

3. UNIT OVERVIEW

The Shasta – Trinity Unit is located at the northern end of the Sacramento Valley. It encompasses most of Shasta County and portions of eastern Trinity County. Federal lands administered by the Shasta – Trinity and Lassen National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Park Service adjoin and are contained within the Unit.



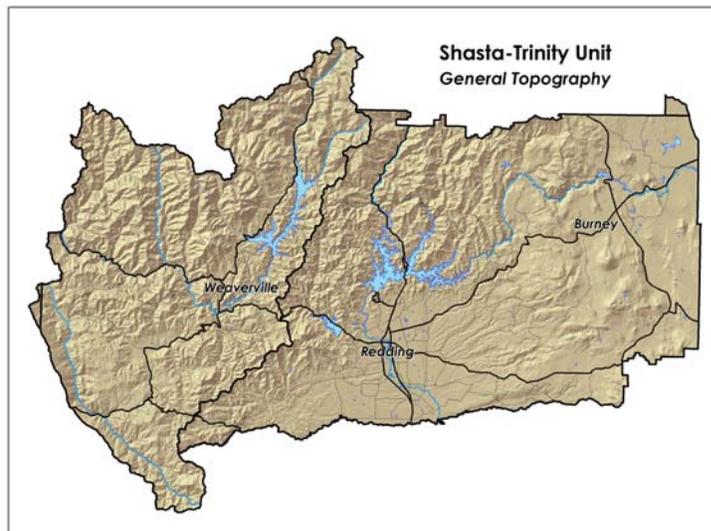
Traveling west to east on Highway 299 from Weaverville to the Lassen County line is approximately 150 miles. South to north on Interstate 5 from Cottonwood to the Siskiyou County line is approximately 75 miles. In these distances there are distinct differences in climate, fuels and topography, all of which affect fire behavior and fire danger rating.

Year 2000 national census data indicates that 176,392 people live within the unit boundary; 161,555 in Shasta County and 14,837 in Trinity County (A January 2003 Shasta County survey indicates a population of 172,000). In Shasta County 111,000 people live within the boundaries of incorporated cities or districts located in Local Responsibility Areas. The majority of Trinity County’s population is located within State Responsibility Areas or small pockets of private land within Federal Responsibility Area. (2000 census Population and housing density maps follow).

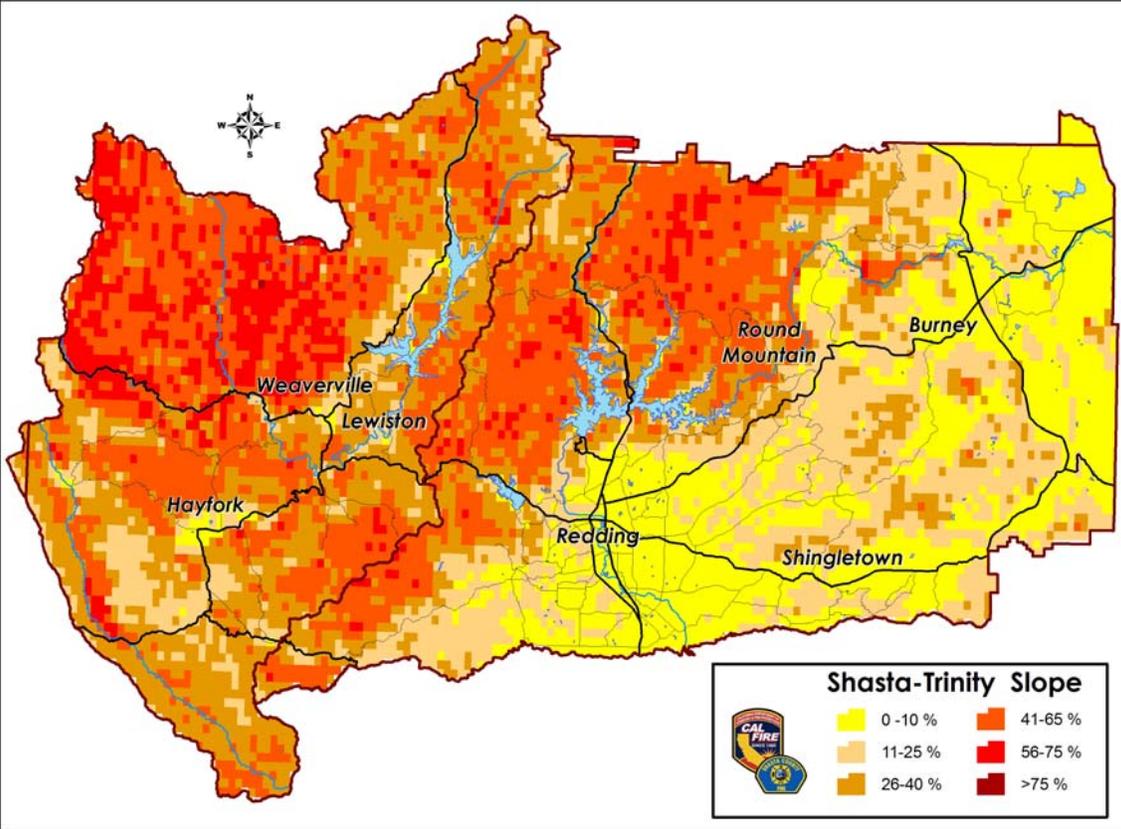
Location

The Unit is located at the extreme northern end of the Sacramento Valley with the Sacramento River bisecting the Unit. The Unit includes portions of the Great Valley, the Southern Cascade and North Coast Ranges, and the Modoc Plateau. The Eastern slopes of Shasta County gently rise across the toe of the Southern Cascade Range towards the Modoc Plateau while to the West and North the land abruptly rises to the Klamath Mountains. Southern Trinity County and the southwest corner of Shasta County are partially located in the North Coast Range.

Having mountains to the north, west, and east, the Sacramento Valley to the south, and the Pacific Ocean 150 miles to the west makes weather forecasting difficult and produces some unique weather.



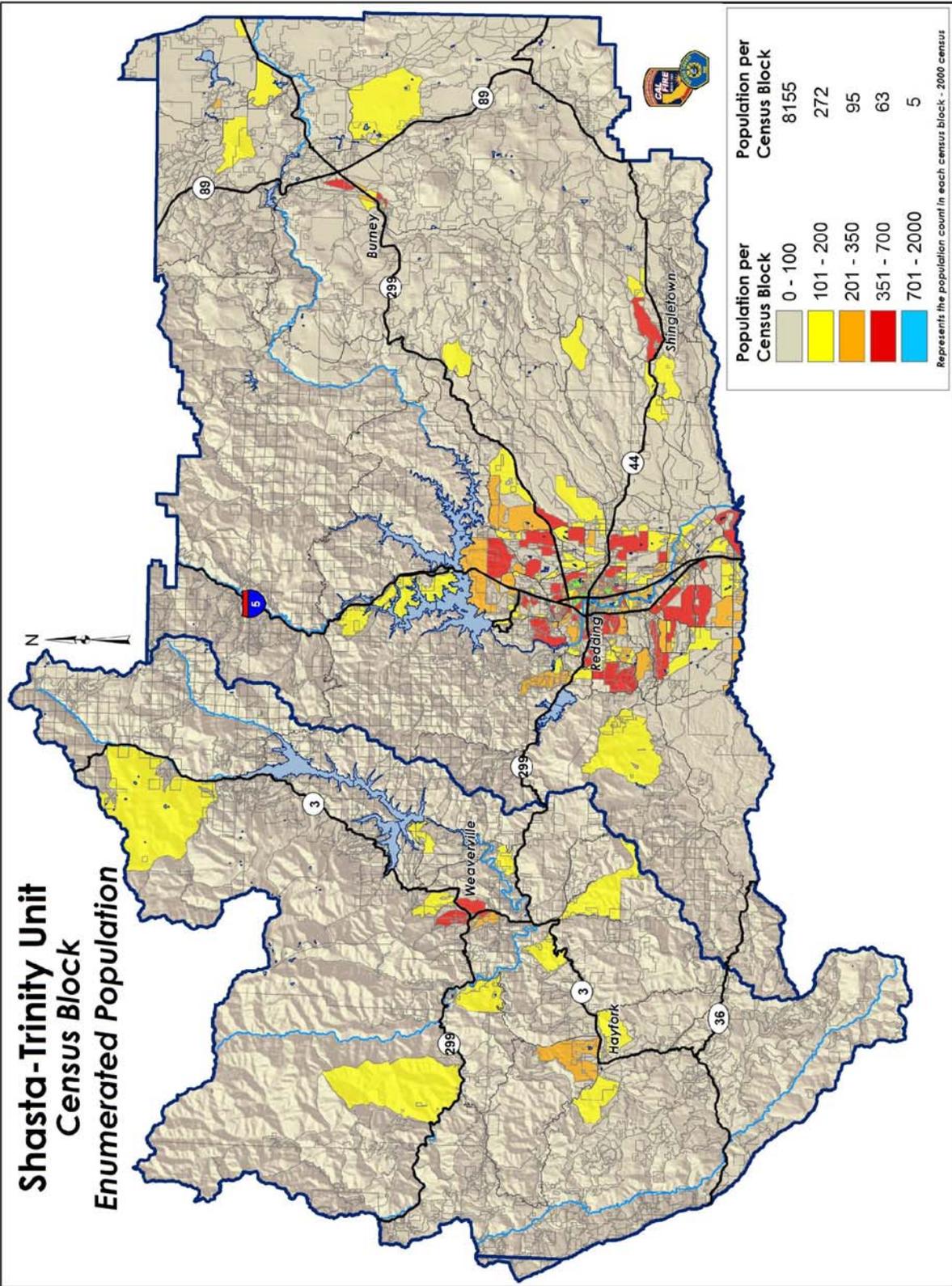
The “Topography – Slope” map indicates the variable nature of the geomorphic regions that intersect within the Unit.

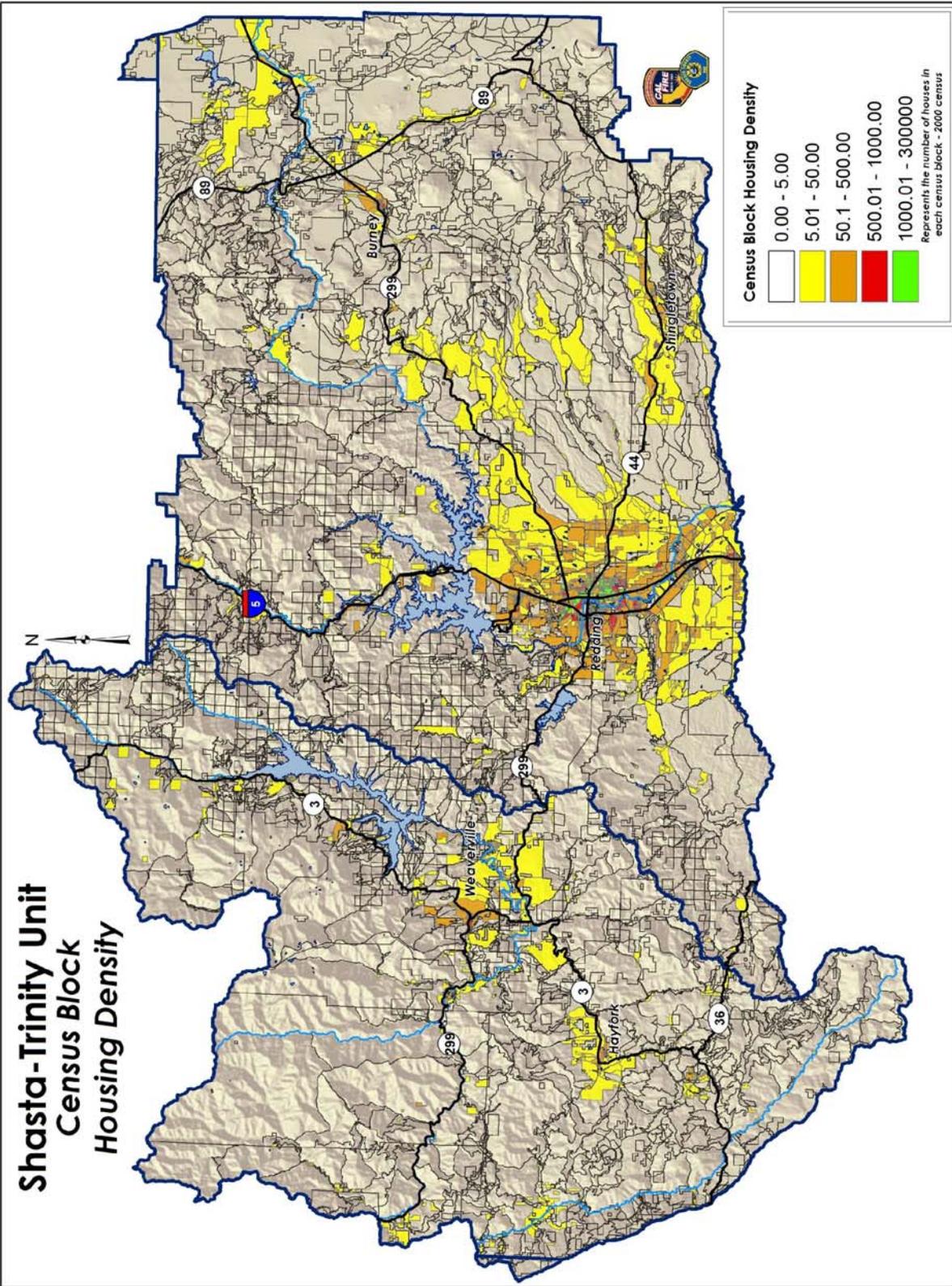


Trinity Alps

West Redding







Political Boundaries

Besides the County boundaries, three incorporated cities lie within the boundaries of the Shasta – Trinity Unit, Anderson, Redding, and the City of Shasta Lake. The remaining communities within the Unit are not incorporated.

Thirty-one Independent Special Districts provide services to portions of the unincorporated areas of Shasta County.

2 Resource Conservation Districts

6 Community Service Districts

1 Irrigation District

3 Mosquito Abatement Districts

1 Hospital District

10 Fire Districts

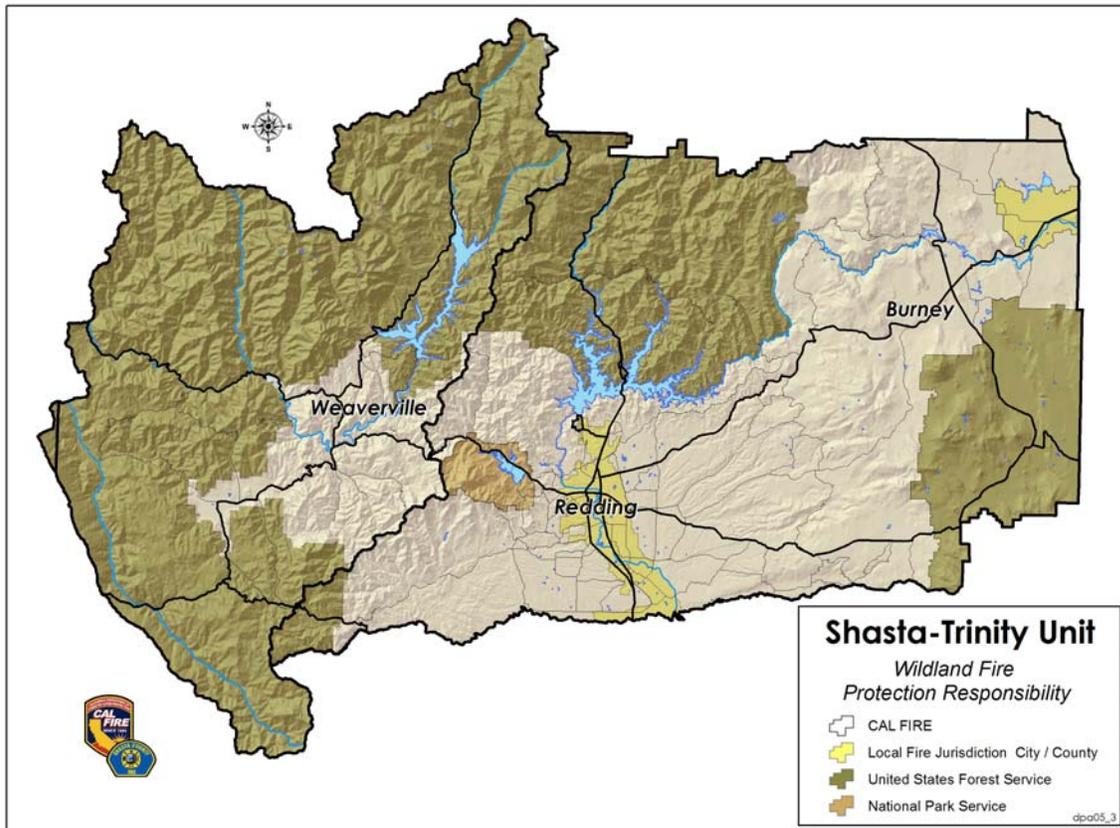
8 Cemetery Districts

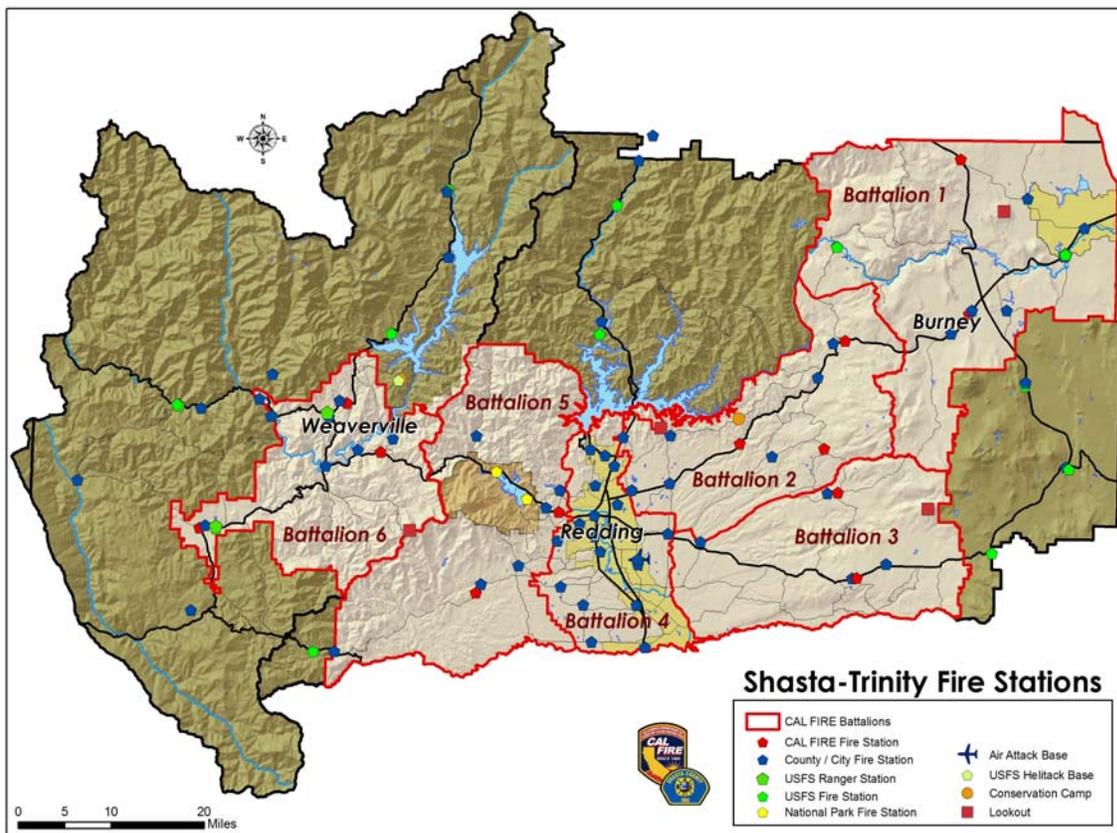
Fourteen dependent special districts called County Service Areas (CSAs) provide other services. CSA 1 provides funding for fire protection for all the unincorporated areas within Shasta County that are not in a Fire District.

Seventeen Special Districts provide services to Trinity County.

Fire Protection Services

Wildland fire protection areas within the Unit are administered by CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service, and the National Park Service -Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. (Lassen National Park is administered by the Lassen – Modoc Unit.)





The State Responsibility Area of the Unit is divided into six field battalions. During declared fire season, the Shasta – Trinity Unit operates nineteen fire engines, three dozers, eleven hand crews, one Air Tactical Supervisor aircraft and two Air tankers. Redding City Fire Department, 10 fire districts, and the Shasta County Fire Department provide local fire protection responsibility for improvements within Shasta County. 5 fire districts, 4 community service districts and 3 volunteer fire companies and one PUD provide local responsibility fire protection within Trinity County.

<i>Shasta County</i>	<i>Trinity County</i>
CAL FIRE	CAL FIRE
USFS	USFS
WNPS	Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company
Anderson Fire Protection District	Douglas City Fire Protection District
Burney Fire Protection District	Down River Volunteer Fire Company
City of Redding	Hayfork Fire Protection District
Cottonwood Fire Protection District	Hawkins Bar Community Service District
Fall River Fire Protection District	Hyampom Community Service District
Happy Valley Fire Protection District	Junction City Fire Protection District
McArthur Fire Protection District	Lewiston Fire Protection District
Millville Fire Protection District	Trinity Center Community Service District
Shasta County Fire Department	Salyer Community Service District
Shasta College Fire Protection District	Post Mountain Public Utility District
Shasta Fire Community Service District	Weaverville Fire Protection District
Shasta Lake Fire Protection District	Wildwood Volunteer Fire Company

Mapping Analysis used in this Document

The Department has adopted ESRI² Graphical Information System (GIS) software products for the mapping and analysis needed for the California Fire Plan. Along with mapping surface features a grid pattern is used to facilitate analysis. Sectioning a United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute quadrangle map with a 9 by 9 grid pattern creates 81 cells. Each cell is approximately 450 acres and is called a Q81st. Data such as fuel type, assets at risk, ignitions, and etc is collected and stored for each cell. Each Q81st includes a Planning Belt Identification (PBID) that designates the cell as Interior Conifer, Brush, Grass, Woodland, Barren/Rock/Other, Desert, and Coastal Conifer. The Unit can be divided into Planning Belts when mapped using the PBID.

The current fuel and Q81st PBID are in error in the foothill regions of Shasta County. The fuel errors are most prevalent in western Shasta County, to the east and north of Redding. Most of the area is currently listed as woodland or grasslands. This area was historically woodlands with some timber but was converted into brush lands as a result of early 20th century copper mining. In addition, much of the woodland areas east of Redding have sufficient brush to create a significant ladder fuel problem and they exhibit brush fuel model fire behavior and are treated as brush in the Danger Rating System.

The CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area (DPA) within the Unit is divided into five distinct NFDRS areas based on climate, topography, and fuels, and modified to match existing Wildland Fire Response Area boundaries. These Fire Danger Rating Areas reflect historical average burning conditions and have been used for fire dispatch and planning in the Unit since 1994.

The Emergency Command Center uses the areas to determine the Fire Danger Rating and Dispatch Levels for the Unit based on daily weather observations taken from a Remote Automatic Weather Station in each area. The Fire Danger Rating Areas are similar to, but not the same as the planning belts identified in the Units Q-81 data.

Many assessments of the Unit display the Q81st data utilizing the Fire Danger Rating Areas in order to be consistent with local fire dispatch policy and to more accurately reflect fuel types.

Areas of the Unit not included in the NFDRS areas are in the USFS Direct Protection Area and are mostly in the Interior Timber planning belt.

The following map indicates the NFDRS Zones.

² <http://www.esri.com/index.html>

NFDRS Operating Plan
Shasta - Trinity Unit
Fire Danger Rating Areas

