

## 5 ASSETS AT RISK

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The primary goal of fire protection in California is to safeguard the wide range of assets found across wildland areas. These assets include life and safety, structures, range, recreation, hydroelectric power, fire-flood watersheds, soil erosion, water storage, water supply, scenic, timber, air quality, historic buildings, non-game wildlife, game wildlife and infrastructure.

Knowledge of the types and magnitudes of assets at risk to wildfire, as well as their locations, is critical to fire protection planning. Given the limits on fire protection resources, these resources should be allocated, at least in part, based on the value of the assets at risk. Knowledge of assets at risk is also necessary to choose those pre-fire management projects, which will provide the greatest benefit for a given amount of investment. For the department, the primary concerns regarding pre-fire projects is the reduction of suppression costs and reducing the fire risk faced by the various assets described here.

Thus, as part of the overall fire plan process, assets were addressed at two levels. First, generalized assets at risk were estimated within the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit to indicate what areas contain highly valued assets. Including the participation of stakeholders in the various assets refined these assessments. The areas with the highest combined asset values and fire risk were considered for pre-fire management projects, particularly where those projects would protect assets and reduce suppression costs should a fire start in the project area during high fire hazard weather. Second, as potential projects were identified in these areas, they were subjected to an analysis of the degree to which the projects will reduce damage to assets and potential suppression costs.

The process of quantifying the assets at risk also helps to identify who benefits from those assets. It is a desire of the fire plan that those who benefit from the protection of an asset should share in cost for that protection. Thus, asset stakeholders may be expected to provide some financial support for the projects that provide significant benefits to their assets at risk. Many projects may have several stakeholders that will benefit and a cost share formula will be part of the development of such projects. The various assets were mapped for their potential to risk as a result of a costly and damaging fire. Each of these maps is available in [Appendix 2](#).

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# Nevada - Yuba - Placer All Assets Combined Map

**Asset Rank**

- High: Top 10%
- Medium: Top 30%
- Low: Top 100%

