

Butte Unit
Fire Management Plan
2005

Fire History



Wildfire history is a significant factor in the pre-fire management planning process. The fire plan assessment framework incorporates detailed information for determining the most beneficial locations for pre-fire management projects, an idea of the level of service within the unit's State Responsibility Area, and information about assets at risk. Fire history is a piece of the puzzle that allows unit personnel to learn from the affects of past fires, and allows fire control agencies, like CDF and fire safe councils the opportunity to implement pre-fire management plans. Identifying where the largest and most damaging fires have occurred is a necessary step in preparing for future wildfire and focused pre-fire management plans. Moreover, knowledge of fire history and fire behavior for particular areas, such as the Yankee Hill/Concow area of Butte County, allows fire control officers to better strategies the deployment of critical firefighting resources.

Below are a fire history maps for the Butte Unit over the past century, decade and year. The fires shown prior to the 2002 fire season are 300 acres and larger. In 2002, CDF changed its fire mapping requirements to include the mapping grass fires 300 acres and over, brush fires 50 acres and over, and timber fires 10 acres and over, all wildland fires which destroy 3 or more structures or which cause \$300,000 or more in damage.

Both Butte and Plumas Counties have an extensive history of large and damaging fires, most of which have burned within the urban interface area resulting in not only the loss of property but life. The following table shows some of Butte and Plumas Counties most recent (10 year) fire history.

Butte and Plumas County Recent Large Fire History					
Fire Name	Year	Acreage	Residences Destroyed	Fatalities (Civilian)	Comments
Butte County					
Oregon	2004	2,030	1	0	Additional structures threatened
Skyway	2002	2,010	0	0	Structures threatened
Highway 70	2001	1,710	0	0	Commercial timber loss
Poe	2001	8,333	51	0	+120 outbuildings & 155 vehicles
Concow	2000	1,835	14	1	Firefighters burned over
Butte Complex	1999	33,924	3	1	+11 outbuildings, 9 major fires, lightning
Plumas County					
Stream	2001	3,556	1	0	Lightning
Storrie	2000	55,261	0	0	Commercial timber loss
Mt .Hough Complex	1999	40,720	0	0	4 major fires, structures threat. lightning
Feather River Complex	1999	3,860	0	0	4 major fires, lightning Butte & Plumas Co.
Horton II	1999	4,336	0	0	Structures threatened
Cemetery	1999	3,930	0	0	Structures threatened
Butte & Plumas Co. Totals		160,475	81	2	

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