

## **FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005**

### **Lassen – Modoc Unit**

#### **E. Present Projects**

##### **BATTALION 1**

Battalion 1 has an active LE 38 inspection program in the communities. The goal is to gain *PRC 4291* compliance. During the summer months, the engines from both Susanville and Grasshopper are involved in the program as well as working with the schools and community groups in fire prevention programs.

Burning permits are issued to the public beginning on May 1 of every year and are valid until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June when all burning is suspended in the unit. LE 5's are issued in conjunction with the local fire protection districts for agricultural burning.

CDF in conjunction with the Fire Safe Councils are currently working on several ongoing fuels reduction projects. (see the description on Fire Safe Council)

##### ***Susanville / Gold Run Area***

Diamond Mountain Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1: Work on the Diamond Mountain Shaded Fuel Break began in April of 2004. This fuel break is located along the north aspect of the Diamond Mountain. It varies in elevation from 5500' to 6000' and extends between the Diamond Mountain Motorway and Elysian Valley north of Janesville. The length of this fuel break is approximately 12 ½ miles long. There is an escarpment on the Honey Lake Valley side of this mountain where it drops into the Gold Run / Susanville area. The area is heavily timbered. Many of the trees on this mountain have been exposed to bug kill and drought stress over the last 20 years and as past fire history of the area shows, fires originating on this mountain burn downhill at tremendous rates. \$80,000 has been provided through a Forest Service Community Protection Grant and \$20,000 has been provided the Lassen County RAC Title II money.

The fuels will be managed through thinning, chipping for bio-mass or blown back on to the ground. In some cases these fuels will be masticated or burned. Ladder fuels will be removed, some trees will have to be removed, to open up the crown, and improve forest health.

This project has been submitted to the National Fire Plan and was partially funded. \$80,000 was received, however due to the fuel loading additional monies will need to be located. (Appendix G)

Diamond Mountain Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2: This shaded fuel break will run from the Devil Fire of 2001 to the south along Cheney Creek for approximately 1 ½ miles and the travel to the east for another mile. This will involve limbing up trees and removing brush to eliminate ladder fuels, removing dead or decadent bitterbrush, sagebrush, junipers and pines. It will be approximately 500 feet wide. Grant money has been requested. Lassen County RAC has granted \$30,000 in Title II money. This

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shaded fuel break will provide an area to slow the spread of an advancing fire spreading into high valued homes and range land on west side of Susanville. (Appendix G)

*Gold Run Shaded Fuel Break or Fuels Reduction Zone:* The location is undetermined. The project will connect to the Hidden Hills Shaded Fuel Break and will run along the top of the ridge above Gold Run Road to the southwest. There are high value homes located in this area. This project will provide a zone of reduced fuels, which will slow the spread of a wildfire and provide a safer environment in which firefighters can work. (Appendix G)

*Community Clean-up and Educational Outreach:* The goal of the Fire Safe Councils is to produce educational information to involve the residents in creating a fire safe community and improve the fire safety around their homes. The details of this project are still under development.

*Susanville West – Paiute Creek Canyon Fuels Reduction:* This project area starts near the intersection of County Road A-1 and Highway 36 and includes the privately owned along the north slope of the Susan River Drainage, it continues east to the Pine Street and Highway 36 intersection and then turns north and ends at Bagwell Springs. 36. In 2001 the Devil fire burned over 4000 acres of timberlands on the south side of the Susan River Drainage.

The project has been divided into manageable areas for the ease of work and when applying for grant money. In 2002 a \$120,000 grant was awarded to the Lassen Fire Safe Council through the Sacramento Regional Foundation, Community Wildfire Prevention Program for Area A (300 acres) of this project. The work in Area A was completed in November 2003.

The treatment involved thinning of dead or dying trees, removal of some of the bitterbrush, and removal low hanging or dead limbs. The by-products were chipped and burned. The small amount of these by-products was not cost effective to bio-mass.

A second grant was applied for in 2002, through the National Fire Plan for Area “D”. Area “D” is located within the City of Susanville and includes Inspiration Point, a scenic overlook, and several private homes in need of fuels treatment. Several of the private homes in Area “D” had large quantities of bug-kill trees and needed a means of disposing of these bug-infested trees before the infestation was given the opportunity to spread to other fuels in the area. Project area “D” is approximately 110 acres however, not all of the acreage needed to be treated. The fuels treatment in area “D” was focused on reducing wildfire potential within the City. The total amount received for this grant was \$29,000. The work was completed in the winter of 2003. Additional projects are currently being planned and the Fire Safe Council is researching additional grant sources.

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors fully supported this project and several others identified by the Fire Safe Council. This was demonstrated in 2002 when the

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council applied for non-profit status. Each member of the Board donated \$100.00 from their own pockets to the council for application fees. The support from the Lassen County Board of Supervisors has been outstanding. (See Appendix H)

#### ***Lake Forest Estates***

*Senior Citizens Fuels Reduction Project:* The community of Lake Forest Estates has many residents who, due to age or physical limitations, have a difficult time clearing forest fuels from around their homes. Therefore, grant money is needed to hire a contractor to assist these people in fuels reductions around their homes. Many homes are located in the timber and many of the properties are over-grown to the point that a person cannot see a home 50 feet from the road. This type of fuel loading would be disastrous in the event of a wildfire. (See Appendix H)

*Community Chipping/Clean-up – Fuels Reduction:* A project of this type would provide a way for the residents to clean their properties and reduce forest fuels. This will require a grant to pay for a contractor to come into the community and assist in the removal of fuels and provide for the disposal of products produced from this project. Project is in the planning process. (See Appendix G)

*Vacant Lot Fuels Reduction:* Many of the lots or parcels in Lake Forest are vacant and are so over grown with forest fuels that any fire starting in the Lake Forest area would rapidly grow into a major wildfire and threaten the surrounding homes. There are no current laws or ordinances in the Lassen County to provide any means to enforce clean up of these parcels. The Fire Safe Council is currently looking at ways to present this needed regulation and enforcement to the Board of Supervisors. (Appendix G)

#### ***Milford Area***

*Milford Shaded Fuel Break:* This shaded fuel break will be a continuation of the shaded fuel break in the Janesville area. It will be placed on the escarpment to the southwest of the community, it will provide firefighters an area from which to control a fire and will improve firefighter safety during in the event of a wildland fire. This project is to be developed. (Appendix G)

*Community Chipping and Fuels Reduction Program:* This type of project would provide a way for the residents to clean their properties and reduce surrounding forest fuels. This will require a grant for a contractor to come into the community and assist in the removal of these fuels and provide a means of disposal of the products produced from this project. The project is to be developed. (Appendix G)

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#### ***Herlong Area***

*Community Fuels Reduction Program:* This project will provide a way for the residents to clean their properties and reduce fuels. This will require a grant for a contractor to come into the community and assist in the removal of these fuels and provide a means of disposal of products produced from this project. This project is to be developed. (Appendix G)

*Community Clean-up and Educational Outreach:* The Fire Safe Council is looking at ways of motivating the community to clean around their homes, as well as removing fuels that would burn if a wildfire were to encroach on their home. This might include a community chipping program. The details of this project are to be developed.

#### ***Doyle Area***

*Fuels Reduction Zone:* The community of Doyle has been threatened by wildland fires a number of times in the last 20 years. Several of these fires were ignited by lightning and burned down the slope from the Plumas National Forest and into the community of Doyle. The area is covered by grass, bitterbrush, and sage brush with an occasional juniper. Prevailing winds as well as the natural convectional air flow off the Sierra Nevada range and down into Doyle/Honey Lake areas are the driving force, pushing the fires into Doyle. The Fire Safe Council has proposed that a fuels reduction zone be identified to the west of town, between the Forest and the town, to reduce the threat of fire. This project is undeveloped. (Appendix G)

*Community Clean-up and Educational Outreach:* The Fire Safe Council is looking at ways of motivating the community to clean around their homes by removing fuels that would burn if a wildfire were to encroach on their home. This might involve a community chipping program. The details of this project are still under development. (Appendix G)

#### ***Eagle Lake Area***

##### *Eagles Nest Recreational Area*

*Community Chipping and Clean-up:* A shaded fuel break would provide a way for the residents to clean their properties and reduce forest fuels. The Eagles Nest area is a recreational community; it is the plan of the Fire Safe Council to assist these residents in cleaning around their homes/cabins. This might involve a community chipping program... The details of this project are still under development. (Appendix G)



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#### ***Stones-Bengard/Spaulding Area***

*County Road A-1 Shaded Fuels Reduction:* Develop with the Bureau of Land Management, a shaded fuels reduction zone along County Road A-1, from State Highway 139, south to the community of Spaulding. This will thin the standing junipers and brush along the county road, which would provide an area to the West of both Stones-Bengard and Spaulding. BLM is actively working on this project. (Appendix G)

*Bucks Bay and Rocky Point Fuels Reduction:* This project will reduce the ladder and ground fuels around these two geographical areas and the homes located there. This will also tie into the County Road A-1 Shaded Fuels Reduction Project. Both of these locations are to the south of Stones-Bengard subdivisions. This project is still to be developed. (See Appendix H)

*Community Chipping and Cleanup:* Will provide a way for the residents to clean their properties and reduce forest fuels. This would require a grant to hire a contractor who would come into the community and assist in the removal of these fuels and provide a means of disposal of any products produced from this project. Still to be developed. (Appendix G)

#### ***Merriville Ranch Road Area***

*Shaded Fuel Break:* This is still to be identified and developed. The proposed shaded fuel break would run along the mountains to the south of the community, providing a means to control or extinguish a wildfire burning toward the valley. The land to the south is standing timber and managed by private timber companies, so this could also involve a fuels reduction project involving a commercial chipping or bio-mass project. (Appendix G)

*Community Chipping and Cleanup:* Will provide a way for the residents to clean their properties and reduce forest fuels. This would require a grant to hire a contractor who would come into the community and assist in the removal of these fuels and provide a means of disposal of any products produced from this project. Still to be developed. (Appendix G)

*Janesville Shaded Fuel Break:* A need for a Shaded Fuel Break was identified in the Janesville Fire Safe Plan. In 1998, this project was started with a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) on the Laraway property. This project included thinning a stand of timber and brush removal generating merchantable timber and bio-mass products. Antelope Conservation Camp Crews were used after the THP was completed to clean up through pile burning during the winter. (Appendix G)

Neighboring property owners have had work done along the proposed shaded fuel break. This project was submitted to the National Fire Plan in 2003 for a grant and was awarded \$80,000 in Spring of 2003. The work scheduled to be done includes approximately 100 acres of the shaded fuel break near the south side of the community below Thompson Peak. . This work began in autumn of 2003. (See Appendix H)

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*Janesville Roads Fuels Reduction Project:* This project consists of fuels reduction efforts on the main roads in the area of the Janesville Shaded Fuel Break. These provide wider sections on the main fuel break. The Fire Safe Council is looking for a funding source for this project. (Appendix G)

*Janesville Private Timber Management Plan:* This plan will identify fuels and recommend treatment for the fuels on private property throughout Janesville. A Registered Professional Forester will be hired to write the treatment plans, and the plan will then be made available to the community. This project was submitted in 2001 to the WUI grant process, and was awarded in March of 2003. The contract request was sent to the Contracting office in Sacramento in September 2003. There has been no contract written to date. (Appendix G)

*Senior Citizen and Physically Challenged Fuels Reduction Program:* Under the Community Based Grant application for 2002, a proposal for a Fuels Reduction project was submitted. The goal was to accomplish fuels reduction work on property owned by senior citizens and those who are physically challenged. An area of approximately one acre was to be thinned and/or pruned proximal to the residential structures. The grant was awarded in October of 2002 and work began in January of 2003. This project utilized a local private contractor to do the work. The grant total was for \$92,300. (Appendix G)

*Janesville Emergency Radio Broadcast System & Emergency Air Horn:* These items were requested on a WUI grant in 2002 by the Fire Safe Council. The goal of this project is to have an emergency air horn that will sound in the event of an emergency or evacuation. The residents could then tune to the emergency radio frequency to receive instructions or find out if their area is being evacuated. The Fire Safe Council is researching grant options. (Appendix G)

*Janesville Fire Suppression Water Storage Tanks:* The Janesville Fire Safe Plan calls for the strategic placement of 10,000 gallon water tanks within the Community of Janesville. These water tanks are to be used for emergency water supply in the event of a wildfire. These tanks are to be placed near seasonal or year round running springs or streams, and designed to catch water in order to remain full. It is recommended that these tanks be located high on the hills above the community, so they can be utilized in a future hydrant system. These tanks are to be constructed out of concrete and freeze protected. (Appendix G)

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#### **BATTALION 2**

##### ***Westwood – Clear Creek Area***

Battalion 2 has an active LE 38 inspection program in the communities. The goal is to gain *PRC 4291* compliance in all of the communities within the Basin.

Eagle Lake station will continue to patrol and provide fire prevention programs during the summer at the campgrounds around the south end of Eagle Lake.

There is a need for the development of a shaded fuels reduction program on and around the proposed Dyer Mountain Recreation project. Continue and complete the Shaded Fuel Break around the Almanor Basin and develop a proposed Community Fuels Reduction and Shaded Fuel Break around Westwood and Clear Creek.

*Westwood – Clear Creek Shaded Fuel Break:* This shaded fuel break will be located on the south side of both of these communities. Sierra Pacific Industries and Roseburg Lumber Company own much of this land, so it could include a commercial thinning project. A portion of the land is within the proposed Dyer Mountain Recreational Area, which is currently being developed.

The Dyer Mountain Recreation Project is scheduled to be a four season recreational area and will include golf courses, a ski area, and a residential development. Planning for the shaded fuel break will begin in the winter of 2004/05.

The private timber companies with land holdings surrounding Westwood, Pinetown and Clear Creek are actively working on defense zones in the timbered area around the populated areas.

*Community Clean-up and Educational Outreach (Pinetown):* The area known as Pinetown is located to the East of Westwood, and is surrounded by timbered wildland. Many of the homes here are located in the trees. A chipping program would complement homeowner efforts. The Fire Safe Council will be developing fire safe material particular to the community. This project is still to be developed.

*Almanor Basin Community Chipping and Clean up Project:* The council applied to the National Fire Plan with the sponsorship from the Lassen County Fire Safe Council for this grant. The grant was awarded in July of 2003 in the amount of \$20,000. This project has been extended and is currently scheduled for the hiring of a contractor to prune or cut, collect, chip and haul away forest fuels from properties in and around the Clear Creek.

*Almanor Basin Shaded Fuel Break:* Collins Pine Lumber Company, Roseburg Lumber Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company initially started the work on this shaded fuel break. In 2001, a WUI grant was applied for and was awarded in

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2003 and was funded in November 2004. The work on this project began in spring of 2004; however the grant expired at the end of June 2004. The plan for this grant was to hire a private crew to work on the private property and around residences and to utilize CDF inmate crews on public and private land away from residences. The request for a contract to hire a private crew was submitted to the CDF contracts office in September of 2003, however no contract was written. The goal of this project is to thin the forest fuels to prevent the possibility of a wildfire coming out of the communities into the surrounding timberlands, or from the timberlands into the communities of the basin. The grant funded by the Wildland Urban Interface Program is for \$96,248 in November 2003.

*Almanor Basin Emergency Alert System:* This project will provide an alert system for the notification to the public within the basin area in the event of an emergency incident or evacuation. This need was identified by the evacuation plan and fire plan for the Almanor Basin, as no local radio stations are located in the basin area. Grant funding is being researched.

### **BATTALION 3**

Battalion 3 has an active and on going LE 38 and *PRC 4291* inspection program.

#### ***Little Valley Area***

*Hwy 299/McArthur Fuels Reduction Project.* This project involves removing and thinning forest fuels along the highway right of way from the east side of Widow Mountain over the summit and on toward the town of McArthur. Intermountain Conservation Camp crews have been working on this project over the past 4 years, and will continue as needed. This project involves removing brush, limbing and removing trees as needed to reduce the potential fire hazard.

Day Road mapping and fire plan completed in the spring of 2005.

Lookout Ranchettes mapping a fire plan completed in the spring of 2005.

County Road A-2 mapping and fire plan in progress, estimated implementation spring 2006.

Little Valley mapping plan is in progress, estimated implementation spring 2006.

*Day Road Fuels Reduction Demonstration Project.* The Day Road Fire Safe Council performed a 5 acre fuel reduction demonstration project at the intersection of Day Road and Hwy 299. This project occurred in the summer of 2002 and was completed via a dozer with a brush rake. The fuels included buck brush and juniper that were piled and then burned using inmate labor from Intermountain Camp in March of 2003. There are three other demonstration proposals for the Day Road area. A nine

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acre site near Old Toll Road and Iris Lane is slated for a combination of mastication and chipping fuel reduction. The two other demonstration sites are near Day Pit Road and Badger Lane (both intersect Day Road) with mastication projects of 2 acres each. Work is scheduled to be completed by July 2003.

### ***Pittville/ Day Bench Area***

*Community Clean-up and Educational Outreach:* The Fire Safe Council is looking at ways of motivating the community to reduce the fuels that would burn if a wildfire were to encroach on their home. This might involve a community chipping program. The details of this project are still under development.

Many of these projects are also identified in the Lassen County Fire Safe Plan that was finished in January 2004. The executive committee of the Lassen County Fire Safe Council identified these projects in January of 2003. These projects will be refined and developed into the Lassen County Fire Plan and ready for submittal for grant application.

### ***Lassen/Day Bench Fire Safe Council***

The council is in the preparation phase for a fuels reduction project that will complement a similar project along Day Road that the Lassen National Forest is doing. The Lassen National Forest is implementing the National Fire Plan to reduce fuels along the Day Road area using crews to do hand work and burning later in the fall. Lassen Day Bench has received \$335,000 from several sources, including: \$200,000 from a USDA Community Protection Grant, \$75,000 from Shasta County RAC, \$30,000 from Modoc County RAC and \$30,000 from Lassen County RAC.

## **BATTALION 4**

Battalion 4 has an active LE 38 inspection program in the communities. The goal is to gain *PRC 4291* compliance in all of the communities. Along with the LE-38 inspections, Battalion 4 staff are GPSing the driveways and access roads into the residences.

*Cal Pines Fuelbreak:* This shaded fuelbreak was proposed in 1999. The project is located on the west side of the California Pines Hill Units Subdivision. This subdivision consists of approximately 11,000 - 1 acre lots with 9,000 absentee landowners and currently only 82 structures have been built.

The vegetation types include Mixed Conifer, Eastside Pine and an understory of brush and grass. The area suffered a severe die-back of white fir, which was followed by heavy logging generating a build-up of slash. There have been challenges in implementing this project through ownership changes and spotted owl

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concerns. The objective is to break up the heavy fuel loading into blocks to reduce the need for sustained fire suppression efforts in the future.

This project is a priority in the Unit. \$30,000 in RAC dollars has been obtained for the project. The plan is to utilize inmate labor from Devils Garden Camp. This project is expected to get underway in the summer of 2004.

Summerland Estates Fuelbreak: This project is located northeast of Alturas near Cedar Pass. The 1 square mile community sits at 5,800 feet at the transition between brush and white fir. The white fir in the area suffered severe die-back and heavy fuels have accumulated adjacent to the community. The community straddles 3 spur ridges with 2 associated draws that would act as chimneys in typical wildfire behavior. This project is in the conceptual stage.

Thomas Creek Estates Fuelbreak: This project is located northeast of Alturas and is adjacent to the Modoc National Forest. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grassland, juniper/sagebrush and Eastside pine. Resident safety, access and rapid initial attack are the concern of the Unit. The project is in the conceptual stage.

Cal Pines Community Shaded Fuel Break and Fuels Reduction Project: Much of the Cal Pines community is located within a timber belt. These forest fuels have the potential to produce a devastating wildland fire. In the past 100 years, this area has had numerous fires greater than 300 acres in size. During the last 30 years, many of many new homes have been built in this same fire area. \$15,000 was received from the Modoc forest to begin working on this project. The CEQA and NEPA are completed. Ground work should begin in fall of 2004.

The goal of this project is to reduce forest and ladder fuels, which would carry fire through the area, and to identify and develop, shaded fuel breaks in the area, which would improve firefighter safety. Fuels reduction would also provide a means to control if not extinguish any potentially devastating wildfire.

Modoc Estates Fuels Reduction and Community Chipping Project: The goal of this project would provide a method for the residents of the Modoc Estates to clean their properties and reduce forest fuels. This would require a grant for a contractor to be hired to come into the community and assist in the removal of these fuels and a means for the disposal of any products produced from this project. Still to be developed.

## **F. Future Projects and Priority Rankings**

### **BATTALION 1**

Day Bench Fuel Reduction: This project is the River Bench section of the planned Susanville Fuel Break that surrounds the community on the North, West and South. This section ties together two previously completed sections and one that will be completed this fall. The fuel break in this section includes landscape scale and adjacent to home fuel treatments leaving 40% crown closures with minimum fuel

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break widths of 600'. Project lies within primarily mixed conifer forest with some brush fuels. Biomass utilization of material will be used to reduce costs. The River Bench Section is a patchwork of BLM, USFA and private lands. USFS has completed their work in this section and BLM has let a contract for its work. A grant has been submitted for funding of this project.

*Archery Children's Section of Susanville Fuel Break:* This project is the Archery Children's section of the planned Susanville Fuel Break that surrounds the community in the North, West and South. This section includes landscape scale and adjacent to home treatments leaving 40% crown closures and minimum widths of 600'. A grant has been submitted for funding of this project

### **BATTALION 2**

*See Present Projects.*

### **BATTALION 3**

*Little Valley Shaded Fuel Break:* Develop a shaded fuel break to the west and south of the Community of Little Valley. The fuels of the National Forest to the south are that of heavy standing timber, and to the west is grass/juniper/sage moving into large concentrations of brush, then timber into the community. This shaded fuel break will provide a means of controlling a wildfire burning into the community and improve firefighter safety. The location of the project and implementation are still to be developed.

*Community Chipping and Cleanup:* Will provide a way for the residents to clean their properties and reduce forest fuels. This would require a grant to hire a contractor who would come into the community and assist in the removal of these fuels and provide a means of disposal of any products produced from this project. Still to be developed.

### **BATTALION 4**

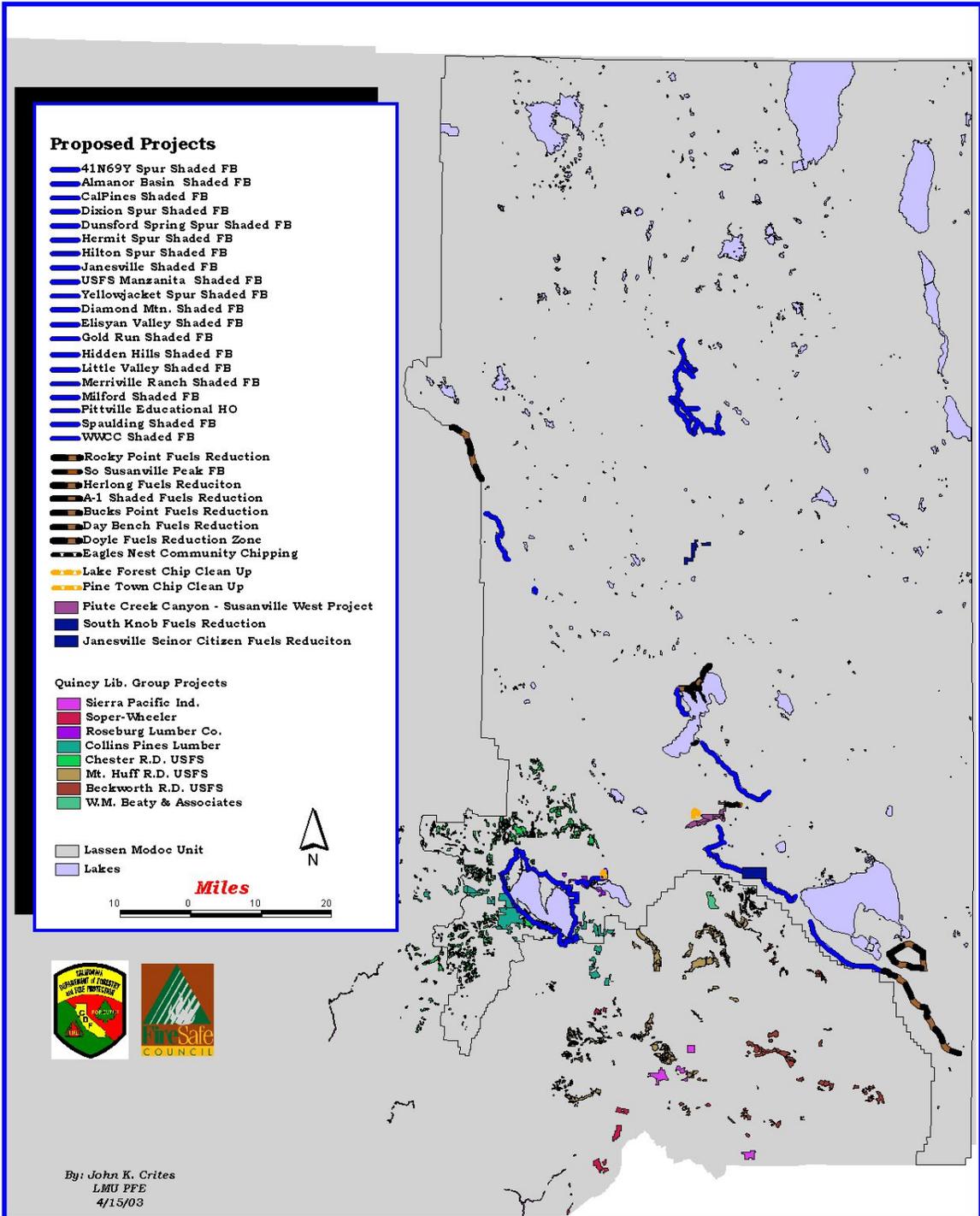
*Education and Outreach:* This project will expand resources providing information and knowledge of the importance of defensible space safe practices on lands in wildland urban interface. A grant has been submitted for funding of this project.

*Southerland Estates Fuels Reduction Project:* The community of Southerland Estates is located on the south side of State Highway 299, in the Warner Mountains. This community is located in the timber, on a southwestern slope and would be impacted by a wildland fire. This project will identify fuels reduction treatments, which would lessen the threat to the community thus improving the chances for the community to survive a wildfire. Still to be developed.

**(See Appendix G and H for present and future project diagrams)**

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**Appendix G**



**FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005  
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**Appendix H**

