

F. Battalion 1415 (Scott Kuhn)

Solano County, and the eastern edge of Napa County including Lake Berryessa is Battalion 1415. Lake Berryessa is a recreational destination and generates many medical related calls for service and the potential for large wildfires. Surrounding the lake, and along the roadways leading to the lake, are small rural subdivisions, such as Circle Oaks, and the Berryessa Estates, which increase the assets at risk.

There are two CDF fire stations in Battalion 1415, Spanish Flat with two fire engines and a bulldozer near Lake Berryessa and a single engine station on Gordon Valley Road near the Napa/Solano county line. Last year's Rumsey Fire burned down Berryessa Lookout that was located on the top of Blue Ridge along the Napa/Yolo county line.

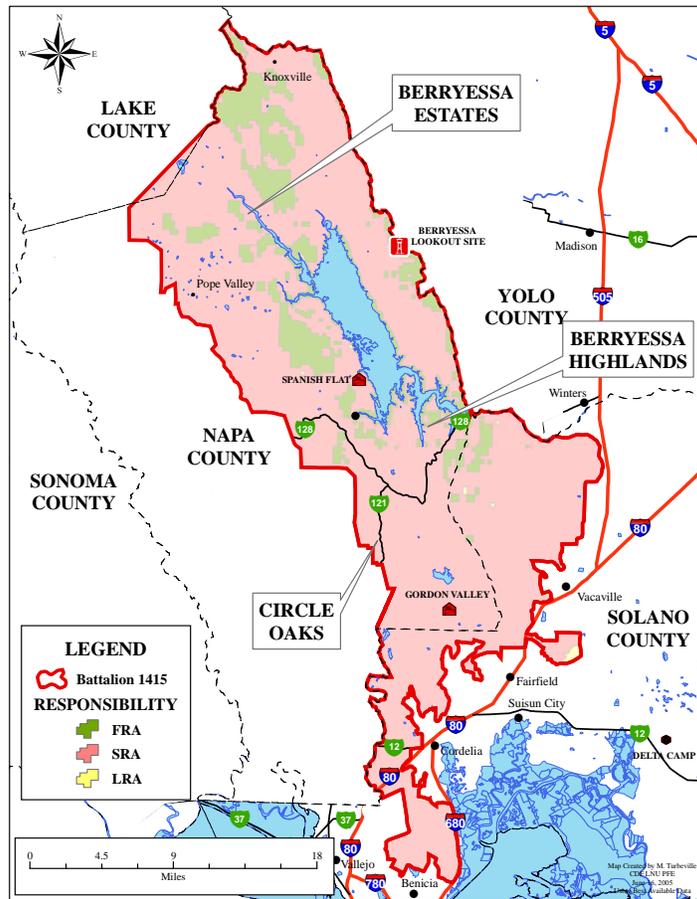


Figure 28: B1415

Battalion 1415 administers the volunteer fire companies of Pope Valley, Capell Valley, and Gordon Valley. There are no paid fire departments in this area of Napa County. The Solano County portion of the battalion is mostly covered by paid fire departments and CDF is rarely first to arrive on any fire in Solano County.

1) Past Projects

Past projects have been around two of the developed subdivisions. In the 338-lot Circle Oaks subdivision, a multi-year fuel modification project is being funded, in part, by the BLM through the Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. Circle Oaks represents the largest concentration of people and house in Napa County. In 2002 they completed a Fire Safe and Fuel Management Plan.

The Circle Oaks subdivision is located along Highway 121 between the City of Napa and Lake Berryessa. The fuel modification aims at making it possible to contain vegetation fires that start within the subdivision to the subdivision, and to protect the subdivision from any encroaching wildfire. Shaded fuelbreaks were created along Napa County roadway easements. Over 2,500 tons of fuels have been removed from the perimeter greenbelt defensible space zone, and almost 300 tons of additional vegetation from vacant lots. An estimated 800 cubic yards of vegetation was removed from around structures following a LE-38 defensible space inspection program, and right-of-way clearance was accomplished along seven miles of road.

Berryessa Estates is a remote subdivision in the northeastern portion of Napa County consisting of 160 lots. Due to many factors including remote location causing long response times, one-way access, high-density flammable fuels with intermixed structures, this subdivision has been designated as an area of concern regarding wildfire. CDF personnel along with Pope Valley volunteers, and the Napa County Road Department worked with the Berryessa Estates Homeowners Association (BEHOA) to have members of the Association clear fuels around their homes to then be chipped. A total of fifty piles were chipped. The BEHOA has expressed interest in created a firesafe council.



Photo 28: Berryessa Estates. Photo courtesy of Napa FIREWISE.

2) Present Projects

Berryessa Estates and Berryessa Highlands are participating in the Napa FIREWISE chipper program.

Circle Oaks continues to use a private contractor for chipping.

3) Future Projects and Priority Rankings

Priority for projects will be placed on projects sponsored by the Napa FIREWISE program.



Photo 29: Napa FIREWISE Chipping Program. Photo courtesy of Napa FIREWISE.

G. Battalion 1416 (Dave Shew)

Battalion 1416 is a “combination” battalion in that it consists of both CDF staffed county owned structural fire engines and a truck, and CDF wildland orientated fire engines. Even though they are funded through different sources, the day-to-day operations are seamless. Three facilities are in the battalion. Yountville station, near the Yountville Veterans Home, house a structural fire engine and ladder truck, Napa station with a structural fire engine and a CDF fire engine, and Greenwood Ranch, near the Napa County airport, with a structural fire engine and a CDF fire engine.

Dry Creek-Lokoya, Ederly Island and Soda Canyon volunteer fire companies are assigned to Battalion 1416. Career fire departments within the Battalion are Napa City, American Canyon Fire Protection District, and Napa State Hospital.

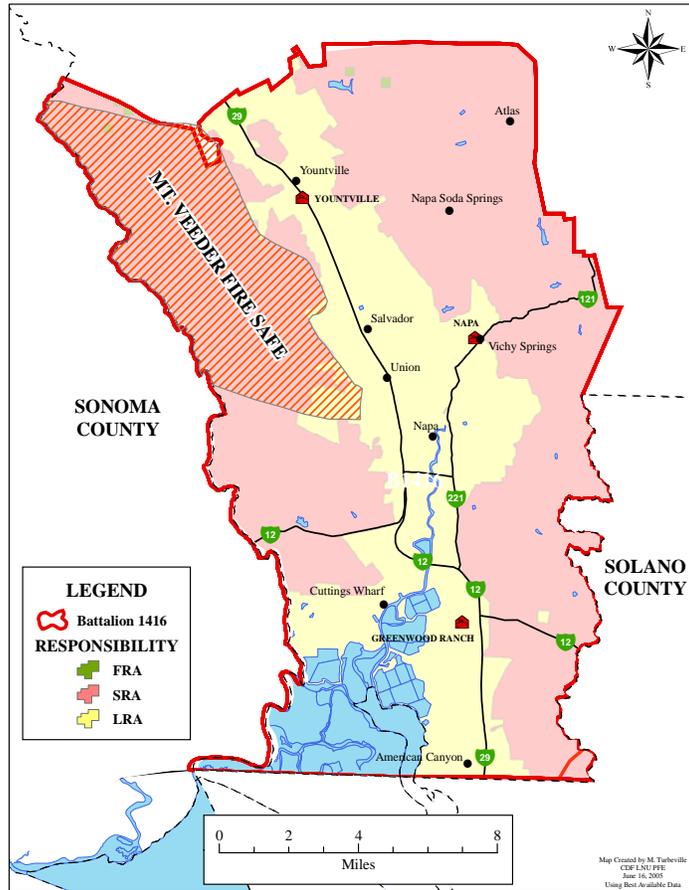


Figure 29: B1416



The Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council is located in the battalion. It incorporates the same space as the Dry Creek-Lokoya volunteer fire company, or the mountainous terrain east of Yountville near the Napa-Sonoma county line. The volunteer fire company provides office space and supports the Council. The Council has received two grants, one for startup supplies such as office supplies and equipment, letterhead, mapping services, and to conduct community forums. The second was for a chipper program, which is described under past projects.

1) Past Projects

In 2003, following LE-38 defensible space inspections, a community chipper program was completed using funds from a BLM grant. The inspections along with public education, strived at getting voluntary compliance with defensible space laws. Fifty-two piles were produced by local residents and chipped by a team consisting of CDF, Napa County Fire Department, Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council, Napa County Road Department, and Civilian Conservation Corps personnel.

2) Present Projects

All present projects are being administered through the Napa FIREWISE program and the Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council.

3) Future Projects and Priority Rankings

As with the present projects, future projects and their associated ranking are being administered through the Napa FIREWISE program and the Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council.

## H. Napa FIREWISE



All of the Napa County field battalions are incorporated into the Napa FIREWISE program. This program involves CDF, Cities of Napa, St. Helena, and Calistoga fire departments, Napa County, local FireSafe councils, and the resource conservation district to fully engage the Public of Napa County in wildfire awareness and mitigation measures. Additional information is available at their website ([www.co.napa.ca.us/firewise](http://www.co.napa.ca.us/firewise)).

The Napa FIREWISE Plan has been reviewed and approved by the County Board of Supervisors. It is composed of five main elements: Education, Built Infrastructure, Fuels/Vegetation, Firewise Land Use Planning, and Emergency Response Preparedness. It identifies through GIS the focused hazard areas and is aligned with the 2000 county disaster plan. The Interface Plan has a multi-year phase-in approach, with permanent change at the lowest levels (homeowner and local government) as its' cornerstone philosophy. It covers all aspects of the interface hazard prevention, response, and planning. The Napa County approach assumes multiple partners and technical training of all resource managers and land use policy makers in the county. It also makes use of the most advanced GIS systems currently available to local government.

Following is an outline of the five elements of the Program.

1. Firewise Education Program
  - a) Public Education Program
  - b) Technical/Professional Education Program
  - c) Interactive Internet Education Capability
  - d) Watershed/WICC Co-education Program
2. Firewise Built Infrastructure
  - a) Ignition-Resistant Construction
  - b) Enhanced Water Supplies (Built-in or Delivered)
  - c) Residential Sprinklers
  - d) FireSafe Roads and Driveways
3. Fuels/Vegetation Management
  - a) Defensible Space
  - b) Private Party Defensible Space Inspection Program
  - c) Insurance Industry Involvement
  - d) Designated Fuel Break Zones/Community Fuel Breaks
  - e) Watershed Management Plan with Fire Ecology Recognition
  - f) Timber Management Policies
  - g) Prescribed Burn and Smoke Management Program
  - h) Biomass Program

4. Firewise Land Use Planning
  - a) GIS-based Hazard Analysis/FFIRE Program
  - b) General Plan/Zoning Consideration for Wildfire
  - c) CEQA Guidelines for Fire Impacts
  - d) Project-specific Fire Protection Plans
  
5. Emergency Response Preparedness
  - a) DMA 2000 Certified Disaster Plan and Exercises
  - b) Equipment/Staffing Recommendations
  - c) Emergency Response and Evacuation Plans
  - d) CERT Program<sup>11</sup>

1) Present Projects

Through the assistance of a contracted public relations firm, a website, as referenced earlier, has been developed along with brochures, the necessary materials for public meetings including an electronic presentation, and numerous press releases have been distributed to the media.

This year numerous stakeholder meetings were held, a large-scale evacuation drill was held in the Montecito Heights area, the first defensible space inspector course was held, and a booth was set up for three days at the Napa-Solano Home and Garden Show.

2) Future Projects and Priority Rankings

The first priority is the public education about fire threat and what residents can do to mitigate it. Immediate future plans are for the direct mailing of 15,000 brochures to residents living in the urban-interface, stakeholder meetings, a defensible space inspector course, and additions to the website.

The second priority is to continue the established successful chipper program. The 2005 chipper program targeted seven high fire hazard communities around the county. Refer to Figure 30.

The third priority is to utilize GPS, GIS, and remote sensing to assist in public education and fire hazard analysis. In 2005, the program worked with a fire ecologist and GIS consultant to develop a model for assessing fire hazard severity zones using existing GIS data and aerial photographs. Work was also done in collaboration with Colorado Springs Fire Department's Firewise personnel to model their public internet map service for displaying the fire hazard severity of each parcel.

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<sup>11</sup> From Napa FIREWISE's 2005 Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant Application.



Figure 30: 2005 Napa FIREWISE Chipping Areas

I. Battalion 1417 (Bill Klebe)

Battalion 1417 is unique in the fact that much of the battalion is also the South Lake Fire Protection District (SLFPD). And the confines of the District are also a firesafe council, the South Lake County Fire Safe Council. Highway 29 is a major traffic corridor through the county and for commuter traffic to Sonoma and Napa counties.

CDF facilities in Battalion 1417 are a fire station with two fire engines and a bulldozer in Middletown, and a CDF helicopter at Boggs Mountain Helitack Base near Cobb. CDF also, through a cooperative contract with the SLFPD, staff two paramedic ambulances, one near Cobb and the other in the Hidden Valley Lake subdivision. The district operates two additional fire stations using volunteers.

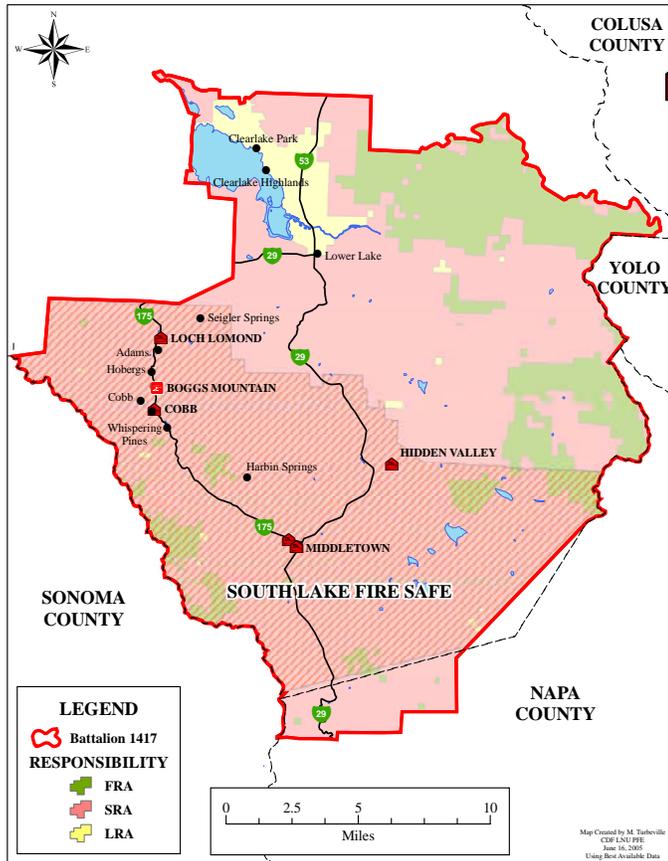


Figure 31: B1417

This South Lake County Fire Safe Council is very active. It covers an area of approximately 258 square miles. They have received funds through BLM several times over the past few years for various projects. The Council coordinates a chipping program, community meetings to inform and educate residents, run public service announcements on the local radio and cable channel, and post fire safety related signs throughout their “area.”

Hidden Valley Lake is an approximately 3,000-parcel subdivision, along Highway 29 that has introduced a lot of structures into a fire prone environment. Hidden Valley Lake is a gated community that has incorporated Public Resources Code 4290 and 4291 defensible space laws into their homeowners’ code of conduct and regulations. They also maintain a fuelbreak around the subdivision, as well as completing fuel reduction for the “common” areas of undeveloped land.



Photo 30: Southeastern Edge of Hidden Valley Lake Subdivision

## 1) Past Projects

Following is a list of completed past projects performed by the South Lake Fire Safe Council:

- Chipping on over 150 different sites
- Shaded fuelbreak along approximately 3 miles of Bottle Rock Road
- Completed Sycamore Fuelbreak (0.6 miles)
- Completed Circle Fuelbreak (0.7 miles)
- Evacuation Plan
- Community meetings
- Public Service Announcements on radio, cable, and in newspaper focusing on Fire Safe



Photo 31: Circle Fuelbreak adjacent to Loch Lomond Structures

2) Present Projects

The South Lake Fire Safe Council is currently working on the following projects:

- Chipping Program
- Prather Fuel Break (1.6 miles of which 20% has been completed)
- 2006 Fire Safe calendar
- Securing Title III funds (approximately \$50,000)
- Increase publicity using local media
- Community meetings
- Hidden Valley fuel reduction program

3) Future Projects and Priority Rankings

The South Lake Fire Safe Council's future projects include:

- Additional fire breaks in critical areas as identified by CDF personnel
- Chili cook-off fundraiser
- Redistribute evacuation plan
- LE-38 defensible space inspections in Loch Lomond area



Photo 32: Cover of Evacuation Plan



Photo 31: Example of Roadside Sign

J. Battalion 1418 (Jamie Crabtree)

Northern Lake County except for lands in the Mendocino National Forest belong to Battalion 1418. Because of the proximity to the National forest, Battalion Chief Crabtree works frequently with them, and their resources are incorporated into CDF initial attack dispatches. Battalion 1418 fire stations are located along Highway 175, Kelsey-Cobb, and along Highway 20, Clear Lake Oaks. Kelsey-Cobb is staffed with two fire engines, and Clear Lake Oaks is staffed with two engines and a bulldozer.

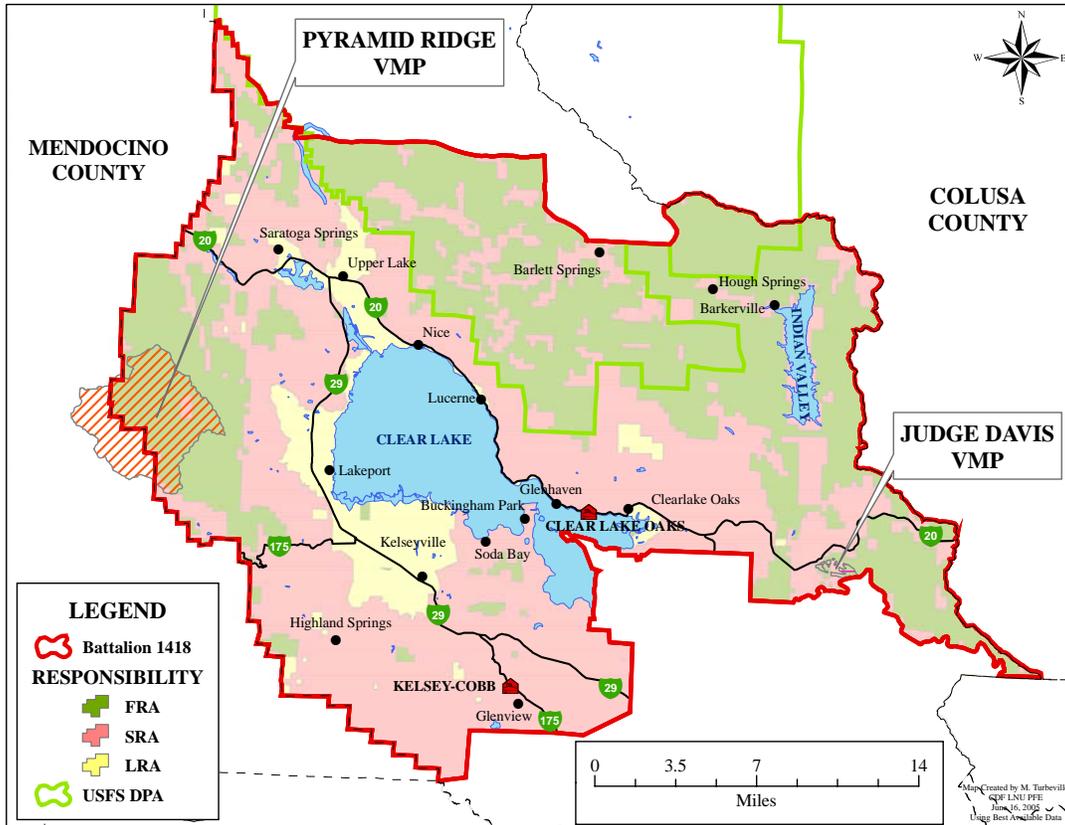


Figure 32: B1418

1) Past Projects

Battalion 1418 projects focus mainly on prescribed burning. Recent past projects include Cow Mountain and Judge Davis Canyon.

The Cow Mountain (Rx North-047-LNU) project burned brush to lessen the fuel loading, protect assets at risk, improve wildlife habitat, and increase water yield. The project was located in mountainous terrain near the Lake/Mendocino County Line. Fifty acres were burned in November of 2002.

The Judge Davis Canyon (Rx North-052-LNU) project was located in Lake County ten miles east of Clearlake in the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area, which is managed by the BLM. Vegetation is primarily chemise and mixed chaparral and has historically been the site of periodic wildfires. Project objectives were to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat, and increase water yield.

2) Present Projects

A possible project is in the planning stages in the Cow Mountain Area for prescribed burning called the Pyramid Ridge VMP.

3) Future Projects and Priority Rankings

None are proposed at the time of publication.

L. Battalion 1419 (Jim Wright)

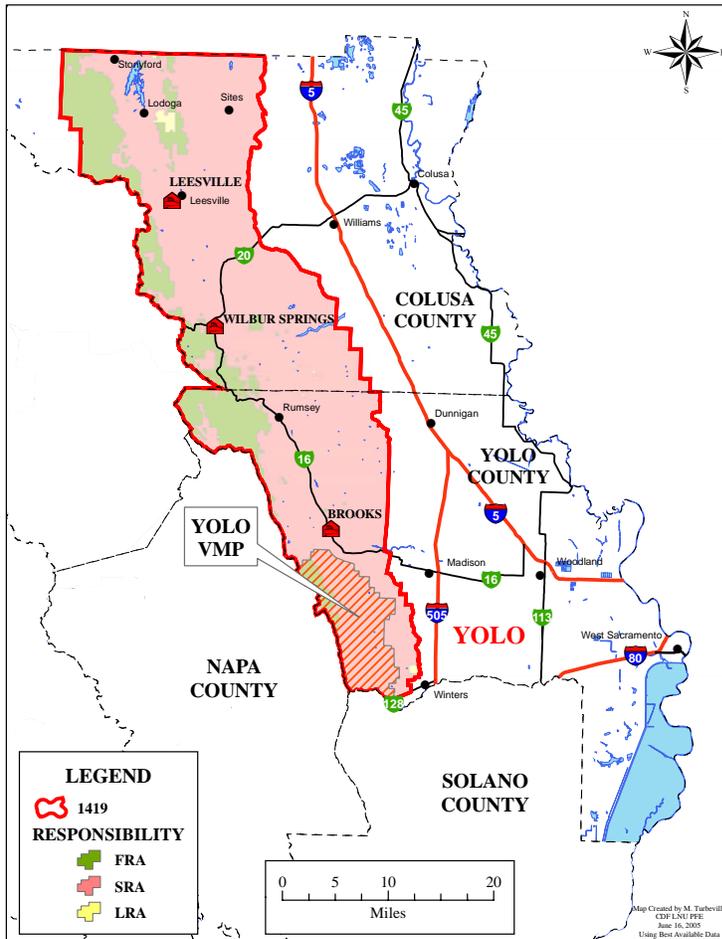


Figure 33: B1419

Battalion 1419 is the eastern edge of LNU, running the length of Colusa and Yolo Counties, with three single engine fire stations located near Leesville, Wilbur Springs, and Brooks. The battalion is very rural, with many large landowners.

Highway 16, which runs from Highway 20 to Interstate 505, has had an above average number of fire ignitions in the area referred to as Rumsey Canyon. The largest CDF fire in the state last year started in Rumsey Canyon and burned south to Lake Berryessa being pushed by a North wind.

1) Past Projects

CDF has been able to take advantage of the rural setting and large landowners to complete many prescribed burns over the years.

2) Present Projects

Battalion Chief Jim Wright, and the previous battalion chief, Bill Klebe, have been very proactive in working with landowners and BLM to complete prescribed burns for a variety of purposes.

The Yolo VMP (Rx North-057-LNU) was developed in conjunction with the National Audubon Society of California, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, and the BLM. The goal is to, over a three-year period starting in 2003, burn brush in the fall and winter along with the spring burning of non-native grassland species. 240 acres of non-native grasslands were successfully burned over three days in June of 2003, and 261 acres of brush were treated during the 2005 winter period.



Photo 32: Yolo VMP

Other small projects, such as the Payne Ranch prescribed burn in June of 2005 have been conducted to eradicate undesirable exotic weed species. And CDF's Northern Region firing class is held near Williams each year. Besides offering training for CDF personnel it creates a firebreak between the SRA mountains and the LRA valley floor.

3) Future Projects and Priority Rankings

Future projects will continue to include working with landowners and the BLM to conduct prescribed burning for desired resource management objectives.