

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS**Battalion 1 Tehachapi*****Alpine Forest Park***

This is a series of winding streets with scattered housing. The predominant fuel model is grass and sage with some pines and oaks. The sage is the main concern relative to fire spread and intensity. Efforts have begun to reduce the volume of sage through creating small areas that could be burned under controlled conditions. To enhance the control factor, processes to crush much of the sage over several acre blocks have begun with the intent of burning the crushed vegetation under low intensity conditions. Property owner support has been mostly positive, with a few people that choose not to participate. A comprehensive plan needs to be developed to identify locations and the sequence that this project will follow. Additionally, a project to increase the brush clearance along the subdivision roads needs to be implemented with the property owners association. This past year we started a pilot Vegetation Management Partnership program with this community. This partnership allows for a cost sharing arrangement between the fire department and the homeowner's association to maintain fuel breaks in the community.

West Ranch/Blackburn Canyon

This area is located southeast of the City of Tehachapi. There are approximately 65 homes in the area that are served by narrow, twisting dirt roads with entrance/exit to the community made through two locations, one to the north, the other to the east. The most significant fire threat feature of this area is the volume and condition of the vegetation. The fuel models range from grass to brush to heavy concentrations of trees (oaks, pinions, gray pine, and others). There is substantial tree mortality in this area due to a combination of bug kill and dwarf mistletoe. There is a significant volume of hazardous fuels reduction work that needs to be done in this area. The residents that live in the area on a full-time basis are making progress toward reducing the total fuel volume; however, there are large numbers of absentee landowners that are not as committed to the fuel reduction. The number one priority for this area would be to reduce the number of dead and down trees that constitute a major portion of the existing fuel load. Secondly, establishing a system of shaded fuel breaks would reduce the intensity and spread rate of any fire that became established.

Hart Flat

Hart Flat has had some fuels reduction work done as a result of the FEMA Bear Valley Grant. The main focus of work here was in brushing Clear Creek Loop Road. Additionally, on an annual basis the community receives some pre-suppression protection through the maintenance of a fuel break that runs along the south side of eastbound Highway 58. This break inhibits fires that start on the freeway from spreading uphill into the Hart Flat community.

Bear Valley

Bear Valley has had extensive fuels reduction work done as a result of the FEMA Bear Valley Grant. All of Skyline Road has been brushed, and shaded fuel breaks have been established connecting Skyline Road with Fargo Ct. and Amberwood with Lower Valley Road. There is still a substantial volume of work that could be accomplished in the Sycamore Canyon area and other areas identified in the Bear Valley Springs Fire Safety Plan. Bear Valley Springs property owners have initiated a program to eliminate a number of trees that have fallen victim to the bark beetle. This project needs to be continued and an additional project initiated to reduce the fuel load along the roadways in the northern portion of the subdivision.

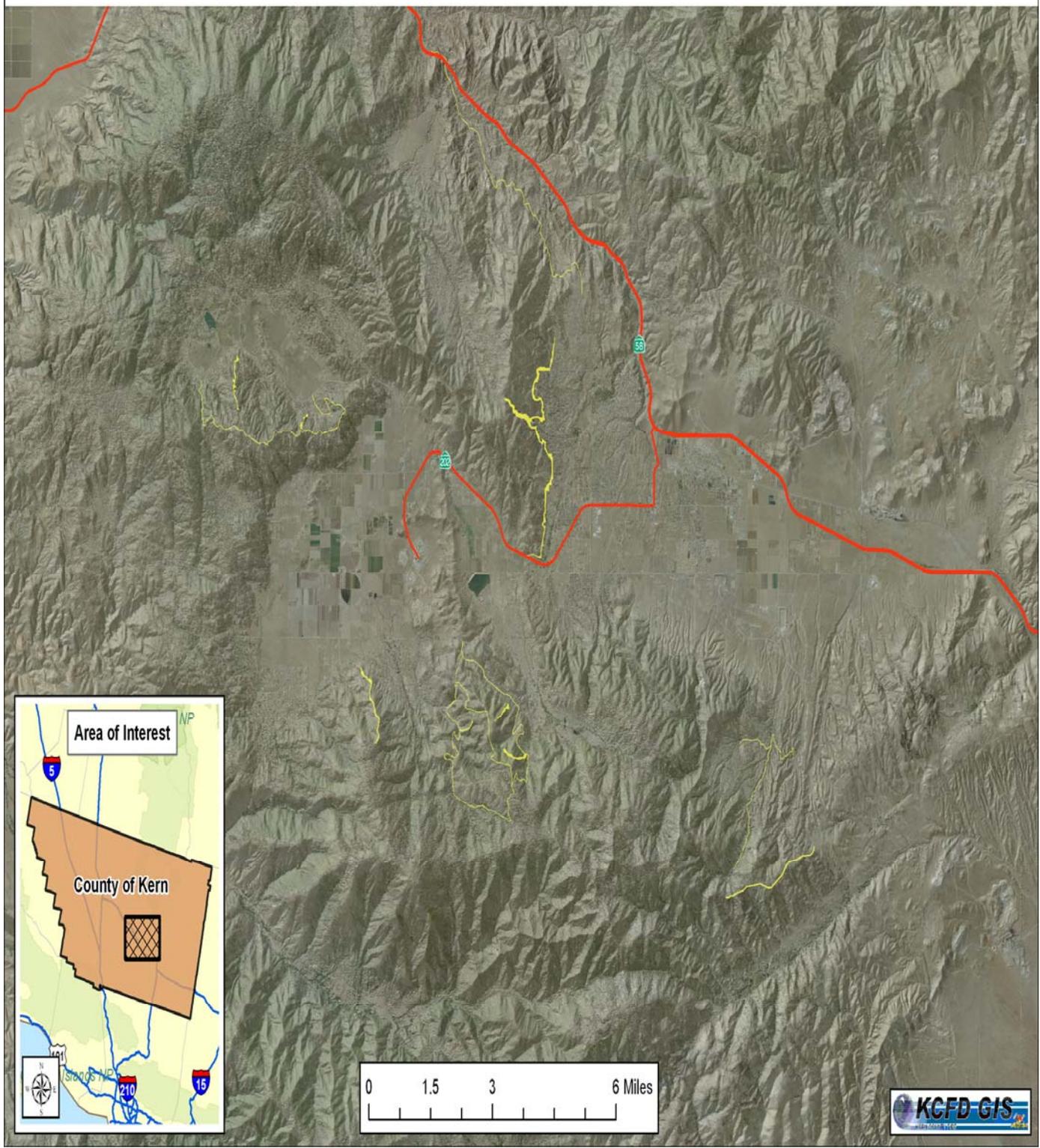
Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:

- Bear valley Hazardous Tree Removal & Escape Route
- Skyline Fuel Break
- Golden Hills Phase 1&2 Fuel Breaks
- Alpine Forest Escape Route
- Stallion Alpine Fuel Break
- Old West Ranch Escape Route
- Wild horse Ridgeline Fuel break
- Tehachapi Mountain Park Defensible Space
- Hart Flat Escape Route
- Community Chipper Events

-  Major Highways
-  Fuel Treatments

Kern County Fire Department

Greater Tehachapi Area Fuel Treatments



Battalion 2 Western Kern

Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:

- Maintained Fire Roads
- Dozer Disc Breaks

Battalion 3 North Kern

Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:

- Maintained Fire Roads
- Dozer Disc Breaks

Battalion 5 Mt. Pinos Communities

Digier Canyon

Digier Canyon is a predominantly residential area north of Lebec on the west side of Interstate Highway 5. The subdivision is partially within the Los Padres National Forest, with Fort Tejon State Park on the south and Wild Wolves Preserve on the west. The only access/egress is on Digier Rd. The subdivision is comprised of approximately 30 structures, both commercial and residential. The fuel model is predominantly grass and oak trees (FM1) with a scattering of brush. The main fire concern with Digier Canyon is not the fuel, but with the egress issues and its proximity to fires starting on I-5. The priority project for this area would be to explore options for secondary egress or the development of a community safety zone.

Frazier Park (south side)*

Frazier Park is a series of streets that hop and skip from one location to another, apparently with little or no planning/development standards or guidelines. Many of the dirt roads have brush intruding into the right-of-way and little maintenance has been done. The fuel types range from grass and light brush mixed with conifers (FM1) to heavy brush (FM4). Around the south side of the subdivision is predominantly brush with scattered pines and juniper, and some oak. A grant proposal has been written and tentatively approved to construct a shaded fuel break around the south side tying into Frazier Mountain Park Road on the east and west sides. This break would be approximately 100' wide, providing a buffer for the subdivision from a fire approaching out of the forest or a fire emanating from the homes spreading into the forest.

Pine Mountain Club*

Pine Mountain Club is a planned community surrounded by the Los Padres National Forest. It has approximately 3,000 parcels. Approximately 2,000 of these parcels have

been developed. For the past five years the Kern County Fire Department has been performing hazard reduction inspections in Pine Mountain Club. The fuel loading is heavy predominantly live oak, sage, and pine. KCFD and LPF personnel and the Property Owners Association have made great efforts, but the sheer volume of material has made for slow progress. The property owners commissioned a contractor to develop a vegetation management plan (which has been done) and have received a hazardous fuels reduction grant to begin implementation of the plan. Some work has already begun to construct shaded fuel breaks in the greenbelt areas of the tract.

Pinion Pines*

Pinion Pines is a small community between Frazier Park and Pine Mountain Club, surrounded by Los Padres National Forest. Four years ago a wildland fire destroyed one home and damaged another. This incident raised local awareness to the dangers of current fuel conditions. Residents have been fairly active in projects around their homes, but much work remains to be done. A shaded fuel break was constructed on the northeast, east, and south sides of the subdivision in 2001. The northwest and west sides remain to be done. The fuel model is mainly pinion/juniper with a moderate fuel load.

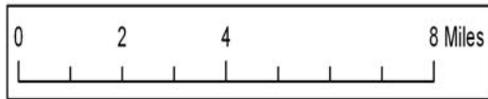
*SRA within LPF DPA - USFS has wildland fire protection responsibility; KCFD has fire protection responsibility for structures and improvements

Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:

- Frazier Park Community Fuel Break
- Lake of the Woods Community Fuel Break
- Pinion Pines Community Fuel Break
- Camp Condor Escape Route
- Pine Mtn. Club open space Fuels Reduction
- Pine Mtn. Club Ridgeline Fuel Break (west end)
- Digier Canyon Escape Route

Kern County Fire Department

Mt Pinos Communities Fuel Treatments



- Major Highways
- Fuel Treatments



Battalion 4 & 6 Valley/ Foothill

Breckenridge Subdivision

The Breckenridge subdivision is entirely within the boundaries of the Sequoia National Forest. It is comprised of between 35-40 cabins, with very few full-time residents. The fuels are a timber model (FM8) with heavy concentrations of down, dead fuel. Access to the subdivision is also an issue in that the paved portion is single-lane, paved forest road with dirt roads within the subdivision itself. The priority project for this area would be a general reduction of the accumulated dead and down material that is pervasive throughout the subdivision. The private properties within the subdivision are intermixed with Forestland. This creates a problem in that the private lands have had some clearing done but are immediately adjacent to Forest property, which has had no treatment. A project to reduce the fuel loading within the boundaries of the subdivision would require close coordination between the property owners and the National Forest. Additionally, a general widening of the roads within the subdivision would provide better access to the cabins and the water tanks.

Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:

- Maintained Fire Roads
- Dozer Disc Breaks

Battalion 7 Kern River Valley

Alta Sierra - SRA within SQF DPA

Alta Sierra is within the boundaries of the Sequoia National Forest. It has substantial fuel buildup on the private properties within the County Park that is located there and on the Forest Service property surrounding the subdivision. There are currently two Forest Service grants in effect for the Alta Sierra area. One is to establish a 100-150' shaded fuel break around the entire community. The second grant is to create a "community fire safe" analysis and plan to improve the defensibility of the structures and analyze data relative to the community safety. Both these projects should be completed by November 2004.

Isabella Highlands

This area is west of Lake Isabella at the top of a narrow, steep, twisting one-lane road. It has been a victim of wild fire on a number of occasions, most recently June of 2003, with the loss of five homes. The roads within the subdivision are also narrow and encroached by vegetation throughout the area. There is currently a BLM-funded grant in effect to reduce the volume of fuel both along the roads and in the drainages leading up

to the subdivision and some areas above the homes. There are additional needs within the community. Street signs, house numbers, and water source identification are among the current needs.

Frontier Homes/Rogers Road

This area is west and immediately adjacent to Kernville. Rogers Road serves about a dozen homes and leads up to the Frontier Homes subdivision. Frontier Homes has a north side and a south side. A single-lane, dead-end road serves each side. The fuel load is mainly grass with scattered California gray pine. Some pockets of brush exist in the drainage bottoms and/or on north aspects. The main threat to this subdivision is not from the fuel within the subdivision, but from the neighborhoods below. The Rogers Road area presents one of the hazards to the Frontier Homes area. A Forest Service Grant is currently in place to do a hazardous fuel reduction project in the drainage bottom to the south of Rogers Road.

Upper Bodfish/Meyers Canyon

The upper Bodfish/Meyers Canyon area has a history of frequent fires, some of which have become quite large. The “Bodfish” fire in 1984 grew to greater than 35,000 acres. The fuel models in the area vary from grass to heavy brush to trees. The property owners have done a great deal of work; however, there are a large number of parcels that are owned by out-of-area owners. These properties represent a large fire hazard and it has been difficult to achieve successful hazard reduction code compliance. There is currently a proposed BLM-funded grant for the west side of Meyers Canyon to create a shaded fuel break. This would protect approximately 100 homes from a fire starting down canyon from the Meyers Canyon subdivision.

Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:

- Bodfish Canyon Escape Route Phase 1-3
- Kernville Community Fuel Breaks
- Hungry Gulch/Isabella Highlands Defensible Space
- Alta Sierra Defense Zone/ Timber Harvest/ Escape Route
- Piute Meadows Escape Route
- Pala Ranches Community Fuel Break
- Squirrel Valley Fuel Break

— Major Highways
■ Fuel Treatments

Kern County Fire Department

Kern River Valley Fuel Treatments

