

II. Introduction

Unit Description

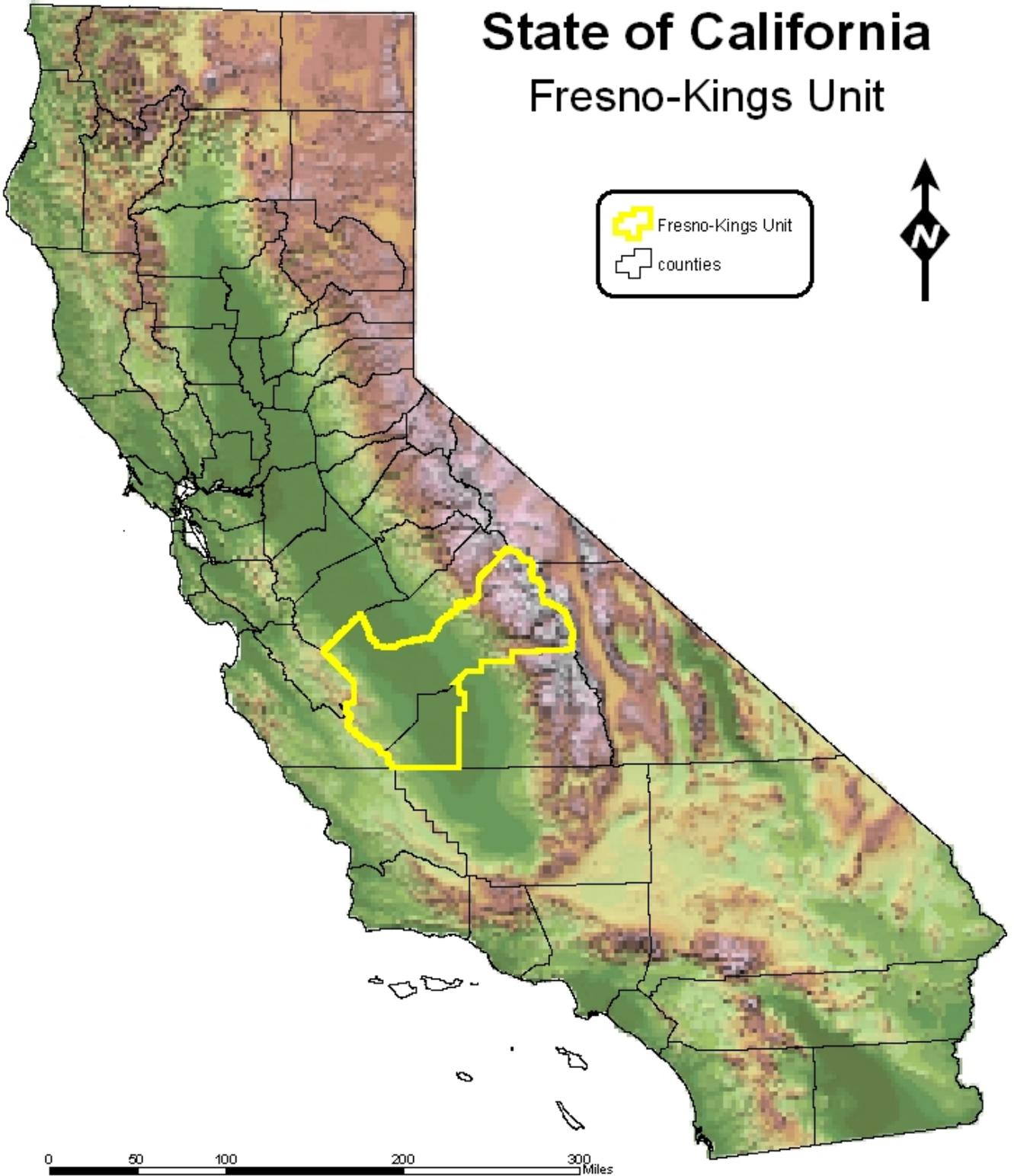
The Fresno-Kings Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) has primary responsibility for over 923,000 acres of Direct Protection Area (DPA) lands. CDF DPA lands are State Responsibility Area (SRA) and intermingled federal lands protected by CDF. Federal lands in state DPA are protected by CDF under agreement with federal forest agencies through the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (4-party agreement). There are over 795,000 acres of SRA lands in the Fresno-Kings Unit. SRA lands are the areas designated by the State Board of Forestry on which the state assumes financial responsibility for protecting natural resources from damage by fire.

The Unit is divided nearly in half by the San Joaquin Valley. This 70 mile span presents some specific logistical and administrative challenges for the development of a Prefire Management Plan. The fuel and topographic conditions, along with the human activity, risk and ignition history of the Unit add to the diversity of the Unit. To facilitate operations two divisions have been created.

The Eastern Division expands from the floor of the San Joaquin Valley to an elevation of 7,000 feet along the Western slopes of the Sierra Nevada and incorporates two of Central California's major watersheds, the Kings and San Joaquin Rivers. This Division is primarily vegetated at the lower and mid elevations by seasonal grasses, deciduous and evergreen oaks and brush, while the higher elevations consist of conifers. The Eastern Division contains three lake recreation areas, Shaver Lake, Millerton Lake and Pine Flat Lake. The recreational use in these areas is moderate to high. The Eastern Division also contains two population centers, the Shaver Lake – Prather area and the Squaw Valley - Dunlap area. Both population centers have a steadily increasing permanent residential growth pattern. The wildland urban intermix is a real and current concern in these areas.

The Western Division is made up of the eastern slope of the Coastal Mountain Range. Primary vegetation types consist of seasonal grasses, deciduous oaks and heavy brush. There is a high seasonal recreational use of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holdings, within the Division. Residential impact in the area is light, with little indication of growth. Industrial use is heavy in some areas, depending on the economic situation in the petroleum industry.

Map 1 – State of California / Fresno-Kings Unit



CDF Facilities and Resources

The Fresno-Kings Unit manages eight (8) CDF fire stations, thirteen (13) staffed fire stations and seven (7) Paid Call Firefighter (PCF) staffed fire stations for the Fresno County Fire Protection District, one (1) fire station for the Fig Garden Fire Protection District, Miramonte Conservation Camp, the Fresno Air Attack Base, a Fire Prevention/Protection/Planning Bureau and a Training Bureau. During peak fire season, CDF staffs twelve (12) Schedule “B” engines, fifteen (15) Schedule “A” engines, seventeen (17) PCF engines, two (2) CDF bulldozers, one (1) air attack, one (1) air tanker and supervises four (4) inmate hand crews. In addition to dispatching CDF resources, Fresno-Kings’ Emergency Command Center (ECC) dispatches emergency calls for: Fresno County Fire Protection District, the Fig Garden Fire Protection District, Shaver Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Big Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Bald Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, Auberry Volunteer Fire Department, Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Fowler City Fire Department, Parlier City Fire Department, Orange Cove Fire District, Laton Fire District, and Pleasant Valley Prison Fire Department.

Map 2 – Facilities and DPA

