

7 FIRE WEATHER

The Fire Plan assessment process includes fire weather as a major component. The method to be utilized to rank the geographic areas as to fire weather severity is the following:

1. The fire weather history, in terms of average number of days of severe fire weather, is plotted and mapped by geographic area.
2. Geographic areas are ranked by the average number of days of severe fire weather during peak fire season. This allows the identification of the higher risk areas in terms of probability of fires occurring during periods of severe fire weather.

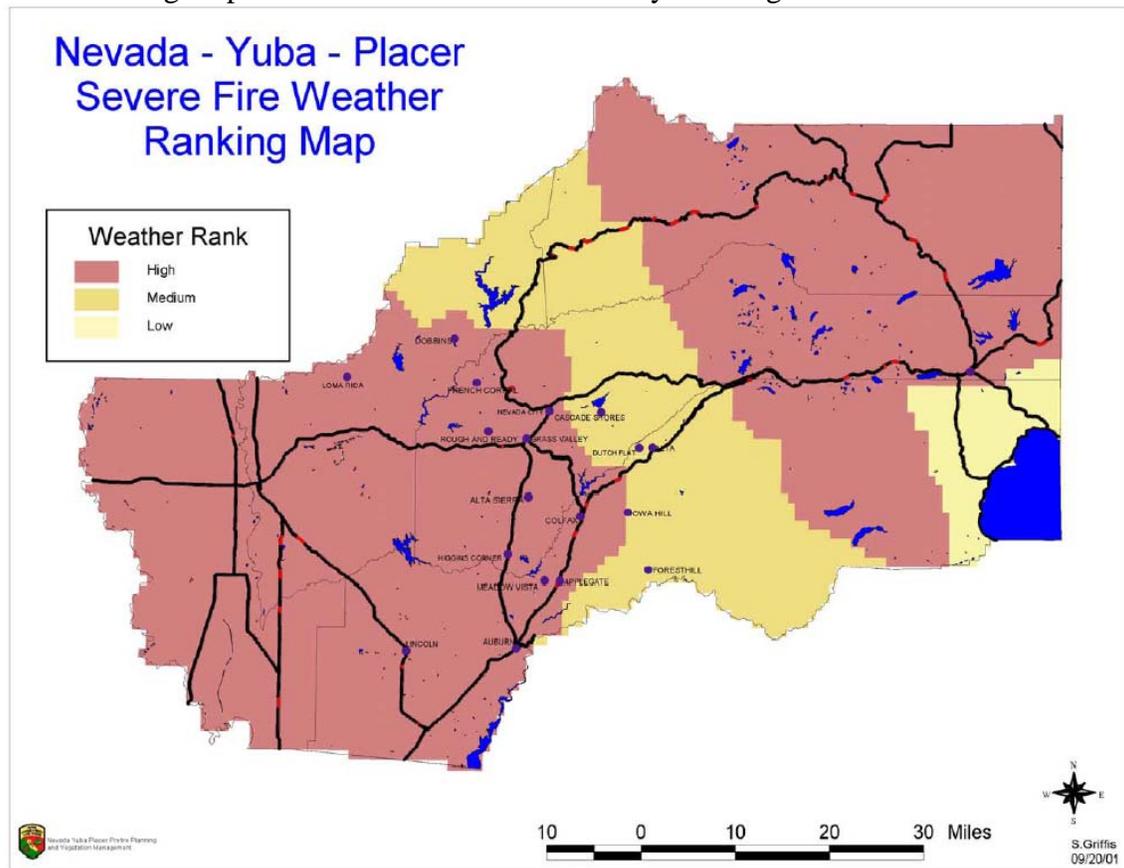
This methodology requires a special computer program to analyze tens of thousands of fire weather station reports. At the time of the implementation of the Fire Plan in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, this computer program was in development but not available for use. In lieu of this process, NYP used the following method:

1. Geographic areas within the unit were assigned to a WIMS fire weather station that was representative of the fire weather for that area.

2. Chris Fontana, a fire weather meteorologist with the US Weather Service, was contacted for input as to the fire weather severity of the geographic areas represented by the WIMS fire weather stations.
3. Local CDF Battalion Chiefs gave input as to the fire weather severity of these geographic areas.
4. Each geographic area was assigned a Fire Weather Severity Rank, low, medium, or high, based on the above input.

The unit will revise the fire weather severity ranking once the aforementioned program becomes available and the results it generates are determined to be reasonable.

The following map shows the Fire Weather Severity Rankings for the unit.



8 Priority Areas

Utilizing the Fire Plan analysis methodology, a number of priority areas were identified. To further prioritize those areas, areas with the highest number of ignitions were then also identified. Unit personnel then contacted stakeholders in the priority areas to determine their level of interest in developing and implementing programs to reduce the areas potential to damage by a costly and damaging fire. The areas identified as the highest priority by county are: