

CDF's mission to "...protect the people of California from fires, respond to emergencies, and protect and enhance forest, range, and watershed values providing social, economic, and environmental benefits to rural and urban citizens." The term "wildland" refers to any area that may be affected by an uncontrolled fire. Uncontrolled fire is defined in Public Resources Code 4104 as "any fire which threatens to destroy life, property, or resources and either: is unattended by any person; is attended by persons unable to prevent its unrestricted spread; or is burning with such velocity or intensity that it could not be readily controlled with those ordinary tools available to private persons at the fire scene." Public Resources Code 4103 also defines forest fire, commonly referred to as wildfire, wildland fire, or vegetation fire, as "a fire burning uncontrolled on lands covered with wholly or in part by timber, brush, grass, grain, or other flammable vegetation."

The basic framework of the Fire Plan is to assess the fire weather severity, assets at risk, fuels hazard, and the level of service that is provided for a given area to aid in considering where pre-fire prescriptions will reduce the potential of a costly and damaging fire. A costly and damaging fire results in unacceptable cost and loss versus those fires that are successfully suppressed during initial attack (see [Ignition Workload Assessment](#)). Once the areas that represent high hazard (based on fuel condition, fire weather severity, and level of service) and high value (based on numbers of assets) are targeted, pre-fire prescriptions are designed to reduce the potential of a costly and damaging fire. These pre-fire prescriptions can be any activity, particularly any one within a CDF program. The prescriptions may include fuel management projects, such as prescribed burns, fuel breaks, thinning, etc., to inspection or educational programs.

During the data collection and validation phase, input was solicited and invited from interested parties, called stakeholders, regarding assets (see [Appendix 6](#)). Stakeholders may be other government agencies, private landowners, service groups, or homeowner associations. It is a desire of the Fire Plan that those who benefit from the protection of an asset should also share in cost for that protection. Thus, asset stakeholders may be expected to provide financial support for the projects that provide significant benefits to their assets at risk. A cost share formula may be developed for multiple benefactors of a particular project. NYP has a number of ongoing projects throughout the Unit. Due to limited CDF resources, we have been utilizing the talents of the various Fire Safe Councils to carry the message to and gather input from the stakeholder groups. Through the efforts of the Fire Safe Councils, project funding has been accomplished without adversely affecting our CDF budget. We have found that our Fire Plan data has been invaluable for presenting the problem to the stakeholders and we continue to make every effort to provide the Fire Safe Councils and others with the latest, validated data.

NYP – Pre-fire Planning Process

The assessment process is completed by the Unit's Pre-fire Planning and Vegetation Management staff. They then provide the results to local Battalion Chiefs who work with the stakeholders in their battalions to develop projects designed to mitigate the hazards and protect the assets in the areas beginning with those rated as having the

highest potential to experience a costly and damaging fire. The group then works cooperatively to establish funding sources to implement the project. Projects are designed to tie into and enhance existing programs where possible.

On March 5th, 2002, voters passed Proposition 40 - the “California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002”. With the passage of “Proposition 40” CDF saw an opportunity to utilize the funding available to implement more of these projects than ever before. Strategic fuel reduction projects can serve the dual purpose of potentially mitigating the occurrence of large and damaging fires while protecting the watershed from catastrophic post fire erosion. Additional State Foresters are now available to support the planning and evaluation of these projects on the ground.

1 Stakeholders

Following is a list of stakeholders that were contacted.

1.1 PLACER COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

- Board of Supervisors
- Agriculture Commissioner
- County Executive Officer
- Placer County Air Quality Management District
- Office of Emergency Services
- Planning Department
- Placer County Water Agency
- Placer County RCD
- Tahoe RCD
- Placer County Fire Chiefs Association
- Northstar CSD (CSA21)
- Eastern Placer Co. Joint Powers Authority

1.2 NEVADA COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Agriculture Commissioner
- Nevada Irrigation District
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
- Nevada County RCD
- Planning Department
- Board of Supervisors
- UC Cooperative Extension
- Nevada County Fire Chiefs Association

1.3 YUBA COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

- Planning & Building Services
- Yuba County Water Agency
- Feather River Air Quality Management District
- Agricultural Commissioner
- UC Cooperative Extension
- Yuba County RCD
- Yuba County Fire Chiefs Association

1.4 LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS:

- Sierra Economics Development District
- A.R. Associates
- American River Watershed Group
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Ca. Cattlemen's Association
- Nevada County Farm Bureau
- Placer County Museum
- Ca. Oak Foundation
- PG&E Land Services
- Protect American River Canyon (P.A.R.C.)
- Fiber Board
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association
- Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
- Yuba Watershed and Fire Safe Council
- Placer County Fire Alliance

1.5 STATE OF CALIFORNIA:

- Caltrans
- Ca. Dept. of Fish & Game
- Ca. Office of Historic Preservation
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Resources Agency
- Lahontan RWQCB
- State Fire Marshall
- Ca. Department of Parks & Recreation
- UC Cooperative Extension (Specialist, Valley Oaks & Burning)

1.6 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT:

- Tahoe National Forest
- Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
- El Dorado National Forest
- Nevada County Conservation District
- Placer County Conservation District
- Yuba County Conservation District
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation

1.7 STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

The stakeholder meetings were initially conducted for focused groups of stakeholders. The reasoning was that the meetings would be more productive without having to deal with a wide range of conflicting interests. As the meetings progressed it became evident that everybody's primary concern was how to protect the Assets at Risk from a costly and damaging fire. Most stakeholders were interested in the development and application of the assessment system. Relatively few suggested any changes to the system; however, quite a few did have information on data missing from asset data (see [Appendix 6](#)). Their input was included in later versions of the assessment.

Stakeholders generally agreed with the assessment system outlined in the Fire Plan. They all supported CDF's effort to identify those areas with high fire hazards that were most at risk to a costly damaging and fire. Individually, though, they were particularly interested in the protection of their specific asset(s) of concern. They supported the concept of pre-fire projects to reduce the potential of a costly and damaging fire but not at the expense of their asset(s) of concern.

Assets at Risk

The various assets were each mapped for their potential to risk as the result of a costly and damaging fire. The criteria for setting the breakpoints can be found in [Appendix 1](#) and the individual maps are available in [Appendix 2](#).

2 NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER 2005 PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1 Introduction

In 1995, the State Board of Forestry and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection drafted a comprehensive update of the fire plan for wildland fire protection in California. The planning process defines a level of service measurement, considers assets at risk, incorporates the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal