

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The Fresno-Kings Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has primary responsibility for over 1,113,284 acres of Direct Protection Area (DPA) lands. CAL FIRE DPA lands are State Responsibility Area (SRA) and intermingled Federal lands protected by CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE protects Federal lands in state DPA under agreement with federal forest agencies through the California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement. (CFMA) There are over 955,167 acres of SRA lands in the Fresno-Kings Unit. SRA lands are the areas designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on which the state assumes financial responsibility for protecting natural resources from damage by fire. The Fresno County Fire Protection District (Fire District) has a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (Contract) with the State of California. As part of the contract with CAL FIRE, Fresno-Kings Unit oversees the day to day operation of the Fire District and Protects 1,626,782 Acres of land ranging from rural to urban.

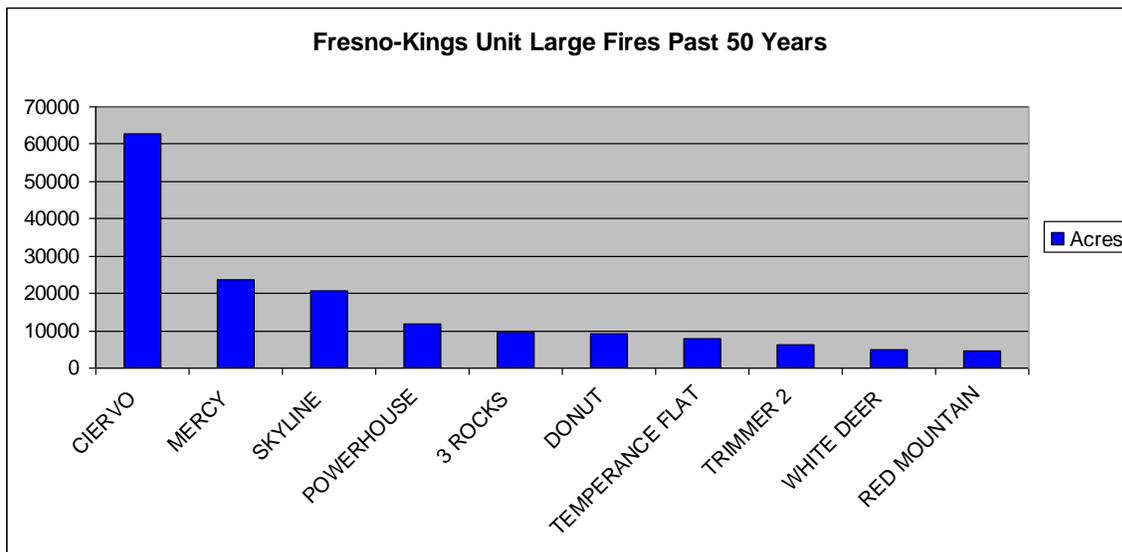
The Unit is divided nearly in half by the San Joaquin Valley. This 70-mile span presents some specific logistical and administrative challenges for the development of a Pre-Fire Management Plan. The fuel and topographic conditions, along with the human activity, risk, and ignition history of the Unit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

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

The Western Division is made up of the eastern slope of the Coastal Mountain Range. Primary vegetation types consist of seasonal grasses, deciduous oaks, and heavy brush. There is a high seasonal recreational use of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holdings, within the Division. Residential impact in the area is light, with little indication of growth. Industrial use is heavy in some areas, depending on the economic situation in the petroleum industry.

Fire History

The Fresno-Kings Unit over the past 50 years has a history of large, damaging fires with a low frequency or occurrences. This pattern can often be associated with drought conditions and isolated extreme weather conditions. In review of the large fires in the Unit, they can be grouped into two different areas, the Eastern Division and the Western Division. Some of the largest fires in the Unit have occurred in the Western Division. The five (5) largest fires from the Western Division have a combined acreage of 151,811 acres with the largest fire being the Ciervo Fire in 1979 at 62,901 acres. The largest five (5) fires from the Eastern Division have a combined acreage of 35,171 with the largest fire being the Powerhouse in 1989 at 11,799 acres.



UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

Fresno-Kings Unit Facilities

- Nine (9) CAL FIRE Stations
- Thirteen (13) Staffed Fire District Stations
- Seven (7) Paid Call Firefighter (PCF) Fire District Stations
- Miramonte Conservation Camp
- Fire Prevention/Protection/Planning Bureau
- Training Bureau
- Emergency Command Center

Initial Attack Resources During Peak Fire Season Staffing

- Twelve (12) CAL FIRE Schedule “B” engines
- Fourteen (14) Schedule “A” engines
- Seven (7) PCF engines
- Two (2) CAL FIRE bulldozers
- Four (4) inmate type 1 hand crews

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

- Auberry Volunteer Fire Department
- City of Coalinga Fire Department
- City of Firebaugh Volunteer Fire Department
- City of Kingsburg Fire Department
- City of Reedley Volunteer Fire Department
- City of Sanger Fire Department
- City of Selma Fire Department
- County of Kings Fire Department
- County of Madera Fire Department
- County of Merced Fire Department
- Fresno Air National Guard Fire Department
- Laton Volunteer Fire Department
- Pleasant Valley Prison Fire Department
- Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department

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

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