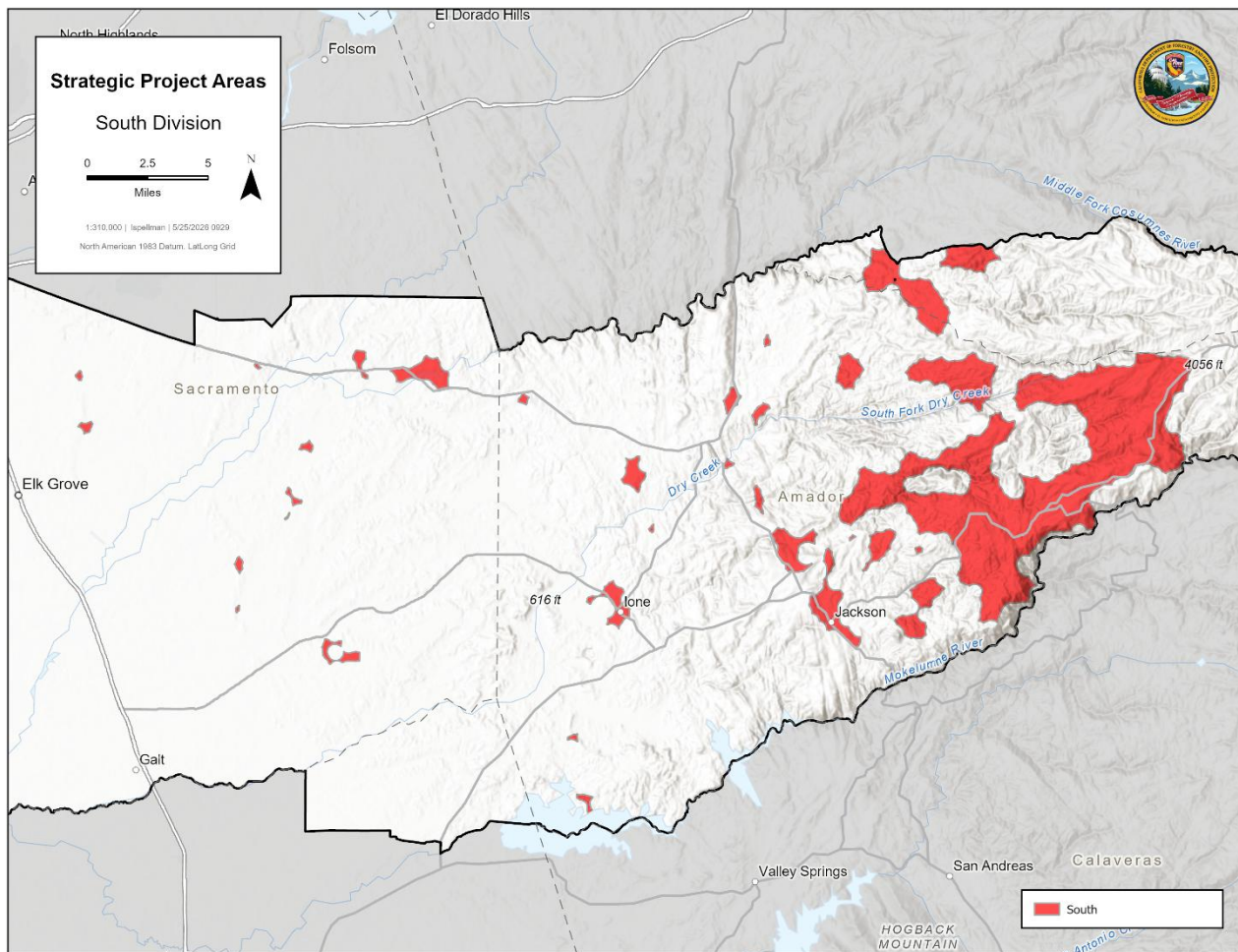
Metric	Area of Assessment	Pre-Treatment	Post-Treatment	% Change
	Area			
	Change to Division	0.139 mph	0.136 mph	-2%
A reduction in spread rate often increases fire suppression opportunities and corresponds to lower intensities and less wildfire risk.				
Source Acres of Ember Load to Buildings <i>Structures can be exposed to fires by embers from nearby wildland vegetation.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	36,091 acres	21,241 acres	-41%
	Change to Division	253,693 acres	238,843 acres	-6%
A reduction in the source of embers to nearby structures corresponds to a reduction in wildfire risk to structures.				
Expected Acres Burned within 10 Years <i>This metric indicates how many acres are expected to burn within 10 years.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	4,599 acres	3,773 acres	-18%
	Change to Division	68,115 acres	66,252 acres	-3%
Reducing the probability of a wildfire directly corresponds to a reduction in wildfire risk.				

Benefits to other At-Risk Values in Strategic Project Areas Table

While the North Division Assessment prioritized risk reduction for specific HVRAAs (see Values-At-Risk Emphasis discussion above), the hazardous fuel reduction projects within our Strategic Project Areas offer significant co-benefits that extend beyond targeted risk reduction. These projects enhance ecosystem health, improve air and water quality, safeguard critical infrastructure, and support wildlife habitats. The table below provides a summary of these co-benefits, illustrating how our strategic approach not only mitigates wildfire risk but also enhances overall environmental resilience and community well-being.

Objective Category	Area of Assessment	Assessment Acres	Predicted Risk Reduction
Water <i>Streams, Lakes, Areas of High Erosion</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	45,132 acres	28.3%
	Change to Division	924,621 acres	1.1%
Recreation <i>Trails and Recreation Areas</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	45,132 acres	13.8%
	Change to Division	924,621 acres	<1%
Wildlands & Forest Health <i>Mixed-Conifer Stand Density, Freshwater Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Aboveground Live Biomass</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	45,132 acres	36.9%
	Change to Division	924,621 acres	2.0%
Biodiversity <i>Suitable Beaver Habitat, California Black Oak, and Whitebark Pine</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	45,132 acres	4.9%
	Change to Division	924,621 acres	113.6%
Ecological Commodity <i>Managed Timberlands</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	45,132 acres	44.8%
	Change to Division	924,621 acres	<1%

South Division

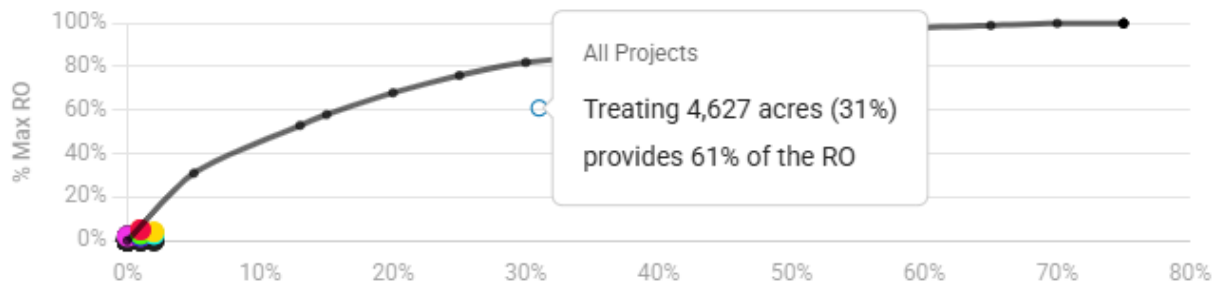


Assessment Table

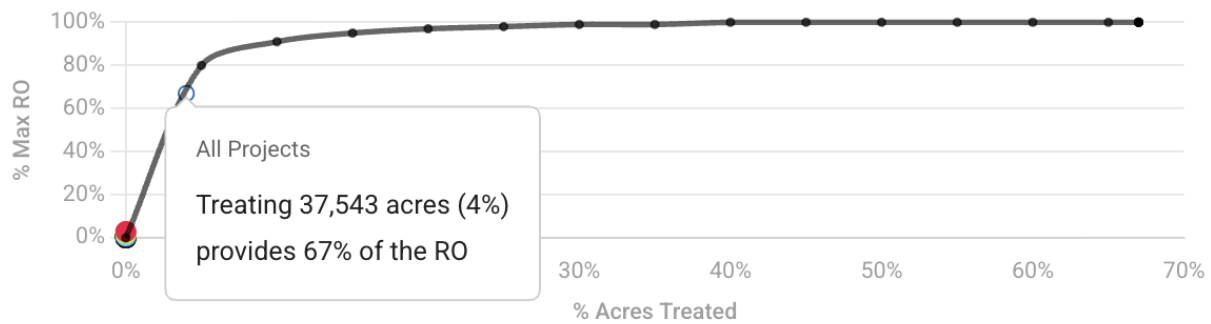
Area of Assessment	Total Assessment Acres	Strategic Project Areas	% of Assessment Area	Predicted Risk Reduction
WUI Interface	14,939 acres	4,627 acres	31%	61%
Full Division w/ emphasis on WUI Intermix + Subdivision Review	909,969 acres	37,543 acres	4%	67%
		Acres prioritized in both assessments		251 acres
		Total Proposed Project Areas		41,919 acres

Risk Reduction Efficiency Graphs

WUI Interface



Full Division



Land Ownership Table

Ownership Type	Total Acres in WUI Interface - Strategic Project Areas	Total Acres in Full Division - Strategic Project Areas
Private Landowners	4,592 acres	35,792 acres
Federal Land	-	1,399 acres
Tribal Lands	-	6 acres
State Land	-	323 acres
Local Government	35 acres	-
Non-Governmental Organization	-	18 acres

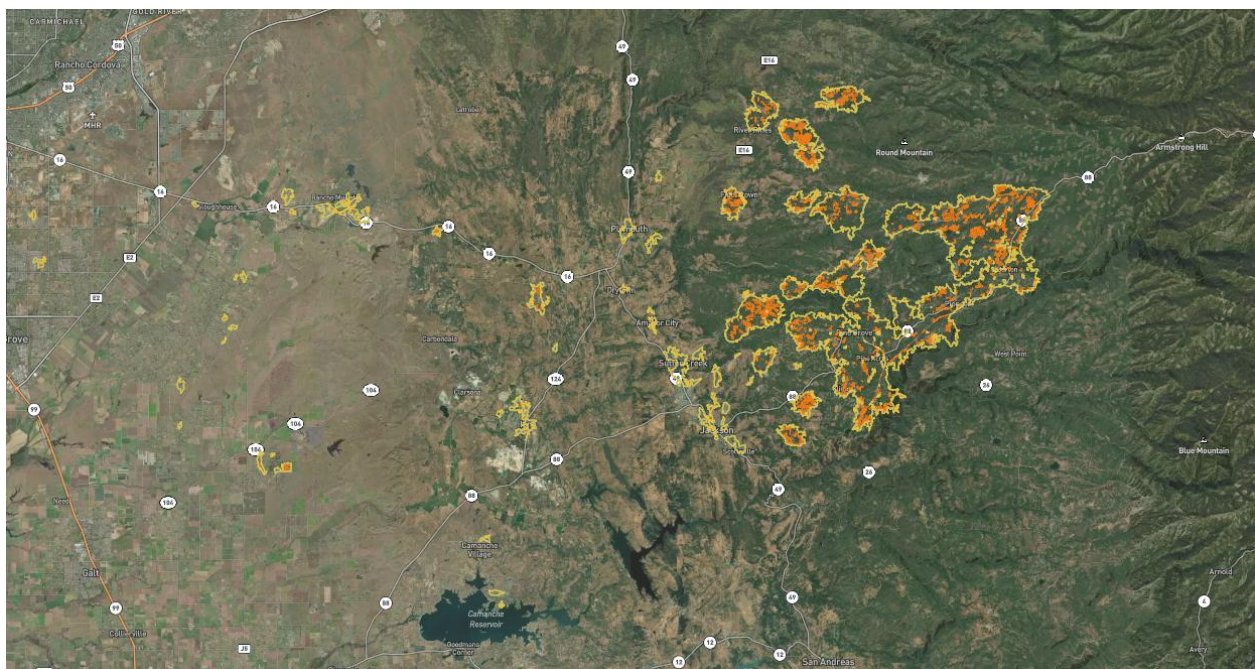
Management Type	Acres in WUI Interface - Strategic Project Areas	Total Acres in Full Division - Strategic Project Areas
Complex Mechanical Removal	1,194 acres	5,685 acres
Herbivory	2,305 acres	1,084 acres

Manual	557 acres	6,345 acres
Mechanical Rearrangement	134 acres	14,227 acres
Mechanical Removal	419 acres	9,020 acres
Rx Fire*	18 acres	1,177 acres
Total Proposed Project Area	4,627 acres	37,543 acres
Average Estimated Cost	\$2,520/acre	\$2,910/acre

*While the Vibrant Planet Platform recommends management types based on the highest likely efficiency in reducing risk, it also evaluates the feasibility of alternative management options that still will substantially reduce risk. See additional table and map below.

Management Type	Total Acres in Strategic Project Areas
Prescribed fire as a primary management	1,177 acres
Prescribed fire as a feasible alternative	7,372 acres

The area below visualizes the areas within our strategic planning areas that could benefit from prescribed fire. Highlighted in Orange.



Benefits to other At-Risk Values in Strategic Project Areas Table

While the South Division Assessment prioritized risk reduction for specific HVRAs (see Values-At-Risk Emphasis discussion above), the hazardous fuel reduction projects within our Strategic Project Areas offer significant co-benefits that extend beyond targeted risk reduction. These projects enhance ecosystem health, improve air and water quality, safeguard critical infrastructure, and support wildlife habitats. The table below provides a summary of these co-benefits, illustrating how our strategic approach not only mitigates wildfire risk but also enhances overall environmental resilience and community well-being.

Objective Category	Area of Assessment	Assessment Acres	Predicted Risk Reduction
Water <i>Streams, Lakes, Areas of High Erosion</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	41,919 acres	27.8%
	Change to Division	909,969 acres	1.9%
Recreation <i>Trails and Recreation Areas</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	41,919 acres	26.4%
	Change to Division	909,969 acres	<1%
Wildlands & Forest Health <i>Mixed-Conifer Stand Density, Freshwater Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Aboveground Live Biomass</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	41,919 acres	32.4%
	Change to Division	909,969 acres	2.6%
Biodiversity <i>Suitable Beaver Habitat, California Black Oak, and Whitebark Pine</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	41,919 acres	82.5%
	Change to Division	909,969 acres	7.9%
Ecological Commodity <i>Managed Timberlands</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	41,919 acres	11.4%
	Change to Division	909,969 acres	<1%

Predicted Hazard Reduction from Strategic Project Areas Table & Map

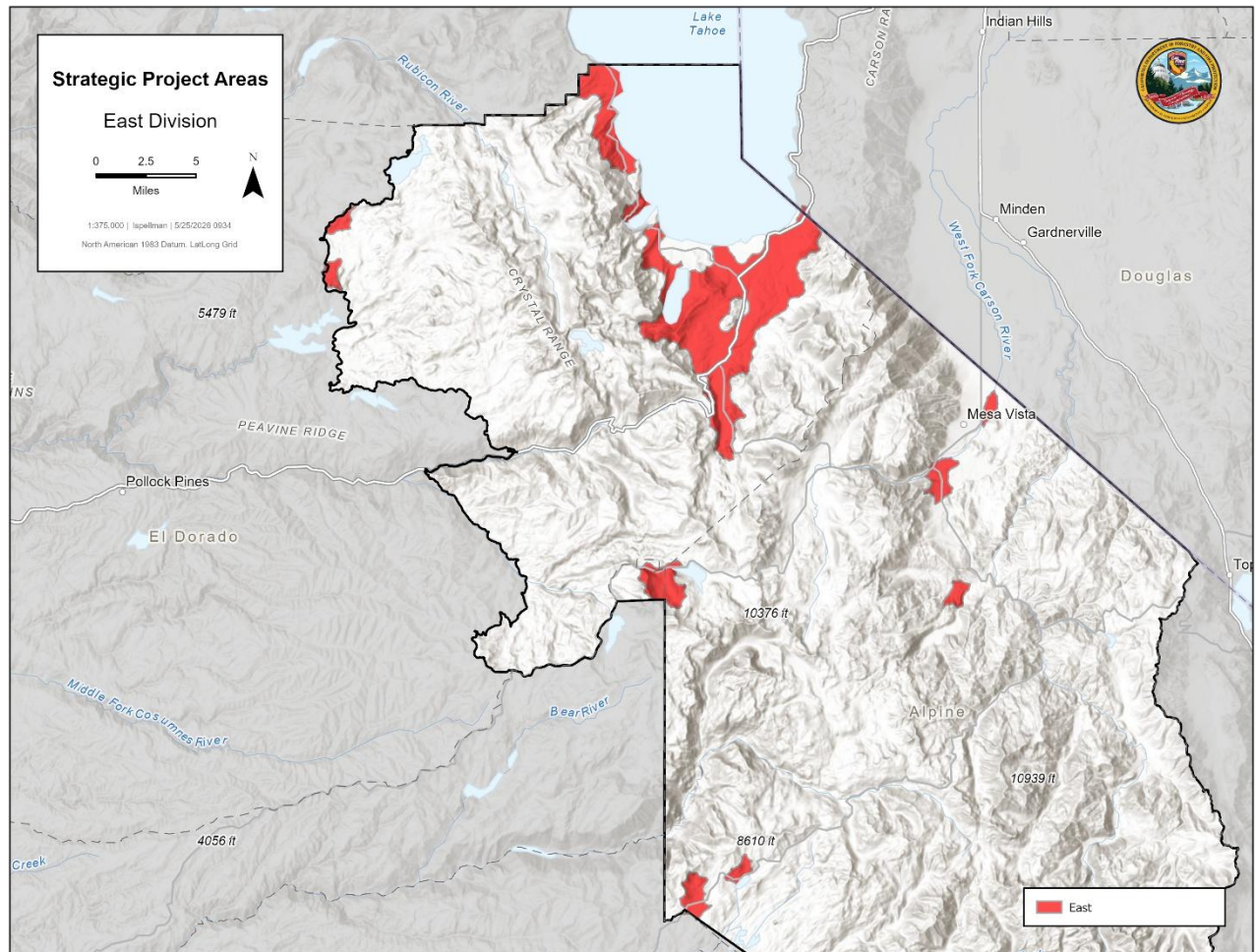
Metric	Outcome Scale	% Change
Total Wildfire Hazard <i>Wildfire hazard is a combination of how likely an area is to burn and the intensity at which it burns. High hazard may reflect frequent fire, high flame lengths, or a combination of the two.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	-82%
	Change to Division	-8%

Additional Predicted Outcomes from Strategic Project Areas Table

Metric	Area of Assessment	Pre-Treatment	Post-Treatment	% Change
Acres of WUI with Extreme Fire Behavior <i>Flame lengths >11' are considered extreme fire behavior and basically prevent most fire suppression efforts during a fire event.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	3,279 acres	50 acres	-98%
	Change to Division	4,782 acres	1,553 acres	-68%
The reduction in flame lengths –of the most extreme class– creates more opportunities for fire suppression activities during a wildfire incident.				
Predicted Structure Loss if Wildfire Occurs <i>Hazardous Fuels Reduction efforts can shift structures from high exposure to lower exposure. Significantly reducing wildfire exposure to those structures could avoid as much as \$863 million in losses, based on an average rebuild cost of \$300/sq ft and an average structure size of 1,500 sq ft.</i>	Change to Division	\$4,379M	\$3,516M	-20%
Reducing wildfire exposure to structures, with adjacent hazardous fuel reduction, is a crucial step in reducing the wildfire risk to structures.				
Rate of Spread <i>Spread rate indicates how quickly a wildfire will grow.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	0.081 mph	0.026 mph	-68%

Metric	Area of Assessment	Pre-Treatment	Post-Treatment	% Change
	Change to Division	0.157 mph	0.154 mph	-2%
A reduction in spread rate often increases fire suppression opportunities and corresponds to lower intensities and less wildfire risk.				
Source Acres of Ember Load to Buildings <i>Structures can be exposed to fires by embers from nearby wildland vegetation.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	30,774 acres	16,805 acres	-45%
	Change to Division	167,100 acres	153,131 acres	-8%
A reduction in the source of embers to nearby structures corresponds to a reduction in wildfire risk to structures.				
Expected Acres Burned within 10 Years <i>This metric indicates how many acres are expected to burn within 10 years.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	4,451 acres	3,308 acres	-26%
	Change to Division	54,946 acres	53,000 acres	-4%
Reducing the probability of a wildfire directly corresponds to a reduction in wildfire risk				

East Division

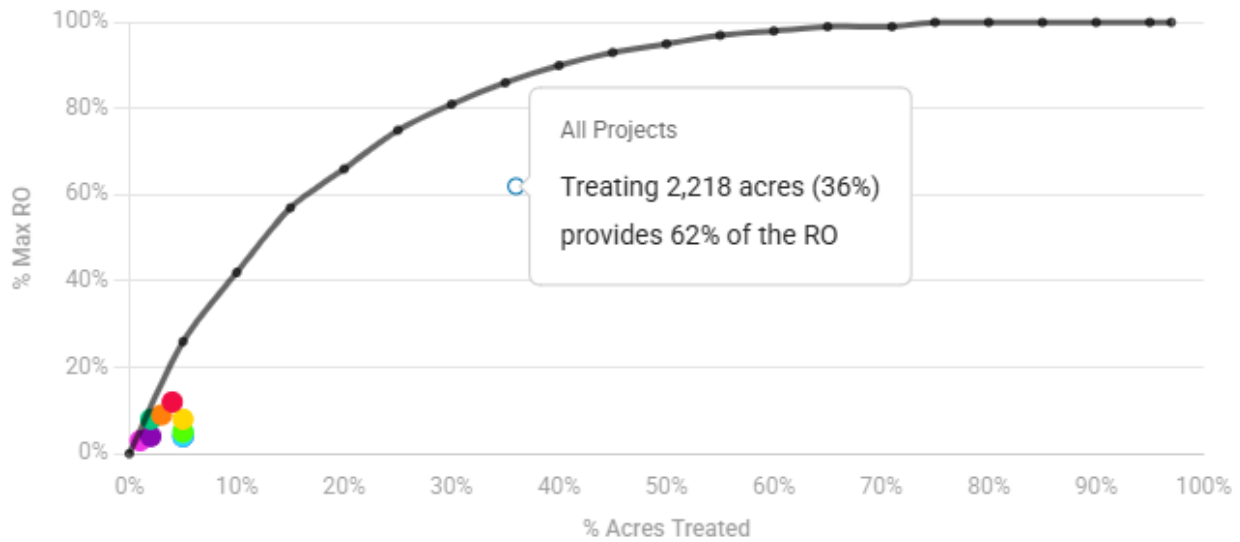


Assessment Table

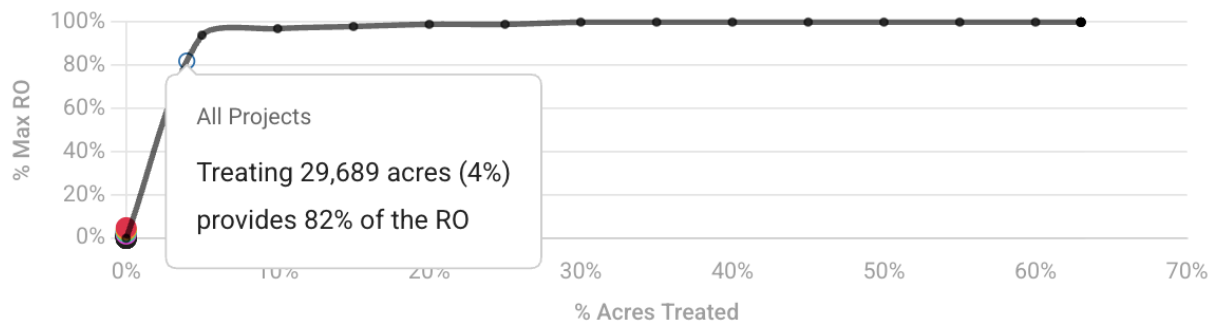
Area of Assessment	Total Assessment Acres	Strategic Project Areas	% of Assessment Area	Predicted Risk Reduction
WUI Interface	6,121 acres	2,218 acres	<1%	62%
Full Division w/ emphasis on WUI Intermix + Subdivision Review	745,534 acres	29,689 acres	4%	82%
		Acres prioritized in both assessments		2,151 acres
		Total Proposed Project Areas		29,756 acres

Risk Reduction Efficiency Graphs

WUI Interface



Full Division



Land Ownership Table

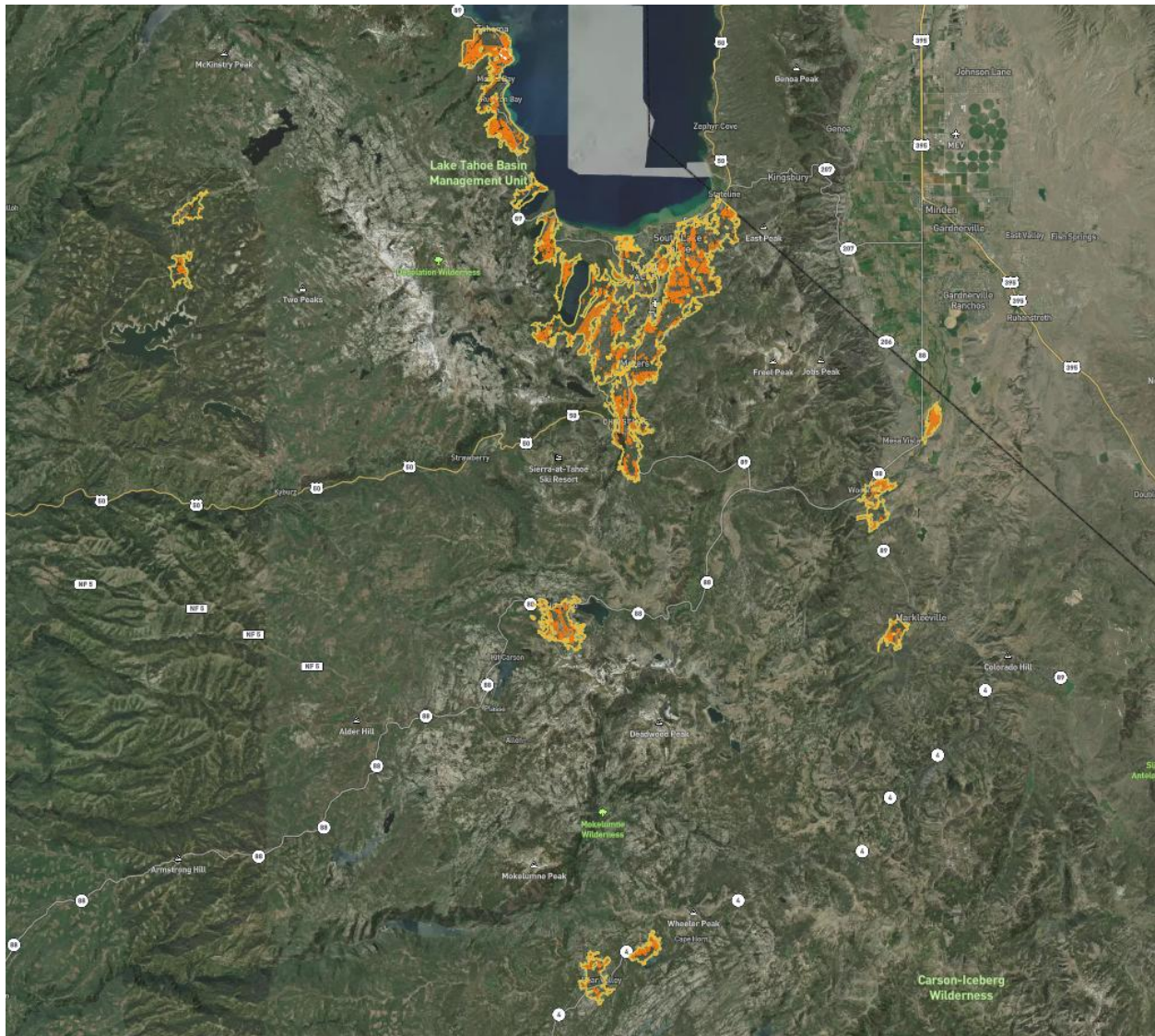
Ownership Type	Total Acres in WUI Interface – Strategic Project Areas	Total Acres in Full Division – Strategic Project Areas
Private Landowners	1,978 acres	12,556 acres
Federal Land	118 acres	13,682 acres
State Land	110 acres	3,090 acres
Local Government	10 acres	300 acres
Non-Governmental Organization	2 acres	62 acres

Management Type	Acres in WUI Interface - Strategic Project Areas	Total Acres in Full Division - Strategic Project Areas
Complex Mechanical Removal	1,485 acres	7,069 acres
Herbivory	260 acres	1,633 acres
Manual	186 acres	3,133 acres
Mechanical Rearrangement	108 acres	5,592 acres
Mechanical Removal	138 acres	6,683 acres
Rx Fire*	41 acres	5,580 acres
Total Proposed Project Area	2,218 acres	29,689 acres
Average Estimated Cost	\$5,250/acre	\$2,820/acre

*While the Vibrant Planet Platform recommends management types based on the highest likely efficiency in reducing risk, it also evaluates the feasibility of alternative management options that still will substantially reduce risk. See additional table and map below.

Management Type	Total Acres in Strategic Project Areas
Prescribed fire as a primary management	5,580 acres
Prescribed fire as a feasible alternative	10,137 acres

The area below visualizes the areas within our strategic planning areas that could benefit from prescribed fire. Highlighted in Orange.



Benefits to other At-Risk Values in Strategic Project Areas Table

While the East Division Assessment prioritized risk reduction for specific HVRAs (see Values-At-Risk Emphasis discussion above), the hazardous fuel reduction projects within our Strategic Project Areas offer significant co-benefits that extend beyond targeted risk reduction.

These projects enhance ecosystem health, improve air and water quality, safeguard critical infrastructure, and support wildlife habitats. The table below provides a summary of these co-benefits, illustrating how our strategic approach not only mitigates wildfire risk but also enhances overall environmental resilience and community well-being.

Objective Category	Area of Assessment	Assessment Acres	Predicted Risk Reduction
Water <i>Streams, Lakes, Areas of High Erosion</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	29,756 acres	10.7%
	Change to Division	745,534 acres	<1%
Recreation <i>Trails and Recreation Areas</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	29,756 acres	9.2%
	Change to Division	745,534 acres	<1%
Wildlands & Forest Health <i>Mixed-Conifer Stand Density, Freshwater Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Aboveground Live Biomass</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	29,756 acres	18.8%
	Change to Division	745,534 acres	1.2%
Biodiversity <i>Suitable Beaver Habitat, California Black Oak, and Whitebark Pine</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	29,756 acres	18.1%
	Change to Division	745,534 acres	0.9%
Ecological Commodity <i>Managed Timberlands</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	29,756 acres	17.1%
	Change to Division	745,534 acres	<1%

Predicted Hazard Reduction from Strategic Project Areas Table & Map

Metric	Outcome Scale	% Change
Total Wildfire Hazard <i>Wildfire hazard is a combination of how likely an area is to burn and the intensity at which it burns. High hazard may reflect frequent fire, high flame lengths, or a combination of the two.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	-72%
	Change to Division	-3%

Additional Predicted Outcomes from Strategic Project Areas Table

Metric	Area of Assessment	Pre-Treatment	Post-Treatment	% Change
Acres of WUI with Extreme Fire Behavior <i>Flame lengths >11' are considered extreme fire behavior and basically prevent most fire suppression efforts during a fire event.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	1,027 acres	113 acres	-89%
	Change to Division	1,424 acres	510 acres	-64%
The reduction in flame lengths –of the most extreme class– creates more opportunities for fire suppression activities during a wildfire incident.				
Predicted Structure Loss if Wildfire Occurs <i>Hazardous Fuels Reduction efforts can shift structures from high exposure to lower exposure. Significantly reducing wildfire exposure to those structures could avoid as much as \$168 million in losses, based on an average rebuild cost of \$300/sq ft and an average structure size of 1,500 sq ft.</i>	Change to Division	\$3,519 M	\$3,351M	-5%
Reducing wildfire exposure to structures, with adjacent hazardous fuel reduction, is a crucial step in reducing the wildfire risk to structures.				
Rate of Spread <i>Spread rate indicates how quickly a wildfire will grow.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	0.104 mph	0.046 mph	-56%
	Change to Division	0.211 mph	0.208 mph	-1%
A reduction in spread rate often increases fire suppression opportunities and corresponds to lower intensities and less wildfire risk.				
Source Acres of Ember Load to Buildings <i>Structures can be exposed to fires by embers from nearby wildland vegetation.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	12,893 acres	7,040 acres	-45%
	Change to Division	28,214 acres	22,361 acres	-21%

Metric	Area of Assessment	Pre-Treatment	Post-Treatment	% Change
A reduction in the source of embers to nearby structures corresponds to a reduction in wildfire risk to structures.				
Expected Acres Burned within 10 Years <i>This metric indicates how many acres are expected to burn within 10 years.</i>	Change to Strategic Project Area	1,312 acres	1,007 acres	-23%
	Change to Division	37,443 acres	36,858 acres	-2%
Reducing the probability of a wildfire directly corresponds to a reduction in wildfire risk.				

Unit Divisional Project Area Totals

In reviewing the outcomes across the Unit's divisions, the strategic project areas underscore significant efforts and investment in wildfire resilience. Below is a brief overview of the total picture of large landscape project areas focused on protecting communities.

Metrics Overview:

- **Total Unit Strategic Project Areas Acreage:**
 - North Division: 45,132 acres
 - South Division: 41,929 acres
 - East Division: 29,756 acres
 - **Total Unit Strategic Project Areas Acreage:** 116,807 acres
- **Prescribed Fire Acres in the Unit:**
 - North Division: 606 acres
 - South Division: 1,177 acres
 - East Division: 5,580 acres
 - **Total Prescribed Fire Acres in the Unit:** 7,363 acres

Critical Access Routes Strategic Project Areas

Across the North, South, and East Divisions of CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado Unit, **Critical Access Routes** have been identified as essential roadways for wildfire response and public safety. These roads and highways are vital for resident evacuation and emergency responder access during a wildfire. Ensuring they remain open and passable during a wildfire can be the difference between a well-executed evacuation and dangerous congestion. Routes serve residential communities, including essential services like hospitals, schools, and emergency shelters, especially in rural areas where alternate paths are limited or nonexistent.

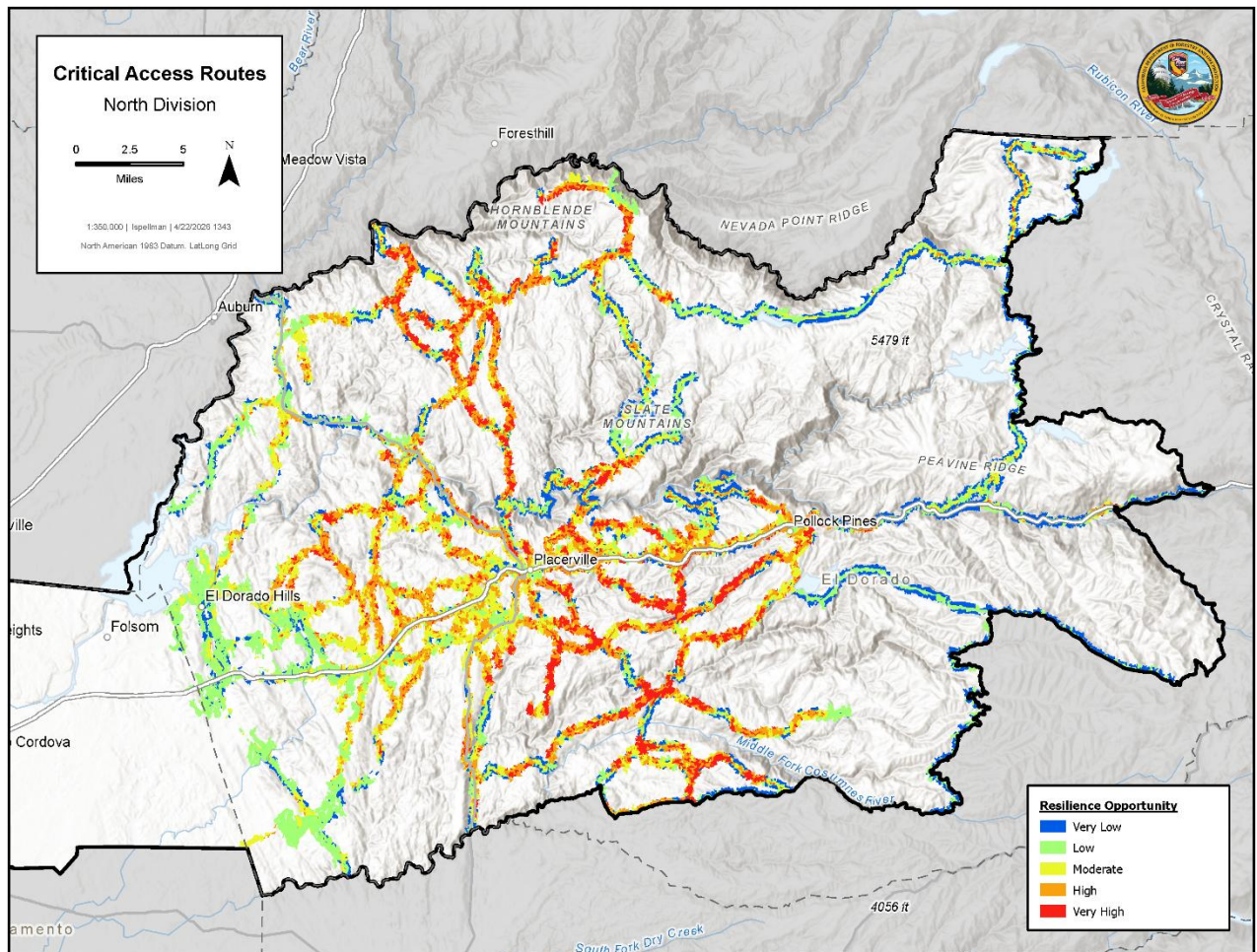
Clearing flammable vegetation along these critical access routes not only supports safe evacuation and response but also creates a valuable **defensible corridor** for fire operations. In many cases, these roads can serve as **pre-established control lines**, allowing firefighting resources to anchor suppression efforts, establish perimeters, or safely conduct backfiring operations during an advancing wildfire.

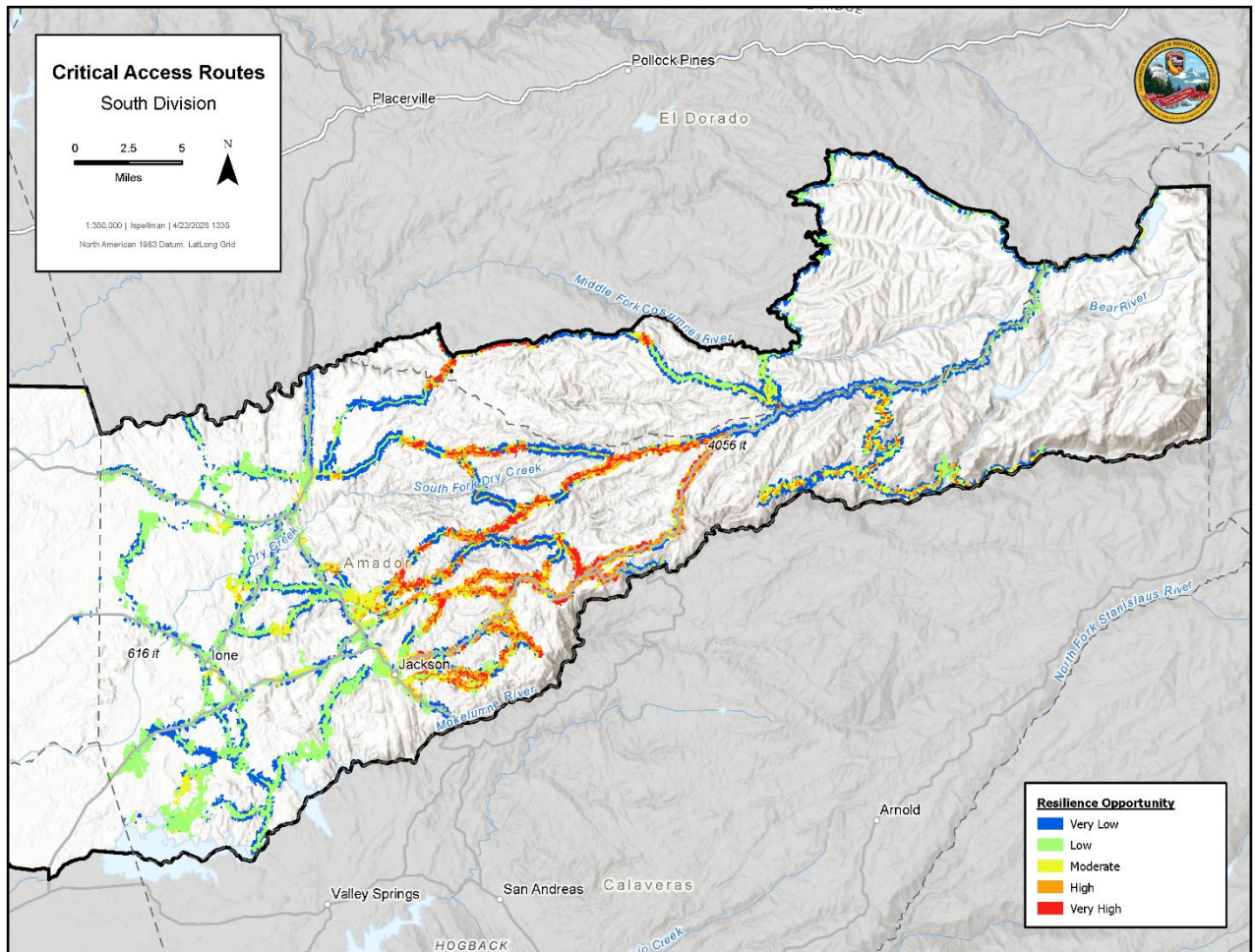
The Critical Access Routes Assessment goals are to reduce the greatest amount of risk to Critical Access Routes and other Safety values-at-risk (see 'Values-at-Risk' discussion above) with the most efficient hazardous fuel reduction actions (see 'Hazardous Fuels Reduction Targets' discussion above).

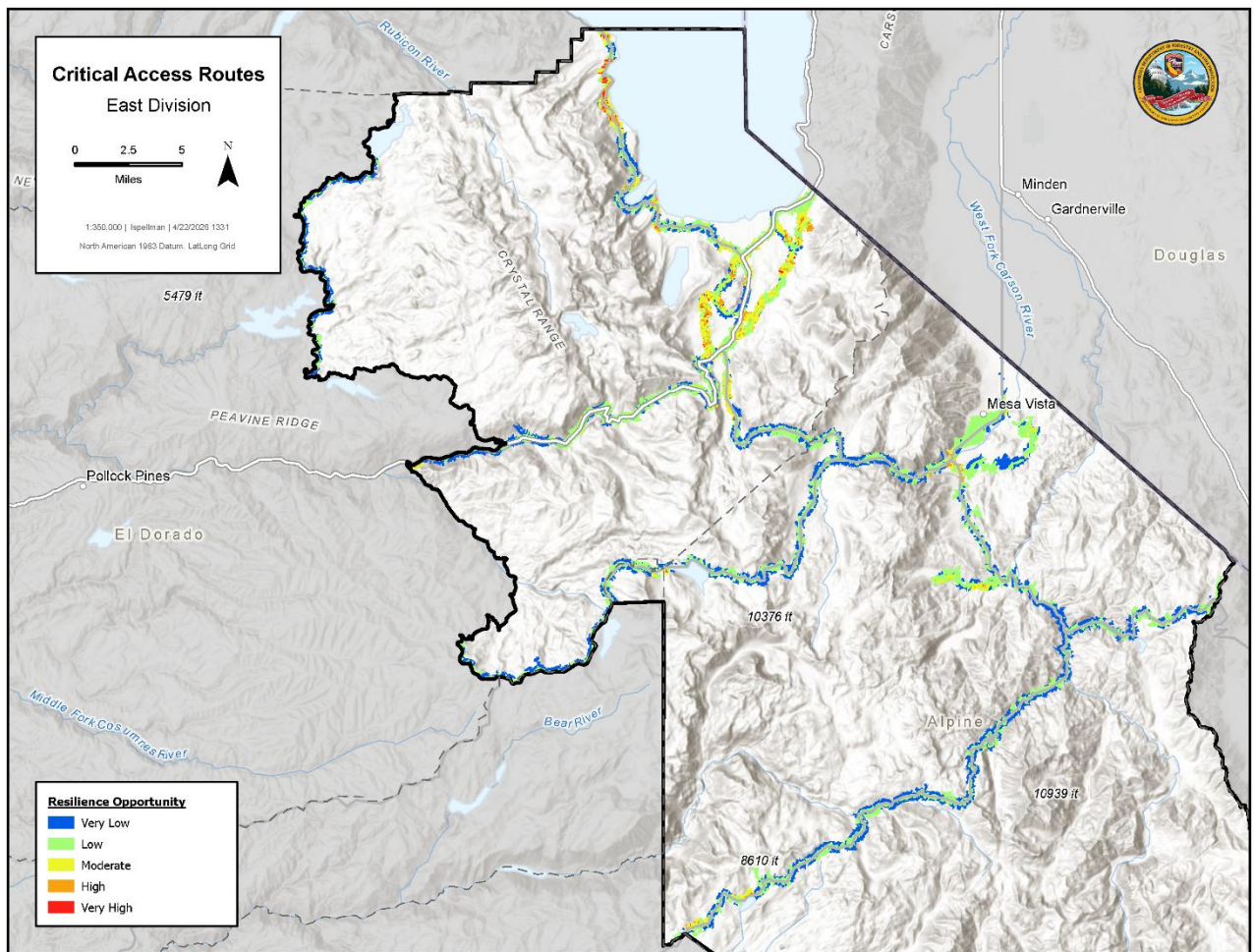
The full extent area was analyzed for risk reduction efficiency. **The top 20% of values were identified as Strategic Project Areas in the table and maps below:**

Area of Assessment	Total Acres	Strategic Project Areas	% of Assessment Area
Critical Access Routes	264,593 acres	51,587 acres	20%

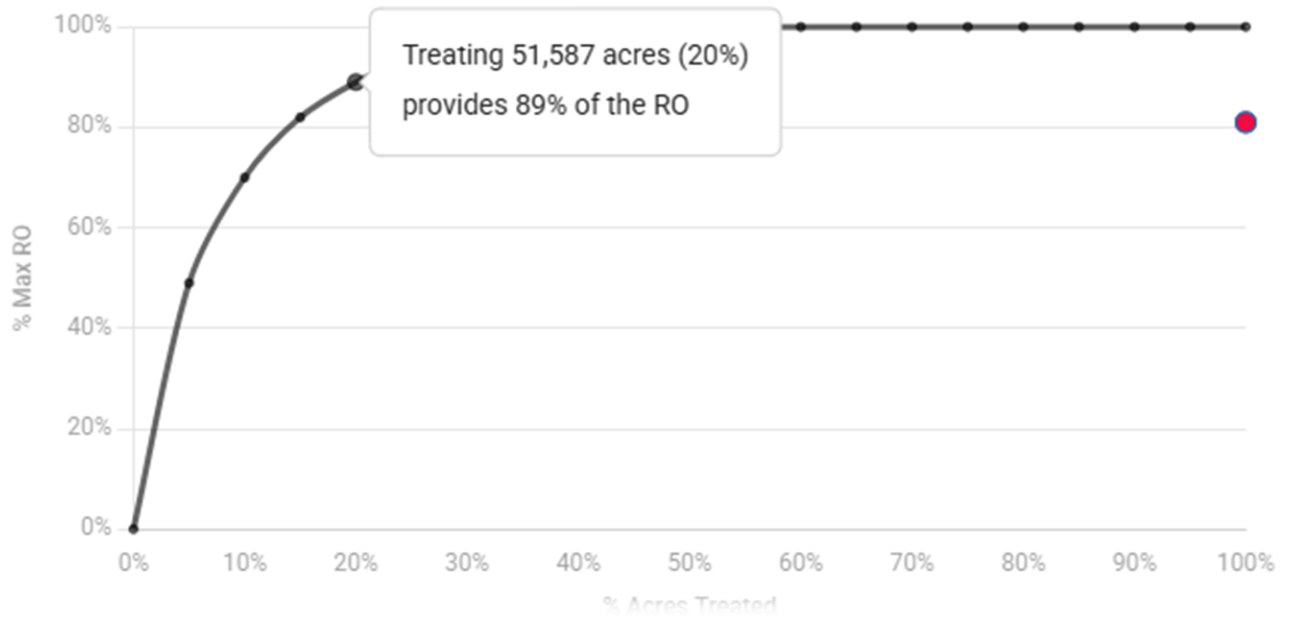
Critical Access Route Maps







Risk Reduction Efficiency Graphs



Predicted Hazard Reduction from Proposed Project Areas Table

Metric	Outcome Scale	% Change
Total Wildfire Hazard <i>Wildfire hazard is a combination of how likely an area is to burn and the intensity at which it burns. High hazard may reflect frequent fire, high flame lengths, or a combination of the two.</i>	Change to Top 20% Strategic Project Area	-70%
	Change to All Critical Access Routes	-15%

Additional Predicted Outcomes from Proposed Project Areas Table

Metric	Area of Assessment	Pre-Treatment	Post-Treatment	% Change
Acres that Threaten Critical Access Routes <i>Fire behavior near roads, especially during extreme fire events, can affect the use of Critical Access Routes for access and evacuation. This metric identifies how many acres in the assessment area may impact these roads during a fire event.</i>	Change to Top 20% Strategic Project Area	1,669 acres	278 acres	-83%
	Change to All Critical Access Routes	11,017 acres	9,626 acres	-13%

CAL FIRE - AEU Review

Following the analysis generated by the Vibrant Planet Platform, CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit (AEU) conducted a comprehensive internal review to validate both the methodology and resulting priority areas. Battalion Chiefs and Unit staff were actively engaged throughout this process, providing critical evaluation grounded in operational experience and local knowledge.

This review combined the platform’s data-driven outputs with real-world insight to ensure that identified Strategic Project Areas are both scientifically sound and operationally practical. By integrating field-based expertise with modeled results, AEU confirmed that the final priorities accurately reflect on-the-ground conditions, align with suppression and access considerations, and support effective wildfire risk reduction across the Unit.

[Exhibit G: Vibrant Planet Data and Science](#)

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Amador-El Dorado Unit Wildfire Resilience Strategy

The Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) employs a comprehensive and integrated strategy to address the growing wildfire threat across the region. This strategy is built on three key pillars: **parcel-level, landscape-level, and community-level efforts**. Each of these elements plays a critical role in reducing wildfire risks, protecting communities, and supporting fire operations. While any one of these efforts can provide some benefit, it is the integration of all three components that creates a robust defense against wildfires and enhances our ability to quickly and effectively suppress fires when they occur. By addressing wildfire risk at multiple levels, CAL FIRE AEU ensures a holistic approach that maximizes the impact of mitigation efforts, strengthens resilience, and supports fire operations on the ground.

Parcel Level: Defensible Space Inspections, Home Hardening, and Enforcement

Defensible Space Inspections

At the parcel level, CAL FIRE AEU engages directly with homeowners to address wildfire risks on individual properties. This starts with defensible space inspections, which are designed to evaluate the area around a home for flammable vegetation, the presence of combustibile materials, and overall fire-resilience. During these inspections, homeowners are provided with a tailored report that outlines the necessary steps to create defensible space around their property.

Home Hardening

In addition to defensible space inspections, home hardening is a critical component of the parcel-level strategy. This involves educating homeowners on ways to enhance the fire resistance of their homes by using fire-resistant materials, retrofitting vents, installing ember-resistant screens, and ensuring proper roof and deck maintenance. CAL FIRE works with homeowners to ensure they understand the necessary steps to safeguard their homes against wildfire.

Enforcement

While education plays a primary role in ensuring defensible space compliance, enforcement is a critical component of the parcel-level strategy. It ensures that homeowners meet the standards set by state regulations and local ordinances. CAL FIRE defensible space inspectors conduct follow-up inspections and enforce compliance with these regulations, including issuing citations when necessary. By holding homeowners accountable, CAL FIRE ensures that fire-prevention measures are consistently maintained, ultimately creating a more resilient and fire-safe community. Without enforcement, defensible space efforts would be undermined, and fire risks would remain high in non-compliant areas.

Landscape Level: Fuel Reduction Projects and Large-Scale Mitigation

Fuel Reduction Projects

At the landscape level, CAL FIRE focuses on fuel reduction projects—large and small—to reduce the amount of vegetation that can fuel a wildfire. These projects are designed to target areas with the greatest wildfire risk while ensuring that fire crews have effective positions to combat fires. Fuel reduction efforts may include thinning forests, clearing brush, and creating fuel breaks to interrupt fire paths. These efforts are strategically located to not only protect communities and critical infrastructure but also to enhance evacuation corridors and critical access routes. By creating defensible space along evacuation routes and ensuring that fire crews have unimpeded access to key areas, CAL FIRE enhances the safety of both residents and firefighters during wildfire events. These coordinated efforts improve fire suppression capabilities, reduce fire intensity, and provide safe passage for evacuations, ensuring a more effective response when wildfires occur.

Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire is a key tool in landscape-level mitigation efforts, designed to reduce excessive fuel loads in a controlled and safe manner, preventing future wildfires from becoming catastrophic. Carefully planned and executed, prescribed burns help reduce wildfire intensity, create defensible zones, and promote firefighter safety. These burns also play a vital role in maintaining ecological health by restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, improving soil health, and supporting fire-resistant vegetation and wildlife habitats. Prescribed fire can be applied to both large and small areas, allowing for effective treatment across diverse landscapes. Additionally, prescribed burns provide valuable operational training opportunities for fire personnel, helping them gain hands-on experience in managing fire behavior and enhancing their readiness for larger wildfires.

Fuel Breaks and Fire Control Lines

In addition to fuel reduction, CAL FIRE creates strategic fuel breaks and fire control lines that provide firefighting crews with safe areas from which to fight fires. These breaks, often enhanced by controlled burns or mechanical thinning, give firefighters places to safely operate and prevent the fire from spreading to high-risk areas. These breaks are designed with the goal of protecting critical infrastructure, such as evacuation routes, water sources, and power lines, and are a crucial tool during large-scale fire events.

Project Coordination and Evaluation

CAL FIRE AEU also partners with other agencies and organizations to ensure that landscape-level projects are aligned with broader wildfire risk reduction strategies. This includes project coordination groups with other fire agencies, Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, and local governments. Additionally, CAL FIRE uses tools to evaluate the effectiveness of these projects and adjust strategies as necessary. Ground truthing and post-project analysis ensure that fuel reduction efforts meet the intended goals and improve future mitigation activities.

Community Level: Prevention, Engagement, and Enforcement Education and Outreach

A key component of CAL FIRE AEU's community engagement is education and outreach. Through programs designed for residents, businesses, and schools, CAL FIRE educates the public about fire-safe landscaping, home hardening, and emergency preparedness. These programs aim to instill a culture of preparedness and fire safety within communities. Educational efforts are tailored to meet the needs of different groups and are delivered through direct outreach, workshops, and public events. By raising awareness and providing residents with the knowledge and tools they need to protect their homes, CAL FIRE fosters a more fire-resilient community.

Collaboration and Coordination with Other Agencies

Collaboration and coordination with other agencies are central to the success of AEU's community-level strategy. CAL FIRE works closely with local Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, local fire agencies, local government agencies, and other stakeholders to align efforts, share resources, and strengthen wildfire mitigation strategies. These partnerships ensure that projects, such as fuel reduction and public education campaigns, complement each other and are implemented effectively. CAL FIRE also works with local planning agencies to integrate fire-safe regulations into building codes and community planning, ensuring that new developments are constructed with fire resilience in mind.

Enforcement

At the community level, enforcement is strengthened through CAL FIRE's law enforcement officers, who investigate fire causes and enforce California's Forestry and Fire Laws, Penal Codes, Health and Safety Codes, and Public Resources Codes. This includes investigating suspicious fire activity and holding individuals accountable for violations. Additionally, CAL FIRE forest practice inspectors enforce the California Forest Practice Rules, ensuring that forest resources and watershed values are responsibly managed, and that timber harvesting is done in a fire-safe manner. Enforcement is critical to preventing human-caused fires, which account for the majority of wildfire ignitions in California. By ensuring strict compliance with fire laws, CAL FIRE reduces the overall risk of wildfires and helps ensure safer communities.

Bringing It All Together: A Holistic Approach to Wildfire Resilience

Each element of CAL FIRE AEU's strategy—parcel-level, landscape-level, and community-level efforts—plays an important role in reducing wildfire risk. Taken in isolation, any one of these components can contribute to wildfire resilience, but it is the integration of all three that maximizes their effectiveness. By combining individual responsibility (parcel level), landscape-wide fuel management (landscape level), and community engagement and enforcement (community level), the Unit creates a multi-layered defense against wildfires. Each level reinforces the others, forming a comprehensive approach that addresses wildfire risk from every angle. This holistic strategy not only reduces the intensity and spread of wildfires but also provides critical support for fire suppression efforts. By reducing fuel loads and creating defensible zones, CAL FIRE ensures that fire personnel have the time, space, and resources needed to effectively combat wildfires. This coordinated effort improves firefighter safety, enhances suppression capabilities, and helps protect lives, property, and natural resources across the Amador-El Dorado Unit.

Fire Risk Reduction Community List

The Fire Risk Reduction Community List is a designation issued by the California Board of Forestry to recognize communities actively engaged in reducing wildfire risk and improving fire resilience. Being placed on this list signifies that a community has met best practices in wildfire preparedness and resilience. This designation opens access to specific funding opportunities and resources for wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts. Currently, El Dorado County holds this designation, CAL FIRE AEU is working with local partners to extend this recognition to other areas across the Unit.

[Fire Risk Reduction Community List | BOF](#)

Firewise Communities

Being a Firewise Community provides significant benefits, including increased fire resilience, access to resources and funding for mitigation projects, and stronger community collaboration. Firewise communities implement fire-resistant landscaping, defensible space, and other safety measures that reduce wildfire risk to homes and infrastructure. Additionally, these communities gain recognition and credibility, which can attract funding, resources, and support from local, state, and federal agencies. CAL FIRE ensures that more communities in the Unit are equipped to reduce fire risk and enhance wildfire preparedness.

[NFPA - Firewise USA®](#)

Fire Safe Councils

Our collaboration with Fire Safe Councils (FSCs) is integral to CAL FIRE AEU's wildfire prevention efforts. These partnerships allow CAL FIRE to provide expertise and actively participate in committees within the Fire Safe Councils, ensuring that projects are well-coordinated, meet fire prevention standards, and are implemented efficiently. We also work closely with FSCs on grant opportunities for fuel reduction and mitigation projects. Additionally, CAL FIRE supports FSCs by attending meetings, assisting with educational initiatives, and providing training for programs like the Qualified Entity Program.

These strong relationships foster a shared commitment to reducing wildfire risk, improving community resilience, and ensuring safer environments for residents. By coordinating efforts with FSCs, CAL FIRE enhances the effectiveness of wildfire prevention and builds a collaborative approach to fire safety across the Unit.

The Fire Safe Councils (FSC) which reside within the Unit Boundaries are:

- Amador Fire Safe Council
[Homepage Amador Fire Safe Council](#)
- Alpine Fire Safe Council
[Alpine Fire Safe Council - Fire Safety - Markleeville, California](#)
- El Dorado Fire Safe Council
[Homepage El Dorado Fire Safe Council](#)

El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR)

The Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR) in El Dorado County is a key partner in CAL FIRE AEU's efforts to enhance wildfire resilience across the region. The county's strong commitment to wildfire resiliency is evident in our ongoing collaboration, particularly in areas such as improving defensible space standards, coordinating community outreach, and managing fuel reduction projects like Webber Creek. Through this partnership, CAL FIRE and OWPR work together to align efforts, ensuring that fire prevention strategies are well-coordinated and impactful.

One of the most effective tools in our collaboration is the Coordination Group, which brings together local leaders on a regular basis to discuss wildfire resiliency issues, share insights, and provide guidance on addressing these challenges. This group plays a crucial role in shaping local strategies and ensures that the community is well-prepared to tackle wildfire risks in a unified, effective manner.

[Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience - El Dorado County](#)

Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) plays a crucial role in CAL FIRE AEU's broader wildfire resilience efforts. While CAL FIRE isn't directly involved in all TFFT activities, we collaborate closely with the team to align fuel reduction projects, wildfire mitigation strategies, and emergency response planning. This partnership ensures that our efforts complement each other, enhances firefighter safety, and strengthens community resilience across the region. By working together, CAL FIRE and TFFT improve wildfire risk management and ensure a coordinated, effective approach to fire prevention across multiple jurisdictions.

Relationships and Information Sharing

CAL FIRE AEU values the relationships we've built with local utilities, including electric, water, and transportation agencies, as they are integral to the critical infrastructure in the Unit. These utilities are essential not only for incident support during a wildfire but also for community rebuild efforts in the aftermath of a destructive event. By maintaining strong connections with these agencies, we can coordinate more effectively, ensuring that fire prevention efforts align with the protection of these vital services. These entities understand the importance of safeguarding their assets through comprehensive wildfire policies, recognizing that their resilience is closely tied to the overall resilience of the communities they serve. Through these partnerships, CAL FIRE gains valuable insights into landscape-level projects and planning, allowing for better coordination, more efficient use of resources, and enhanced wildfire risk management across the Unit.

Planning

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are locally developed, collaborative planning documents that guide wildfire risk reduction efforts within communities and surrounding landscapes. CWPPs identify wildfire hazards, assess values at risk, prioritize fuels reduction projects, improve evacuation preparedness, and establish strategies to enhance long-term community resilience. These plans serve as critical

tools for coordinating wildfire mitigation activities across jurisdictions and aligning local priorities with broader regional and state wildfire resilience objectives.

Within the Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU), CWPPs are developed through a collaborative process involving CAL FIRE, local fire agencies, federal land management agencies, Fire Safe Councils, local governments, community organizations, and other wildfire resilience partners. The development process includes stakeholder engagement, community input, technical analysis, and risk assessments to ensure that mitigation strategies reflect the unique needs, priorities, and landscape conditions of individual communities.

CAL FIRE plays a central role in the development, implementation, and ongoing support of CWPPs throughout AEU. As a key participant and signatory to these plans, CAL FIRE provides technical expertise, wildfire hazard analysis, project development support, and coordination among partner agencies. CAL FIRE personnel assist in identifying high-risk areas, prioritizing hazardous fuels reduction projects, improving defensible space strategies, and enhancing evacuation preparedness and critical infrastructure protection.

AEU also utilizes advanced planning and decision-support tools, including the Vibrant Planet Platform and the CAL FIRE CWPP Toolkit, to support risk assessments, identify treatment opportunities, and prioritize mitigation efforts. These tools help integrate wildfire behavior modeling, community values, infrastructure considerations, and landscape-scale planning into CWPP development. However, CAL FIRE AEU also relies heavily on local knowledge, field experience, operational expertise, and partner collaboration to guide final project prioritization and implementation decisions.

The goals and priorities identified in CWPPs often align closely with CAL FIRE AEU's broader wildfire prevention and mitigation objectives, including landscape-scale fuels reduction, protection of critical infrastructure, enhancement of evacuation corridors, and increasing community wildfire resilience. At the same time, each CWPP reflects the distinct characteristics and priorities of the communities it represents, ensuring that wildfire mitigation strategies remain locally informed, actionable, and community focused.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans within CAL FIRE – Amador El Dorado Unit

Western El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience, in partnership with the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and in collaboration with CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit and other regional partners, developed the 2026 CWPP as a coordinated, multi-agency roadmap for wildfire risk reduction across the West Slope. The plan was formally adopted by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on February 3, 2026. The CWPP supports a unified, data-informed approach to project prioritization and strengthens regional coordination through the Project Coordination Working Group to reduce duplication and maximize community-wide wildfire resilience outcomes.

[El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#)

Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The 2025 Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was collaboratively developed by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), the Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team, and CAL FIRE AEU, with funding from the California Tahoe Conservancy through a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity grant. Finalized in February 2025, the CWPP integrates community input gathered through public meetings and surveys. This CWPP employs advanced tools like Vibrant Planet's software to model fuel reduction scenarios and prioritize treatments.

<https://tahoe-basin-cwpp-trcd.hub.arcgis.com/>

Amador County

In Amador County, the Amador Fire Safe Council, in partnership with CAL FIRE AEU and local fire protection districts, has developed several CWPPs to address the unique wildfire risks of the area. The county-wide CWPP was initially adopted in 2005 and has since been updated to reflect changing conditions and priorities. In 2026 Amador Fire Safe Council developed a county wide CWPP with cooperation of CAL FIRE AEU and a local working group. The 2026 CWPP was adopted by the Amador County Board of Supervisors.

<https://www.amadorfiresafe.org/amador-county-cwpp>

Alpine County

The Alpine County CWPP, originally developed in 2005 and last updated in 2018, is a collaborative planning document developed by Alpine County, the Alpine Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit (AEU), and other local stakeholders. The plan identifies community wildfire risks, prioritizes mitigation opportunities, and guides fuel reduction and resilience projects across Alpine County. It also serves as a key resource for supporting grant applications and advancing coordinated wildfire risk reduction efforts. The CWPP is currently undergoing an update process with active public engagement to reflect evolving wildfire conditions and community priorities, with CAL FIRE AEU providing ongoing technical assistance and support to Alpine County throughout the update.

<https://www.alpinecountyca.gov/497/Community-Wildfire-Protection-Plan>

Placerville Wildfire Resiliency Strategy

The Placerville Wildfire Resilience Strategy (PWRS) is a community-specific wildfire mitigation plan developed through a partnership between the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District (RCD), the City of Placerville, El Dorado County, and CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU). Funded by a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity grant from the California Department of Conservation, the strategy encompasses approximately 80,000 acres, including the City of Placerville and surrounding communities. It integrates wildfire risk assessments, evacuation planning, and prioritization of fuel reduction projects to enhance community resilience. The PWRS was presented to the Placerville City Council on January 29, 2025, and serves as a guiding document for future wildfire preparedness and mitigation efforts in the region.

Fire Safe Regulations

The Fire Safe Regulations (FSRs) are a key component of CAL FIRE AEU's long-term strategy for addressing the wildfire problem and ensuring sustained resilience across the State Responsibility Area (SRA). These regulations set minimum development standards that focus on essential elements such as access, water supply, addressing, and fuel breaks, all of which are designed to reduce wildfire risk. CAL FIRE works closely with local planning agencies to ensure these standards are incorporated into new community designs, making sure that developments are better prepared to withstand the impacts of wildfires.

In collaboration with local planning agencies, CAL FIRE ensures that critical features like safe access routes for emergency responders, an adequate water supply for firefighting, proper addressing for visibility, and effective fuel breaks are included in new developments. This partnership plays a central role in enhancing community resilience and supports the overall wildfire mitigation strategy. By enforcing the Fire Safe Regulations, CAL FIRE helps to integrate fire prevention measures into the very structure of new communities, ensuring long-term wildfire resilience across the Unit.

Fire Safe Plans

Fire Safe Plans are a critical requirement for new developments in El Dorado County. These plans are designed to address the specific conditions of each project and outline the necessary mitigation efforts and strategies to ensure that new developments meet fire safety requirements. Fire Safe Plans detail measures such as fuel reduction, defensible space, evacuation routes, and access for emergency responders to ensure the safety of residents and structures in the event of a wildfire. CAL FIRE AEU works closely with local planning agencies and developers to review and support the development of these plans, ensuring they align with both state and local regulations. By integrating these requirements into the development process, Fire Safe Plans help to create fire-resilient communities and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Prevention and Enforcement

The Prevention Bureau plays a key role in enforcing forest and fire laws across the Unit, ensuring compliance with Public Resource Codes, Penal Codes, and Health and Safety Codes. This includes overseeing that fire safety standards are met and addressing violations when necessary, whether through education, corrective actions, or enforcement measures. The work of the Prevention Bureau ensures that all parties are held accountable for maintaining safe practices that help protect communities from wildfire risks.

[AEU Ignition Management & Fire Prevention Plan](#)

AEU Unit Fire Plan Cooperators		
Organization	Title	Contact Number
Sierra Pacific Industries	Forester	(209) 223-7170
Pacific Gas and Electric	Vegetation Program Manager	(800) 743-5000
SMUD	Manager Vegetation Management	(916) 732-6766
Liberty Utilities	Fire Protection Specialist	(530) 580-7495
Amador Fire Safe Council	Executive Director	(209) 304-2187
Amador County OES	Sheriff	(209) 223-6384
El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience	Principal Management Analyst	(530) 621-5569
El Dorado County Fire Safe and Satellite Council's	Chairperson/Co-Chairperson	(530) 647-1700
Tahoe Fire Adapted Communities	Program Manager	(530) 543-1501
El Dorado County OES	Sheriff	(530) 621-5895
El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District	District Manager	(530) 303-5328
Alpine Fire Council	President	(619) 244-6093
United States Forest Service	Lake Tahoe Basin	(530) 543-2600
United States Forest Service	El Dorado National Forest	(530) 622-5061
United States Forest Service	Humboldt/Toiyabe Forest	(775) 331-6444
U.S.D.I. Bureau of Indian Affairs	Pacific Regional Director	(916) 978-6000
Bureau of Reclamation	Area Manager	(916) 989-7179
CAL TRANS	Safety & Management Services	(916) 654-2410
California State Parks	Marshal Gold Discovery SHP	(530) 622-3470
Bureau of Land Management	Motherlode Field Office	(916) 941-3101

Tribal Partnerships

CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit (AEU) is committed to collaboration with local Tribes whose lands, cultural resources, and traditional ecological knowledge are integral to the landscape within the CAL FIRE administrative boundary. Through these partnerships, AEU seeks to support shared goals of protecting communities, preserving cultural resources, and enhancing wildfire resilience across the Unit.

[Cultural Resource Management | CAL FIRE](#)
[Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grants | CAL FIRE](#)

Utilities

The CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit (AEU) partners with PG&E, SMUD, and Liberty Utilities to improve wildfire response and reduce hazardous fuels. In coordination with PG&E, the Unit has identified **Utility Wildfire Resilience Corridors**—strategic areas where utility rights-of-way (ROW) and access roads support both suppression operations and fuels reduction.

These corridors enhance access, improve control opportunities, and reduce fuel continuity in high-risk areas. They are reviewed annually with utility partners through the Unit Fire Plan update process to reflect current conditions and priorities.

Through these partnerships, CAL FIRE gains additional collaborators capable of implementing fuel reduction projects aligned with Unit priorities, including improving utility resilience to wildfire. As a core strategy, CAL FIRE AEU prioritizes work around critical infrastructure.

The Unit aims to leverage and expand project work within and adjacent to these Resilience Corridors, while also identifying additional opportunities for coordination with communities and stakeholders, aligning with AEU's broader landscape and community-level wildfire resilience strategies.

[Utility Wildfire Resilience Corridor Map](#)

[Utility Wildfire Mitigation | OSFM](#)

Good Neighbor Authority

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) provides CAL FIRE with a critical mechanism to partner with federal land management agencies—including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—to plan and implement forest health and wildfire resilience projects across ownership boundaries. Under GNA, CAL FIRE can serve as the implementing partner on federally authorized projects, using its operational capacity and local expertise to accelerate work that might otherwise be constrained by federal capacity or timelines. This authority allows Unit staff to identify, prioritize, and deliver high-value treatments in both State Responsibility Area (SRA) and adjacent Federal Responsibility Area (FRA), ensuring that fuel reduction and restoration efforts are continuous across the landscape rather than stopping at jurisdictional lines.

Within this framework, the Tiger Creek area has been identified as a priority for cross-boundary implementation due to its strategic position within the drainage and its influence on fire movement toward surrounding communities and infrastructure. Through GNA, CAL FIRE will work with federal partners to extend treatments from the Doaks Vegetation Management Project (VMP) into FRA, establishing a continuous strategic fuel break that ties directly into the Tiger Creek corridor. This effort will be coordinated with the neighboring CAL FIRE-Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit (TCU) to connect with the Winton-Schaads VMP, creating an integrated network of fuel breaks across unit boundaries. By linking these projects, the Unit will improve suppression opportunities, reduce fire intensity and rate of spread, and better protect communities, watersheds, and critical infrastructure. Incorporating GNA into Unit-level planning ensures that priority areas like Tiger Creek are addressed at the appropriate scale, fully leveraging available authorities to achieve meaningful, landscape-level wildfire risk reduction.

[Exhibit F: Tiger Creek GNA](#)

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

Defensible Space Inspections, Home Hardening, and Enforcement

The parcel-level strategy aims to reduce wildfire risk by ensuring that homeowners comply with defensible space regulations and implement home hardening measures. The following tactical objectives outline how CAL FIRE AEU uses various programs and resources to meet these goals:

Defensible Space Program

CAL FIRE AEU utilizes the Defensible Space Program to ensure that properties meet the necessary fire safety standards. Defensible space inspectors conduct inspections on both primary and accessory structures, focusing on properties in high-risk areas. These inspections are tracked using Field Maps, ensuring that compliance is documented, and follow-ups are conducted where necessary. The program targets vulnerable properties in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and provides educational outreach on home hardening and fire prevention strategies.

[Request a CAL FIRE Real Estate Defensible Space Inspection](#)

[Defensible Space | CAL FIRE](#)

El Dorado County Real Estate Transaction Inspections

In line with the civil code 1102.19, CAL FIRE and local agencies also conduct real estate transaction inspections for properties in the SRA. These inspections ensure that homes being sold meet defensible space requirements before they are transferred to new owners. This tactic helps integrate fire prevention into the real estate process and ensures long-term fire safety in communities at risk.

[Real Estate Inspections - El Dorado County](#)

Damage Inspection Reports (DINS)

After wildfire events, Damage Inspection Reports (DINS) are conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of defensible space and home hardening in protecting structures. DINS provide critical feedback on what worked during a wildfire and which areas need improvement. DINS are crucial for identifying how well homes in vulnerable areas were protected, ultimately driving improvements to the parcel-level strategy.

Home Hardening

Home hardening is a critical component of a homeowner's strategy for protecting their property from wildfire. CAL FIRE AEU focuses on educating and informing residents about the importance of strengthening their homes to withstand fire threats. Through our Defensible Space Program and other educational efforts, we provide homeowners with guidance on how to improve their structure's fire resistance, including recommendations for fire-resistant building materials, ember-resistant vents, and creating defensible space around structures.

By promoting home hardening measures, CAL FIRE helps residents reduce the vulnerability of their homes to wildfires. Homeowners are encouraged to make modifications such as installing ember-resistant roof coverings, using non-combustible siding materials, and sealing gaps around windows and doors. These efforts play a key role in enhancing a home's ability to survive a wildfire, particularly when combined with proper defensible space practices. Through ongoing education and resources, CAL FIRE ensures that homeowners have the tools and knowledge needed to improve the resilience of their homes and contribute to overall community fire safety.

[Home Hardening | CAL FIRE](#)

Operational personnel conducting defensible space Inspections

Engine companies play a key role in the Defensible Space Program by conducting inspections in their designated response areas. Each engine company in AEU is responsible for inspecting 300 properties annually, with a focus on high-risk homes. By using Field Maps, engine companies can prioritize areas that are most vulnerable to wildfire. This collaboration between engine crews and defensible space inspectors helps expand the inspection capacity and ensures that properties at the highest risk are addressed first. This tactic also enhances operational readiness, as firefighters become familiar with the structures they may need to protect during a fire.

Collaboration with Local Partners

CAL FIRE AEU works in close coordination with Local governments and local fire agencies to streamline defensible space inspections. By coordinating inspection areas and aligning efforts through a defensible space working group, CAL FIRE and local agencies ensure that resources are used efficiently, and that no property is overlooked. By developing a strategy for inspecting each unique parcel in the unit. Using a common reporting platform allows all parties involved to share data, track progress, and monitor inspection outcomes. This collaborative approach ensures that the parcel-level strategy is implemented effectively across the Unit.

Qualified Entity Program

To expand inspection capacity, CAL FIRE AEU supports the Qualified Entity Program, which enables local agencies and organizations to conduct defensible space assessments in alignment with CAL FIRE standards. This program helps ensure that vulnerable areas, particularly in underserved regions, receive attention. By training qualified entities, CAL FIRE extends its reach and supports local communities in managing their fire risk. This partnership enhances the Unit's ability to address wildfire risks across a larger geographic area.

Landscape-Level Tactics: VMP, Technology, Evaluation

At the landscape level, CAL FIRE AEU focuses on large-scale fuel reduction projects and strategic wildfire mitigation efforts aimed at reducing fuel loads, creating fire breaks, and improving fire resilience across communities, critical infrastructure, and natural ecosystems. These efforts are essential for ensuring that wildfires can be suppressed effectively, fire intensity is mitigated, and communities are protected. The following landscape-level tactics outline how CAL FIRE AEU is meeting the strategic goals of reducing wildfire risk and improving resilience across the Unit.

Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

CAL FIRE AEU has a robust Vegetation Management Program (VMP) which is a key tactic for reducing fuel loads and mitigating wildfire risk. AEU fuel reduction projects address both large-scale and small-scale areas, and include forest thinning, prescribed fire, brush clearing, and the creation of strategic fire breaks. The program is implemented through a collaborative approach involving Unit Leadership, Battalion Chiefs, Foresters, Environmental Scientists, engine companies, fire crews and external partners such as Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), and federal agencies. These efforts are designed to reduce wildfire intensity, improve firefighter access, and protect communities in the State Responsibility Area (SRA).

CAL FIRE VMP

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/vegetation-management-program>

Leveraging Technology with the Vibrant Planet Platform

The Vibrant Planet Platform, developed in collaboration with the Vibrant Planet team, is a key tool supporting CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit’s (AEU) landscape-scale wildfire mitigation strategy. This science- and data-driven platform enables the Unit to prioritize fuel reduction and fire prevention efforts across large, complex landscapes using advanced geospatial modeling of wildfire risk, fire behavior, forest conditions, and infrastructure vulnerability.

The platform identifies high-priority areas for Vegetation Management Program (VMP) projects while also evaluating co-benefits such as ecological restoration, watershed health, and biodiversity. This broader perspective helps align fuel reduction work with long-term environmental and community resilience goals.

A significant advantage of the platform is its accessibility to cooperators at no cost. Local governments, Fire Safe Councils, and other partners can use the same data and analytical tools to inform Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), prioritize treatments, and coordinate projects with CAL FIRE’s strategic objectives.

By combining data-driven insights with local knowledge and operational experience, AEU ensures that resources are directed to the areas of greatest need. The platform also supports ongoing monitoring and adaptive management, allowing the Unit to refine strategies and improve project effectiveness over time. As part of the Unit Fire Plan, Vibrant Planet strengthens AEU’s ability to deliver coordinated, efficient, and impactful wildfire risk reduction across the landscape.

In 2026 CAL FIRE AEU implemented a data-driven Defensible Space selection process. Structures are prioritized for inspection using four key criteria:

- **Vibrant Planet Structure Exposure Score (SES):** An index that quantifies risk based on annual burn probability, predicted fire intensity, and ember exposure.
- **Inspection History:** High priority is given to parcels that have never been inspected.
- **Subdivision Review:** A CAL FIRE program to identify communities with only one way in and one way out.
- **Recency:** Selection is also based on the time elapsed since a property’s last inspection.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

CAL FIRE AEU shares the SES framework with cooperating inspecting agencies in El Dorado County. This alignment allows all partners to focus resources on the highest-risk areas, ensuring consistency across jurisdictional boundaries.

Performance Metrics

The SES tool further serves as a performance metric. By comparing scores before and after mitigation work, the unit can measure the effectiveness of defensible space and home hardening efforts, ensuring strategies continuously evolve to improve community resilience.

Prescribed Fire Program

Prescribed fire is a critical tactic for reducing fuel loads and restoring ecological balance in fire-adapted ecosystems. CAL FIRE uses controlled burns to reduce vegetation in areas with excessive fuel, effectively lowering the intensity of future wildfires. These burns not only create fire breaks and enhance firefighter safety but also promote native plant species and restore habitats for wildlife. Through carefully planned prescribed fires, CAL FIRE improves soil health, supports fire-resistant vegetation, and contributes to the overall ecology of the land.

In addition to traditional fuel reduction, CAL FIRE supports cultural burning practices, recognizing the importance of indigenous fire management techniques in maintaining ecological balance and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems. CAL FIRE collaborates with local Tribes and groups such as the Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) to increase capacity for prescribed fire operations.

Current Landscape-Level Projects

CAL FIRE AEU is actively engaged in a number of landscape-level fuel reduction and wildfire mitigation projects aimed at reducing the overall wildfire risk across the Unit. These ongoing projects, which have passed environmental reviews, are being implemented in collaboration with various partners and stakeholders. They include both large-scale and smaller, focused projects that target high-priority areas such as critical access routes, Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones, and vulnerable communities.

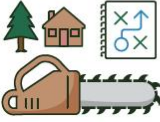
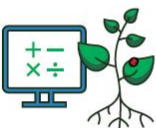
[APPENDIX A: CURRENT PRE-FIRE PROJECTS](#)

Grants and Partner Collaboration

CAL FIRE AEU plays an essential role in helping partners, such as Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), local agencies, and nonprofit organizations, developing meaningful and impactful fuel reduction projects. While CAL FIRE is a grantor in some situations, the focus is on guiding these partners in creating well-structured, data-driven fire plans that align with the Unit Fire Plan. These plans provide clear objectives and opportunities for grant applicants, ensuring that projects meet both local and regional wildfire risk reduction goals.

By working closely with partners, CAL FIRE helps facilitate access to wildfire prevention grants, which support the Unit's Vegetation Management Program (VMP) and other fire mitigation efforts. FSCs, RCDs, and local agencies are the primary conduits for bringing these grants into the Unit, enabling us to expand our fuel reduction projects and further our shared goal of improving fire resilience across the region.

CAL FIRE'S GRANT PROGRAMS

WILDFIRE PREVENTION  ACTIVITIES - Hazardous Fuels Reduction - Wildfire Prevention Planning - Wildfire Prevention Education	FOREST LEGACY  ACTIVITIES - Conservation Easements - Fee Title Purchase	WILDFIRE RESILIENCE *BLOCK GRANT*  ACTIVITIES - Forest Improvement - Reforestation - Technical Assistance - Planning
FOREST HEALTH  ACTIVITIES - Forest Fuels Reduction - Prescribed Fire - Pest Management - Reforestation - Biomass Utilization	BUSINESS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  ACTIVITIES - Workforce Training - Research and Development - Business Development - Biomass - Wood Products - Tree Nurseries	TRIBAL WILDFIRE RESILIENCE  ACTIVITIES - Planning - Cultural Burns - Workforce Development
CALIFORNIA FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM *COST-SHARE*  ACTIVITIES - Forest Improvement - Reforestation - Planning	URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY  ACTIVITIES - Urban Tree Planting - Planning - Workforce Development - Education	RURAL FIRE CAPACITY  ACTIVITIES - Firefighting Support
		FOREST HEALTH RESEARCH  ACTIVITIES - Research



www.fire.ca.gov

Project Tracking and CALMAPPER

Effective project tracking is a critical component of CAL FIRE AEU's landscape-level mitigation strategy. One of the key tools for this is CALMAPPER, a data management system used to track and validate fuel reduction projects across the Unit. CALMAPPER allows CAL FIRE to monitor the progress of ongoing projects, ensuring that each initiative aligns with the goals outlined in the Unit Fire Plan.

Through CALMAPPER, CAL FIRE collects and organizes data on project locations, treatment methods, and project status, providing real-time updates and visibility on the scope and effectiveness of each project. This tool ensures consistency in reporting, allowing Unit staff and cooperators to track progress and make adjustments as necessary. Additionally, this information is shared on the Wildfire Task Force Interagency Treatment Dashboard, further enhancing transparency and coordination across various agencies and partners involved in wildfire mitigation.

Project Effectiveness – CAL FIRE (FTER) Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting

CAL FIRE's Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting (FTER) program is a critical tool for evaluating how fuel reduction projects impact wildfire behavior and support suppression efforts. By documenting the influence of fuel treatments on fire spread, intensity, and access, FTER helps demonstrate the role of vegetation management activities in protecting lives, property, and natural resources across California. Treatments eligible for evaluation include projects completed within the past seven years—such as fuel breaks, broadcast burns, right-of-way clearances, and grant-funded fuel reduction work—undertaken through CAL FIRE programs like the Vegetation Management Program (VMP), California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP), or CFIP, as well as work funded through Wildfire Prevention and Forest Health grants.

Positive impacts reported through FTER include reduced fire intensity, slowed or halted fire spread, and enhanced ingress and egress routes for fire suppression personnel and civilian evacuation. Treatments may also directly contribute to containment by serving as primary or secondary control lines. Within the Amador-El Dorado Unit, evaluating treatment effectiveness allows us to better understand which projects improve operational safety and community resilience, while guiding future planning and investment in fuel reduction efforts.

Utilizing CAL FIRE Crews for Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire

CAL FIRE AEU's large workforce of fire crews plays a central role in landscape-level mitigation efforts. These crews are responsible for conducting fuel reduction activities, participating in prescribed fire operations, and engaging in training exercises designed to improve fire suppression readiness. In addition to supporting VMP projects, crews can also conduct vegetation thinning, brush clearing, and controlled burns as part of their ongoing training. This approach not only helps build crew capacity but also directly contributes to reducing wildfire risk and enhancing firefighter effectiveness during fire events.

Landscape-Level Tactics for Wildfire Risk Reduction

The landscape-level tactics outlined above play a crucial role in reducing wildfire risk and protecting communities across CAL FIRE AEU. By leveraging Vibrant Planet's technology, collaborating with local and federal partners, utilizing fire crews, expanding environmental review capacity, and appointing a VMP Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE ensures that landscape-level fuel reduction projects are effectively prioritized and implemented. These efforts help enhance fire resilience, firefighter safety, and community protection, contributing to long-term wildfire risk reduction across the Unit.

Community Level Tactics: Outreach, Education, Enforcement.

CAL FIRE AEU's success in wildfire prevention and resilience is deeply rooted in our strong partnerships with local community groups. Collaboration with Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), and other key local entities is vital in addressing wildfire risk and building community-wide fire resilience. These relationships are the foundation for creating resilient communities—engaging residents and local leaders to take action in reducing fire risk, improving preparedness, and fostering a culture of fire safety. Through these partnerships, CAL FIRE plays an active role in supporting community-based initiatives, providing invaluable expertise, and empowering communities to achieve their fire prevention goals.

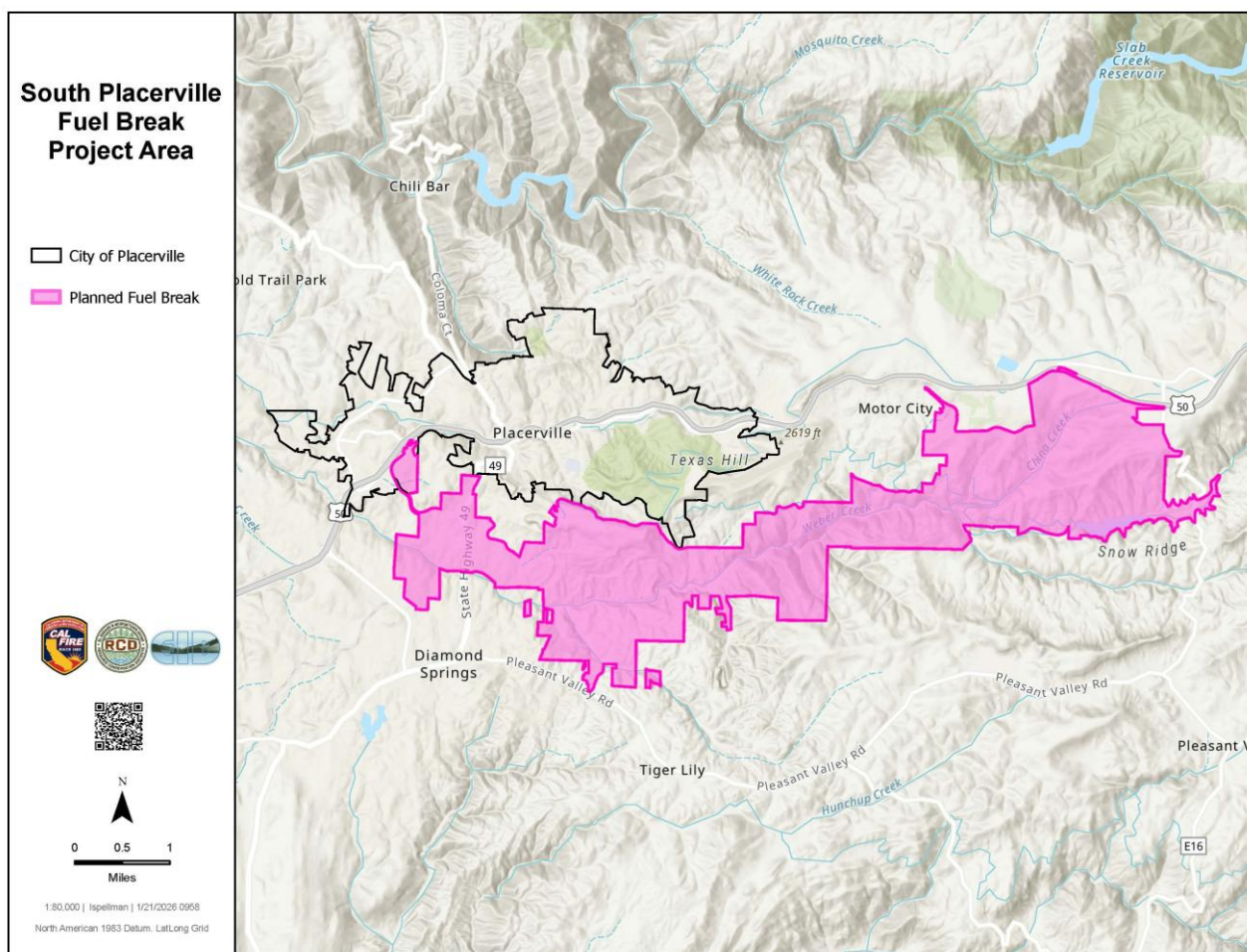
Community Outreach and Education

CAL FIRE AEU runs a robust community outreach program designed to engage residents and raise awareness about fire prevention. The program is supported by a dedicated Public Information Officer (PIO) and several other qualified PIOs, ensuring that fire prevention initiatives and operational updates are effectively communicated. The PIO team plays a key role in distributing information through public forums, fairs, school education programs, Fire Prevention Week activities, expos, and local community events. These efforts are further enhanced by a strong social media presence, which allows CAL FIRE to quickly disseminate important information about home hardening, defensible space, enforcement actions, and emergency incidents.

CAL FIRE collaborates with other agencies and organizations that share similar goals in fire prevention, creating a force multiplier for outreach efforts. By participating in public outreach groups and partnering with local agencies, CAL FIRE expands its reach and strengthens its fire prevention impact across the region. This collaborative approach ensures that fire prevention messages are delivered effectively to diverse communities throughout the Unit.

Fire prevention activities are tailored to be both locally relevant and informed by the latest research and data in wildfire resiliency. CAL FIRE aligns its efforts with lessons learned from other communities and the evolving science of wildfire prevention. By integrating these insights, CAL FIRE ensures that its strategies are based on the best available knowledge and are adaptable to the unique needs of the Amador-El Dorado Unit.

Strategic Project: South Placerville Fuel Break



CAL FIRE Amador–El Dorado Unit (AEU), in partnership with the El Dorado Resource Conservation District (RCD), is developing the South Placerville Strategic Fuel Break Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) in the Texas Hill area and along Weber Creek, south of Placerville. The project spans El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) lands and adjacent privately owned properties, reflecting a coordinated, cross-boundary approach to wildfire resilience.

The project is comprised of more than 300 separate parcels totaling approximately 5,500 acres. Of this, 1,500 acres are owned by EID, while the remaining 4,000 acres are owned by more than 200 private landowners, including individuals, families, trusts, and businesses. This diverse ownership structure highlights the significant level of coordination and partnership required to implement landscape-scale wildfire mitigation efforts across the project area.

The primary goal of this effort is to increase fire resilience for the City of Placerville and surrounding communities by establishing and maintaining a shaded fuel break. By reducing hazardous vegetation, the project is designed to slow the spread of wildfire approaching from the south, improve suppression effectiveness, and provide safer operational space for firefighters.

In addition to reducing wildfire risk, the project is expected to provide co-benefits, including improved water yield within the Weber Creek watershed. Treatment methods will include manual brush cutting by fire crews, pile burning during the fall, winter, and spring months, and the use of heavy equipment when conditions allow. Prescribed fire may also be implemented where appropriate to support long-term vegetation management objectives.

Project design and prioritization reflect a balanced approach that integrates local knowledge and operational experience from CAL FIRE and the RCD with advanced planning tools, including the Vibrant Planet platform, to ensure treatments are strategically located and deliver the greatest overall benefit.

Conclusion

The wildfire risk reduction strategies outlined in this plan reflect CAL FIRE AEU's comprehensive approach to building resilience at both the landscape and parcel levels. Through the integration of advanced planning tools such as the Vibrant Planet platform, strong collaboration with local, state, federal, and non-governmental partners, and the strategic use of fire crews, dedicated defensible space inspectors, environmental review resources, and specialized leadership positions such as the VMP Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE AEU is able to effectively prioritize and implement wildfire mitigation projects across the Unit.

At the landscape scale, fuel reduction and vegetation management projects are designed to improve ecosystem resilience, create strategic opportunities for wildfire suppression, and reduce the likelihood of large, destructive fires. At the parcel level, defensible space inspections, home hardening efforts, public education, and coordination with local agencies help ensure that individual properties are better prepared to withstand wildfire. Together, these complementary strategies create a layered defense against wildfire, enhancing firefighter safety, protecting communities and critical infrastructure, and reducing long-term wildfire risk throughout CAL FIRE AEU.

APPENDIX A: CURRENT PRE-FIRE PROJECTS



The following summary details ongoing pre-fire projects within the Amador-El Dorado Unit. These projects are currently active or were completed in 2025.

- **Grants and Partnerships:** A significant portion of the work is funded through Wildfire Prevention (WP) Grants and Forest Health grants.
- **Collaborative Implementation:** Projects are often coordinated with partners like the local Resource Conservation Districts, and non-profits.
- **Treatment Impact:** Across all CAL FIRE grant-funded programs or direct CAL FIRE personnel fuel reduction efforts, a total of **14,203 acres** of land received fuel reduction treatments.

Vegetation Management Program (VMP) Projects

County	Project Name	Footprint Acres
Amador	Amoruso VMP	1,102
Amador	Doaks Ridge VMP 2016	2,189
Amador	Pine Acres VMP	2,581
Amador	Rancho Arroyo Seco VMP	5,005
Amador	Shake/Fiddletown 2017	2,526
El Dorado	2017 Sly Park VMP	3,908
El Dorado	Georgetown Divide Complex 2015 VMP	5,018
El Dorado	Shake / Omo VMP 2019	3,572
Sacramento	Sacramento Valley Conservancy 2020 VMP	6,092
Sacramento	Van Vleck / Shooting Center 2016	5,172

AEU Fire Plan and CAL FIRE Awarded Grants

County	Program	Project Name
Alpine	CFIP	Seven Storey CFIP 2023
Alpine	Fire Plan	State Parks Alpine FR
Alpine	WP Grants	2023 Eastern Alpine Communities Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
Alpine	WP Grants	Turtle Rock Park Biomass Collection Site

County	Program	Project Name
Alpine	WP Grants	Turtle Rock Park Biomass Collection Site
Amador	CFIP	Hughes Family Trust CFIP 2025
Amador	CFIP	Sherrill CFIP 2023
Amador	CFIP	Volcano CFIP 2023
Amador	Fire Plan	Brickyard FR
Amador	Fire Plan	CFTC-lone FR
Amador	Fire Plan	Dew Drop Station FR
Amador	Fire Plan	Sutter Hill Station
Amador	Forest Health	Forest Projects Plan (Phase I)
Amador	Forest Health	Jackson Creek Forest and Watershed Health Project
Amador	WP Grants	Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan
Amador	WP Grants	Upper Rancheria Community Fuel Break
Amador	WP Grants	Amador County Chipping Project
Amador	WP Grants	Amador Community Fuel Break Development Project
Amador	WP Grants	Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Phase 2
Amador	WP Grants	Pine Acres Fuel Break Maintenance
El Dorado	CFIP	Charvet-Snowman CFIP 2025

County	Program	Project Name
El Dorado	CFIP	Pulaski CFIP 2024
El Dorado	Fire Plan	California Tahoe Conservancy
El Dorado	Fire Plan	El Dorado County SRA Roads
El Dorado	Fire Plan	El Dorado Irrigation District
El Dorado	Fire Plan	Goldbug FR
El Dorado	Fire Plan	Heavenly FR
El Dorado	Fire Plan	Pilot Peak FR
El Dorado	Fire Hill BLM	El Dorado
El Dorado	Fire Plan	Shay Creek FR
El Dorado	Fire Plan	South Lake Tahoe FR
El Dorado	Fire Plan	State Parks Gold Fields
El Dorado	Fire Plan	State Parks Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction
El Dorado	Forest Health	ARC SOFAR Restoration Project
El Dorado	Forest Health	Calforests Caldor Fire Post Fire Recovery – Phase I
El Dorado	Forest Health	Forest Projects Plan - Arbor (Phase 1A)
El Dorado	Forest Health	Leoni Meadows Forest Restoration Project
El Dorado	Forest Health	Spanish Flat North: Phase III Chili Bar to Georgetown F
El Dorado	Forest Health	TCSI El Dorado/French Meadows
El Dorado	WP Grants	Georgetown Marshall Road Fuels Reduction Project

County	Program	Project Name
El Dorado	WP Grants	5GG21199 South El Dorado County Fuel Reduction
El Dorado	WP Grants	5GG21200 Fuel Reduction for Critical Roads
El Dorado	WP Grants	EDCFSC Residential Hazard Tree Removal Project
El Dorado	WP Grants	Fire Safe on the Divide
Sacramento	Forest Health	Cosumnes Ladder Fuel Reduction Project

North Division

Battalion 1 Hazard / Target Areas

The fuels within Battalion 1 are diverse, and include approximately 18% timber, 33% brush, and 49% grass/oak woodland. Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada foothills, this area contains a significant wildland-urban interface problem. All communities within Battalion 1 SRA are evaluated using the following general and specific criteria to determine their Hazard/Target status:

- Potential for life loss
- Potential for property loss
- Potential for high community consequences (historical, environmental, infrastructure, etc.)
- Fuel types and fuel loading
- Ingress and egress
- Stakeholder collaboration

All communities within Battalion 1 meet the Target Hazard Criteria, some to a greater or lesser degree than others listed. According to Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) data, approximately 88% of Battalion 1 is rated as high or very high in SRA fire severity ratings.

Battalion 1 Current Projects:

- Sly Park VMP
- Prairie City OHV Park VMP
- Texas Hill
- Weber Creek Grant
- Fire Adapted 50 – Sly Park – Phase I, II, III
- Fire Adapted 50 (FA50) project phases 1, 1.a, II & III

Battalion 2 Current Projects

- Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Project
- Georgetown Divide VMP
- Lyon Ranch VMP
- El Dorado County Road Clearance (CCI Funded – CAL FIRE and DOT)
- American River Canyon Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break (Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District)
- Salmon Falls VTP

South Division

Battalion 3 Projects

- Doaks VMP
- Shake Fiddletown VMP
- Shake Omo VMP
- Amador County Road Clearance (CCI Funded – CAL FIRE and DOT)
- Pine Acres VMP (CCI Funded-Partially)
- Mitchell Mine Fuel Break
- Tiger Creek Fuel Break

Battalion 4 Projects

- Amoruso VMP and Training:
- Van Vleck VMP and Training Site:
- River Pines Community Fuel Break
- Amador County Road Clearance (CAL FIRE and DOT)

East Division

In addition to the projects planned under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management (SNPLMA) funding, CAL FIRE provides financial, personnel, and administrative support to a wide array of projects within the Tahoe Basin and Alpine County. According to Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) data, approximately 91% of Battalion 6 is rated as high or very high in SRA fire severity ratings.

Battalion 6 Projects

- Sawmill
- Shay Creek

APPENDIX B: AMADOR – EL DORADO UNIT PLANS

Unit Specific Plans

AEU has developed additional documents to aid in the operational decision-making process. The documents are the Defensible Space Inspection Plan, and the Ignition Management Plan

Defensible Space Inspection Plan

This plan outlines the objectives and strategic direction for Field Personnel and Defensible Space Inspectors (DSIs) in conducting PRC 4291 inspections. Given the state's priority on fire prevention and the mandates of Public Resource Code 4137, the Unit's objective is to conduct a minimum of **8,000** inspections annually, maintained consistently throughout the year. These efforts are designed to provide a margin of safety for the public and firefighters, increase home survivability, and mitigate resource damage.

Inspection Area Selection & Prioritization

In 2026, CAL FIRE AEU implemented a data-driven Defensible Space selection process. Structures are prioritized for inspection using three key criteria:

- **Vibrant Planet Structure Exposure Score (SES):** An index that quantifies risk based on annual burn probability, predicted fire intensity, and ember exposure.
- **Never Inspected:** High priority is given to parcels that have never been inspected.
- **Last Inspection Date:** Selection is also based on the time elapsed since a property's last inspection.

Coordination and Enforcement

By leveraging this technology, CAL FIRE AEU makes data-driven decisions that focus resources on properties with the greatest need for mitigation, ultimately enhancing community resilience.

Defensible Space inspection areas are identified based on factors like call volume, structural density, evacuation concerns, fire history, and Fire Hazard Severity Zone rating. Battalion Chiefs will designate these areas within their geographic responsibility to conduct 4291 inspections for the year. In collaboration with the AEU's Wildfire Resiliency Program and local jurisdictions, we will enforce enhanced defensible space requirements in accordance with local regulations.

In 2025, the Amador-El Dorado Unit completed 15,960 defensible space inspections. This effort was shared between CAL FIRE and local cooperators to ensure comprehensive coverage within the State Responsibility Area (SRA).

CAL FIRE AEU personnel performed 8,864 total inspections:

- DSI Staff: Forestry Aides and Forestry Technicians completed 4,277 inspections.
 - Engine Companies: CAL FIRE engines completed 4,587 inspections.
- Cooperating agencies within El Dorado County performed 7,096 inspections.
Participating partners included:
- County of El Dorado Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR)
 - El Dorado County Fire
 - El Dorado Hills Fire
 - North Tahoe Fire
 - Lake Valley Fire
 - South Lake Tahoe Fire
 - Bear Valley Fire
 - Cameron Park Community Services District (CSD)
 - Garden Valley Fire

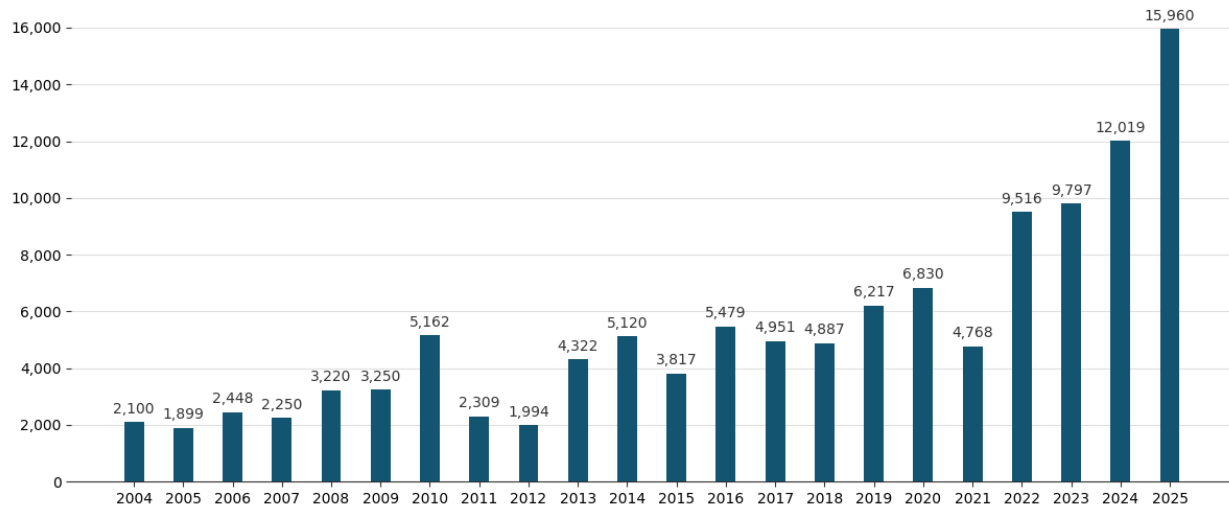
Inspections were conducted in compliance with Public Resources Code 4291 and California Civil Code 1102.19, for real estate transactions. Furthermore, 359 Qualified Entity Assessments were conducted by Fire Safe Councils and the California Conservation Corps pursuant to Public Resources Code 4291.5.

The goals of the Unit's Defensible Space Program are as follows:

- 1) Identify Defensible Space Areas within the Unit where inspections will occur.
- 2) Provide a margin of safety for firefighters and the public.
- 3) Educate residents and developers on how to prepare for wildfire.
- 4) Mitigate wildland fire losses and resource damage.
- 5) Increase the survivability of homes and developments.
- 6) Provide CAL FIRE personnel with greater awareness of response areas within the Unit where inspections are occurring.
- 7) Work closely with Cooperators to ensure Defensible Space Inspections are conducted consistently within AEU.
- 8) Train and certify Fire Safe Council Qualified Entity Assessors.
- 9) During fire season conduct PRC4292/4293/LE-38(a) utility inspections.

Below is a historical snapshot of defensible space inspections since 2006. It is important to note that in the years 2005-2006, most inspections were completed by Volunteers-In-Prevention (VIP's) and Fire Safe Councils. It was not until 2007 that CAL FIRE personnel began to actively conduct inspections on a consistent, Unit-wide basis.

AEU Defensible Space Inspection History



Defensible Space Inspection Numbers by Year Amador-El Dorado Unit

Year	Inspections	Completed By	Staffing
2004	2,100	Majority VIPs, FSCs	3-0 Staffing
2005	1,899	Majority VIPs, FSCs	3-0 Staffing
2006	2,448	Majority VIPs, FSCs	3-0 Staffing
2007	2,250	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing
2008	3,220	CAL FIRE	4-0 Staffing
2009	3,250	CAL FIRE	4-0 Staffing
2010	5,162	CAL FIRE	5 FF1's Hired April 1 st , 4-0 staffing
2011	2,309	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing
2012	1,994	CAL FIRE	4 Forestry Aides hired mid-July, 3-0 Staffing
2013	4,322	CAL FIRE	4 FF1s/4 FAs hired in May, 3-0 Staffing
2014	5,120	CAL FIRE	4 FAs hired in April, 3-0 Staffing
2015	3,817	CAL FIRE	5 FAs hired in April, 3-0 Staffing
2016	5,479	CAL FIRE	5 FAs and Surge Capacity FFs, 3-0 Staffing
2017	4,951	CAL FIRE	4 FAs, 3-0 Staffing
2018	4,887	CAL FIRE	5 FAs, 3-0 Staffing
2019	6,217	CAL FIRE	3 FAs, 3-0 Staffing
2020	6,830	CAL FIRE	5 FAs, 3-0 Staffing
2021	4,768	CAL FIRE	4 FAs 3-0 Staffing
2022	9,516	CAL FIRE	1 Forestry Technician, 4 FAs, 3-0 Staffing
2023	9,797	CAL FIRE and Cooperators	2 FTs, 2 FAs, 3-0 Staffing
2024	12,019	CAL FIRE and Cooperators	2 FTs, 3 FAs, 3-0 Staffing
2025	15,960	CAL FIRE and Cooperators	2 FTs, 3 FAs, 3-0 Staffing

Defensible space is the area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire prevention practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an encroaching wildfire or an escaping structure fire. Pursuant to Public Resources Code 4291, residents are required to maintain defensible space of 100 feet around their structure, but not beyond their property line. The amount of fuel modification required factors in the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels are required to be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure.

AEU Ignition Management & Fire Prevention Plan

Introduction

The Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) is in the North Central Sierra. It includes all of Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, and Alpine Counties, as well as a portion of San Joaquin County. AEU encompasses over 2,600,000 acres; of this, over 1,000,000 acres is State Responsibility Area (SRA), and AEU's Direct Protection Area (DPA) serves over 900,000 acres.

The United States Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation manage lands that are protected by the Unit. Conversely, the Forest Service provides direct wildland fire protection to private and state lands, or SRA, that are within the Eldorado National Forest, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

The Unit contains all or part of four major watersheds. These watersheds contain the Middle and South Forks of the American River, the North Fork of the Mokelumne River, all three Forks of the Cosumnes River, and the Upper Truckee River in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Numerous water agencies and power companies utilize these watersheds for hydroelectric power generation, irrigation purposes, and public recreation.

CAL FIRE'S statewide, annual goal is to keep 95% of vegetation fires to less than 10 acres. Although weather and fuel conditions have a huge impact on the outcome of this goal, CAL FIRE and its supporting agencies consistently strive to meet this with safe and aggressive fire attack.

Fire History

The Unit's fire history is one of numerous small fires with large fires occurring every ten to thirty years. The most recent large fires (greater than 10,000 acres within the Unit's DPA) were the following:

FIRE NAME:	YEAR:	ACREAGE:
Caldor	2021	40,066
Rancheria Creek	1961	34,104
Quarry	1976	20,870
Meiss	1981	14,126
Kelsey Mill	1961	11,816

In September of 2014, the King Fire burned 97,717 acres. Of that, 2,823 acres burned were within the Unit's DPA. In July 2014, the Sand Fire burned 4,240 acres within the SRA. In September 2015, the Butte Fire burned 70,868 acres on FRA and SRA. Of the 58,797 SRA acres burned, 3,626 acres burned were within AEU's DPA. Although the fire started in AEU, a vast majority of the damage caused by the Butte Fire was in TCU.

In 2021, there were two large fires within AEU. The Tamarack Fire started on July 4th in Alpine county on Fed DPA and burned 68,637 acres. Of that, 9,373 acres were SRA. On August 14 the Caldor Fire started on Fed DPA. This fire burned 221,786 acres from Omo Ranch to South Lake Tahoe. Of the 221,786 acres, 40,066 acres were SRA within AEU. The fire destroyed 1003 structures and damaged 81. Over the past twenty

years, population growth and development in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) have placed additional homes, businesses and public infra-structure at risk from wildland fires. Both large and small fires often create wildland-urban interface fire suppression challenges previously only found in the most densely populated areas of Southern California.

Historically, the largest fires in the Unit, particularly in Amador County, are aligned east to west due to topography and prevailing winds. El Dorado and Sacramento Counties are more likely to experience fires which run from north to south - especially at the lower elevations. This is especially true during red flag fire weather conditions when strong north winds are predicted. However, large fires in El Dorado County can also follow an east to west orientation similar to fires in Amador County.

Fire Incident Documentation Policy

It is the goal of the Unit to investigate all fires according to established procedures, to quickly identify arson fires, and to staff and manage investigations adequately and cost effectively. Fire incident documentation and reporting is critical to the development of the Unit's Ignition Management and Fire Prevention Plan.

Current statewide and Unit policy requires that a CALFIRS Fire Report be completed for every wildland fire. A wildland fire is defined as any uncontrolled vegetation fire which threatens to destroy life, property or resources and is either unattended or attended by persons unable to prevent the fire's spread. Examples include vegetation fires burning uncontrolled (whether attended or not); vegetation fires that are a threat to life, property or resources; debris or control burns that have escaped the landowner's control; and any debris or control burn *without an escape* that was extinguished due to a *threat* to the wildland. A CALFIRS Incident report was completed for every wildland fire that occurred within AEU's DPA for 2025.

In addition, the Unit continues to utilize LE-38A's, Notice of Fire Hazard Inspection, for less complex investigations that do not warrant a citation by a public or peace officer. LE-38A's are utilized as an educational and enforcement tool when there is a violation of a Public Resource Code, Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulation, or Air Quality Requirement. LE-38A's are forwarded to the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief within 7 days so necessary follow-up actions can be taken. It is the goal of the Unit that a Prevention Message be given after every wildland fire if a responsible party is identified. A prevention message will consist of either verbal education, with an LE-38a issuance, civil or criminal prosecution. It is the Units goal to utilize these forms of prevention messages to educate the public and prevent further ignitions from occurring.

2025 Fire Season Ignition Statistics

Wildland fire ignition statistics were tracked for the entire year of 2025. The Unit experienced 234 wildland fires within its Direct Protection Area (SRA-DPA). There was a increase of 32 ignitions from 2024 (202 fires). However, this is 72 fires less than 2020 (306 fires), which was the highest number of ignitions over the past 10 years. The 234 fires are 4 fires less than the 10-year average of 238 fires, which has been trending down. Wildland fire statistics are tracked based on information from each Fire Report submitted to the Law Enforcement and Investigations Bureau.

2025 Five Largest Fires in AEU:

Coyote Fire, ignited August 20th and burned 624 acres outside the community of Omo Ranch in El Dorado County. The Probable Cause of this fire was arson. This investigation is ongoing.

Bonanza Fire, ignited June 17th and burned 181 acres in El Dorado County in Shingle Springs. This fire was caused by Bonanza Auto Dismantlers. As of now, this case is still ongoing.

Brown Fire, ignited September 2nd and burned 166 acres near the intersection of Lone Road and Pony Brown Road in Sacramento County. The cause of this fire is lightning.

Rock Fire, ignited on September 2nd and burned 144 acres in Sacramento County near White Rock Road and Payen Road near the El Dorado County border. The cause of this fire lightning as well.

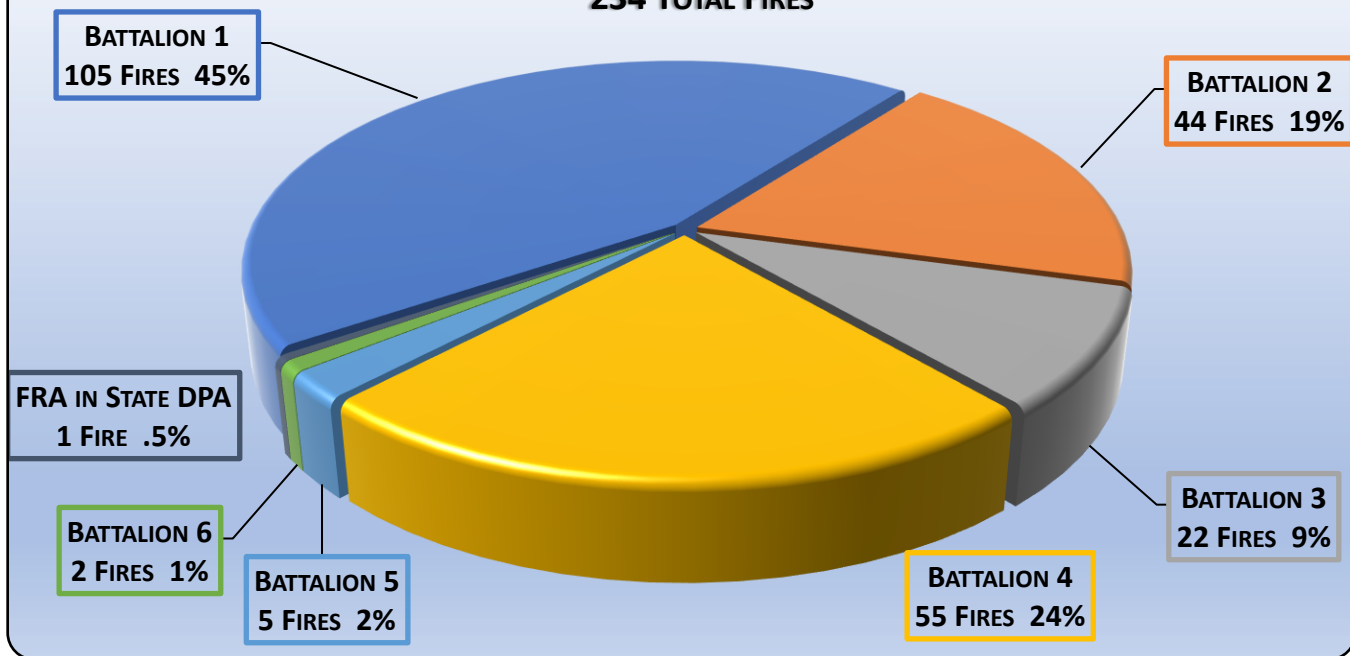
Claypit Fire, on August 4th, burned 131 acres along Lone Road in Sacramento County. The cause of this fire was arson. The investigation is ongoing.

Calculating all the fires that started within the Unit's DPA in 2025, approximately 1,763 acres burned (a decrease of 984 acres in 2024). The top five fires contributed to 1,246 acres of that total, or 71% of the total acreage burned within AEU. The 10-year average for AEU is 2,303 acres. While AEU experienced a slight decrease in the number of ignitions as in recent years, in 2025, AEU experienced an approximate 23% decrease on the acres burned over the ten-year average.

Of the 234 vegetation fires in AEU in 2025, 18 fires were over 10 acres. The Unit kept 92% of fires in 2025 below 10 acres. This is just outside CAL FIRE'S goal of 95% of vegetation fires to be held at 10 acres or less.

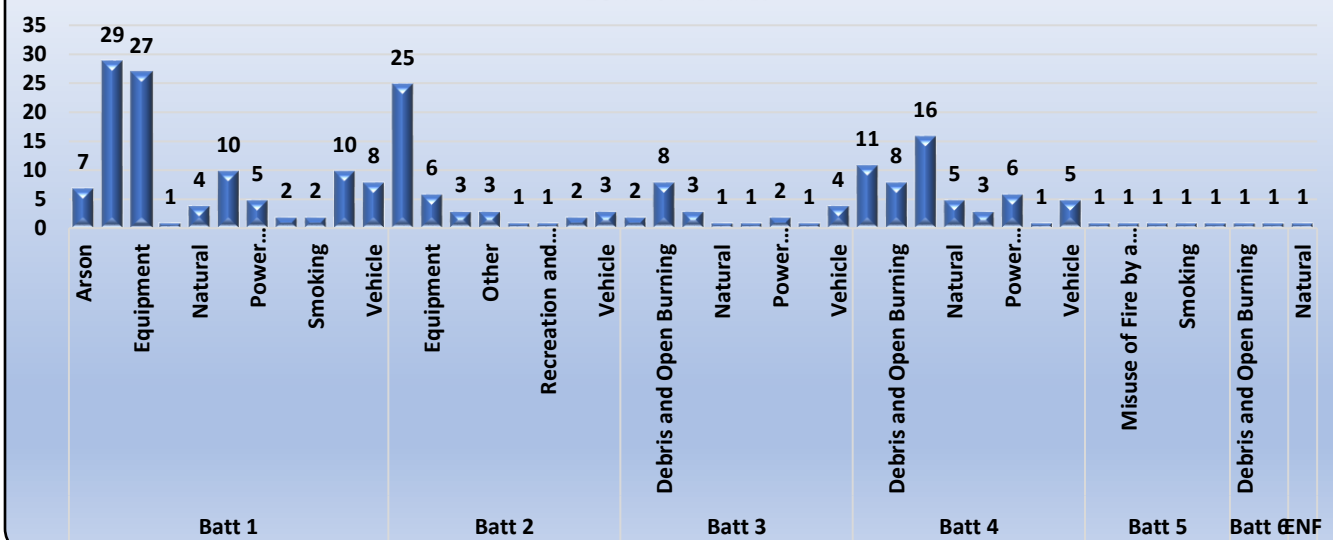
2025 FIRES BY BATTALION

234 TOTAL FIRES



2025 VEGETATION FIRES BY CAUSE & BATTALION

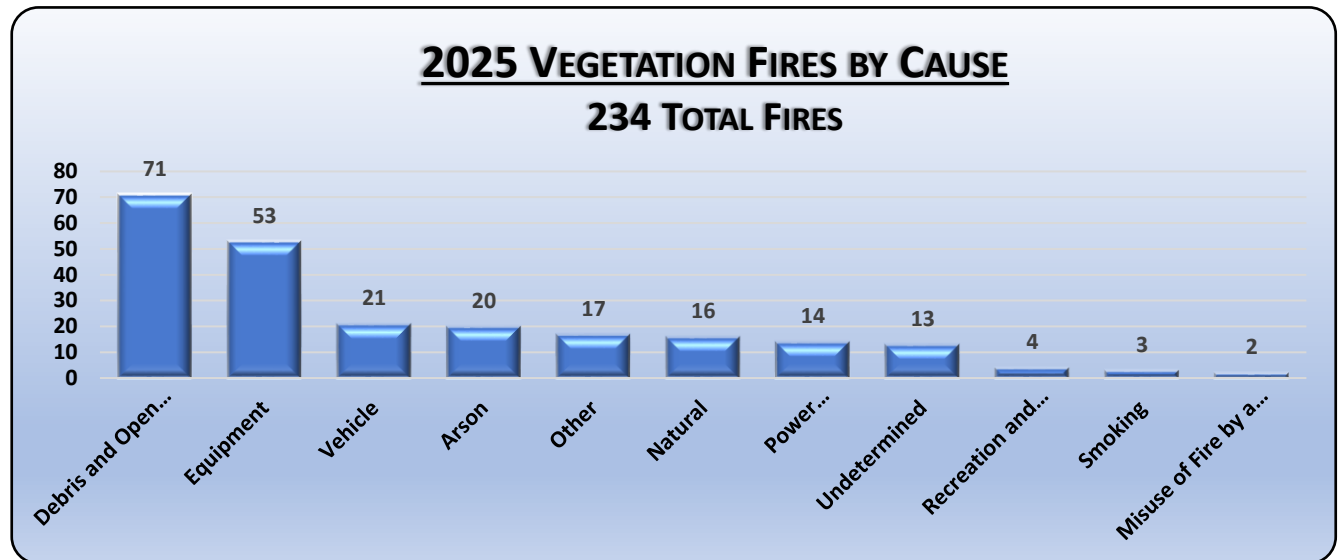
234 TOTAL FIRES



While reviewing fire causes during 2025, it was found that the five leading causes of wildland fires in AEU were:

Debris Burning	(71 fires – 30%)
Equipment	(53 fires – 23%)
Vehicle	(21 fires – 9%)
Arson	(20 fires – 8%)
Other	(17 fires – 7%)

The five leading causes accounted for 182 fires, or 78%, of all 2025 fires that occurred.

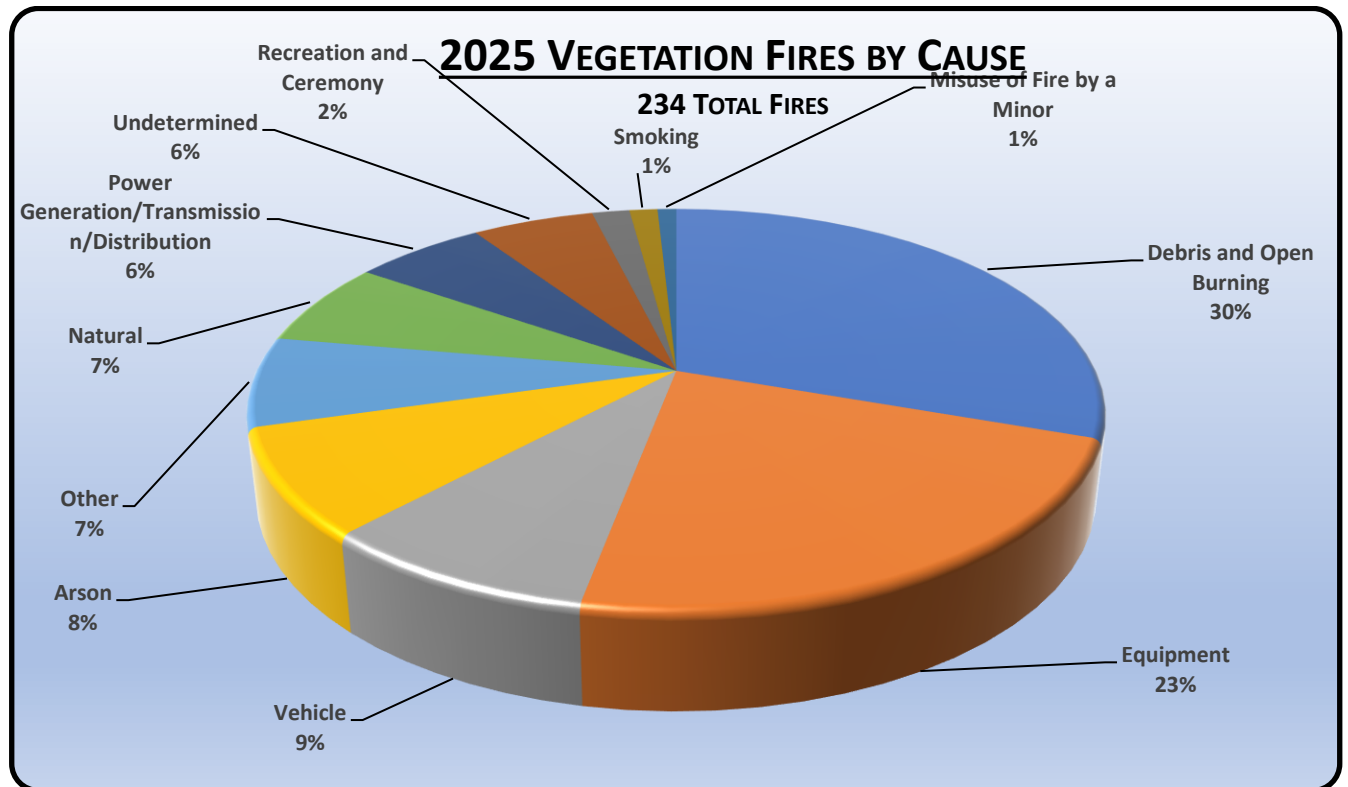


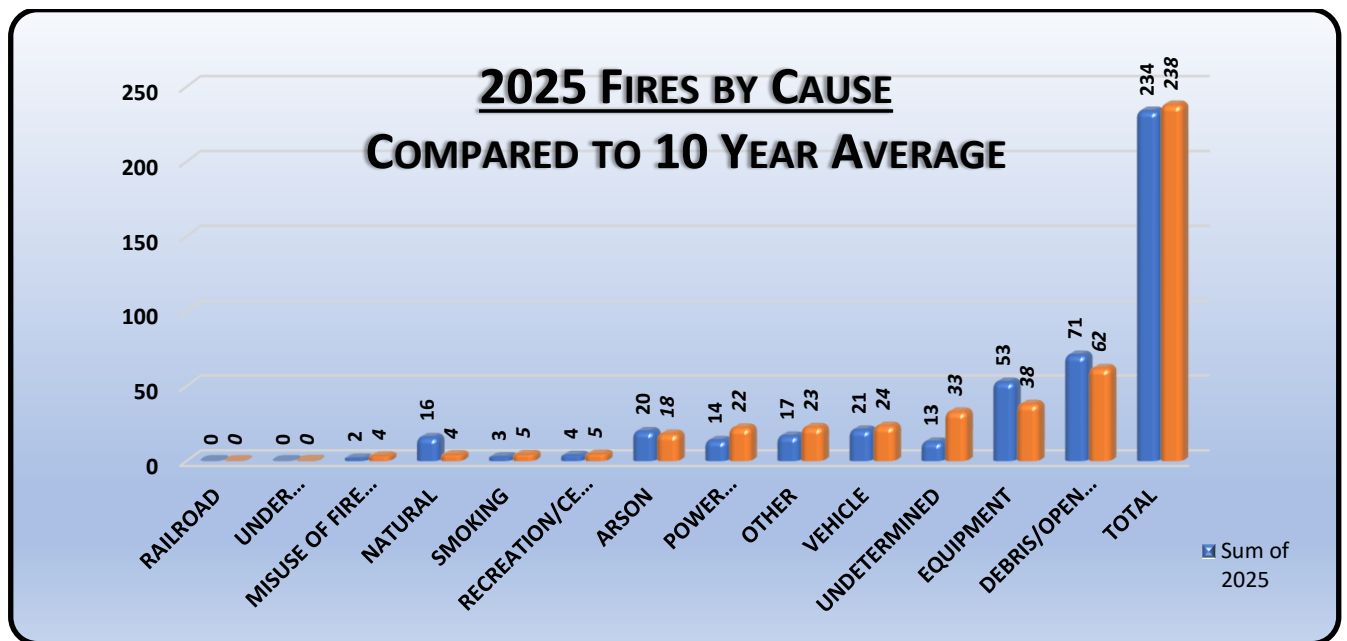
The remaining causes of fires in 2025 within AEU were:

Natural	(16 fires – 7%)
Power Generation	(14 fires – 6%)
Undetermined	(13 fires – 6%)
Recreation/Ceremonial Fire	(4 fires – 2%)
Smoking	(3 fires – 1%)
Misuse of Fire by a Minor	(2 fires - 1%)

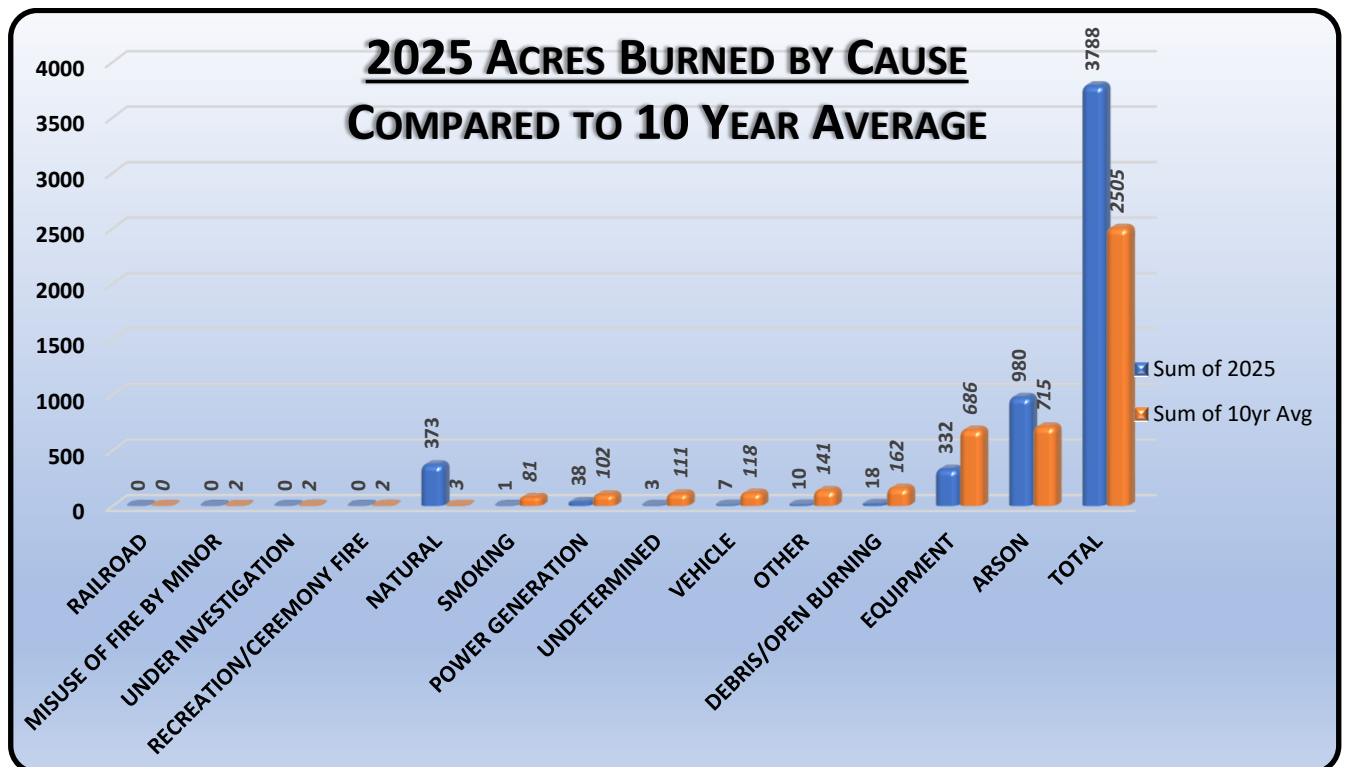
The total number of ignitions in 2024 was 202. In 2025, we had 234 ignitions, 32 more than 2024 but relatively close to the 10 year average. This trend continues through to the Wildland Cause Class. All causes in 2025 were similar to what AEU had in 2024 with slight fluctuations. However, in 2025 Undetermined, Vehicle, Other, and Recreational/ Ceremonial Fires were all below the 10-year averages. Debris/Open Burning caused fires jumped up to the leading causes of fires. Lightning caused 16 fires in 2025. The 10 year average for lightning caused fires is 4. 2025 was the most lightning fires we've had in AEU in over 10 years.

With new burn laws/regulations, it is imperative we continue to educate the public on safe burning practices. The number of Undetermined fires continues to trend down. In 2025, AEU had 13 which is significantly below the 10-year average of 33. Through education and experience of our personnel, we hope the number of Undetermined fires continues to decrease. It is important to conduct a thorough investigation of every wildland fire we respond to, taking into account your training, knowledge, experience, evidence at scene, as well as statements of witnesses to come to your conclusion of the Wildland Cause Class.





In 2025, there were 234 ignitions, 32 more ignitions than in 2024, and 4 less than the 10-year average of 238 fires which continues to trend down since 2020. To better address ignition management in the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.



Debris burning accounted for 71 fires, or 30% of the total fires in the Unit. Fires resulting from escapes from Debris burning resulted in approximately 18 acres burned within the unit for 2025. The 10-year average for this category is 162 acres burned. There was an increase in the number of ignitions from Debris Burning from 2024 (41 fires) to 2025. The 10-year average for Debris/Open Burning is 62 fires.

While we encourage the use of burn piles to clean vegetation of property, we need to continue and even improve education on proper burning techniques. The Unit Management suspended all burning in the Unit in June due to dry conditions.

Public education regarding the proper way to conduct debris burns, public safety and public awareness limited the number of these fires in recent years. 9-1-1 calls occur quickly when smoke is seen resulting in fire equipment arriving sooner at the scene of a fire. The number one cause of escaped debris burns continues to be lack of clearance around burn piles. Unattended debris burns also contributed to the totals. CAL FIRE engine companies are issuing an LE-38a notice when they determine a fire is caused by an escaped debris burn. These legal notices serve to educate the public and put them on notice that their next escape could result in a citation, arrest and/or recovery of fire suppression costs. Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau personnel are also issuing citations when debris burn caused fires violate law or violate the terms of the burn permits issued.

In addition, Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau staff work closely with local Air Quality Management Districts in the event a debris burn violates Air District ordinances. Violations typically include landowners burning debris piles larger than four feet by four feet in size without a valid air quality permit; landowners burning illegal materials; and landowners burning on a no-burn day. Potential violations of air quality rules are forwarded to the local Air District office on a LE-38a for potential action. Monetary fines typically range from \$40.00 to \$500.00, or more, depending on the type of violation.

Coordination between Air District offices and the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau is important in order to reduce the number of debris burn escapes and illegal debris burns. In addition, Air District offices have enforcement options not available to CAL FIRE Officers. The fines assessed help prevent future debris burn escapes and also help to reduce the number of fire department responses to these types of fires.

As of 2023, CAL FIRE and the Office of the State Fire Marshall has implemented the online burn permit program allowing homeowners to go online to get the appropriate permit for the burning they would like to do. Although this is new process and there are several kinks to be worked out, this should allow more extensive education on proper burning practices and techniques which will hopefully lead to less escape debris piles.

Equipment use accounted for 53 fires, or 23% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Equipment caused fires resulted in approximately 332 acres being burned within the Unit in 2025. This acreage is well below the 10-year average of 686 acres. The main cause of equipment fires continues to be mowers. These fires typically start as a result of blades striking rocks, or friction igniting chaff collected around the belts, pulley systems or exhaust systems of mowers. Ironically, most of the mower caused fires occurred as a result of residents trying to clear their property for fire safety. Continued public education on the appropriate equipment to use in dry vegetation as well as the appropriate time of day (before 10:00 AM) and conditions to work will help reduce ignitions. The Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau will continue to conduct enforcement action when violations of law are identified as well.

Vehicles accounted for 21 fires, or 9% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Vehicle caused fires resulted in approximately 7 acres being burned within the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for vehicle caused fires is 118 acres. Vehicle caused fires are typically due to mechanical failures, usually within the exhaust system where hot particles are expelled into dry vegetation. Another common cause is vehicles dragging chains or other metallic objects. Continued public education on the importance of vehicle maintenance will reduce the number of ignitions. Because these fires are usually along a roadway, they are reported quickly allowing for a timely response.

Arson accounted for 20 fires, or 8% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Arson caused fires burned approximately 980 acres in 2025. The 10-year average acres burned for arson caused fires is 715 acres. Arson caused fires are a good reason why investigating fires needs to be conducted quickly, thoroughly and with integrity.

Our continued good working relationships between all fire and law enforcement agencies within the Unit are aiding in successful apprehension and prosecution of arsonists. The importance of a thorough origin and cause investigation plays a key role in identifying suspicious fire patterns early. Apprehending and prosecuting arsonists is a team approach that depends on everyone.

The Unit also benefits from continuous, seven day a week, staffing of the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau during fire season and should continue throughout the year. Arson fires occur on a year-round basis and often go overlooked outside of declared fire season due to inadequate staffing. A trained investigator can quickly identify arson, collect valuable evidence, and work with local law enforcement to solve this crime.

Other causes accounted for 17 fires, or 7% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Formerly classified as Miscellaneous, Other caused fires resulted in approximately 10 acres being burned within the unit in 2025. The 10-year average of acres burned for Other caused fire is 141 acres. This classification includes causes such as structure fires, spontaneous combustion, fireplace ashes deposited in the wildland, barbecuing, cooking fires, target shooting and fireworks. Target areas for these activities in AEU include the "Old Latrobe Road" and Meiss Road areas of eastern Sacramento County. Beatty Road and Powers Road; also known as "Heaven" in the SRA of El Dorado Hills, is an area where AEU has significant issues. Continued public education efforts, such as "One less spark, one less wildfire" and enforcement action by the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau when violations of law are identified will help reduce the number of ignitions.

Natural accounted for 16 fires, 7% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Lightning caused fires burned a little over 373 acres in 2025. The 10-year average of acres burned from lightning caused fires is 41 acres. Lightning caused fires accounted for two of the five largest fires within the unit in 2025. Not much can be done to prevent or alter this category. In anticipation of predicted dry-lightning events, the Unit will activate its AEU Complex Incident Plan in order to reduce the number of acres burned due to lightning.

Power Generation caused fires accounted for 14 fires, or 6% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Formerly classified as Electrical Power, Power Generation caused fires resulted in approximately 38 acres burned within the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for electrical caused fires is 106 acres. The Unit's Law Enforcement & Investigations staff as well as Defensible Space Inspectors continue to report PRC 4292 and PRC 4293 violations when they are observed to the appropriate utility company to mitigate

the violation. Law Enforcement & Investigations Staff will document the violation on and LE-38a if the violation isn't addressed in a timely manner or may issue a citation dependent on the circumstances.

Undetermined - Fires with an undetermined cause accounted for 13 fires, 6% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Undetermined caused fires resulted in approximately 3 acres being burned in the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for this cause class is 111 acres. Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau staff continue to investigate these fires based on the information provided on the fire investigation reports.

Continued hard work and dedication of the Unit's Law Enforcement & Investigations Staff and Company Officers who conduct thorough origin and cause investigations are imperative. We are bound by law and policy to investigate fires and it is crucial fire investigations be conducted as completely and factually as possible. It is only through origin and cause investigations that true prevention can be administered.

Recreation/Ceremonial fires accounted for 4 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Formerly classified as Campfire, Recreation/Ceremonial caused fires burned less than ½ acre in 2025. The 10-year average of acres burned from campfire caused fires is 2 acres. Most of these campfires were located at transient camps. While fires in transient camps have dropped in AEU SRA over the past 5 years, in the LRA, they have remained consistent. This is primarily due to strict enforcement from the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau and the local Sheriff's Departments. While it has taken time for Placerville and South Lake Tahoe to get on board with campfires laws, they have made strides in the past couple of years. With more strict enforcement in the LRA of AEU, we expect these numbers to drop. With the close proximity to the SRA, transient campfires in the LRA directly affect the SRA. CAL FIRE Officers and local law enforcement, including the El Dorado County Sheriff Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the Amador County Sheriff Homeless of Amador Response Team (HART) continues to patrol these encampments to reduce the number of illegal campfires.

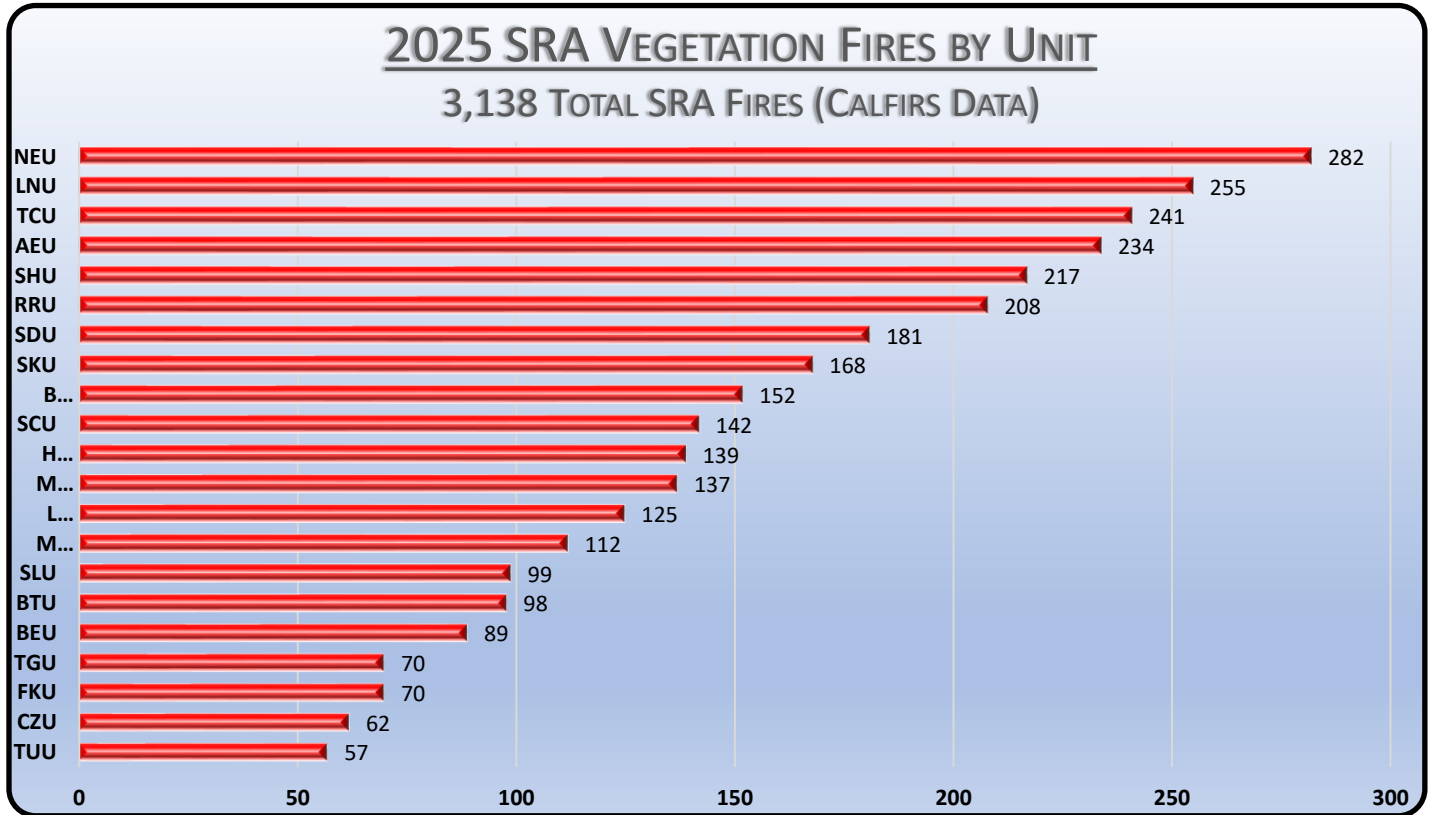
Smoking accounted for 3 fires, or 1% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Smoking caused fires burned less than 1 acre in 2025. The 10-year average of acres burned from Smoking caused fires is 81 acres. Continued public awareness and education will continue to reduce the number of smoking caused ignitions.

Misuse of fire by Minor accounted for 2 fires, or 1% of the ignitions in the Unit. Formerly classified as Playing with Fire, Misuse of Fire by a Minor caused fires burned approximately ¼ acre in 2025. The 10-year average of acres burned from Misuse of Fire by a Minor is 2 acres. CAL FIRE Officers, with the assistance of local agencies, continue to use the Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program when a juvenile is identified as being responsible for causing the fire.

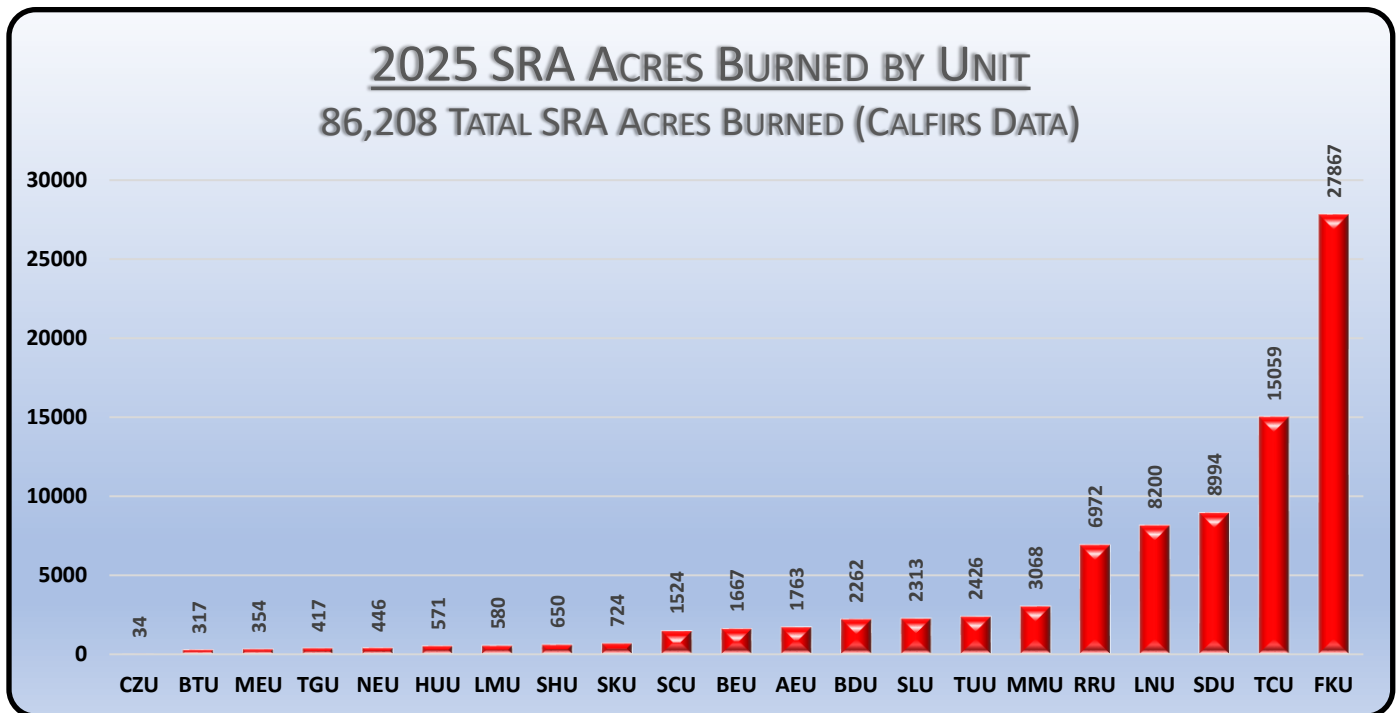
Railroad accounted for zero fires in 2025 or over the past 10 years. Amador County has one active commercial railroad in the western portion of the county. El Dorado has a railroad association which operates small railcars for historical tours on two small sections of railroad in the western end of the county.

Under Investigation is a category added in 2019 when Calfires was introduced. This is a category set aside for CAL FIRE Officers for ongoing cases. In 2025, there were no fires left under investigation.

2025 Statewide Ignition Data:



The above graph shows AEU SRA Ignitions compared to all CAL FIRE Unit's SRA Ignitions. This data is collected from CALFIRS. Unlike previous years, illegal debris fires are not included in this total. With a total of 234 SRA ignitions for 2025, AEU had the 4th highest number of ignitions behind NEU, LNU, and TCU.



The above graph shows the Statewide SRA acres burned according to CALFIRS data. In 2025, AEU had 1,763 acres burned with the largest fire being the Coyote Fire on August 20th at 624 acres. The 10-year average is 2,303 acres.

Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau

With recent movement, The Amador-El Dorado Unit currently has 5 active Peace Officers (PC 830.2(g)). There are no recruits currently going through the 2026 Peace Officers Standardized Training (POST) Regular Basic Course (RBC) and none scheduled to go through in 2027 either. Once completed with RBC, all recruits will undergo a field training program. Most recruits complete the field training program by October at which point they are fully qualified to be a solo officer. Current Peace Officer assignments are as follows:

Fire Prevention, Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau Staffing:

Battalion Chief - 1:

-B2720

Fire Captain Specialist - 4:

-P2722

-P2723

-P2724

-P2725-vacant

Forester I - 1:

-F2791

The Unit will continue to utilize its Peace Officers for general Law Enforcement duties & investigations, Fire Prevention efforts, Forest Practice Enforcement, Civil Cost Recovery, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Security Detail, Internal Affairs Investigations, Serious Accident Review Teams, Out of Unit Assignments, various Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement workgroups, and training assignments/cadres.

The availability of all 5 Unit Peace Officers on a routine and consistent basis is limited by current Peace Officer assignments within the Unit. The number of Peace Officers in the Unit has declined from 7 in 2016 to 5 in 2026.

Due to the reduced number of Peace Officers both statewide and within the Unit, it is anticipated that there will be greater demand on existing Peace Officers for Fire Investigations, the Field Training Program, Cadres, Workgroups, Law Enforcement assignments, Serious Accident Review Team deployments and Administrative Investigations.

2025 Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau Statistics:

AEU Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau officers responded to 453 calls in 2025. In 2024, CAL FIRE ECC's added several CAD Law Enforcement status codes in order to track the number and types of calls we respond to.

Below is a breakdown of the calls AEU Law Enforcement staff responded to:

6 Structure Fires

183 Vegetation Fires

2 Vehicle Fires

48 Miscellaneous Fires

1 HazMat

3 Public Assists

5 Traffic Collision

2 Medical

201 Law Enforcement Calls

2 Other type

Below is a summary of the results of these calls:

2 Felony Arrests were made within the Unit related to arson type fires

4 Felony Arrests were made within the Unit related to other crimes

13 Citations were issued

1 District Attorney complaints were filed

Approximately 70 LE-38(a)'s were issued

2026 Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau Cadres/Workgroups:

CAL FIRE Field Training Program

FI-210 cadre

Fire Prevention Advisory Committee

Sacramento - Sierra Regional Arson Task Force

Sacramento Regional - High Tech Crimes Task Force

El Dorado County Fire Arson Task Force

Amador County Arson Task Force

Regular Basic POST Academy

CAL FIRE Firearms cadre

CAL FIRE Arrest Control/Defensive Tactics cadre

CAL FIRE Less than Lethal Weapons cadre

Administrative Investigations:

Complex administrative investigations should be routed through the CAL FIRE Professional Standards Program (PSP). However, less complex investigations should be done by the appropriate supervisor with a notification made to the Units Administrative Officer. In cases where the nature or complexity of the investigation is not clear, unit personnel should contact the CAL FIRE Professional Standards Unit through the Unit Administrative Officer (or directly if the situation warrants).

Fire Prevention, Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau 2025 Summary:

In 2025, the Unit successfully engaged in all aspects of Fire Prevention including public education, engineering, law enforcement and volunteerism. In addition, the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau was able to support out-of-unit assignments while maintaining seven-day a week prevention coverage during fire season within the Unit. The AEU Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau was successful in preventing fires where we usually have issues due to active and consistent patrolling. Prevention of these fires continues to be a team effort attributed to fire prevention patrol, public education, and fire suppression efforts in the Unit. When the transient population in the Unit was on the rise and transient related fires continued to increase, the AEU Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau took a very aggressive approach to reduce the problem. While transient related fires have dropped over several years, the Bureau continues to work with the El Dorado County Sheriffs Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the Amador Sheriffs Homeless Amador React Team (HART) to educate the transient population on fire safety and at times enforce the law when appropriate.

During the course of fire prevention patrol in the Unit, Bureau personnel observed multiple illegal fires, successfully extinguishing them and holding those responsible accountable, potentially preventing several large damaging wildfires from occurring.

With several cases still pending for the Amador/El Dorado Unit Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau, 2025 was a successful year for prosecution of arsonists. In January 2025, Jason Robinette was found guilty of 2 counts of arson for the Crozier and Mosquito Fires of 2024. While this case moved extremely fast through the legal process, the 2022 Electra Fire was quite different. The AEU Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau received information regarding the party responsible. With this information, the Bureau worked quickly as a team to present the case, get a warrant, and arrest Danny Killion in a homeless camp in Yuba City for the fire. He was ultimately found guilty in April 2025 of reckless Arson. The Electra Fire case is a good example of how long a case can go on and shows the importance of good and in-depth investigations. While still an open investigation, the AEU Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau has identified a serial arson case in Sacramento County which will hopefully come to a close in 2026.

It's the intent of the Amador-El Dorado Unit in 2026 to continue actively seeking ways to reduce unwanted fires, aggressively pursue criminal or civil action against violators of forest and fire laws, enhance the law enforcement skills of all of its Officers through on-going training, increase the visibility of CAL FIRE through media outlets, engage local jurisdictions in land use policy and planning decisions and continue to provide support to the Regions and Sacramento on out-of-unit assignments. The Unit plans to build on past successes while seeking ways to improve processes internal to the Unit.

EXHIBITS: AMADOR – EL DORADO CHARTS/MAPS

Exhibit A: AEU Unit Statistics

Amador-El Dorado Unit Statistics			
DPA (Group)		Acres	
Local		550,787	
State		943,425	
Federal		1,173,815	
Total		2,668,027	
*March 2026			
State DPA - County		Acres	
Alpine		22,941	
Amador		292,799	
Calaveras		481	
Contra Costa		0	
El Dorado		486,856	
Mono		0	
Placer		714	
Sacramento		114,558	
San Joaquin		25,076	
Solano		0	
Tuolumne		0	
Yolo		0	
Total		943,425	
*March 2026			
Responsibility Areas		Acres	
Local		578,997	
State		1,003,077	
Federal		1,085,973	
Total		2,668,047	
*March 2026			
State SRA - County		Acres	
Alpine		34,295	
Amador		286,152	
Calaveras		298	
Contra Costa		0	
El Dorado		542,678	
Mono		0	
Placer		128	
Sacramento		114,445	
San Joaquin		25,081	
Solano		0	
Tuolumne		0	
Yolo		0	
Total		1,003,077	
*March 2026			
Unit/Boundary		Acres	
Admin Boundary		2,668,047	
Bat 1		583,238	
Bat 2		357,726	
Bat 3		282,349	
Bat 4		650,425	
Bat 5		4,328	
Bat 6		790,003	
*March 2026			
County		Acres	
Alpine		472,281	
Amador		386,779	
Calaveras		932	
Contra Costa		6	
El Dorado		1,143,698	
Mono		80	
Placer		1,144	
Sacramento		626,628	
San Joaquin		25,706	
Solano		298	
Tuolumne		706	
Yolo		1,335	
Total		2,659,593	
*March 2026			
Project Planning Divisions		Acres	
North		945,271	
South		932,774	
East		790,003	
Total		2,668,048	
*March 2026			
County		Population	
Alpine		1,204	
Amador		40,474	
El Dorado		191,185	
Sacramento		1,588,055	
San Joaquin**		1,208	
Total		1,822,126	
*2020 Census Data (March 2026)			
**Approx. population clipped to AEU Admin Boundary			
FHSZ - SRA		Acres	
Moderate		152,675	
High		253,070	
Very High		603,352	
SRA FHSZ Total		1,009,097	
*March 2026			

Exhibit B: Unit Map

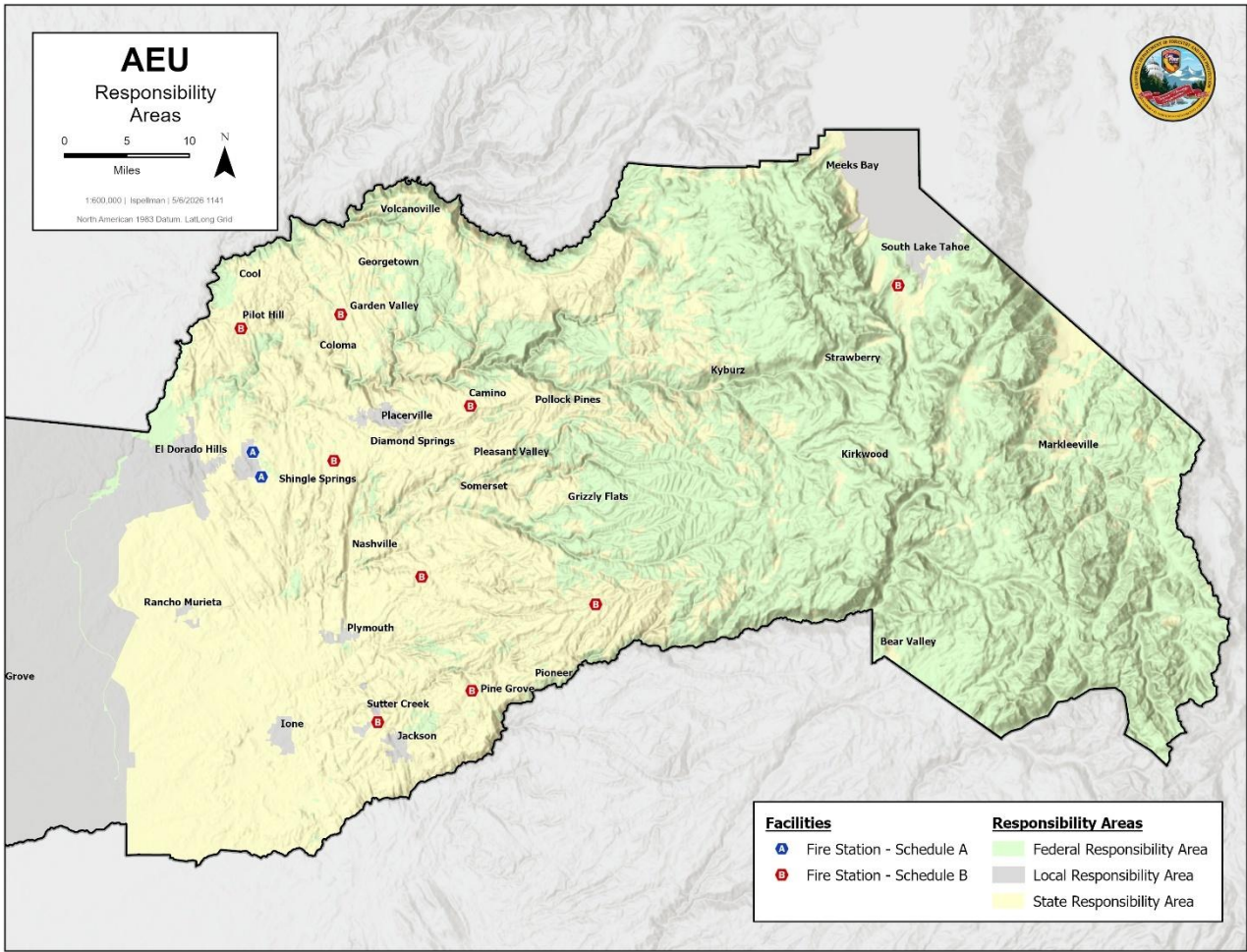
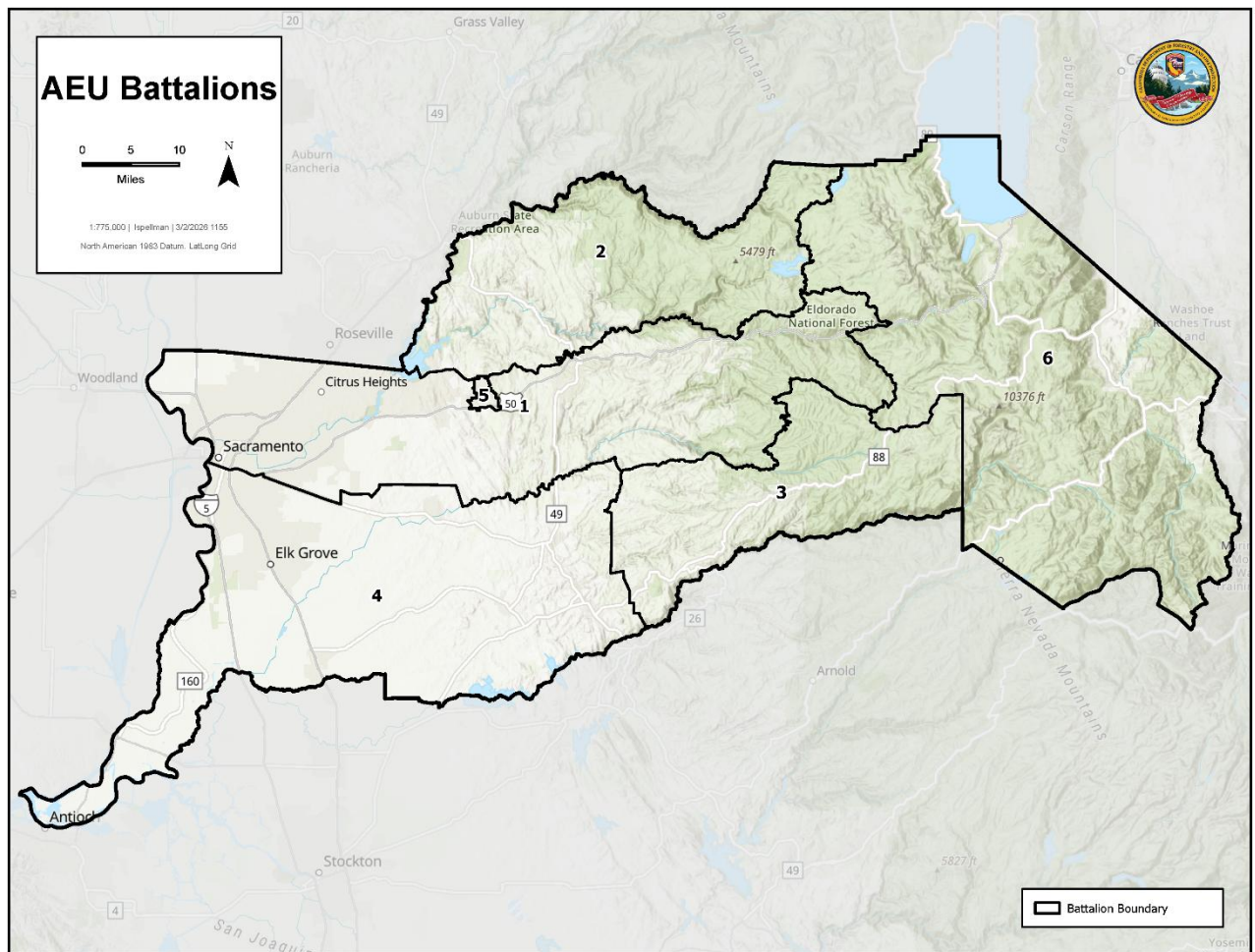
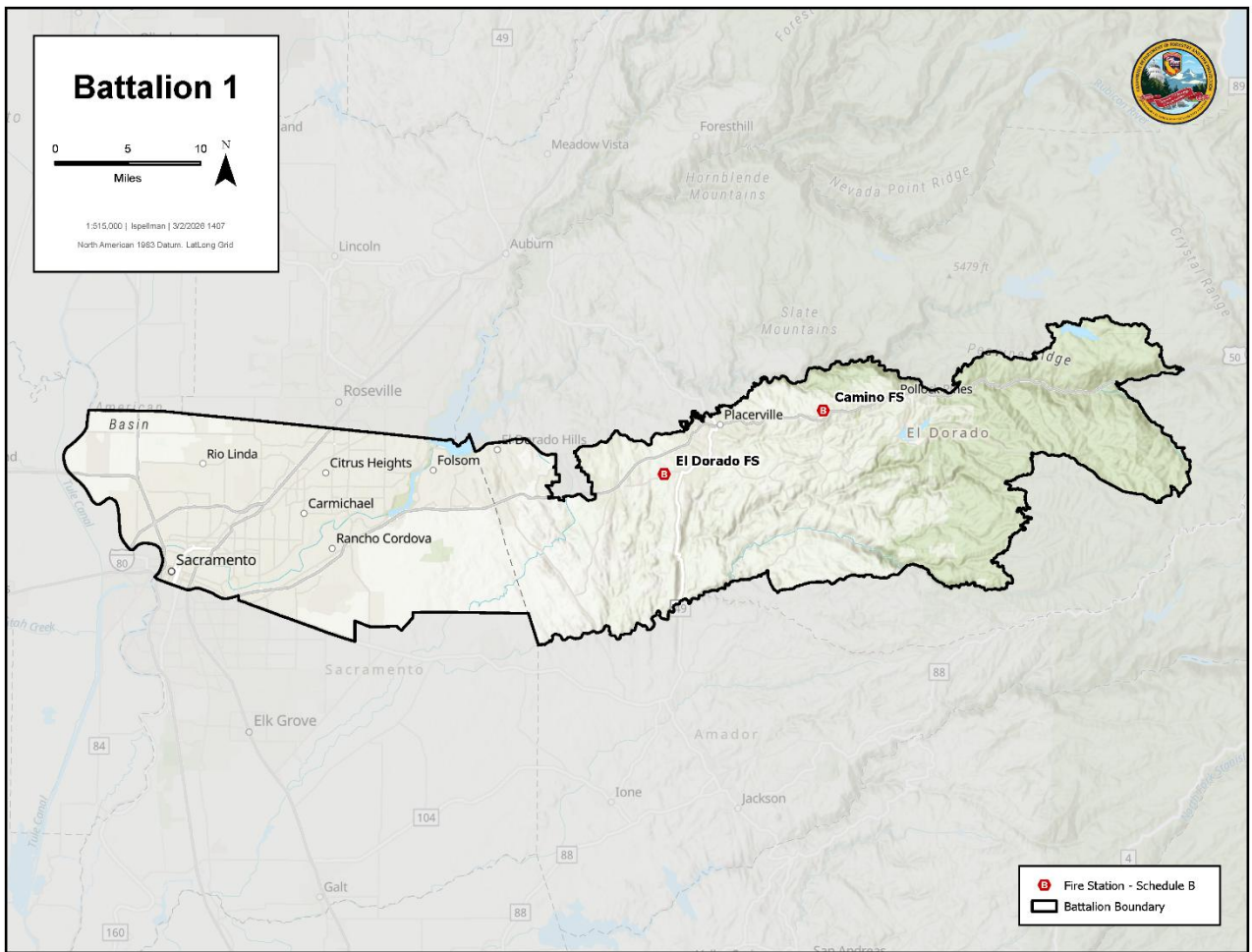
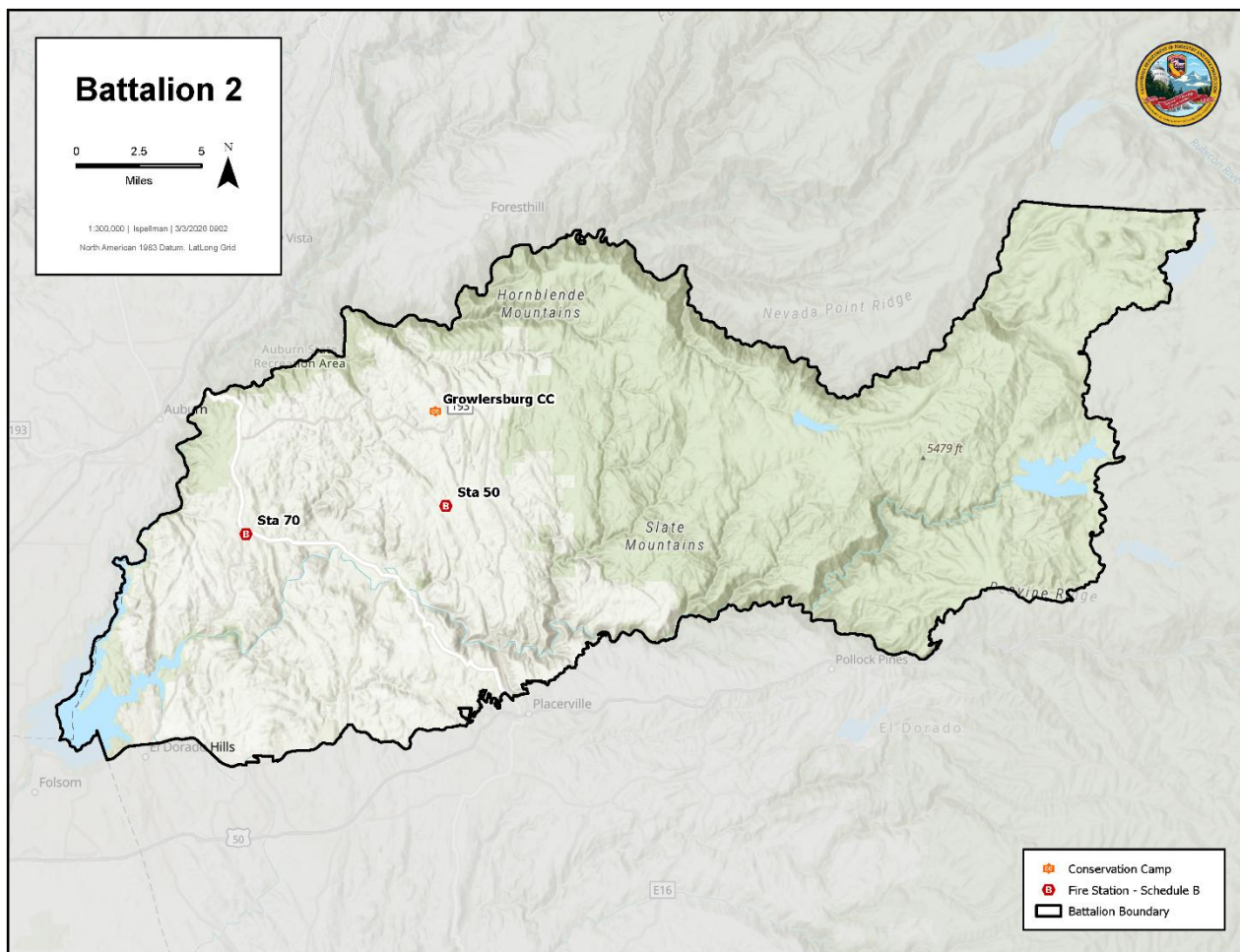
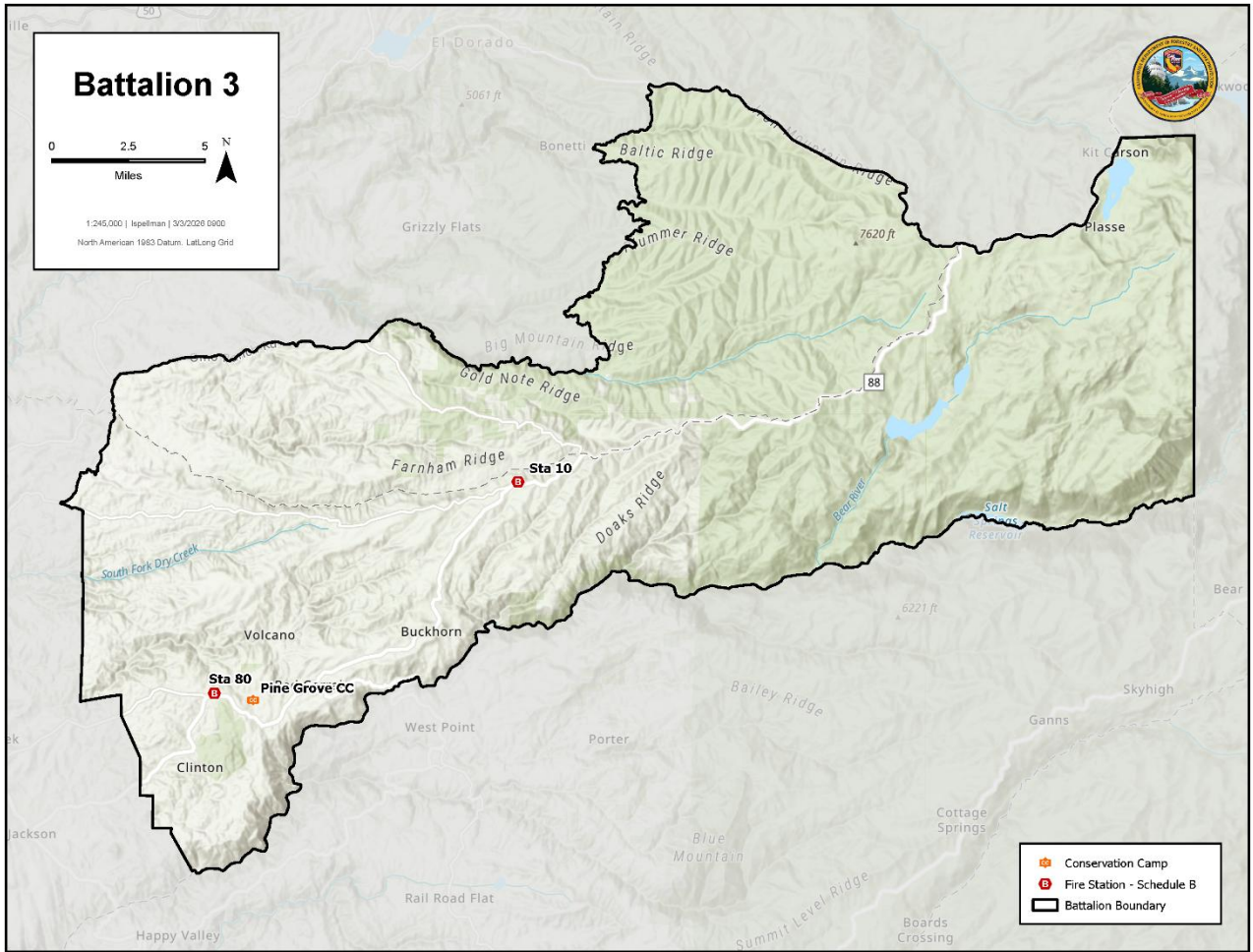


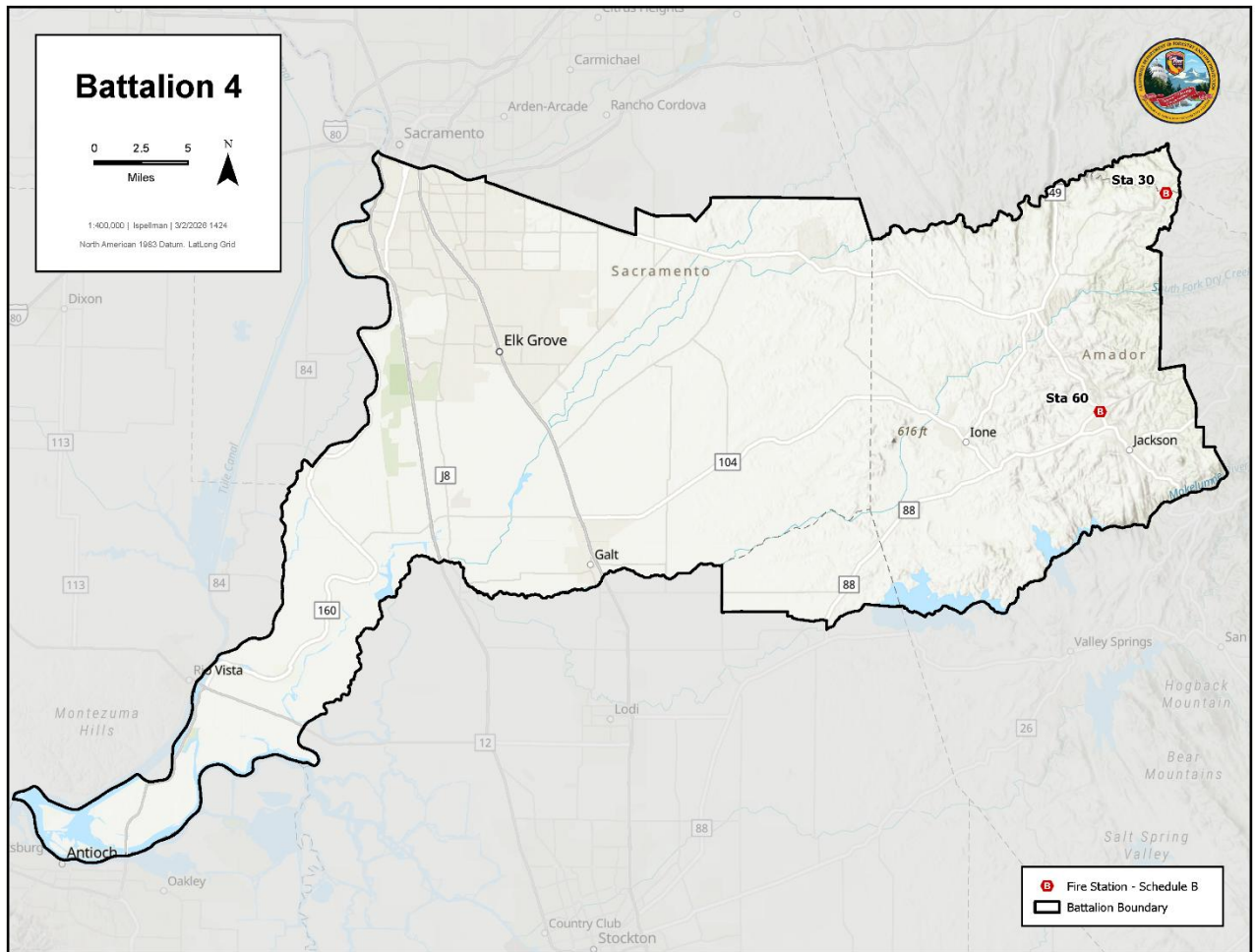
Exhibit C: Battalion Maps











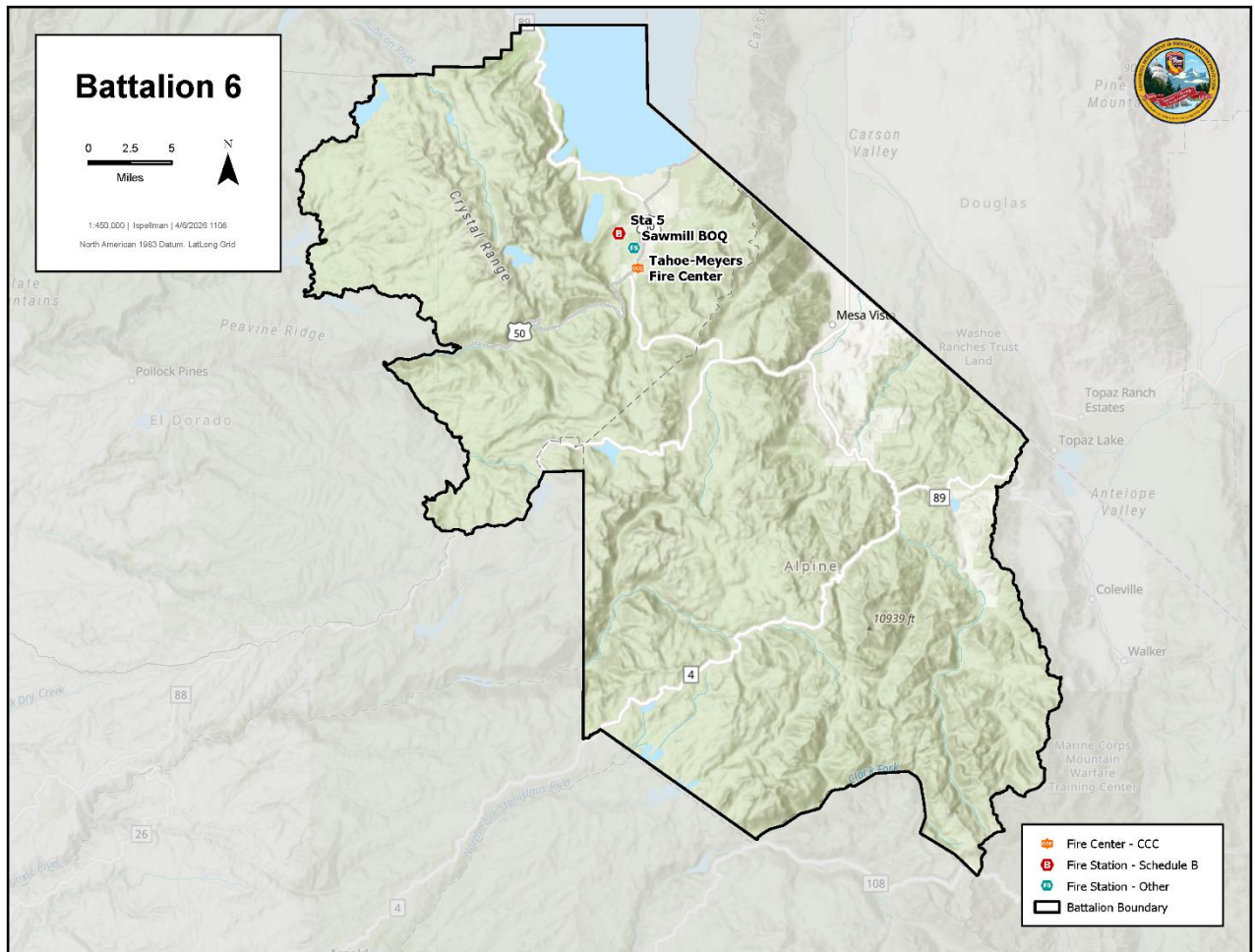


Exhibit D: Unit DPA Map

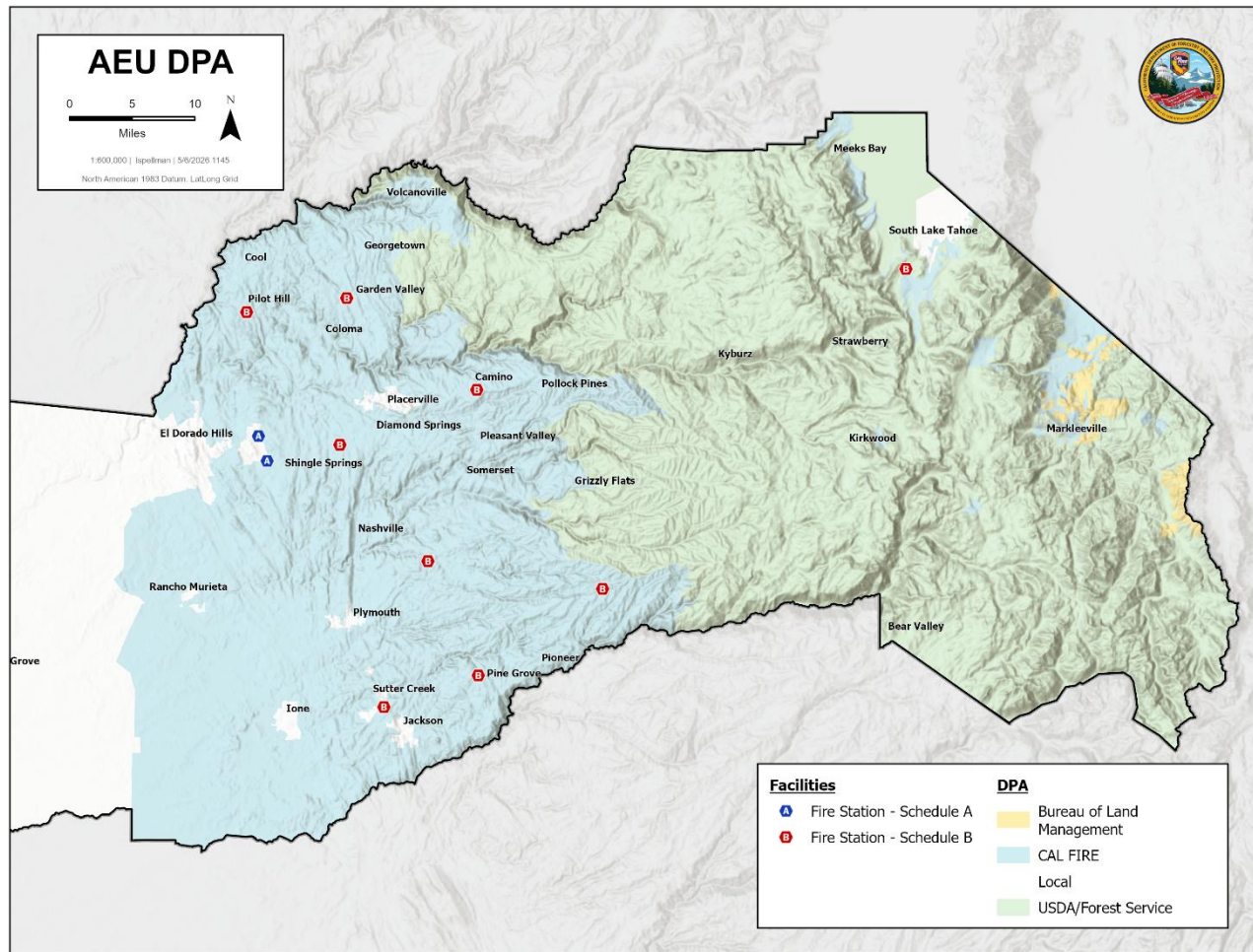
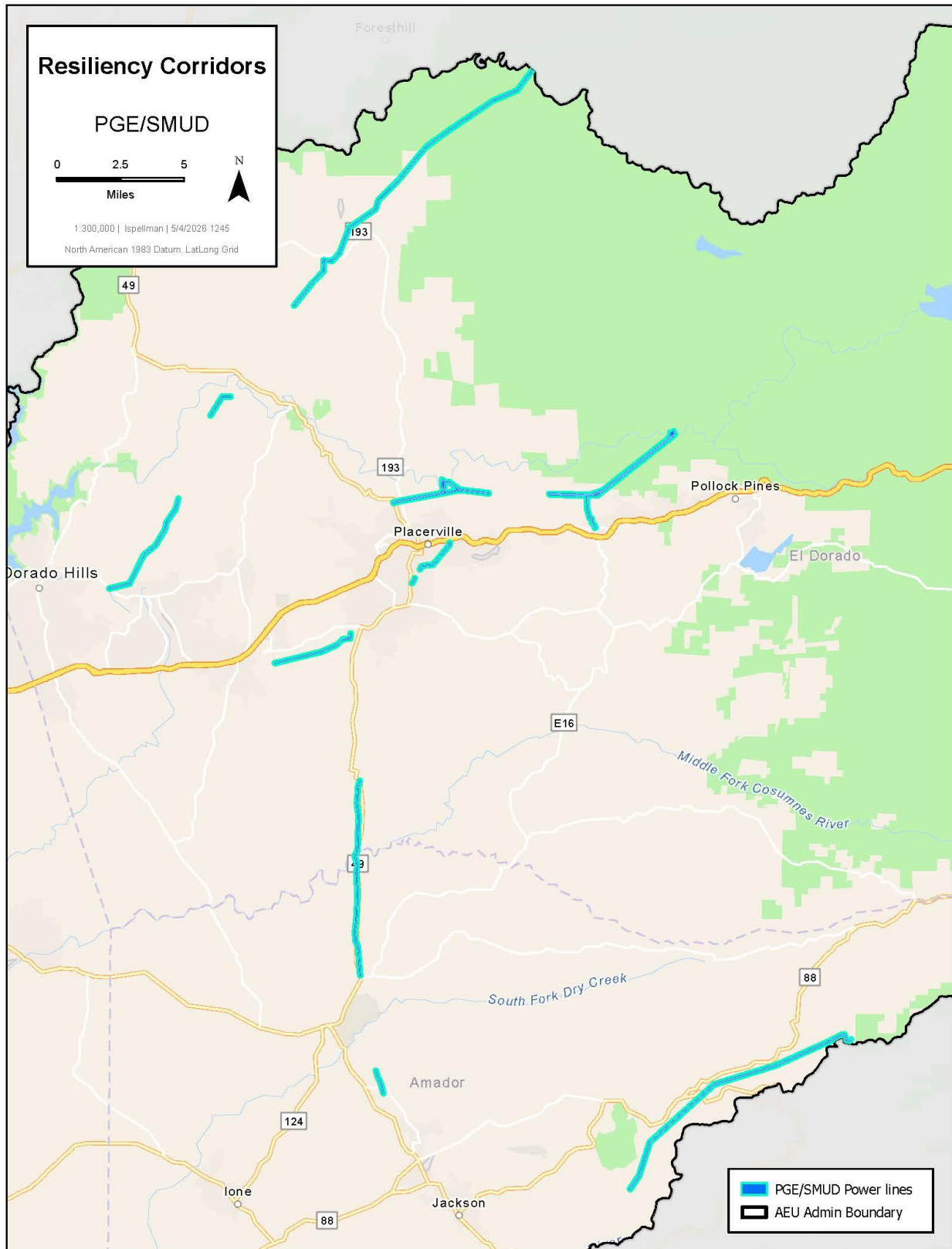
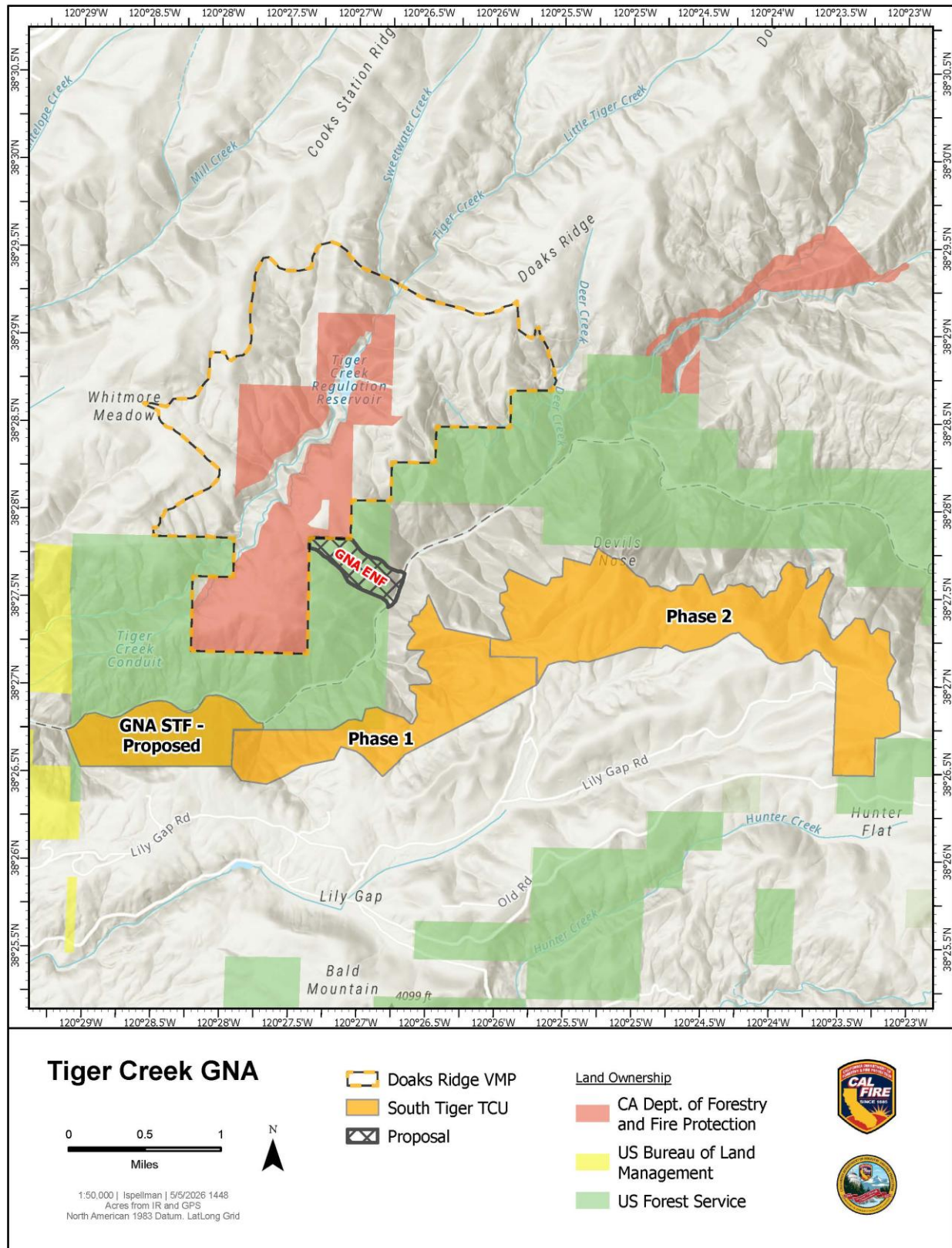


Exhibit E: Resiliency Corridors



[Utilities section](#)

Exhibit F: Tiger Creek GNA



[Good Neighbor Authority](#)

Exhibit G: Vibrant Planet Data and Science

Synthetic CHM

The Platform utilizes a three-dimensional (3D) structure dataset to assess landscape vegetation. To create this 3D structure dataset, Vibrant Planet uses dozens of publicly-available and widely-used datasets including lidar and data from the USDA, National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), Sentinel-2, USGS, and TerraClimate.

While Lidar is one of the most powerful remote sensing datasets to gather 3D vegetation detail, it is often expensive (\$.50-\$1 per acre) and can be out of date as soon as vegetation changes – whether from disturbance events such as wildfire or from Hazardous Fuels Reductions like mechanical thinning. Because of these limitations, Vibrant Planet uses machine learning algorithms, trained on lidar, to build a Synthetic Canopy Height Model (Synthetic CHM) that supplements additional high-quality and real-time landscape assessment data. Vibrant Planet Synthetic CHM utilizes high spatial and temporal resolution imagery to identify individual trees and approximate their height, as well as other helpful metrics including wood product value, and aboveground biomass.

HVRAAs

In order to inform Strategic Project Area placement, the Platform identifies and evaluates landscape features with societal value. Within the Platform these features with societal value are called Highly Valued Resources, Assets, and Areas (HVRAAs).

To be included within the Platform, all HVRAAs must be mappable, able to be affected by wildfire, and have societal value. For example, electrical transmission lines have societal value by providing power to communities, they can be mapped on the landscape, and they can be affected by wildfire.

This deployment of the Platform includes a comprehensive set of HVRAAs, including:

Assets

- Above Ground Water Delivery (Wooden)
- Critical Structures
- Dams
- Energy Facilities
- Structure Transmission Zone
- Structures
- Transmission Lines
- Water Facilities

Safety

- CAL FIRE Subdivision Review*
- CAL FIRE WUI**
- Communication Infrastructure
- Critical Access Roads
- Emergency Service Facilities

Water

- High Erosion Potential
- Lakes
- Perennial Rivers and Streams

Recreation

- Recreation Areas
- Trails

Wildlands Health

- Aboveground Live Biomass
- Freshwater Wetlands
- Montane Mixed-Conifer - Relative Stand Density Index
- Riparian Areas

Biodiversity

- Aspen Highly Suitable Habitat
- Beaver Suitable Habitat (Modeled)
- California Black Oak

Ecological Commodity

- Managed Timberlands

Science & Culture

- California Black Oak Acorn Harvesting
- Historic Features
- Monitoring Stations

*CAL FIRE Subdivision Review identifies neighborhoods with 30 or more homes that have only one road in and out, used to assess and reduce evacuation risks during wildfires.

**CAL FIRE WUII includes both Wildland-Urban Interface and Intermix. Interface refers to areas where neighborhoods or subdivisions directly border wildland vegetation; while Intermix represents housing developments interspersed in an area dominated by wildland vegetation that is susceptible to wildfire.

HVRAA Data Sources

To support analysis, planning, and the development of Strategic Project Areas, CAL FIRE and Vibrant Planet integrate data curated from local, state, and federal sources. These datasets include vegetation, topography, climate, infrastructure, wildfire history, and social and ecological assets – providing a comprehensive foundation for analysis. This curated data enables more accurate identification of hazards, strategic planning of fuel reduction projects, and alignment with statewide fire resiliency goals.

Land Ownership

Within the Platform, land ownership is broken into classifications of federal, state or local government managed lands as well as private lands. Ownership data for public lands is sourced from the Protected Areas Database of the United States or PAD-US (U.S. Geological Survey Gap Analysis Project (GAP), 2022).

Recognizing ownership patterns is critical because wildfire risk does not respect jurisdictional boundaries. Federal lands, local government properties, and privately owned parcels often abut state responsibility areas (SRA), creating mutual threat zones where wildfire hazards can impact multiple ownerships simultaneously. By using the Platform to evaluate hazards across these boundaries, the Unit and its partners can prioritize projects that provide shared benefits—reducing fuels, improving landscape resilience, and enhancing community protection on both sides of ownership lines. Collaborative identification and treatment of these mutual threat areas is essential to creating a wildfire resilient region.

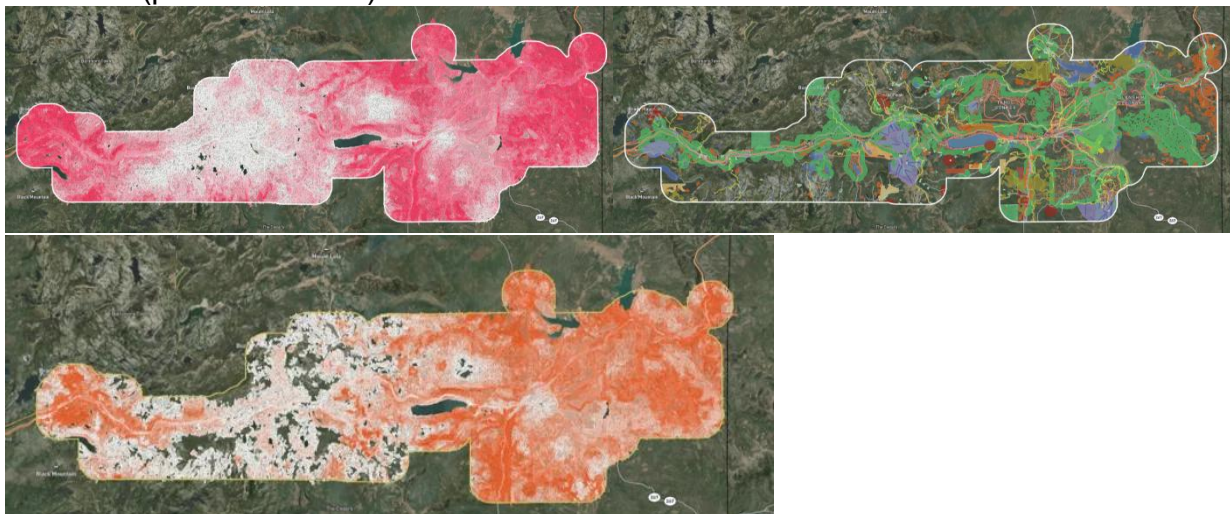
Wildfire Hazard

To calculate wildfire hazard, Vibrant Planet models both burn probability and fire intensity. These models are conducted by Pyrologix, a Vibrant Planet company. Areas with the highest wildfire hazard generally contain the greatest combination of burn probability and fire intensity.

- Burn probability: The probability that a geographic location (30-m pixel) will experience a wildland fire within a given timeframe. Modeled using [FSim](#), which simulates the growth and behavior of hundreds of thousands of large fire events, based on historical fire occurrences, weather, terrain, and fuel.
- Fire intensity: The flame length that a given pixel is likely to experience during a wildfire event. This calculation uses the [WildEST model](#) developed by Pyrologix which performs 200+ simulations and uses local fuel, weather, and topography to generate estimates of contemporary flame lengths within a given pixel.

Wildfire Risk

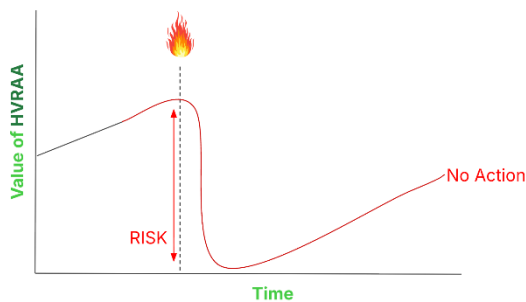
Vibrant Planet displays the wildfire hazard (burn probability x intensity) for your entire landscape (picture 1 below) and then considers the interaction of a hazard with all HVRAAs on your landscape (picture 2 below) and calculates the wildfire risk to those HVRAAs (picture 3 below).



Risk is the likelihood of the wildfire hazard to decrease the value of a single or multiple HVRAAs. Each HVRAA has a unique set of response functions to every class of wildfire hazard.

Vibrant Planet exposes each HVRAA to the wildfire hazard and determines the risk to that HVRAA's value if no management were to occur. If multiple HVRAAs are being prioritized in an area, their scores are combined.

Risk

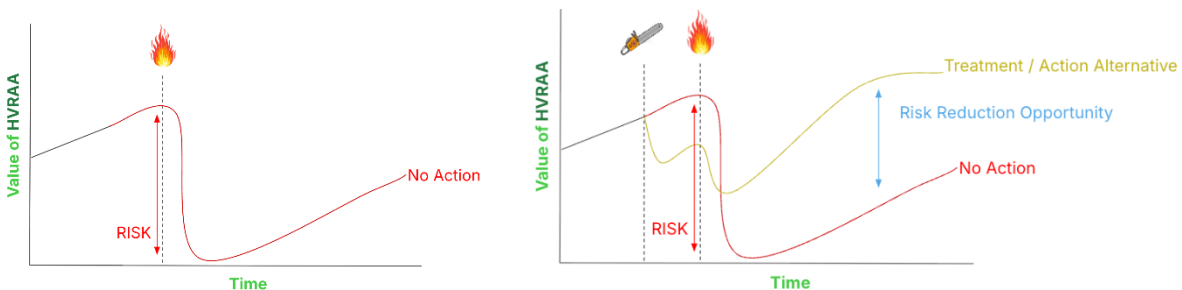


Opportunity to Reduce Wildfire Risk

Within the Platform, Vibrant Planet calculates a unique Risk Reduction Opportunity (RO) score for each geographic location. To calculate the RO score, each HVRAA is assigned a risk score (see 'Wildfire Risk'). That score can be weighted higher than other HVRAAs to account for planning priorities (see 'Weighted Wildfire Risk'). The Platform then analyzes all Hazardous Fuels Reduction options to reduce the risk and determines a single 'recommended' Hazardous Fuels Reduction option that reduces the most amount of risk to the landscape value. See the diagrams and further explanation below.

Risk

Risk Reduction Opportunity



The graph on the left shows the loss in value of a landscape feature following a wildfire (risk). The graph on the right shows the difference in value following a wildfire with no Hazardous Fuels Reduction vs. the value following a Hazardous Fuels Reduction action by implementing the 'recommended' Hazardous Fuels Reduction option selected by the platform. The difference in value between no action/post modeled wildfire and post-implementation action/post modeled wildfire is RO.

Vibrant Planet calculates RO for each landscape feature. When multiple features are present in an area, their scores are combined.

Emphasized Risk and RO

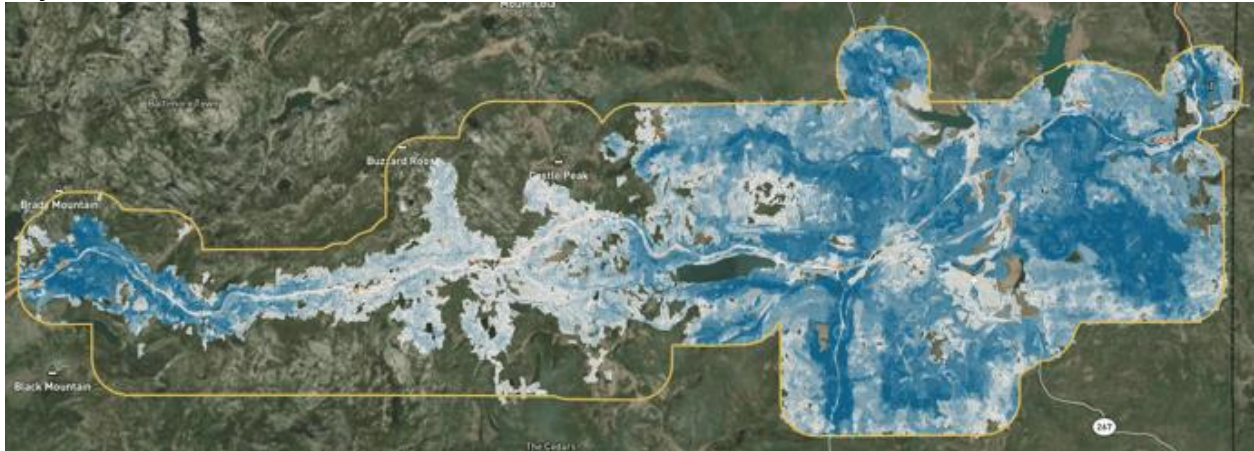
Every plan has a different goal. That's why Vibrant Planet helps you build prioritized based on the management objectives you and your partners choose to emphasize.

Each HVRAA is grouped into an objective category: Assets, Safety, Water, Wildlands Health, Biodiversity, Recreation, and Ecological Commodity. Each objective category can be weighed up to five times higher than other categories. A weight of zero means

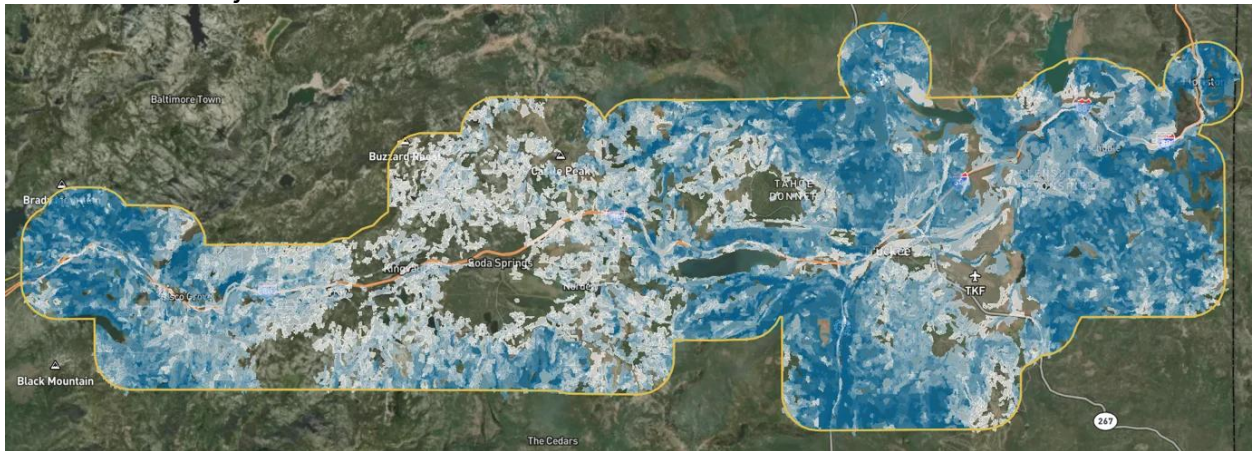
that the objective category's RO score would not impact where projects are identified. A weight of five means that an objective category would have the most impact on project placement.

In the following examples, you can see how three groups are able to emphasize different objectives:

Group 1: Fire district - Prioritize assets and safety 5 times higher than all other objectives



Group 2: Watershed nonprofit - Prioritize wildlands health and water 2 times higher than all other objectives



Group 3: Forest service - Prioritize assets and safety 3 times higher, and recreation and water 2 times higher than all other objectives

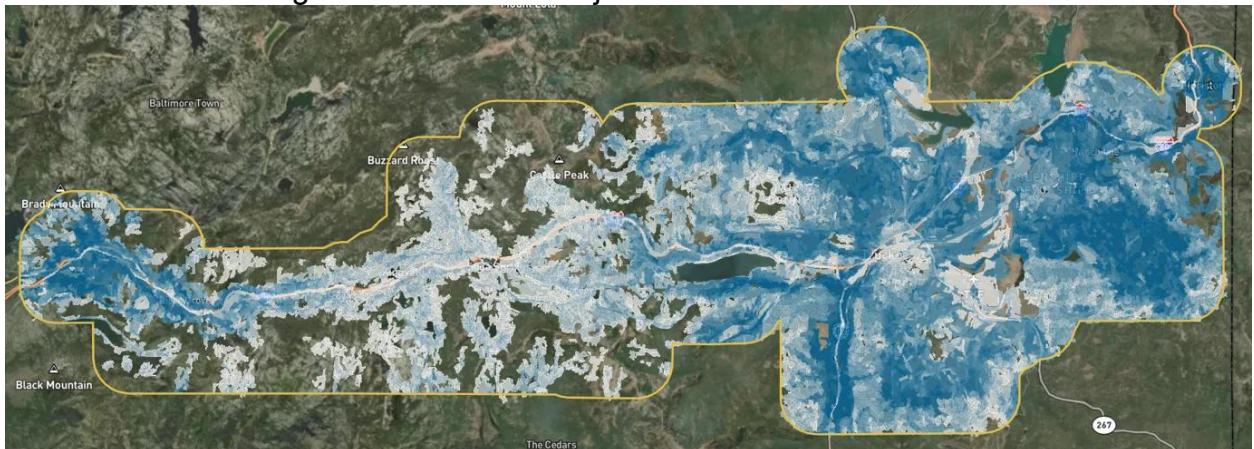


Exhibit H: Unit Fire Plan Methodology

Through the use of the Platform, AEU staff conducted a thorough analysis of wildfire hazard, risk to community and landscape values such as homes, critical access roads, and WUI areas, as well as the feasibility of potential Hazardous Fuels Reductions. This analysis was used to develop Strategic Project Areas across the Amador-El Dorado Unit (the Unit).

The Strategic Planning Areas represent the areas within the Unit that have a combination of:

- The greatest risk to emphasized values
- The greatest risk reduction opportunity (RO) if/when adjacent hazardous fuels are reduced

Planning at the Division Level

To account for ecological and sociological variation across the unit, planning areas were identified within three Divisions - North, South, and East. Planning at the Division level enabled Unit staff to plan within locations containing similar wildfire hazard and a similar distribution of values-at-risk.

Leveraging Vibrant Planet for Strategic Project Planning and Evaluation

The Vibrant Planet platform is being used by CAL FIRE AEU to evaluate and refine *Strategic Project Areas* by modeling treatment scenarios and exploring fuels reduction strategies. This tool allows for advanced landscape-level planning, where project benefits can be analyzed in terms of risk reduction, community protection, ecological benefit, and feasibility. Vibrant Planet can also serve as a review framework for outside partners and grant applicants to align proposed projects with CAL FIRE AEU's strategic goals and planning methods—ensuring funding is directed toward the highest-impact areas that meet the unit's wildfire resilience goals.

Leveraging Vibrant Planet for Strategic Project Planning and Evaluation

The Vibrant Planet platform will be used by CAL FIRE AEU to evaluate and refine *Strategic Project Area* by modeling treatment scenarios, estimating costs, and exploring alternative fuels reduction strategies. This tool allows for advanced landscape-level planning, where project benefits can be analyzed in terms of risk reduction, community protection, ecological benefit, and feasibility. Vibrant Planet can also serve as a review framework for outside partners and grant applicants to align proposed projects with CAL FIRE AEU's strategic goals and planning methods—ensuring funding is directed toward the highest-impact areas that meet the unit's wildfire resilience goals.

Value-at-risk Emphasis

Within each Division, Strategic Planning Areas were designed to protect lives, property, and their associated values-at-risk, also known as Strategic Areas, Resources, and Assets (HVRAs). Key HVRAs emphasized wildfire risk reduction included:

- Structures and wildfire transmission zones to structures
- Critical Access Routes
- Public Utilities and Infrastructure
- Firefighter Operational Space within the Wildland Urban Interface & Intermix
- CAL FIRE Subdivision Review Index areas
- Emergency Facilities and Communication Infrastructure
- WUI Interface
- WUI Intermix
- All remaining areas within each Division

Hazardous Fuels Reduction goals vary by geographic area. In WUI Interface, potential Hazardous Fuels Reduction actions focus on preventing fire spread to structures and initiation of urban conflagration, while in WUI Intermix, potential Hazardous Fuels Reduction actions may focus more heavily on maintaining safe operational space for firefighters by reducing predicted flame lengths and fire rate of spread.

In addition, Critical Access Routes were emphasized and prioritized to identify potential Strategic Planning Areas across the entirety of the Unit as a stand-alone, additive planning exercise.

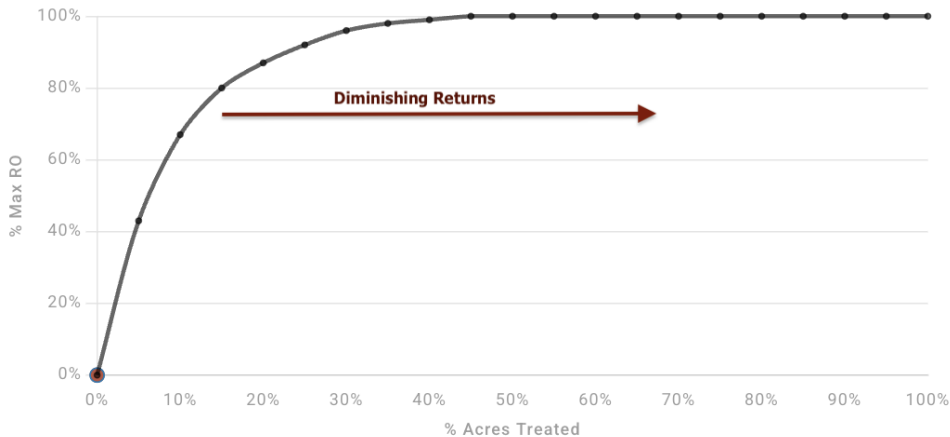
To address these unique emphasis opportunities, HVRAs within the Vibrant Planet Platform are grouped into categories such as assets (e.g. structures and utilities) and safety (e.g. critical access roads or WUI defense zones). Each category was assigned an emphasis weighting 0–5, with 5 being highest. The following emphasis weights were used in all Divisions:

- WUI Interface - Assets: 5; Safety: 3
- WUI Intermix and Subdivision Review Index - Safety: 5; Assets: 3
- Remaining Areas - Safety: 2; Assets: 1
- Critical Access Routes - Safety 5 (emphasized across the entire unit stand-alone, additive planning exercise)

The emphasis weights were selected based on our unit's primary goal of protecting communities and residents. By prioritizing assets, we focus on enhancing community protection. Simultaneously, emphasizing safety for critical access routes ensures that our planning efforts prioritize the safety of people, facilitate effective resource deployment, and support efficient evacuations

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Targets

Risk reduction opportunity (RO) is not evenly distributed across the landscape. HVRAs tend to be clustered in certain areas (e.g. around communities), meaning some locations face disproportionately higher risk. Treating the top 10% of the most at-risk areas on the landscape will generally be more efficient in reducing landscape-wide risk than the next 10% of areas and so on (see graph below).



The Strategic Planning Areas identified within the Unit are specifically designed to optimize efficiency in reducing wildfire risk, taking into account our limited resources for hazardous fuels reduction. These areas collectively cover approximately 5% of the AEU's total acreage but contribute to more than 50% of the Return on Investment (ROI). This outcome metric was pivotal in determining our Strategic Project areas, emphasizing the highest return on investment rather than pursuing arbitrary metrics such as treated acreage or specific treatment types. This approach aligns closely with the unit's goals and priorities, ensuring that our efforts yield the greatest impact in mitigating wildfire risk.

Mapping Division Strategic Planning Areas

Two sets of Strategic Planning Areas were created for each division based on the value-at-risk emphasis and Hazardous Fuels Reduction targets described above.

First, using the efficiency graph above, the AEU staff targeted 4% of the total division acreage as this captured the Strategic Planning Areas that would have the highest risk reduction efficiencies. The Strategic Planning Areas here focus primarily on the WUI Intermix and Subdivision Review Index areas as much of the division's risk profile is concentrated within those geographic areas. This resulted in the following risk reduction opportunity:

- North: 34% RO
- South: 67% RO
- East: 82% RO

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) geographic areas, despite having relatively lower wildfire hazard scores and risk profiles compared to WUI Intermix, remain a high priority for risk reduction within the Unit. Recent events, such as fires in Southern California and other urban conflagrations, have demonstrated that once fire enters a WUI interface community, the potential for structure-to-structure transmission becomes critical. By focusing on hazard identification in WUI interface areas, our goal is to minimize the risk of urban conflagrations.

To account for this, second Strategic Planning Areas were created focusing solely on WUI Interface. Strategic Planning Areas identified in WUI Interface geographic cover ~1% of the total division acres but targeted significantly higher risk reduction rates. This resulted in the following risk reduction returns within WUI Interface:

- North: 48% RO
- South: 61% RO
- East: 62% RO
- *Note: Wide distribution of risk within WUI Interface in this division reduced the efficiency of project.*

StoryMap – Amador – El Dorado Unit Strategic Fire Plan 2026

