

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (add 6-2012)

TCU Fire Plan Appendix B - Goals and Objectives

Goals

In collaboration with the community, the focus of these goals is protection of life, property and natural resources from wildland fire, as well as the improvement of environmental resilience to wildland fire. Each goal is meant to build upon the previous. Though full attainment of any goal is ultimately dependent upon the success of those previous, each can be worked on at any given time based upon available funding and/or other opportunities. The Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit's goals are to:

1. Continue assessment of values at risk including life, property and our natural resources.
2. Actively partner in the promotion and support of fire wise land use planning.
3. Look for opportunities to contribute and collaborate with local, county and regional leaders in the development of fire protection plans.
4. Maintain an active Public Information team committed to the promotion of current and future projects/actions that reduce or have reduced our identified hazards and risks.
5. Continue integration with all stakeholders to develop a seamless implementation of our plan across the unit.
6. Provide for a continued evaluation and mitigation strategy for all of our resources (personnel, equipment and facilities) so as to provide the best possible level of service for the hazards and risks identified.
7. Adopt site-specific plans to address post-fire recovery.

Objectives

For the purpose of implementing each goal, specific objectives are identified but are not meant to be all-inclusive. The Board of Forestry, CAL FIRE or other cooperators may identify and utilize additional objectives to achieve primary goals (those in bold with measurement criteria).

Goal 1 - Continue assessment of values at risk including life, property and our natural resources.

Objectives:

a) Identify and provide appropriate automated tools to facilitate the collection, analysis and consistent presentation of datasets.

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE shall establish policy that specifies spatial databases covering all forest and rangeland to not be older than 10 years. Include minimum requirements*

for spatial databases. Follow the coordinated work schedule with the USDA Forest Service to maintain cost effective collection and processing of data.

- b) Update and maintain consistent, detailed vegetation and fuels maps across all ownerships in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
- c) Provide regular updates to the Department's Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps.
- d) Develop and validate weather and climatology information for use in predicting fire behavior.
- e) Update fire history information and re-evaluate existing fire prediction models to obtain composite fire threat across all ownerships.
- f) Update existing data for values and assets at risk utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) data layers and other mapping solutions, including fire behavior-specific effects.
- g) Use science-based approaches to evaluate, understand and protect against the negative impacts of new and emerging threats such as climate change, insect and disease outbreaks or land use changes on forest health and public safety, including the build up of hazardous fuel conditions and resulting fire behavior.
- h) Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups (i.e., fire safe councils and others) to validate and prioritize the assets at risk.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE shall designate personnel as advisors/liaisons to the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) and to each county or regional FSC. The advisors will be responsible for reporting activities to the Unit and Region. The advisor to the CFSC will report to the Board. Annual reporting of time-spent working will be displayed in hours at the Unit, Region and Headquarters level.*

Reporting will include activities with local FSCs, communities, watershed groups or others defining hazards and risk of wildfire and documenting these in a CWPP or Unit fire plan. Emphasize the products developed in Goal 3, Objective b. Advisors will emphasize using standard guidelines and templates for consistency throughout the state.

Goal 2 - Actively partner in the promotion and support of fire wise land use planning.

Objectives:

- a) Assist the appropriate governmental bodies in the development of a comprehensive set of wildland and wildland urban interface (WUI) protection policies for inclusion in each county general plan or other appropriate local land use planning documents.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to appoint a committee including Unit, Region, Headquarters and Contract County representatives. Develop a work plan that identifies key elements of improving WUI strategies, including planning. Reporting should be based on elements identified and priorities for addressing them. Under the Board's Resource Protection Committee, review existing Board policies as they relate to wildland fire and the relevance (ease of use, applicability) to incorporation in local general plans. Identify areas of possible improvement*

and update policies. Track and report hours at the Unit, Region and Headquarters level spent in reviewing plans and projects; number of local Board/Council, Planning Commission meetings and/or meetings with other cooperators.

b) Identify the minimum key elements necessary to achieve a fire safe community, and incorporate these elements into land use planning, CWPPs and regional, county and Unit fire plans.

Measurement Criteria: CAL FIRE to create a working committee with CAL Chiefs, USDA Forest Service and other key organizations to develop, monitor and refine elements of fire safe community, including evacuation plans. The Committee shall review existing templates for FIREWISE Assessments, CWPPs, fire plans and land use plans; identify the common elements and approaches for better integration. Utilize fire protection, planning and engineering expertise to identify the key elements (from existing templates) necessary for fire safe communities. Once agreed upon, these key elements will then be used as a checklist to guide consistency in fire safe planning efforts across jurisdictions. At a minimum, annually report to the Board on results.

c) Engage in the development, review and adoption of local land use plans to ensure compliance with fire safe regulations and current building standards.

d) Promote the consolidation and broad availability of project-level land use planning, project implementation and wildland fire occurrence data developed throughout each county for use by all cooperating agencies.

Goal 3 - Look for opportunities to contribute and collaborate with local, county and regional leaders in the development of fire protection plans.

Objectives:

a) Establish a working group, consisting of Board members and Department staff, to develop minimum standard elements for inclusion in Unit fire plans.

b) Emphasize coordination of Unit fire plans with community wildfire protection plans to encourage and support one consistent approach. Develop county or regional fire plans by bringing together community based groups, such as fire safe councils and affected fire and land management agencies.

Measurement Criteria: These measurement criteria meets objectives a and b. CAL FIRE to revise the template for the Unit fire plans to incorporate the goals and objectives of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan. During the revision, the template for a CWPP will be jointly reviewed in order to reduce duplication of fire planning efforts. The key elements identified through the process identified in Goal 2, Objective b will also be incorporated into the Unit fire plan/CWPP.

c) Create and support venues in which individual community members can be actively involved in local fire safe councils, community emergency response teams, FIREWISE and other community-based efforts to develop readiness plans and educate landowners to mitigate the risks and effects of wildland fire.

Measurement Criteria: *The California Fire Alliance to work with the California and local FSCs to develop venues (e.g., workshops) that assist landowners with readiness planning and education. CAL FIRE, California Fire Alliance Liaison to report to the Board annually on Alliance activities.*

- d) Collaborate with federal and local governments, other state agencies, fire service and other organizations, to maintain and improve emergency response plans.
- e) Ensure planning efforts are consistent with the National Fire Plan, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as local hazard mitigation plans and other relevant statewide strategic planning documents.
- f) Maximize available resources to strengthen planning efforts through the development of public/private partnerships.
- g) Develop fire risk mitigation treatment decision support tools to assist in project design, implementation and validation.

Goal 4 - Maintain an active Public Information team committed to the promotion of current and future projects/actions that reduce or have reduced our identified hazards and risks.

Objectives:

a) Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities.

Measurement Criteria: *In coordination with the CAL FIRE Communications Program, the USDA Forest Service and local fire agencies, University of California and county cooperative extension offices, CAL FIRE to collect information on methods and effectiveness of existing outreach. Complete the information collection within year one of adoption of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan. Develop a common set of measures to assess CAL FIRE efforts, build those into Unit fire plans and report to the Board. Report the progress of implementation at the end of year two.*

b) Educate landowners, residents, fire safe councils and business owners to understand that fire prevention is more than defensible space, including why structures ignite, the role embers play in such ignitions and the importance of fire safe building designs and retrofits. c) Facilitate activities with individuals and organizations, as appropriate, to assist individual property owners in complying with fire safe regulations. d) Improve regulatory effectiveness, compliance monitoring and reporting pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) §4290 and §4291.

e) Increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations through the use of CAL FIRE staffing as available, public and private organizations, and alternative inspection methods.

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to form an advisory committee to review PRC §4291 regulations and make recommendations to the Board that will provide for consistency, streamlining and clarification of existing regulations. The Committee shall develop criteria to*

increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections. The Committee will develop an implementation plan for the recommendations and report on progress to the Board. f) Promote the consolidation of Fire Safe Regulations contained in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, with CCR Titles 19 and 24, to achieve uniform application of building standards. g) Continue to evaluate new, ignition-resistant construction technologies and materials, and promote the strengthening of California building standards. h) Seek out incentives to promote the retrofit of existing structures to meet ignition-resistant building codes. i) Actively enforce and seek updates as necessary to fire prevention codes and statutes, including those regulating utilities, railroads, small engines and other categories of equipment use that contribute to fire ignition. j) Actively investigate all wildland fire causes. For those resulting from negligent acts, pursue appropriate civil and/or criminal actions, including cost recovery. k) Analyze trends in fire cause and focus prevention and education efforts to modify behavior and effect change.

Goal 5 - Continue integration with all stakeholders to develop a seamless implementation of our plan across the unit.

Objectives:

a) Increase support of landowner-initiated hazardous fuels reduction using all available authorities, including the Vegetation Management Program.

b) Work to remove regulatory barriers that limit hazardous fuels reduction activities.

Measurement Criteria: *In conjunction with the Resource Protection Committee, CAL FIRE will develop an approach to identifying and recommending ways to address regulatory and other barriers that limit hazardous fuels reduction activities. This approach should include with the Board's Interagency Forestry Working Group and with other agencies, such as the USDA Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Energy Commission, the Department of Fish and Game, regional water quality control boards, local government and the public. Finish this compilation within the first year of adoption of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan. Based on barriers identified and recommendations for change, report to the Board starting in the second year.*

c) Promote and enhance programmatic documents that assist and streamline regulatory processes.

d) Assist collaborative partners by educating, improving grant capacity and other means that provide tools to achieve fuels reduction work on the landscape.

e) Promote forest and rangeland health and hazardous fuels reduction. Improve utilization of all forest products, including small logs, urban green waste and biomass.

f) Increase public education and awareness in support of ecologically sensitive and economically efficient vegetation management activities, including prescribed fire, forest thinning and other fuels treatment projects.

g) Promote the development of multi-agency/landowner fuels reduction policies and activities at the watershed and fire shed level.

h) Support the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources, as well as public and private sector resources, for fuels management activities, including ongoing maintenance.

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE will report to the Board on the number of crews available each year with a description of projects, including acres treated, completed by each Unit. Report the number of agreements and/or amount of funding and acres treated that involve grants or partnerships with federal agencies, resource conservation districts, local FSCs, fire districts, watershed groups or other non-profit or community groups that support the ability to carry out fuels reduction projects.*

i) Support efforts to restore the ecological role of fire in areas and upon jurisdictions where doing so is consistent with local land management objectives and does not present an unacceptable risk to human health and safety or security of adjacent ownerships.

Goal 6 - Provide for a continued evaluation and mitigation strategy for all of our resources (personnel, equipment and facilities) so as to provide the best possible level of service for the hazards and risks identified.

Objectives:

a) Maintain an aggressive wildland fire initial attack policy that places a priority on protecting lives, property and natural resources. At the same time consider suppression strategies that incorporate values and assets at risk, as well as cost factors wherever possible.

b) Develop criteria for determining suppression resource allocation based on elements such as identified values and assets at risk, ignition density, vegetation type and condition, as well as local weather and topography.

c) Initiate studies and analyses to identify appropriate staffing levels and equipment needs commensurate with the current and projected emergency response environment.

d) Seek to increase the number of CAL FIRE hand crews for use in fighting wildland fires and other emergency response activities.

e) Initiate and maintain cooperative fire protection agreements with local, state and federal partners that value the importance of an integrated, cooperative, regional fire protection system and deliver efficient and cost effective emergency response capabilities beneficial to all stakeholders.

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to identify the number and effectiveness of agreements and partnerships. In conjunction with the Board's Resource Protection Committee, CAL FIRE will develop suggested measures of effectiveness of cooperative agreements. This should be in collaboration with its partners, completed within 18 months of adoption of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan and reported to the Board.*

f) Improve policies and strategies to minimize injuries or loss of life to the public and emergency responders during emergency response activities throughout the state.

g) Ensure all firefighters are provided the appropriate training, equipment and facilities necessary to successfully and safely meet the increasingly complicated and challenging fire and emergency response environment.

h) Continue to evaluate and implement new technologies to improve firefighter safety, situational awareness and emergency response effectiveness.

i) Provide for succession planning and employee development at all levels within CAL FIRE to maintain emergency response leadership capabilities, administrative management skills and pre-fire planning expertise.

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to revise and update the information developed in the 2005 Succession Planning meetings. This work should be completed within two years of the adoption of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan, with annual reporting to the Board based on issues raised, including identification of key training needs, funding available and expenditures on the training program, content of Academy curricula, number of students requesting and/or able to take classes at the Academy, local community college or other educational outlets.*

j) Effectively engage and train employees across all disciplines to address both planning and emergency response utilizing a “total force” approach.

Goal 7 - Adopt site-specific plans to address post-fire recovery.

Objectives:

a) Encourage rapid post-fire assessment, as appropriate, and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire.

Measurement Criteria: *Provide training for CAL FIRE personnel on suppression repair and damage assessment procedures. Develop standard formats and documentation templates for these assessments. Identify and use the findings to reduce the impacts of fire suppression on the landscape and improve resiliency of assets at risk from wildfire.*

b) Work with landowners, land management agencies and other stakeholders across the state to design burned area rehabilitation actions that encourage salvage and reforestation activities, create resilient and sustainable landscapes, and restore functioning ecosystems.

c) Effectively utilize available resources, including CAL FIRE hand crews, to accomplish restoration and protection activities.

d) Assess the effects of pre- and post-fire treatments to refine best management practices.

e) Assist landowners and local government in the evaluation of the need to retain and utilize features (e.g., roads, firelines, water sources) developed during a fire suppression effort, taking into consideration those identified in previous planning efforts.

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE (utilizing Incident Command Teams) to schedule a post-fire review of the planning documents that cover the area affected by the fire. Review the goals, objectives and projects (implemented and planned) to identify successes and failures. Review the features developed during the fire and incorporate them into the existing Unit fire plan documents. This objective will only be reported when a fire occurs in an area with an existing Unit fire plan document. Incident command teams may conduct this post fire assessment under the direction of the Unit Chief.*

f) Aid landowners in recently burned areas in developing and implementing vegetation treatment plans to manage the re-growth of fuels to maintain reduced hazardous conditions.

g) Promote the maintenance of a native species seed bank and seedling production capacity to provide the availability of appropriate tree species for reforestation within all of the state's diverse seed zones.

h) Use after-action reports to evaluate and implement new technologies and practices to improve future firefighting efforts.