

SECTION E

SAN DIEGO UNIT

ASSETS AT RISK

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As part of the fire plan process, data for the Assets at Risk has been compiled by staff in CDF's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) in Sacramento. Assets at Risk refers to anything that has the potential to be burned or damaged by wildfire in an area.

The San Diego Unit has a multitude of natural and manmade assets that are at risk when major wildfires occur.

WATER

Watershed areas are a concern because of soil erosion after a wildfire which damages water flumes and storage facilities.

STRUCTURES

This county has experienced a massive loss of structures and businesses in the past, both in city neighborhoods and the wildland urban interface. Communities like Julian, Cuyamaca, Ramona, Valley Center, Palomar Mountain, Ranchita and the South County communities of Dulzura, Jamul, Potrero, Campo and many other areas in the county will always have a high risk of structure loss due to wildfire.

RECREATION AND SCENIC

Recreation is an important industry in the unit. Camping, fishing, wine tasting and many other leisure activities account for a large percentage of the revenue generated in the wildland urban interface.

AIR QUALITY

Prescribed burn projects minimize the negative effects that wildfires have on the air quality. Prescribed burning is performed when the weather conditions will allow quick dispersal of the smoke generated by the burn. These burns are aimed at reducing the amount of heavy brush and dense forest fuels. The lighter fuels, which exist after a prescribed burn, produce considerably less smoke when burned by a wildfire.

WILDLIFE

Most of the unit consists of brush, forest and grass covered lands which provide excellent habitat for both game and non-game wildlife. Many wildfires burn at such a high intensity that they affect wildlife by damaging or destroying their fragile habitat. This can be mitigated through the use of prescribed fire.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Damage to major power lines supplying power to San Diego county can occur during a wildfire in the unit, as well as communications systems located on mountain tops.