

5. Encourage an integrated intergovernmental approach to reducing costs and losses.
6. Enable policy makers and the public to focus on what can be done to reduce future costs and losses from wildfires.

The Fire Plan includes a new framework for a systematic assessment of the existing levels of wildland protection services. It identifies high-risk and high-value areas that are potential locations for costly and damaging fires, ranks the areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribes what can be done to reduce the future costs and losses. This assessment system has four major components:

1. Level of Service
2. Assets at Risk
3. Fuels
4. Fire Weather

Each of these components is described later in this document.

3 General Description of Planning Area

3.1 Geographic Location

The Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit (NYP) is located in mid California, along the east side of the state. The Unit encompasses all of Nevada, Yuba, Placer, Sierra, and Sutter counties. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) direct protection areas (DPA) lie only within Nevada, Yuba, and Placer counties. The area under direct protection by CDF within the unit is approximately 875,000 acres. Total state responsibility area (SRA) acreage within the unit is approximately 1,200,000 acres.

3.2 Social Setting

The population within the CDF direct protection area of NYP is approximately 166,000. The Nevada County population within that area is 74,000, Yuba County is 26,000, and Placer County is 66,000. Due to the desire of citizens to move from urbanized areas to rural type locations within the Unit, population growth trends have increased in the past and will continue upward. Placer County remains the fastest growing county in California. Even though rural development continues, parcel sizes remain large enough to leave a significant wild fire threat. The major population centers within the Unit are the communities of Auburn, Roseville, Rocklin, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Penryn,

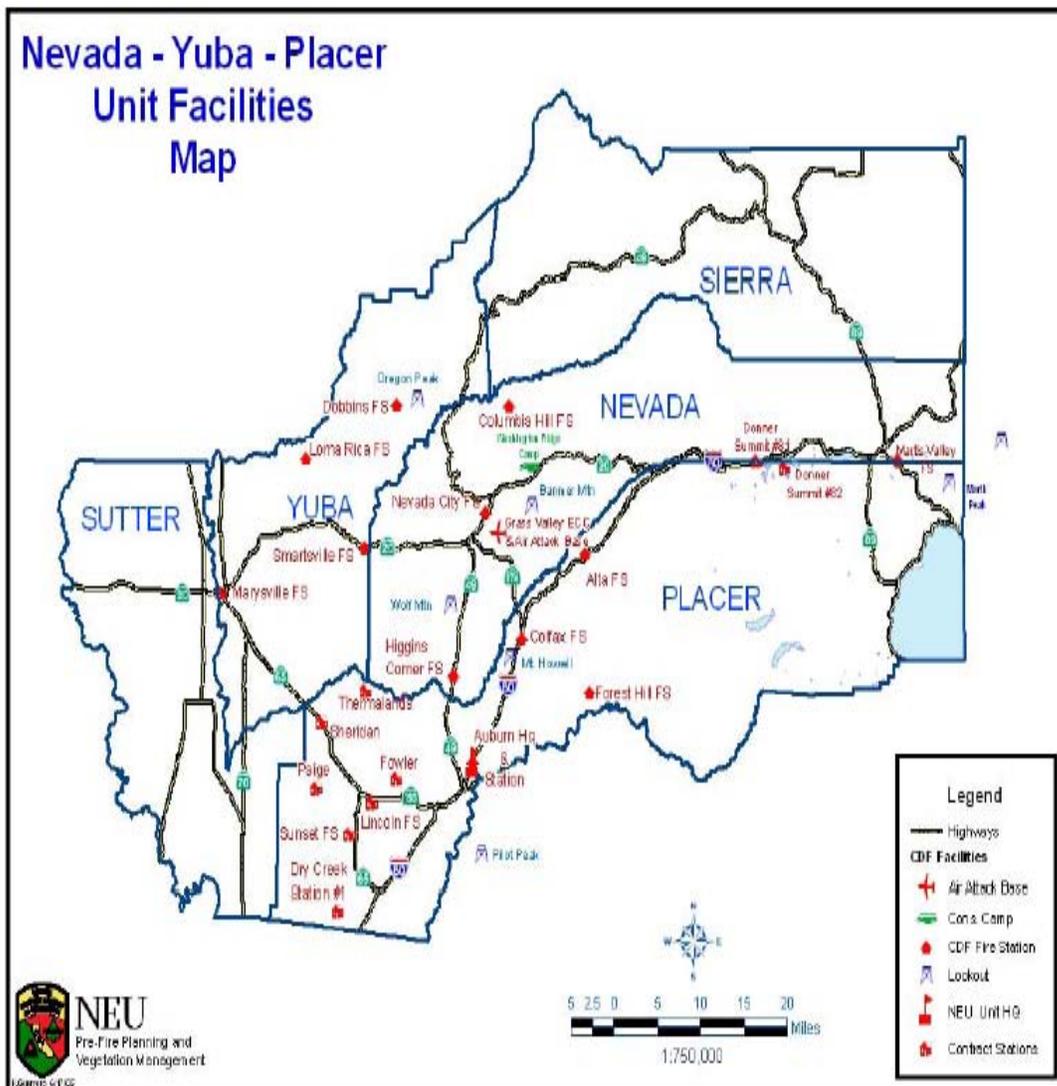
Newcastle, Foresthill, Alta, Dutch Flat, North San Juan, Loma Rica, Dobbins, Oregon House, Nevada City, Grass Valley, Truckee, Marysville, Yuba City, Lake Wildwood, Lake of the Pines, and Alta Sierra among others.

3.3 General Description of the Current Fire Problem

Physical Description of Environmental Conditions

NYP encompasses a diverse set of environmental settings. The west side of the Unit starts within the agricultural grasslands of the Sacramento Valley. Moving eastward, the terrain changes to foothills covered with gray pine, brush, and oak. Next, moving up the Sierra Nevada, mixed conifer and black oak stands with a heavy brush understory exists in the mid elevations. True fir stands dominate the upper elevations to the Sierra summit. East of the summit, Jeffrey pine and sage brush are prevalent along with true fir and lodgepole pine.

The major drainages within the unit are the American, Bear, Yuba, and Truckee Rivers. The Lake Tahoe Basin lies within the eastern boundary of NYP. Many lakes are within the unit along with a varied age of vegetation. A mix of young growth and mature timber stands exist throughout the unit. The various mature stands primarily exist along the drainage bottoms and in inaccessible locations. Brush stands dominate numerous locations, mainly along the lower elevations of the major drainages and in areas previously burned by wildfire.



4 Ignition Workload Assessment (Level of Service)

The legislature has charged the Board of Forestry and California Department of Forestry with delivering a fire protection system that provides an equal level of protection to lands of similar type (PRC 4130). To do this, the department has developed an analysis process that defines a level of service rating that can be applied to the wildland areas in California to compare the level of fire protection being provided. The rating is expressed as the percentage of fires that are successfully extinguished during initial attack. Success is defined as those fires that are controlled before unacceptable damage and cost are incurred.

Successful initial attack is defined in terms of the amount of resources needed to suppress the fire and of fire intensity. It is that effort which contains the fire within an acceptable level of resource commitment, acceptable suppression cost and acceptable damage to