

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

III. Assets at Risk

The primary goal of wildland fire protection in the Lassen-Modoc Unit is to safeguard the wide range of assets found within the unit from the effects of wildfire. The assets at risk, both public and private, are to be protected. The following have been identified as assets at risk to wildfires and include both economic and non-economic assets: people, structures, timber, watershed, wildlife, unique scenic and recreation areas, range, and air quality. The table below provides a description of the evaluated assets.

Asset at Risk	Public Issue Category	Location and ranking methodology
Hydroelectric power	Public welfare	1) Watersheds that feed into river power plants, ranked based on plant capacity; 2) cells adjacent to reservoir based plants (Low rank); and 3) cells containing canals and flumes (High rank)
Fire-flood watersheds	Public safety Public welfare	Watersheds with a history of problems or potential for future problems, ranked based on affected downstream population
Soil erosion	Environment	Watersheds ranked based on erosion potential
Water storage	Public welfare	Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water storage facility, ranked based on water value and dead storage capacity of facility
Water supply	Public health	1) Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water supply facility (High rank); 2) grid cells containing domestic water diversions, ranked based on number of connections; and 3) cells containing ditches that contribute to the water supply system (High rank)
Scenic	Public welfare	Four mile view-shed around Scenic Highways and 1/4 mile view-shed around Wild and Scenic Rivers, ranked based on potential impacts to vegetation types (tree versus non-tree types)
Timber	Public welfare	Timberlands ranked based on value and susceptibility to damage
Range	Public welfare	Rangeland ranked based on potential replacement feed cost by region/owner/vegetation type
Air quality	Public health Environment Public welfare	Potential damages to health, materials, vegetation, and visibility; ranked based on vegetation type and air basin
Historic buildings	Public welfare	Historic buildings ranked based on fire susceptibility

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Asset at Risk	Public Issue Category	Location and ranking methodology
Recreation	Public welfare	Unique recreation areas or areas with potential damage to facilities, ranked based on fire susceptibility
Structures	Public safety Public welfare	Ranked based on housing density and fire susceptibility
Non-game wildlife	Environment Public welfare	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders
Game wildlife	Public welfare Environment	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders
Infrastructure	Public safety Public welfare	Infrastructure for delivery of emergency and other critical services (e.g. repeater sites, transmission lines)
Ecosystem Health	Environment	Ranking based on vegetation type/fuel characteristics

The assets at risk are evaluated to the 450 acre scale within the Lassen-Modoc Unit. This scale has been designated by the Department for purposes of manageability. These 450 acre cells have been designated as Quad 81st. This designation is based on the sectioning of a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map broken down into a 9x9 grid pattern; this process results in squares of 450 acres. Fire plan assessments have been made at the Q81st level. For instance, each Q81st in LMU has a ranking applied to it for Level of Service (LOS), Assets at Risk (AAR), fuel hazards, etc.

Each asset is validated by the unit personnel, stakeholders and interested parties, as to the weight and value placed on the Q81 for that asset. Once this process is completed, the LOS calculation is run and the value for that cell is applied, thus giving that cell its weighted value, and producing the aggregated relationship for that area. (For more information regarding the evaluation of asset susceptibility, refer to the California Fire Plan.)

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/FireEmergencyReponse/FirePlan/FirePlan.asp>

The ranking is scaled to the Q81st and transferred to GIS maps. Map overlays will be evaluated by unit staff for identification of the areas with the highest combined asset values and fire risk to be targeted for fire management activities. The scores for the various assets at risk are given a 1 (low) score out of a possible 9.999 (high). Infrastructure, non-game wildlife, and range scores were given a score of 2. Timber was given a 3 and structures were given a 5. Many factors are involved in target area identification, including political climate of the region and suppression cost reductions.

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The process of explicitly enumerating assets at risk also helps to identify who benefits from those assets. It is a premise of the California Fire Plan, on which this plan is structured, that those who benefit from the protection of an asset should pay for that protection. The Lassen Modoc Unit personnel will continuously evaluate these assets during planning stages.

A. Fire-Threatened Communities in Lassen and Modoc County

FIRE THREATENED COMMUNITIES IN LASSEN AND MODOC COUNTY			
Community Name	County	Federal Threat ¹	Hazard Level ²
Adin	Lassen	X	3
Almanor	Plumas	X	3
Bieber	Lassen	X	3
Cal Pines Lower Units	Modoc	X	2
Cal Pines Upper Units	Modoc	X	3
Canby	Modoc	X	3
Cederville	Modoc	X	3
Clear Creek	Lassen		3
Copic	Modoc	X	3
Davis Creek	Modoc	X	3
Doyle	Lassen	X	3
Eagleville	Modoc	X	3
Fort Bidwell	Modoc	X	2
Hallelujah Junction	Lassen	X	3
Hurlong	Lassen	X	3
Janesville	Lassen	X	3
Johnstonville	Lassen	X	3
Lake City	Modoc	X	3
Levitt	Lassen	X	3
Likely	Modoc	X	2
Litchfield	Lassen	X	3
Little Valley	Lassen	X	3
Lookout	Modoc	X	3
Madeline	Lassen	X	2
Milford	Lassen	X	3
New Bieber	Lassen		3
New Pine Creek	Modoc	X	3
Newell	Modoc	X	3
Pinetown	Lassen		2
Pittville	Lassen	X	2
Ravendale	Lassen	X	2
Spaulding	Lassen	X	3
Standish	Lassen	X	3
Stones Landing	Lassen	X	2

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FIRE THREATENED COMMUNITIES IN LASSEN AND MODOC COUNTY			
Community Name	County	Federal Threat ¹	Hazard Level ²
Susanville	Lassen	X	3
Tulelake	Modoc	X	3
Wendel	Lassen	X	3
Willow Ranch	Modoc	X	3

1. Federal Threat code of X indicates some or all of the wildland fire threat to that community comes from federal (e.g., US Forest Service, BLM, Dept. of Defense) lands.

2. Hazard Level code indicates the fire threat level, where two denotes moderate threat and three denotes high threat.

The “Communities at Risk” in Lassen and Modoc Counties listed in the table above are on the National Registry available at the following site:

[Http://cafirealliance.org/communities_at_risk_a-d.php](http://cafirealliance.org/communities_at_risk_a-d.php)

B. Priority Areas

General Description of the Target Areas

Within the Lassen Modoc Unit, the greatest potential for loss and initial Attack failures are located near the populated areas. These areas are located in and around the following communities:

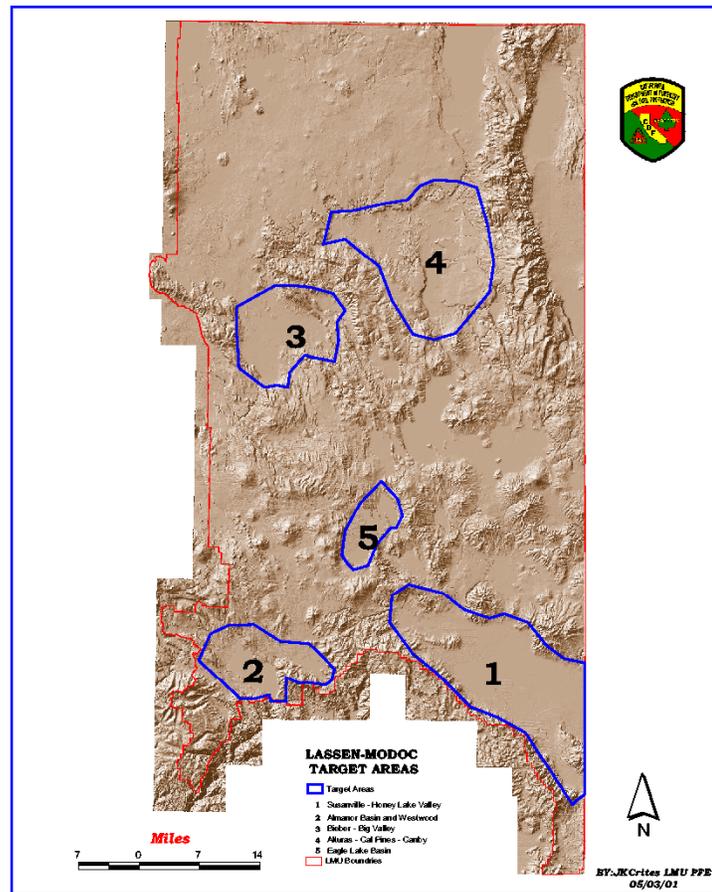
Susanville – Honey Lake Valley
Almanor Basin and Westwood
Bieber – Big Valley

Alturas - Cal Pines
Eagle Lake Basin

These areas have been identified by Battalion Chiefs as the most logical areas to begin fuel mitigation projects and the education of the public to the potential fire problems, and general implementation of fire safe practices.

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Priority Areas



Most of the population within Lassen County is found in Battalion 1. Of these homes, most are located in the wildland urban interface, which provides for an interesting firefighting challenge. Many of these homes are in a bitterbrush/sage and juniper vegetation belt. However in Janesville there is a large concentration of homes found in the timber.

Timber lands make up a large portion of Battalion 1. This asset is found along the entire west side of the Battalion along its west side. Sierra Pacific Industries and W.M. Beatty and Associates own much of the timbered land. Most of this land also borders the Plumas and Lassen National Forest on the south and west and the Modoc National Forest in the north.

The Grasshopper Valley at the north end of the Battalion is not only a large portion of the grazing and rangeland, but also host's large herds of antelope. During the summer months, one can find many antelope grazing along with the cattle here. Most of the timbered lands are also leased as grazing range.

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Eagle Lake is found just south of Grasshopper fire station, and is a popular fishing and boating resource. . The wildland of the Battalion provides an excellent recreation asset. Many people travel from all over the state to spend their summer vacation here. All throughout the woods of the Battalion one can find people hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling during the winter

The watershed is also an important asset. Although most of the mountains and the high plains are flat, what water that is collected from the snow and rainfall during the winter, finds its way into the rivers and lakes and is utilized to produce hydro-electric power. That same water continues down into the Sacramento River or Carson (in Nevada) drainage where it becomes part of the domestic supply.

Many of the homes in Battalion 2 are located in the standing timber (also called the wildland urban interface) providing an interesting firefighting challenge due to the heavy fuels.

Collins Pine, Roseburg Lumber, Sierra Pacific Industries, and W. M. Beatty and Associates own the timber lands in the Battalion. The Plumas National Forest borders the Battalion on the southeast, and the Lassen National Forest touches the battalion at points on the North, West and East.

Much of the National Forest land is leased out during the summer and fall for cattle grazing.

Eagle Lake is also in this Battalion, which is a popular location for fishing and boating. The Battalion has many recreational attractions such as hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling during the winter.

The development of the Dyer Mountain, a four season resort is underway. When completed the resort area will attract large numbers of people and will include both permanent and seasonal occupants.

The watershed in Battalion 2 is also an important asset. The water from this watershed supplies the Sacramento and Carson Rivers and is then used as the domestic water supply in several communities.

Many of the homes in Battalion 3 are located in the wildland urban interface area. The area has experienced some growth over the last year. The Lookout ranchettes and the homes along Day Road are prime examples. These homes are within standing timber with an understory of grass/sage forest fuels. Several new homes have been built within the Battalion mostly in the Day Road area.

Sierra Pacific Industries and W. M. Beatty and Associates own the timber lands in the Battalion. The Modoc National Forest and the Lassen National Forest have common borders with the Battalion. Much of the National Forest land is leased out during the summer and fall for grazing of cattle.

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The Lava Beds National Monument and Lassen Volcanic National Park are close by and many people travel through this area en-route to these locations. The entire area is well known for its hunting and fishing.

This is an important watershed area. The water that is collected from the snow and rainfall during the winter finds its way into the rivers and lakes, which provide hydro-electric plants along the Pitt River and is a source for domestic water for several communities along the Sacramento River.

Many of the homes in Battalion 4 are located in the wildland urban interface area in Cal Pines south of Alturas and in the Modoc Estates, just north of town. These homes are within standing timber and/or juniper with an under story of grass/sage forest fuels.

The Modoc National Forest and the Warner Wilderness Area have common borders with the Battalion. In the southeast portion of the Battalion the Bureau of Land Management manages much of the land. Much of the National Forest and BLM land is leased out during the summer and fall for grazing of cattle.

The Warner Wilderness Area is a popular area for hikers and explorers and holds a wealth of natural resources for the area. The entire area is well known for its hunting and fishing.

This is an important watershed area. The water that is collected from the snow and rainfall during the winter finds its way into the rivers and lakes, which provide hydro-electric plants along the Pitt River and is a source for domestic water for several communities along the Sacramento River.