

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Fire Management Plan's purpose is to identify the high value, high-risk areas within the six counties of Sonoma, Lake, Napa, Solano, Yolo, and Colusa to provide the planning basis for reducing the damaging effects of wildfire. Fire has shaped ecosystems throughout time; people and ecosystems have evolved with the presence of fire. For many years fire has been aggressively excluded to protect both public and private investments and to prevent what is considered the destruction of wildlands.

Through the history of the fire service in the CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, this agency has been charged with the responsibility to effectively manage wildland fire prevention and suppression activities in an effort to protect life and property, reduce the financial loss to the communities and contain the increasing costs of fire suppression.

The Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Fire Plan outlines a comprehensive program designed to reduce total government costs and citizen losses from wildland fire in the counties of Sonoma, Lake, Napa, Yolo, Colusa and Solano. To accomplish this CAL FIRE continues to develop processes to address such factors as:

Firefighter and public safety

Wildland urban interface issues

Prescribed fire

Suppression

Preparedness

Protection

Priorities

Cooperation

Throughout the process, the plan must:

- Consider and incorporate the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers
- Provide for public stakeholder involvement
- Create a fiscal framework for policy analysis

Further, the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Fire Plan will develop and foster partnerships to gain concurrence on plan implementation.

The strategy, among other things, will:

- Include alternatives to reduce total costs and increase fire protection effectiveness
- Allow wildland fire service providers to focus on meaningful solutions for identified problem areas
- Identify cost-effective pre-fire management investments to reduce taxpayer and citizen losses from wildland fire

Key Objectives

Establish any relationships, partnerships and councils necessary to reduce wildfire risks and losses by emphasizing community-level resources and solutions. Leverage partners with common interests/or motivations.

Develop and sustain a portfolio of high-impact, least-cost, stakeholder-driven solutions for reducing wildfire risks and losses by creating and sustain new solutions, eliminate low-impact solutions, streamline high-cost solutions.

Develop the Fire Plan, using the key elements identified by CAL FIRE and supporting smaller communities with the development of their local CWPP.

Engage collaborative partners lead and drive the effort to protect communities from wildfire. The CAL FIRE role is transitioned into a support-oriented role, focusing primarily on active participation, facilitation and evaluation of program results.

Ensure the community understands, accepts responsibility and takes necessary action to mitigate wildfire risk, thereby preventing lives and property from being lost or damaged in wildfires.

