

## **SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW**

### **UNIT DESCRIPTION**

Tulare Unit is located in Central California and makes up part of the San Joaquin Valley. It consists of 793,716 acres of state responsibility land under direct CAL FIRE protection, and 1,429,881 acres of lands under Federal Government Protection. The combined total of 2,224,697 acres. The Unit is bordered on the east by Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and the Sequoia National Forest. The counties of Kern, Kings and Fresno border to the South, West, and North respectively.

The elevation of Tulare Unit land receiving direct protection by CAL FIRE ranges from 200 feet along the county's western boundary to a highest point of 9,300 feet on Moses Mountain to the East. The entire county elevations range from 200 feet on the West side to the highest point in the contiguous United States, Mt. Whitney at 14,495 on the eastern boundary. This wide range of elevation supports many areas of vegetation consisting of grass, oak deciduous, oak persistent, brush, and timber.

The January 1, 2010 Department of Finances estimates Tulare County's population at 429,668. The majority of the population in the state responsibility area is located along two east-west highways. Highway 198 which leads to the Sequoia / Kings Canyon National Parks and Highway 190 which accesses a significant portion of the Sequoia National Forest / Giant Sequoia National Monument. Tulare Unit continues to experience a population growth rate of approximately 1 percent annually. Fire occurrence spot maps indicate a direct relationship between use areas and fire occurrence. Along with the population increase, mountain areas have increased wild land urban intermix problems. Structures are being built throughout wildland areas wherein vegetation fires can spread. Providing adequate fire protection to those structures has become a major undertaking.

Tulare Unit's Fire Management Plan is our mechanism to catalog potential hazard areas and develop prescriptions to begin mitigating them based upon assessed priorities.

## **UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES**

### TULARE UNIT Facilities and Resources

- Eight (8) CAL FIRE stations
- Mountain Home Conservation Camp
- Porterville Air Attack Base
- Fire Prevention/Protection/Planning Bureau
- Training Bureau

### Peak Fire Season Staffing

- Eleven (11) CAL FIRE Schedule “B” engines
- Two (2) CAL FIRE Bulldozers
- One (1) Air Attack
- One (2) Air Tankers
- Five (5) Inmate hand crews

Tulare Unit has MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS with the following Departments:

- Tulare County Fire Department (TCFD)
- United States Forest Service (SQF)
- National Park Service (Sequoia & Kings)
- Kern County Fire Department (KRN)
- Tule Indian Reservation (TIA)
- Visalia City Fire Department (VFD)