

SECTION V: PRE FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

A: DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

The Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan of the Ventura County Fire Department (commonly referred to as the Five-Year Burn Plan) was developed as a planning tool to assist in the overall strategic objective of modifying hazardous fuels within the county. Because vegetation management planning is dynamic by nature, this plan is intended to be a living document subject to changes caused by many variables. These variables include, but are not limited to, change in fuels due to natural fires, residential and commercial development into the interface areas, special governmental funding programs for hazardous fuels reduction, and continued participation by public and private landowners.

Six prescribed fire benefits, as defined by Cal Fire's Vegetation Management Program, were evaluated to prioritize specific projects. These benefits are fire hazard reduction, water yield, wildlife habitat improvement, fisheries habitat improvement, air quality improvement, and range forage improvement.

Based on analysis of fire benefits, projects in each identified area are prioritized as high, medium or low. Projects having benefits other than fire hazard reduction are rated as wither a medium or low priority based on the value of the other derive benefits. All of our projects have a maintenance component to keep the threat reduced.

Casitas, Ojai, Ventura, Fillmore, South Mountain, Thousands Oaks Malibu Oak Ridge, Simi, and Piru are the ten fuel beds that are identified and serve as the geographical basis from which the plan was developed. Fire history from the past 100 years, assets at risk, fuel types and weather patterns were all considered in the development of this plan.