

## **SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS**

### **DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS**

#### **Prevention Bureau**

The Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit Pre Fire Management Program has been in place since 1997. During the past eleven years, data has been validated and processed in order to assess vegetative fuels, assets at risk, fire weather, and level of service calculations. The assessments now include changes in the dynamics of the actual on-the-ground work that has been accomplished. This is an ongoing process.

The development of a method for incorporating the current and past Timber Harvest Plans, Emergency Notices, Exemptions, and Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans into a GIS format are under way. The data to be collected and utilized will include the locations and types of fuels treatments in areas containing assets having the greatest value. This information can be utilized in many aspects by the unit and cooperating agencies.

#### **Unit Fire Plan Data Layers**

The Unit Fire Management Plan Data layers, which consist of fuels, weather, fire history, emergency activity reporting, assets at risk and level of service have been completed to date, however, conditions are dynamic in nature and must be re-validated on a regular basis.

#### **Unit Fire Management Plan Integration into Daily Operations**

Over the years, many of our managers and supervisors have had priorities and goals to reduce fuels around many of the communities within the Unit. The development of the Unit Fire Management Plan was based on the strong support and assistance from the Fire Safe Councils. Many of the ideas from these collective influences are now coming to fruition.

### **THE CALIFORNIA FIRE PLAN (2010)**

*The State Board of Forestry (BOF) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) drafted the California Fire Plan (2010).* This document is a comprehensive fire plan for the wildland fire protection in California. The fire plan consists of a planning process that considers: level of service measurements, assets at risk assessments, incorporates the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis.

#### **Goals and Objectives**

The overall goal of the *California Fire Plan* is to reduce the total losses and ever increasing costs from wildland fires in California by protecting the assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and improving the potential of initial attack success.

[http://webfp1/fpfsweb/documents/cafireplan/2010\\_Strategic\\_Fire\\_Plan\\_For\\_California.pdf](http://webfp1/fpfsweb/documents/cafireplan/2010_Strategic_Fire_Plan_For_California.pdf)

## **BATTALION 1**

Battalion 1 (Susanville Battalion) is located in the central and southeastern portion of Lassen County, with the communities of Susanville, Johnstonville, Janesville, Standish, Litchfield, Lake Forest Estates, Stones Landing and Spaulding. The City of Susanville an incorporated City, lays is in the center of the Battalion.

U. S. Highway 395 travels through the Battalion on its east side. State Highways 44, 139 and 36 also travel through the Battalion and intersect with U.S. 395. The elevation of the Battalion is approximately 4500' in the Honey Lake Valley to 7700' on Diamond Mountain, with an average elevation of approximately 5800' on the northeastern plateau of California.

Approximately 32,000 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Lands; the only Local Responsibility Land is located within the Honey Lake Valley area, in Susanville City, and portions of the communities of Standish, Janesville and Johnstonville. The highest housing and population concentration in the Unit is located in Battalion 1.

### **Fuels**

The vegetative cover in Battalion 1 is comprised of standing timber on the west and northwest sides of the Battalion and high desert sage, bitterbrush and juniper on the mid and east side of the Battalion. Most of the large fires in Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit over the years have occurred in Battalion 1 in the timbered areas.

### **Fire Weather**

Fire weather in Battalion 1 can be extreme because of its location and elevation. Most of the 32,000 acres are in a very dry climate due to being in the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada/Cascade Range. Single digit relative humidity during the summer months is not uncommon and many of the forest fuels remain ready to burn in the late spring to early summer, prior to the finer fuels drying.

### **Battalion 1 Resources**

#### **Susanville Station**

2- Fire Engines  
1- Bull Dozer  
1- Reserve Fire Engine  
Landon Lookout

#### **Grasshopper Station**

2- Fire Engines  
Fredonyer Lookout

Antelope Conservation Camp is located just outside of Susanville and has 5 Fire Crews.

**Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments include:**

California Correctional Center  
Susanville City Fire Department  
Susan River Fire Protection District  
Janesville Fire Protection District  
Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District  
Doyle Fire Protection District  
Eagle Lake Fire Protection District  
Stones-Bengard Fire Protection District  
Lake Forest Fire Protection District  
Milford Fire Protection District  
Sierra Army Depot Fire Department  
Spaulding Volunteer Fire Department  
Herlong Volunteer Fire Department

**BATTALION 2**

Battalion 2 (Westwood Battalion) is located on the west side of Lassen County and includes the Almanor Basin, in Plumas County. The communities of Westwood, Pinetown, Clear Creek, Hamilton Branch, Canyon Dam, Prattville, Almanor West and Chester are all within this Battalion. State Highways 36, 147, 89 and 44 traverses through Battalion 2.

In Battalion 2 approximately 13,000 acres are State Responsibility Lands; Local Responsibility Land is located in the town of Chester and the community of Westwood. The population is concentrated in Westwood and all around the Lake Almanor Basin Battalion 2 is home to approximately 3600 people.

**Fuels**

The vegetative cover in Battalion 2 is predominately standing timber, grass, and sage cover.

**Fire Weather**

Fire weather in Battalion 2 is typically wetter than that of Battalions 1 and 4, which are both located on the eastern slopes of the Sierra/Cascade mountain range.

**Battalion 2 Resources**

**Westwood Station**

2- Fire Engines  
Peg Leg Lookout  
Dyer Mountain Lookout

**Eagle Lake Station**

1 – Fire Engine

**Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments include:**  
Westwood Community Services District and Volunteer Fire Department  
Chester Fire Department  
Almanor West Fire Department  
Hamilton Branch Fire Department  
Clear Creek Volunteer Fire Department  
Prattville Fire Protection District  
Peninsula Fire Protection District

### **BATTALION 3**

Battalion 3 (Bieber Battalion) is located in the northwest portion of Lassen County, southwest corner of Modoc County and borders to the west along Shasta – Trinity and Siskiyou Units. The communities of Bieber, Nubieber, Day, Lookout, Little Valley and Adin are located within its boundaries.

State Highway 299 and 139 traverses through the Battalion. Approximately 17,260 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Lands; Local Responsibility Land is located in the Big Valley area around the towns of Bieber, Nubieber, and Pittville. The population within the Battalion is found in Bieber, Nubieber, Lookout, Day, Little Valley and Adin. Battalion 3 is home to approximately 1400 people.

### **Fuels**

The vegetative cover in the Battalion 3 is predominately standing timber with grass/sage cover. The Big Valley area of the Battalion is agricultural with much of the land committed to the production of hay. Many fires in this Battalion grow quite quickly, due to its remoteness and the lack of roads.

### **Fire Weather**

Fire weather in Battalion 3 is typically wetter than that of Battalions 1 and 4 that are located in the rain shadow of the Sierra/Cascade Mountains.

### **Battalion 3 Resources**

#### **Bieber Station**

2- Fire Engines  
1- Helicopter and crew  
Snag Hill Lookout

#### **Happy Camp Station**

1 – Fire Engine

Intermountain Conservation Camp is located just outside of Nubieber and has 4 Fire Crews, one Dozer and one Camp Fire Protection Engine.

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments include:

Big Valley Fire Protection District  
Lookout Volunteer Fire Department  
Adin Volunteer Fire Department  
McArthur Volunteer Fire Department (Day Bench)  
Little Valley Community Services District

**BATTALION 4**

Battalion 4(Alturas Battalion) is located in the northeastern portion of the Lassen – Modoc - Plumas Unit. It is located on the east half of Modoc County with Oregon to the north and Nevada to the east. The southern end of the Battalion is within the northeastern part of Lassen County. The communities of Alturas, Canby, Likely, and Madeline are located within its boundaries. Battalion 4 also services the communities of Davis Creek, New Pine Creek, Willow Ranch, Cedarville, Eagleville, Lake City and Fort Bidwell.

U. S. Highways 395, 299 and State Highway 139 traverse through the Battalion. Approximately 21,500 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Lands; Local Responsibility Land surrounds the community of Alturas and extends south to Likely. Battalion 4 is home to approximately 1800 people.

**Fuels**

The vegetative cover in the Battalion is predominately standing timber in the mountains, with juniper grass/sage cover in the eastern half of the battalion where the terrain is at a lower elevation. Many fires in this Battalion grow quite quickly due to the remoteness of the area and lack of roads.

**Fire Weather**

Fire weather in Battalion 4 is drier on average than Battalion 2 and 3 with Battalion 4 being in the rain shadow of the Sierra Cascade/Mountains.

**Battalion 4 Resources**

Alturas Station	Deer Springs Station
2- Fire Engines	1 – Fire Engine
Likely Mountain. Lookout	

Devils Garden Conservation Camp is located west of Alturas and has 5 Fire Crews, one Dozer and one Camp Fire Protection Engine.

**Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments include:**

**Alturas City Fire Department**

**Alturas Rural Fire Protection District**

**Cal Pines Community Service District**

**Canby Fire Protection District**

**Cedarville Fire Protection District**

**Davis Creek Fire Protection District**

**Eagleville Fire Protection District**

**Fort Bidwell Fire Protection District**

**Lake City Fire Protection District**

**Likely Fire Protection District**

**Madeline Fire Protection District**

**Willow Ranch Fire Protection District**

**New Pine Fire Protection District**