

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

BADGER BATTALION

Fuels:

The fuels within the Badger Battalion are typical of those found in the Central California San Joaquin valley and Sierra Nevada. This area is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool moist winters. The climate, topography, geology and land use patterns within this region determine the vegetation patterns. Vegetation within the Badger Battalion varies from annual grasses and forbs on the valley floor to mixed conifer forest at the higher elevations. The lower elevations manifests annual grasses, including wild oats, and loading varies from year to year based on seasonal rainfall. Between 500'-1000' elevation this changes to a Woodland Oak fuel type with brush becoming more prevalent along with pockets of gray/bull pine starting around the 2000' level. The brush component is made up of several species, including, but not limited to; manzanita, chemise, ceanothus, scrub oak, live oak and poison-oak. The brush is interspersed with black oak and live oak, buckeye trees and sycamore (in drainages) with higher densities on the north and east aspects. This vegetation type continues to about 3500' where it blends into the Conifer Belt with scattered oaks, brush and conifer trees. At about 4500' conifers become the dominant fuel with such species as; cedar, pine, fir, live oak and black oak with a mixed brush understory which includes bear clover, lotus, chinquapin and whitethorn ceanothus.

Topography:

The Badger Battalion is typical of most of the foothill areas in the Southern Sierra Nevada Range and encompasses a large portion of the Dry Creek drainage and the Cottonwood Creek drainage. The Topography ranges from gentle rolling foothills above the Central Valley floor at 400' elevation to steep river drainage along Dry Creek. Major ridges and mountains are separated by small ravines, rugged canyons, and a few gentle valleys with elevations within the State responsibility area topping out near the 5000' elevation range.

Weather:

Typical summer weather patterns consist of 90 – 105 degree days with humidity's in the upper teens to low 20's and nights in the upper 50's to near 70 degrees with humidity's in the high 30's to low 50's. Winds are generally light and diurnal, up slope, up canyon in the day time and down slope, down canyon at night.

Fire History:

The Badger Battalion averages approximately 5-10 fire starts annually, with the majority of those starts occurring in the lower grass lands. Although rare, starts in the upper elevations within the Battalion do pose a significant potential for a large extended attack fire. Large extended attack fires have occurred in the Battalion over the years with several fires in the 500 – 1000 acre range, there is no known history of major fires in the Battalion.

Battalion Priority:

Updating and maintaining our fire road system is a top priority in the Badger Battalion. By ensuring these road systems are well maintained allows us to access areas within the Battalion that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Proposed fuels reduction projects in the Battalion have been identified. Some are in the process of nearing completion, while other proposed projects are still waiting for final approval. Current projects are; working in coordination with USFS and Hartland Christian Camp, a fuel break along the ridge top, west of the Hartland Christian Camp, this project is about 90 percent complete. Working with the Fire Safe Council, a fuel break along Ridge, west of Badger, has been identified and is in the works with projected completion within the next 2 years. The fuel break will start of Miramonte Fire Control Road, head south and end at Mountain House, located at Hwy 245 and Dry Creek Road. Also in preliminary stages is the Eshom Valley VMP project, which will reduce fuel loading along Shadequarter Ridge. This project will involve mechanical brushing, pile burning and a broadcast burn. This project is anticipated to be completed in the next 2 years.

Pre-Attack plans

Develop updated maps utilizing GIS technology to capture all roads, fuel breaks, water locations, staging locations, and plot probable control lines. Possible strategies for fire suppression could be pre-determined utilizing fire history, typical fire weather and fire behavior models. Distribute the maps so equipment from other stations / areas efficiently function within the Kaweah Battalion.

Priority #1

Project Name: Fire Control Road maintenance

Description: Maintain the fire control roads in the battalion for fire suppression and quick access to fires.

Community: Badger, Sierra Glen, Eshom Valley, Heatland Christen Camp, Sand Creek, Mira Monte,

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority #2

Project Name: Shadequarter to Mankin VMP

Description: Fuel modification mechanical and Crews

Community: Badger, Sierra Glen, Eshom Valley, Heatland Christen Camp.

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Badger Ranch and land owners, Fire Safe Council.

Priority #3

Project Name: Buzzard Roost suppression tank

Description: Perpetration for wildfire in the area

Community: Badger, Eshom Valley.

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Badger Ranch and land owners, Fire Safe Council.

Priority #4

Project Name: Battalion Fire Prevention Signs 4 total.

Description: Public education, Fire Prevention, Message displayed on road side sign.

Community: Elder wood, Cutler Orosi, Badger, Eshom Valley, Lemon cove

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, and the Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

KAWEAH BATTALION

Fuels:

The fuels within the Kaweah Battalion are typical of those found in the Central California San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada. This area is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool moist winters. The climate, topography, geology and land use patterns within this region determine the vegetation patterns. Vegetation within the Kaweah Battalion varies from annual grasses and forbs on the valley floor to mixed conifer forest at the higher elevations. The lower elevations manifests annual grasses, including wild oats, and loading varies from year to year based on seasonal rainfall. Between 500'-1000' elevation this changes to a Woodland Oak fuel type with brush becoming more prevalent along with pockets of gray/bull pine starting around the 2000' level. The brush component is made up of several species, including, but not limited to; manzanita, chemise, ceanothus, scrub oak, live oak and poison-oak. The brush is interspersed with black oak and live oak, buckeye trees and sycamore (in drainages) with higher densities on the north and east aspects. This vegetation type continues to about 3500' where it blends into the Conifer Belt with scattered oaks, brush and conifer trees. At about 4500' conifers become the dominant fuel with such species as; cedar, pine, fir, live oak and black oak with a mixed brush understory which includes bear clover, lotus, chinquapin and whitethorn ceanothus.

Topography:

The Kaweah Battalion is typical of most of the foothill areas in the Southern Sierra Nevada Range and encompasses a large portion of the Kaweah drainage and the Cottonwood Creek drainage. The Topography ranges from gentle rolling foothills above the Central Valley floor at 400' elevation to steep river drainage along Kaweah River. Major ridges and mountains are separated by small ravines, rugged canyons, and a few gentle valleys with elevations within the State responsibility area toping out near the 5000' elevation range.

Weather:

Typical summer weather patterns consist of 90 – 105 degree days with humidity's in the upper teens to low 20's and nights in the upper 50's to near 70 degrees with humidity's in the high 30's to low 50's. Winds are generally light and diurnal, up slope, up canyon in the day time and down slope, down canyon at night.

Fire History:

The Kaweah Battalion averages approximately 8-15 fire starts annually, with the majority of those starts occurring in the lower grass lands. Although rare, starts in the upper elevations within the Battalion do pose a significant potential for a large extended attack fire. Large extended attack fires have occurred in the Battalion over the years with several fires in the 500 – 1000 acre range.

Battalion Priority:

Updating and maintaining our fire road system is a top priority in the Kaweah Battalion. By ensuring these road systems are well maintained allows us to access areas within the Battalion that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Proposed fuels reduction projects in the Battalion have been identified. Some are in the process of nearing completion, while other proposed projects are still waiting for final approval. Current projects are; updating Pre-attack plans, the Rat Trail projects on the North Fork Drainage and around Kaweah Lake, Grouse Valley FCR fuel Break, Grouse Valley VMP, Three Rivers FFS Demo project and the Sheep Creek Suppression Tank and Pond maintenance.

Pre-Attack plans:

Develop updated maps utilizing GIS technology to capture all roads, fuel breaks, water locations, staging locations, and plot probable control lines. Possible strategies for fire suppression could be pre-determined utilizing fire history, typical fire weather and fire behavior models. Distribute the maps so equipment from other stations / areas can efficiently function within the Kaweah Battalion.

Priority #1

Project Name: Fire Control Road maintenance

Description: Maintain the fire control roads in the battalion for fire suppression and quick access to fires.

Community: Badger, Wood Lake, Elder Wood, Kaweah, Three Rivers, Hammond, Lemon Cove.

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority #2

Project Name: Kaweah Lake "Rat Trail":

Description: Fuel reduction with hand crews.

Community: Three Rivers, Kaweah, Lemon Cove, Hammond

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority #3

Project Name: Grouse Valley VMP

Description: Fuel modification with hand crews and fire.

Community: Three Rivers, Kaweah, Lemon Cove, Hammond

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority #4

Project Name: Three Rivers FFS Demo Project

Description: Fire Safe Landscape, Public Education, Prevention

Community: Three Rivers, Kaweah, Lemon Cove, Hammond

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council, and The Rivers Community Garden club.

Priority #5

Project Name: Sheep Creek Suppression Tank

Description: Pre planned for fire suppression

Community: Three Rivers

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area.

Priority #6

Project Name: Salt Creek Suppression Pond

Description: Pre planned for fire suppression

Community: Three Rivers

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area.

Priority #7

Project Name: Blue Ridge Fuel Break

Description: Fuel modification with hand crews

Community: Three Rivers

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

TULE BATTALION

Fuels:

The fuels within the Tule Battalion are typical of those found in the Central California San Joaquin valley and Sierra Nevada. This area is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool moist winters. The climate, topography, geology and land use patterns within this region determine the vegetation patterns. Vegetation within the Tule Battalion varies from annual grasses and forbs on the valley floor to old growth sequoia redwood/mixed conifer forest at the higher elevations. The lower elevations manifests annual grasses, including wild oats, and loading varies from year to year based on seasonal rainfall. Between 500'-1000' elevation this changes to a Woodland Oak fuel type with brush becoming more prevalent. The brush component is made up of several species, including, but not limited to; manzanita, chemise, ceanothus, scrub oak, live oak and poison-oak. The brush is interspersed with black oak and live oak, buckeye trees and sycamore (in drainages) with higher densities on the north and east aspects. This vegetation type continues to about 3000' where it blends into the Conifer Belt with scattered oaks, brush and conifer trees. At about 4000' conifers become the dominant fuel with such species as; cedar, pine, fir, live oak and black oak with a mixed brush understory which includes bear clover, lotus, chinquapin and whitethorn ceanothus. This continues up to about the 5500' elevation where it transitions to a Timber fuel type dominated by fir, pine and sequoia. This type generally manifests areas of heavy down and dead fuels.

Topography:

The Tule Battalion is typical of most river drainages found in the Southern Sierra Nevada Range and encompasses a large portion of the Tule river drainage and spills over into the Deer Creek drainage on its southern border. The Topography ranges from gentle rolling foothills where it leaves the Central Valley floor at 500' elevation to sheer granite monoliths at the 8000' elevation. The Tule river drainage consists of three major forks; North, Middle, and South forks and is further made up by numerous feeder creeks and seasonal streams. Major ridges and mountains are separated by small ravines, deep rugged canyons, and a few gentle valleys. Due to Glacial activity thousands of years ago large granite boulders, rocky escarpments and sheer rock faces can be found on most ridges and mountains.

Weather:

The Tule Battalion like Tulare County is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with cool moist winters and warm dry summers. Average annual temperatures range from 49.6 to 76.6 however it is not uncommon to have temperatures in the low 20s during the winter months and highs exceeding 100 for extended periods during the summer months. The rainy season is October through April and annual rainfall average is 11.03 inches . Summers can be hot as stated earlier with extremely warm temperatures and dry relative humidity lasting for weeks. During the North American Monsoonal season thunderstorms are not uncommon over the higher elevations with some extending out over the Sierra Foothills and valley floor. Some years a Monsoonal push will work from the southwest driving northeast causing thunderstorms with associated lightning and scattered precipitation on the valley floor and foothill region.

Fire History:

The Tule Battalion includes the Hwy 190 corridor which accesses numerous recreation areas such as; Lake Success, Balch Park, Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, Sequoia National Forest, Eagle Mountain Casino and Giant Sequoia National Monument. The battalion traditionally experiences the majority of the fire activity in the Tulare Unit. Although recreationist contributes to some of the fire causes, a majority of the activity is attributable to arson caused fires. The proximity of the Tule River Indian Reservation which has a decade's long arson history contributes heavily to the battalion's fire responses. Sometimes these are a single fire to a series of fires being set on SRA lands adjacent to the reservation. Large fire history has been primarily in the grass and oak woodland fuel types. There have been a couple fires in the Brush/Timber fuels that originated in the Middle Fork of the Tule River that burned onto or threatened SRA lands; these were the "Coffee" and "Deep" fires. Both fires did pose a threat to Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.

Battalion Priority:

Fire roads and their maintenance are a high priority they provide access and fire control opportunities to many areas of the Battalion. Many of these fire roads also access ranch roads that local ranchers have put in which provide even greater access and fire control opportunities. Without the fire road maintenance many areas would be inaccessible to ground equipment and would require time consuming walk in or costly fly in access by ground resources. Another priority is the PC 4291 inspection program which provides defensible space around the numerous structures in the Battalion. This program has a successful history with improved compliance and the need for citations diminishing each year.

Fire Defense Projects:

There are currently three major projects underway in the Battalion, one is the “Mossy Rock” VMP which is a fuels modification project that when completed will complement the “Battle Mountain” VMP that was completed in 2001. The “Happy Camp” project which started in 2010 is a fuel break below the community of Happy Camp which resides in the timber belt with extremely high fuel loading, completion of this project is anticipated in 2012. The Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Evacuation Plan is currently in process with completion expected by May of 2011 this is a project that involves different cooperators from different agencies that have vested interest in the affected area.

Priority #1

Project Name: Fire Control Road maintenance

Description: Maintain the fire control roads in the battalion for fire suppression and quick access to fires.

Community: Springville, Triple R Estates, Mountain Home State Forest, Ponderosa, Camp Nelson, Happy Camp, Tule Indian Reservation.

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, and Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority#2

Project Name: Cow Mountain Fuel Break

Description: Fuel modification with hand crews

Community: Springville

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority#3

Project Name: Rancheria Suppression Tank

Description: Pre planned for fire suppression

Community: Springville

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority#4

Project Name: Wishon Suppression Tank

Description: Pre planned for fire suppression

Community: Wishon

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority #5

Project Name: Lake Success "Rat Trail":

Description: Fuel reduction with hand crews.

Community: Porterville, Springville

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County Land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council

Priority#7

Project Name: Rancheria Fuel Break

Description: Fuel reduction done with hand crews

Community: Springville

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority#8

Project Name: Pierpoint Fuel Break

Description: Fuel reduction done with hand crews

Community: Par Pint Springs, Camp Nelson

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council. United States Forest Service

Priority#9

Project Name: Camp Nelson Fuel Break

Description: Fuel reduction done with hand crews

Community: Par Pint Springs, Camp Nelson

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council. United States Forest Service

Priority#10

Project Name: Cow Mountain Suppression Tank

Description: Pre planned for fire suppression

Community: Springville

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority#11

Project Name: Mossy Rock VMP

Description: Fuel Reduction done with hand crews

Community: Springville

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority#12

Project Name: Balch Park Road Suppression Tank

Description: Pre planned for fire suppression

Community: Springville

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

FOUNTAIN SPRINGS BATTALION

Fuels:

The fuels within the Fountain Springs Battalion are typical of those found in the Central California San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada. This area is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool moist winters. The climate, topography, geology and land use patterns within this region determine the vegetation patterns. Vegetation within the Fountain Springs Battalion varies from annual grasses and forbs on the valley floor to mixed conifer forest at the higher elevations. The lower elevations manifests annual grasses, including wild oats, and loading varies from year to year based on seasonal rainfall. Between 500'-1000' elevation this changes to a Woodland Oak fuel type with brush becoming more prevalent along with pockets of gray/bull pine starting around the 2000' level. The brush component is made up of several species, including, but not limited to; Manzanita, chemise, ceanothus, scrub oak, live oak and poison-oak. The brush is interspersed with black oak and live oak, buckeye trees and sycamore (in drainages) with higher densities on the north and east aspects. This vegetation type continues to about 3500' where it blends into the Conifer Belt with scattered oaks, brush and conifer trees. At about 4500' conifers become the dominant fuel with such species as; cedar, pine, fir, live oak and black oak with a mixed brush understory which includes bear clover, lotus, chinquapin and whitethorn ceanothus.

Topography:

The Fountain Springs Battalion is typical of most of the foothill areas in the Southern Sierra Nevada Range and encompasses a large portion of the Deer creek drainage, White river drainage and the upper portions of the Poso creek drainage on its southeastern border. The Topography ranges from gentle rolling foothills above the Central Valley floor at 400' elevation to steep river drainages. Major ridges and mountains are separated by small ravines, deep rugged canyons, and a few gentle valleys with elevations within the State responsibility area toping out near the 5000' elevation range.

Weather:

Typical summer weather patterns consist of 90 – 105 degree days with humidity's in the upper teens to low 20's and nights in the upper 50's to near 70 degrees with humidity's in the high 30's to low 50's. Winds are generally light and diurnal, up slope, up canyon in the day time and down slope, down canyon at night.

Fire History:

The Fountain Springs Battalion averages approximately 7-10 fire starts annually, with the majority of those starts occurring in the lower grass lands. Each year however you can expect a least a couple of starts in the upper elevations within the Battalion where there is significant potential for a large extended attack fire. Large extended attack fires have occurred in the Battalion over the years with several fires in the 500 – 1500 acre range, there is no known history of major fires in the Battalion.

Battalion Priority

Updating and maintaining our fire road system is a top priority in the Battalion. By ensuring these road systems are well maintained allows us to access areas within the Battalion that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Proposed fuels reduction projects in the Battalion have been identified and the proposed projects are still waiting for final approval. The number one priority is to reduce fuel loading in and around the communities of Pine Flat and California Hot Springs. In 1997 a fuel break was begun around Pine Flat using Mountain Home crews, this fuel break was never completed or maintained. Working with the Fire Safe council this project will hopefully be a reality again within the next 2 – 3 years.

The second priority is to gain approval for a mechanical VMP on King George Mountain. This project would reduce fuel loading as well as improve grazing land and wildlife habitat. It is also my desire to identify ways of reducing fuels in and around the Poso, Jack ranch areas.

Priority #1

Project Name: Fire Control Road maintenance

Description: Maintain the fire control roads in the battalion for fire suppression and quick access to fires.

Community: Fountain Springs, California Hot springs, Poso, Poso Park, Jack Ranch, Sugar Loaf Village

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Priority# 2

Project Name: Posey Fuel Break

Description: Fuel Reduction done with hand crews

Community: Panorama Heights & Poso Park

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council and The US Forest Service

Priority# 3

Project Name: Uhl Pocket Fuel Break

Description: Fuel Reduction done with hand crews

Community: Hot Springs

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council and The US Forest Service

Priority# 4

Project Name: Pine Mt. Fuel Break

Description: Fuel Reduction done with hand crews

Community: Hot Springs

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council and The US Forest Service

Priority# 5

Project Name: Pine Mt. VMP

Description: Fuel Reduction done with hand crews

Community: Poso

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council and The US Forest Service, Kern county fire Department

Priority# 6

Project Name: Sandy Creek Fuel Break

Description: Fuel Reduction done with hand crews

Community: Poso, Panorama Heights

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council and The US Forest Service

Priority# 7

Project Name: Gibbons Peak VMP

Description: Fuel Reduction done with hand crews and fire.

Community: Poso, Panorama Heights

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council and The Burro of Indian Affairs

Priority # 8

Project Name: Fire Control Road maintenance

Description: Maintain the fire control roads in the battalion for fire suppression and quick access to fires.

Community: Fountain springs, California Hot Springs, Poso, Poso Park, Panorama Heights, Sugar Loaf, Sugar Loaf Park, and Jack Ranch.

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Tulare County land owners in the State Responsibility Area, Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest

2012 Fire Plan Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest



Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest VMPs

- Continue fuel treatments within 100' of primary roads. Work involves pre-commercial thinning of conifers typically less than 8 inches DBH and full removal of woody brush species. Material generated from the uphill side of the road is either pulled to the road and chipped or piled for seasonal burning. Material generated from below the road is piled for seasonal burning. All cutting, piling and chipping is performed by MHCC crews, USFS "blue card" crews and/or MHDSF staff. Burning is performed by MHDSF staff and MHCC crews on permissive burn days with a permit through the Tulare County APCD.
- Maintain a defensible fuel profile within and around day use areas and campgrounds. Saplings and small poles shall be marked by MHDSF staff for cutting and chipping/burning. This work will take place within the common campground and day use facilities and shall extend for a distance of at least 100' from the campground improvements.
- Maintain 4291 clearance around all State owned and operated structures that are maintained for human habitation. This shall include the summer and winter

headquarters, barracks, Jack's house and pack station. Similar maintenance shall be performed around the fuel tank, and warehouse as well.

- Continue fuel treatments in selected areas throughout the forest. Strategically located areas that are within close proximity to roads or trails shall be selected for treatment. These areas shall be treated by pre-commercial thinning of conifers typically less than 8 inches DBH and full removal of woody brush species. All cut vegetative matter shall be piled for seasonal burning. All cutting and piling shall be performed by MHCC crews, USFS "blue card" crews and/or MHDSF staff.
- Prepare a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to address significant fuel loads in a number of different units. Those units are identified in the following locations: Coppermine Road, River Road, Jacks Road, Redwood Crossing. Acreages and specific treatment methods have not yet been determined but are expected to include both pile and broadcast burning. The estimated timeframe for implementing said burn(s) is fall of 2012, weather and fuel conditions permitting.

Shaded Fuel Break-"At Last"

- Continue harvest and tractor piling operations on Timber Harvest Plan #4-09-010/TUL-1 (At Last) that bolsters the dozer line that was constructed during the "Deep Fire" in 2004. The harvest area is approximately 220 acres in size and extends east from Summit Road over the prevailing north-south trending ridge that separates Mountain Home DSF proper from the Wishon Fork of the Tule River canyon. The north, east and south boundaries are defined by property lines and/or steep, inoperable terrain. Harvest operations are expected to terminate by September. This harvest focuses on leaving a residual stand that contains between 50 to 160 square feet of basal area per acre on average. Residual trees shall be the largest and most fire resistant specimens from the pre-harvest stand. The intent of the fuel break is to slow or stop a wildfire coming from the Wishon Fork of the Tule River before it enters the major land holdings of the State Forest. The harvest will further focus on disconnecting the horizontal and vertical fuel ladders creating a defensible fuel profile. Large trees shall be logged conventionally with ground-based heavy equipment while small trees generally less than 24" DBH may be logged mechanically with feller bunchers. Utilizing mechanized harvest equipment will allow for "whole tree" harvest operations resulting in reduced slash accumulations post harvest. Sub-merchantable trees and brush shall be treated by tractor piling and burning and some additional hand piling and burning. This project is necessary to protect the public, infrastructure, State property and forest resources, watershed and habitat values, soil, and old-growth giant sequoia.

Shaded Fuel Break, Selection & Alternative Rx -“Dynamite SpringsTHP”

- Commence harvest operations on Timber Harvest Plan 4-11-021/TUL-1 (Dynamite Springs) when weather, ground conditions and contract approval allows. The harvest area is approximately 353 acres in size and extends south of the At Last THP boundary to the State Forest boundary; west from Summit Road to the operational boundary located west of the State Forest administrative facilities; and north to the common boundary between Balch County Park and MHDSF. Harvest operations may likely extend into 2013. This harvest focuses on leaving a residual stand that contains between 50 to 160 square feet of basal area per acre on average. Residual trees shall be from all size and age classes and be distributed as single trees and groups of trees. The intent of the harvest is to accomplish a number of desired conditions; one of which, is to modify forest fuels. This modification shall leave the treated stand in a more defensible condition with disrupted horizontal and vertical continuity of fuels. Slash created and trees knocked down shall be removed from within 150 feet of structures and from within 100 feet of primary roads. Additional fuel treatment may be performed with a masticator. This project is necessary to protect the public, infrastructure, State property and forest resources, watershed and habitat values, soil, and old-growth giant sequoia.



Mountain Home
CB#10

MHCC Program Information

Mountain Home Conservation Camp is currently working on a number of grant funded prefire projects. Among them are the Mossy Rock VMP, Rancheria Fuel Break, Happy Camp Fuel Break, and Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest roadside fuel break and thinning projects. The camp has also done considerable work over the last two years on the Grouse Vegetation Management Project which is a prescribed burn designed to modify fuels on a large scale north of Blue Ridge. All of these projects will provide either enhanced defensible space, fuel bed modification, or fuel breaks to protect lives, property, and resources from the threat of a catastrophic wildfire.

The camp also has a sign shop which produces fire prevention signs which are intended to heighten fire safety awareness of the public. Additionally, the camp performs much community and public service work throughout the county. Examples of cooperators are the Tulare County Resource Conservation District, various Fire Safe Councils, Tulare County Road Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lakes Kaweah and Success, City of Porterville, City of Exeter, City of Visalia, City of Lindsay, Cal Trans, and a number of private landowners and citizens.

At full staffing the camp has five 17 man crews which can respond to emergencies and perform public service. We perform thousands of man hours each year and support each field battalion in supporting its individual pre-fire projects and goals. This year the crews at Mountain Home Conservation Camp did 1382 hours of training, 4942 hours were spent on State fires, and 8008 hours were spent on work projects.