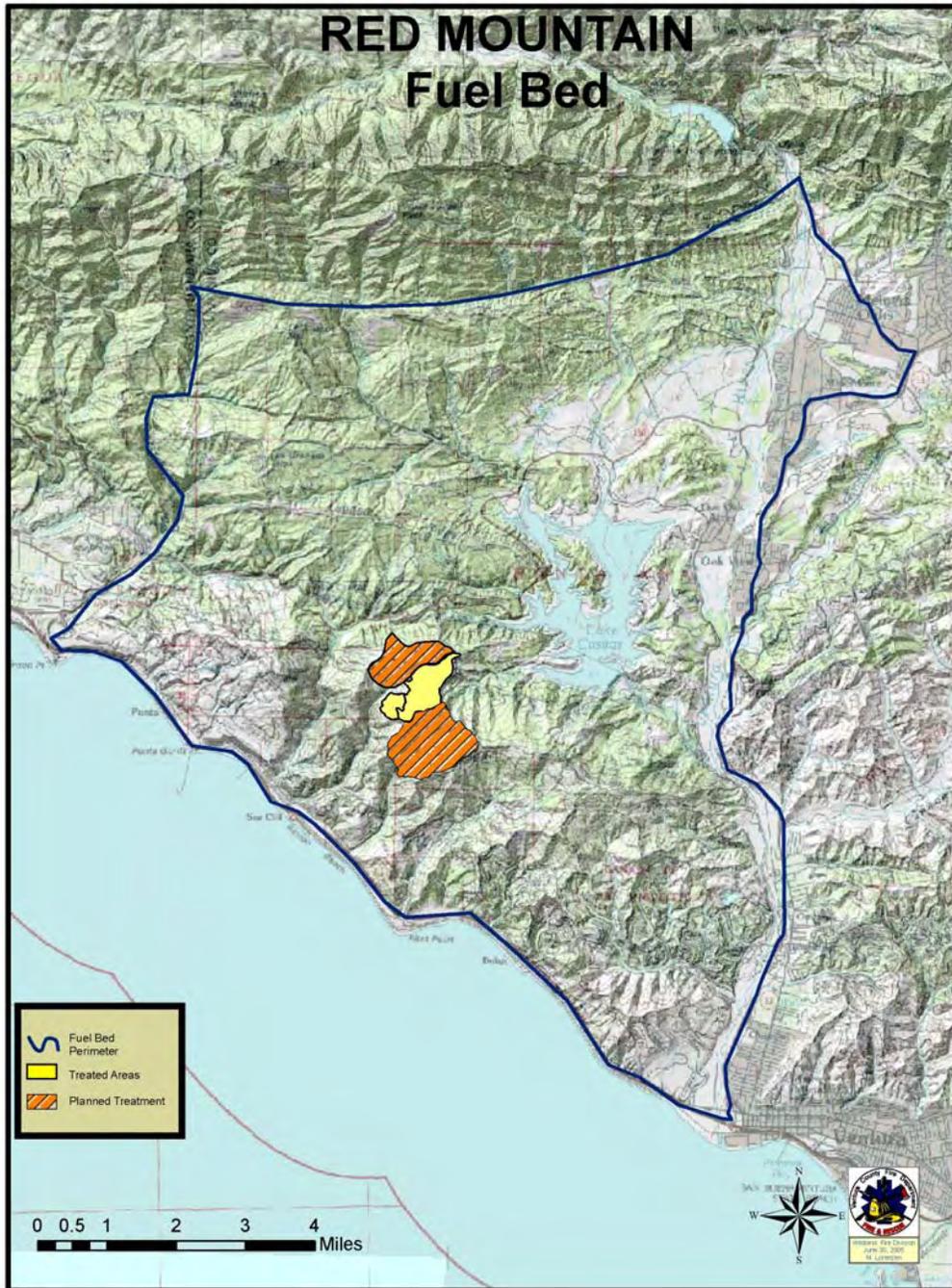




## Fuel Bed and Project Descriptions





## **Red Mountain Fuel Bed**

### **Fuel Bed Description**

The Red Mountain Fuel Bed is bordered on the south by the Pacific Ocean, on the north by Camino Cielo, on the east by Highway 33 and on the west by the county line with Santa Barbara.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of very heavy oak and heavy brush on the north facing slopes and light to medium brush on the remaining slopes

### **Predominant Risk Exposure**

Structures and orchards in the interface area pose the greatest risk. Homes, ranches and orchards along Highway 150 pose the most significant risk in this fuel bed and also are the most difficult to protect through fuel modification because of their sporadic placement. Homes along Santa Ana Road present a lesser risk due to the nature of the surrounding fuels and historical fire data. The Lake Casitas watershed is a low risk, high value community resource that needs consideration in the planning process.

Oil production facilities dominate the interior canyons of this fuel bed south of lake casitas, east of Highway 33 and north of Highway 101. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed in a wildfire.

### **Historical Fire Data**

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
6	21,025 acres. 686 acres without the 122,724 acre Wheeler Fire	Varied	4 of 6 large fires were wind driven. 2 of 6 were fuels and topography driven.

### **Fuel Break Location And Method**

#### Haley Project

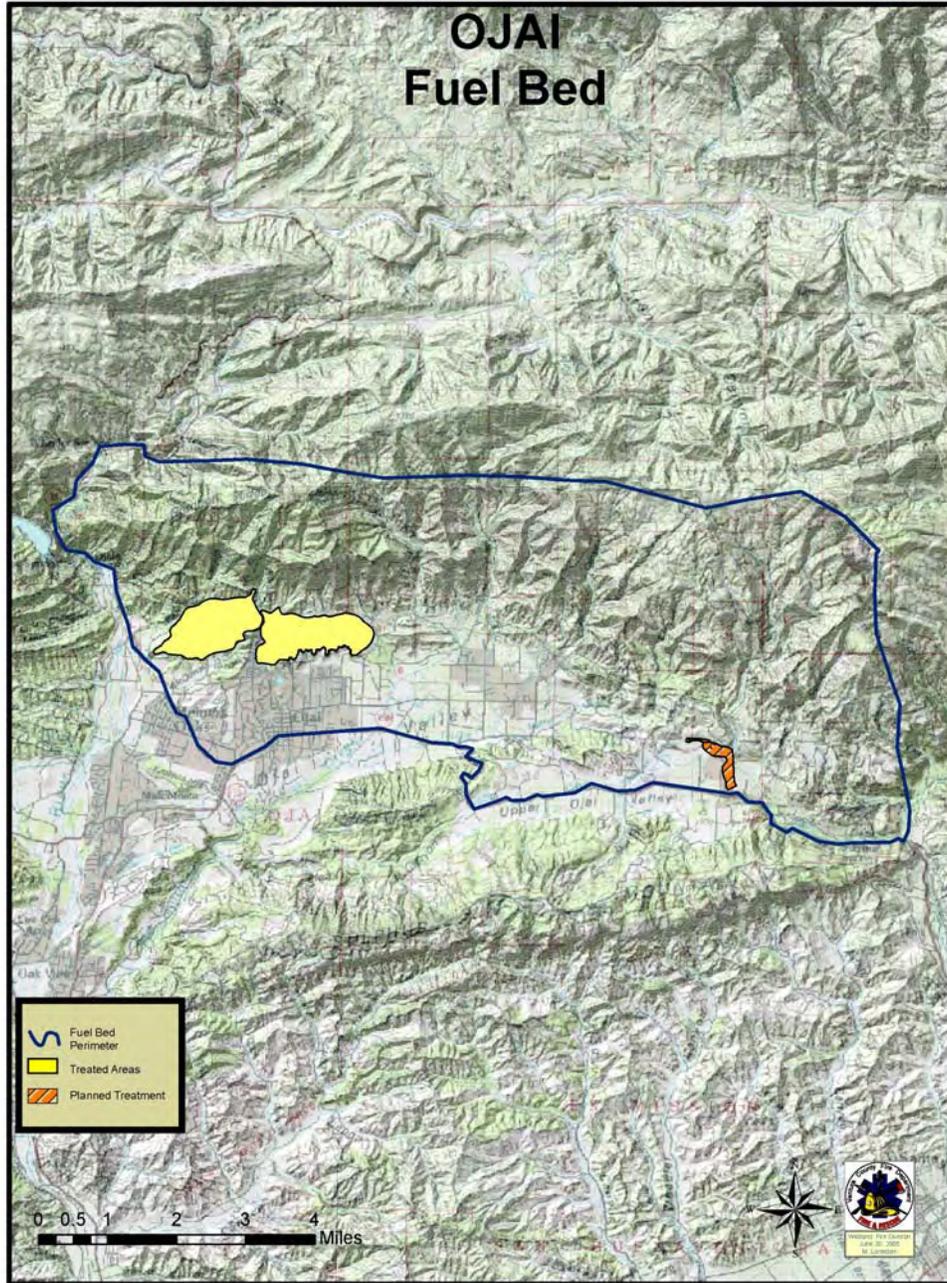
The fuel modification area will be located north of the oil facilities in Padre Juan Canyon, south of Hwy 150, east of Los Sauces Creek and west of Lake Casitas. This area will serve to protect the Lake Casitas watershed and viewshed and support range improvement. This project area may also prevent fire from entering into Forest Service lands when a fire start occurs off the oil leases with an on-shore wind influence. The method of treatment will be prescribed fire.



The Haley Project has a medium priority rating because the project is not immediately adjacent to any interface areas, but other fire benefits are numerous. It will be divided into four or five units. Units one and two were completed in 2003/04, unit three is planned for 2005/06, and unit four for 2006/07. Fuel consumption on the prescribed burn is planned to be 65-90%. The project area was reseeded by the property owner for erosion control and increased grazing opportunities. Because of the continual grazing that will occur, reentry is not planned for at least 20 years.



*Haley prescribed fire project. Post-burn aerial reseeding.*





## **Ojai Fuel Bed**

### **Fuel Bed Description**

Highway 150, borders the Ojai Fuel Bed on the south, on the north by the Sespe River, on the east by the Santa Paula Creek, and on the west by Highway 33.

The ground cover and vegetation of concern consists of light to medium brush north of the City of Ojai and adjacent to the Upper Ojai community. The main ridges primarily run from east to west.

### **Predominant Risk Exposure**

Structures and orchards in the interface area pose the greatest risk. The areas of greatest concern are on the northern border of the City of Ojai, where fingers of development into the urban interface have created potential problems. Orchards are mixed in with this development creating additional assets that are threatened in a wildfire. The majority of the residents in the community of Upper Ojai live in areas that blend with their natural surroundings creating an environment that will be challenging to defend in a wildfire.

Oil production facilities exist in the area east of Santa Paula Creek. The layout of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed in a wildfire.

### **Historical Fire Data**

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
7	27,068 acres	July – October with one large fire in December	7 of 7 large fires were wind driven.

### **Fuel Break Location And Method**

#### Fairview/Foothill and Shelf Road Project

The fuel modification area will be located north of Fairview and Shelf Roads, south of Nordoff Ridge, east of Cozy Dell Canyon and west of Gridley Road. These areas have been selected due to their ability to provide protection to the at risk assets in east and northeast wind driven fires. Accordingly, the project has been prioritized as high. The method of treatment will be a combination of cut, stack and pile burning, and prescribed fire. This project was previously funded through FEMA and USFS grants. Planning is currently underway to improve this project in conjunction with the Forest Service. This project will reopen a fuel break in this area with the County focusing on privately held lands and the Forest Service treating Federally owned property.

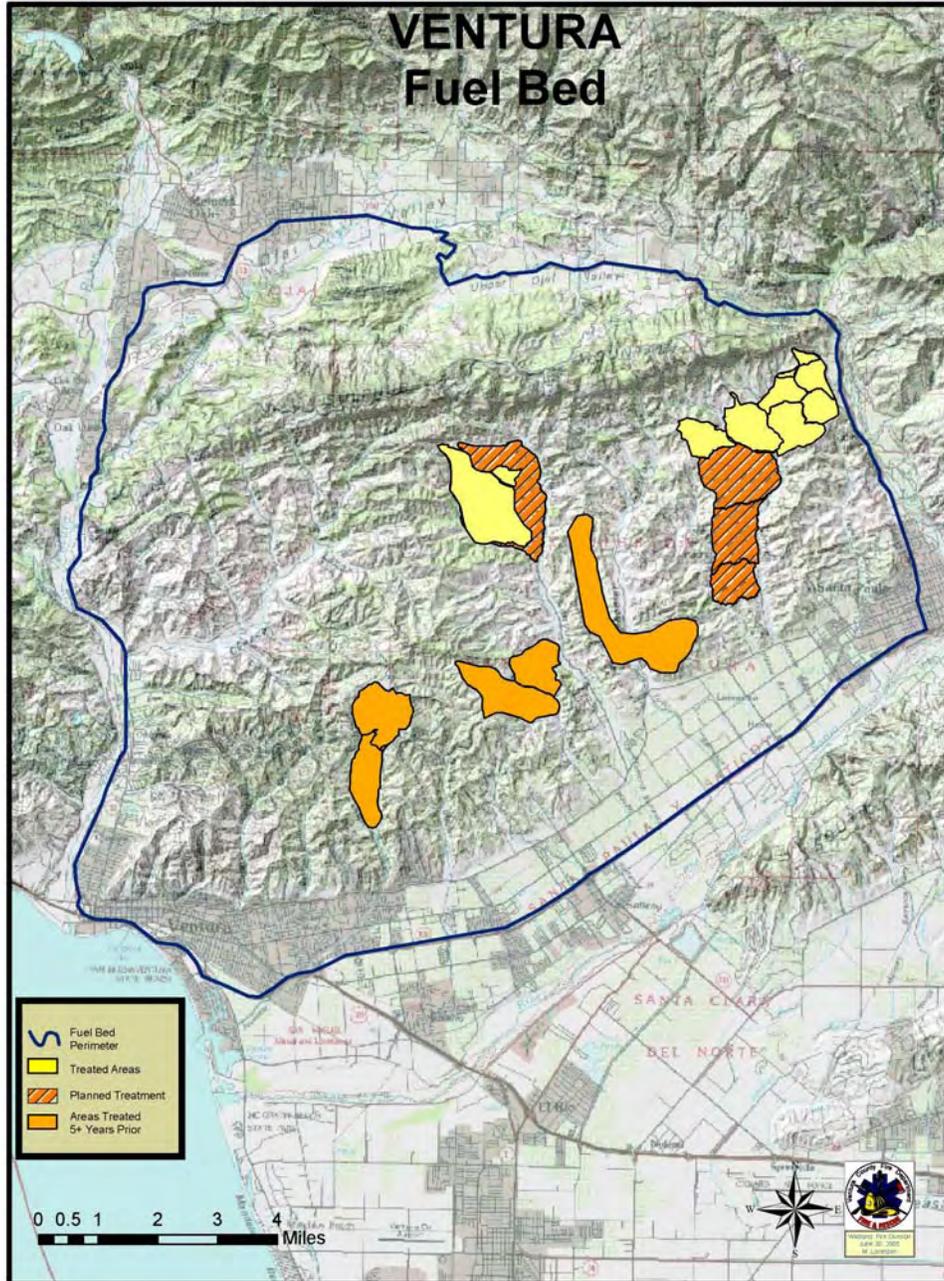


**Sisar Road Project**

The second area will be located north of Ojai Santa Paula Road, south of Nordoff Ridge Road, east of Horn Canyon and west of Bear Canyon. This area has been selected due to its ability to provide protection to the at risk assets in east and northeast wind driven fires. Accordingly, the project has been prioritized as high. The method of treatment will be a combination of cut, stack and pile burning, with the possibility of a prescribed fire. This project was previously funded through FEMA and USFS grants and is currently being funded as the Upper Ojai Wildfire Protection Zone project by the California Fire Safe Council. This project will be completed in 2005/06.



*Sisar project, broadcast burning. 2004*





## **Ventura Fuel Bed**

### **Fuel Bed Description**

The Ventura Fuel Bed is bordered on the north by the Ojai Valley, on the south by the City of Ventura and Highway 126, on the east by Highway 150 and on the west by Highway 33. The highest elevation of the fuel bed is approximately 2,727 feet.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of very heavy oak and heavy brush in steep canyons running out to lighter, flashy fuels in the foothills north of the City of Ventura. The main ridges primarily run from east to west.

### **PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE**

The greatest area of risk in the Ventura Fuel Bed is in the interface area that separates the City of Ventura from the County jurisdictional areas. Fingers of development have continued to grow over time. Development in the areas between Harmon, Sexton, and Barlow Canyons would be challenging to protect in a wildfire driven by winds from the northeast. Additional at risk areas include Sulphur Mountain Road, Creek Road and the east side of Highway 33. Orchards are also at risk throughout this fuel bed and need consideration when planning for fuel modifications.

Oil production facilities can be found along Shell Road, the eastern portion of Sulphur Mountain Road and at the north end of Wheeler Canyon. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed in a wildfire.

### **Historical Fire Data**

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
14	8,706 acres	July – October	10 of 14 large fires were wind driven. 4 of 14 were fuels and topography driven.

### **Fuel Break Location And Method**

#### Sloan Project

This project, previously funded through a FEMA grant, is located at the north end of Aliso Canyon. With the success of the Adams Canyon project discussed below, no treatment is currently planned in this project area. The possibility does exist that a prescribed burn could be planned in this area for range improvement



purposes. A burn plan on this project has been completed and is active through the end of 2005.

Adams Canyon Project

The preferred treatment area is the area north of Foothill Road, south of Sulphur Mountain Road, east of Lake Canyon and West of Highway 150. This area has been selected due to its ability to protect the interface area from Ventura to Santa Paula in a wind driven fire. Treatment will also support range and watershed improvement. The plan for the project is to create a fuel modification zone from the bluffs of Sulphur Mountain to the orchards north of

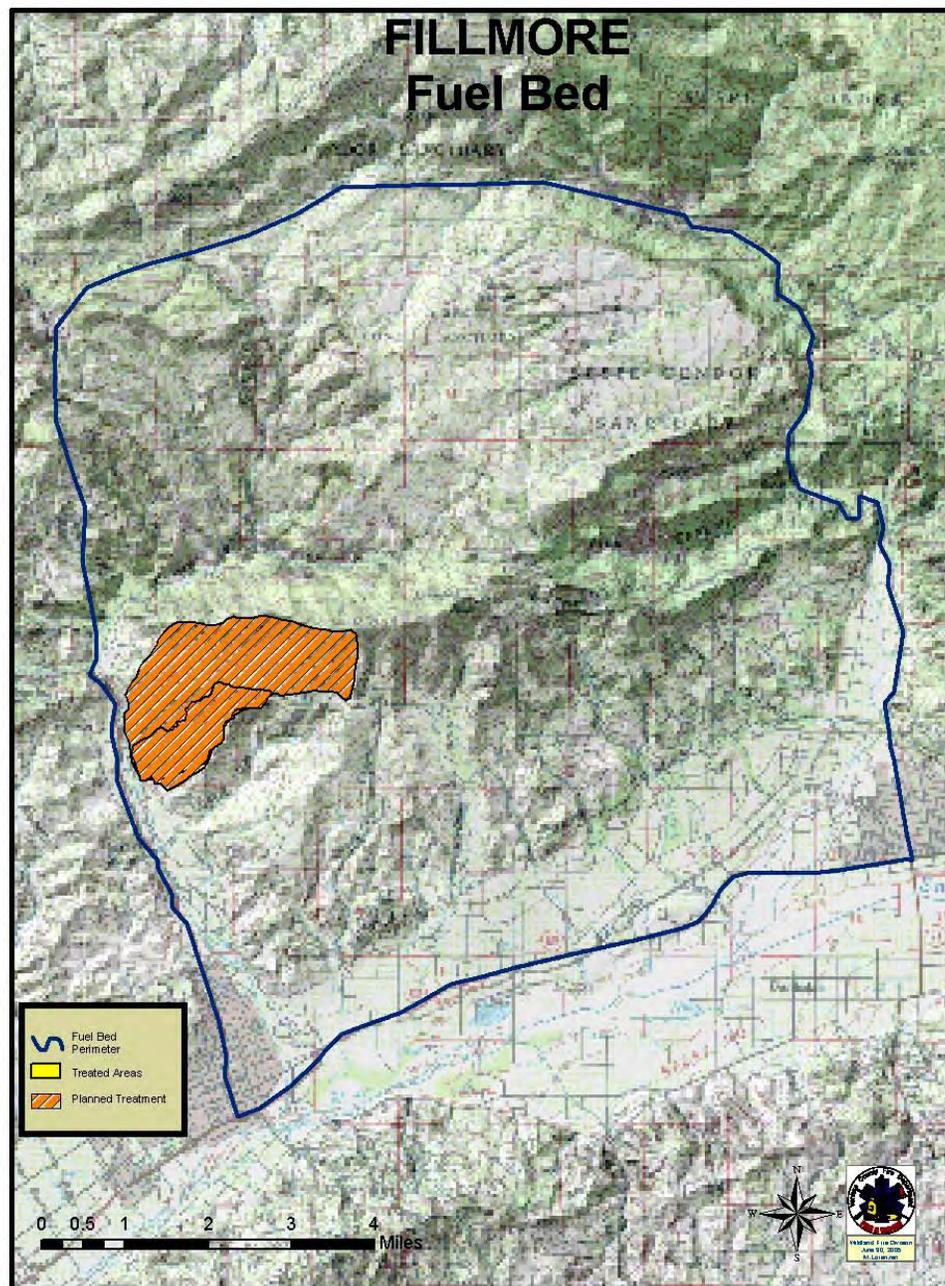


*Ridgeline prep work for Phase 2 Unit 2 scheduled for August 2005.*

Foothill Road. The project area will be maintained through the use of grazing practices. Adams Canyon consists of nine separate units (six are complete) that will be completed by 2008.



*Ventura County firing team utilizes a terra torch on the Adams Canyon project.*





## **Fillmore Fuel Bed**

### Fuel Bed Description

Sespe Creek and River Road border the Fillmore fuel bed on the north, on the south by Highway 126, on the east by Hopper Canyon, and on the west by Santa Paula Canyon. The highest point is the Topa Topa Bluffs at 6,244 feet.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of light to medium brush in the areas of concern. Heavier brush and stands of timber can be found in the Sespe Creek area at the extreme north end of the fuel bed.

### Predominant Risk Exposure

Ranches, residences and orchards between Santa Paula and Fillmore present the greatest risk exposure.

Oil production facilities are located in the area of Anlauf Canyon. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed in a wildfire.

### Historical Fire Data

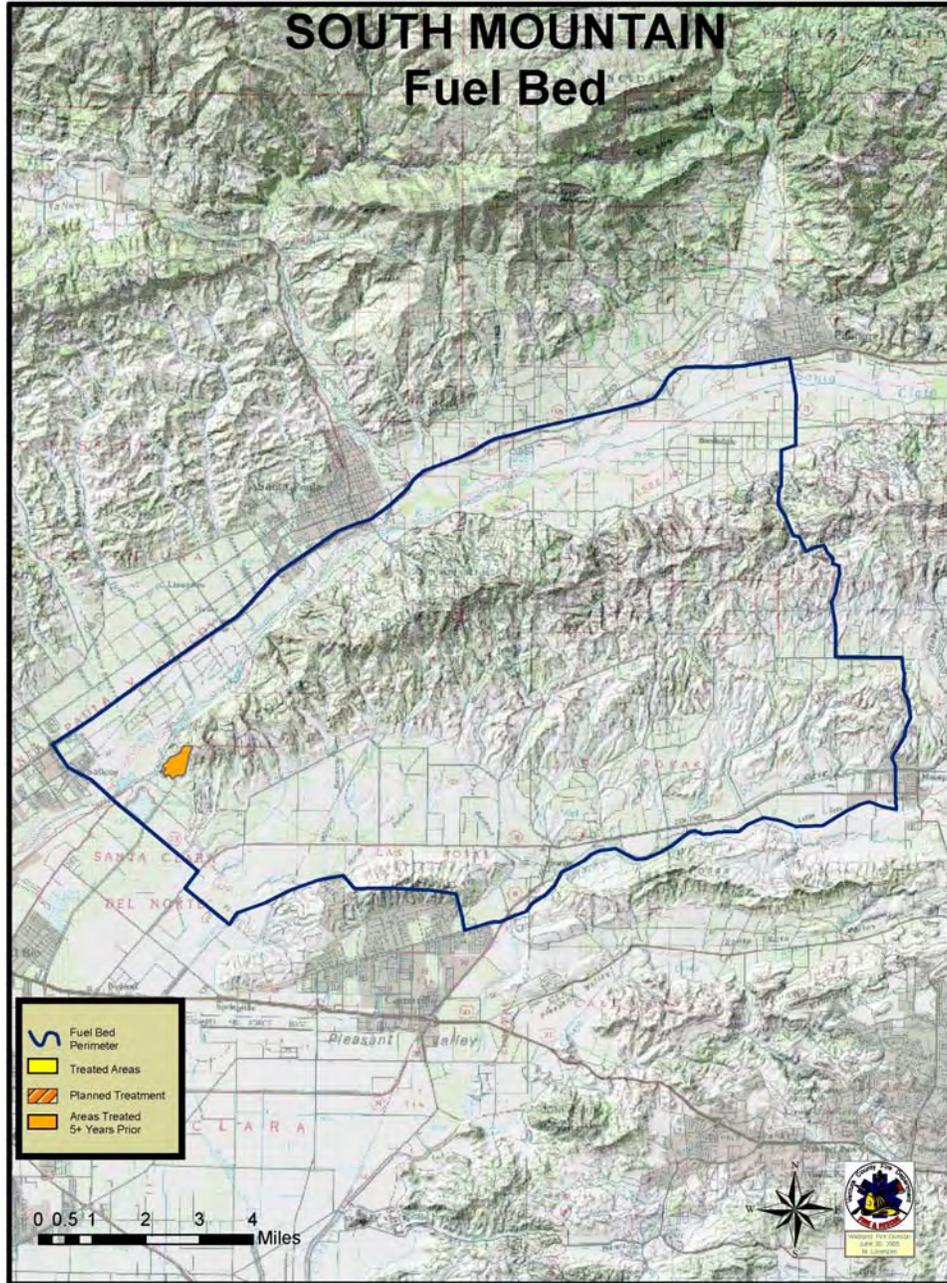
Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
13	8,213 acres	April – December	12 of 13 large fires were wind driven. 1 of 13 were fuels and topography driven.

### Fuel Break Location And Method

The Grand Fire in 1996, effectively modified the fuels in most of the at risk area.

### Frost Project

This is a continuation of the Frost prescribed burn. The area to be modified is located north of Toland Park, south of Santa Paula Ridge, east of Steckel Park and west of Timber Canyon. Treatment of this area will support range and watershed improvement. The method of treatment will be prescribed fire. The project consists of one unit, is rated as a low priority because of its location in relation to the interface and is scheduled for completion in 2007/08.





## **South Mountain Fuel Bed**

### **Fuel Bed Description**

Highway 126, borders the South Mountain Fuel Bed on the north, on the south by Highway 118, on the east by Highway 23 and on the west by Highway 118.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of light grasses and light to medium brush.

### **Predominant Risk Exposure**

Ranchlands, scattered residences and orchards are the primary assets at risk in this fuel bed.

Oil facilities are located in the area of South Mountain and have been a source of many of the larger fires analyzed in the historical data. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed to the facilities in a wildfire.

### **Historical Fire Data**

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
14	10,464 acres	May – December	14 of 14 large fires were wind driven.

### **Fuel Break Location And Method**

This entire fuel bed was consumed by the October 2003, Simi Fire. After a risk and workload analysis, no modification areas have been identified in the South Mountain Fuel Bed for treatment within the next five years.



*South Mountain fuel bed – post Simi fire*

