

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:

Unit Wide

1. Fire Planners in each of the County's Building Departments.
(Moved to [Completed Projects](#))
2. [Unit Wide Chipper Programs](#).
3. RAWS relocation and addition

Placer County

1. [Auburn Area Fuel Break](#)
2. [Foresthill Pre-fire Project](#) (Portions Moved to [Completed Projects](#))
3. [Meadow/Vista Applegate](#) (Portions Moved to [Completed Projects](#))
4. [Stakeholder Projects](#)

Nevada County

1. [Nevada County Fire Mitigation Framework](#)
2. [Nevada County Fire Marshal's Office](#)
3. [Lake Vera/Purdon/Cement Hill](#) (Portions Moved to [Completed Projects](#))
4. [Alta Sierra](#) (Portions Moved to [Completed Projects](#))
5. [Columbia Hill Shaded Fuel Break](#) (Portions Moved to [Completed Projects](#))
6. [Graniteville Townsite Project](#)
7. [Snowtent Springs Project](#)
8. [Senior Assistance Program](#)
9. [Defensible Space Dropoff Program](#)
10. [Owl Creek Neighborhood Fuels Reduction](#) (Maintenance – Moved to [Completed Projects](#))
11. [Red Dog – You Bet Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Project](#)

Yuba County

1. [Yuba County Foothills Water Storage Project](#)
2. [Oregon Ridge Fuel Break](#). (Maintenance – Moved to [Completed Projects](#))
3. [Yuba County Public Works Roadside Clearance Project](#)
4. [Ure Mountain Roadside Fuel Modification](#) (Maintenance – Moved to [Completed Projects](#))

Currently, the project areas are focused around communities that primarily consist of single-family residences on one to five acre parcels. There are also a number of homes on parcels over ten acres scattered throughout each community. This combination of homes scattered across the landscape and the desire for privacy, results in a classic Rural-Urban Interface/Intermix. Each of these areas has a group of stakeholders that have demonstrated a strong interest in working towards reducing the threat of a costly and damaging fire within their area of concern. There are many other areas identified throughout the unit for pre-fire management projects ([Overall Ranking \(WAFL\) Map](#)). These areas were selected in part because there is already work underway in the area, but also due to their potential for a major fire based primarily on fuels and topography. Many of these areas were not immediately identified by the fire plan assessment system due to the low accumulation of assets; however, the fire risk remains very high and response times can be extended.

Proposition 40, CFIP, Community Assistance Grants :

Using the assessments in this plan, the Nevada/Yuba/Placer Unit has also processed **\$3,961,962.62** over **97** additional projects from 2004 to present.

The response to the Prop. 40/ CFIP program has been so overwhelming, that even with the dollars available, quality projects that meet our funding criteria have gone *unfunded*.

These numbers include:

Placer Co: 9 projects for 286 acres (**\$290,000**)

Nevada Co: 52 projects for 1,681 acres (**\$1,589,722**)

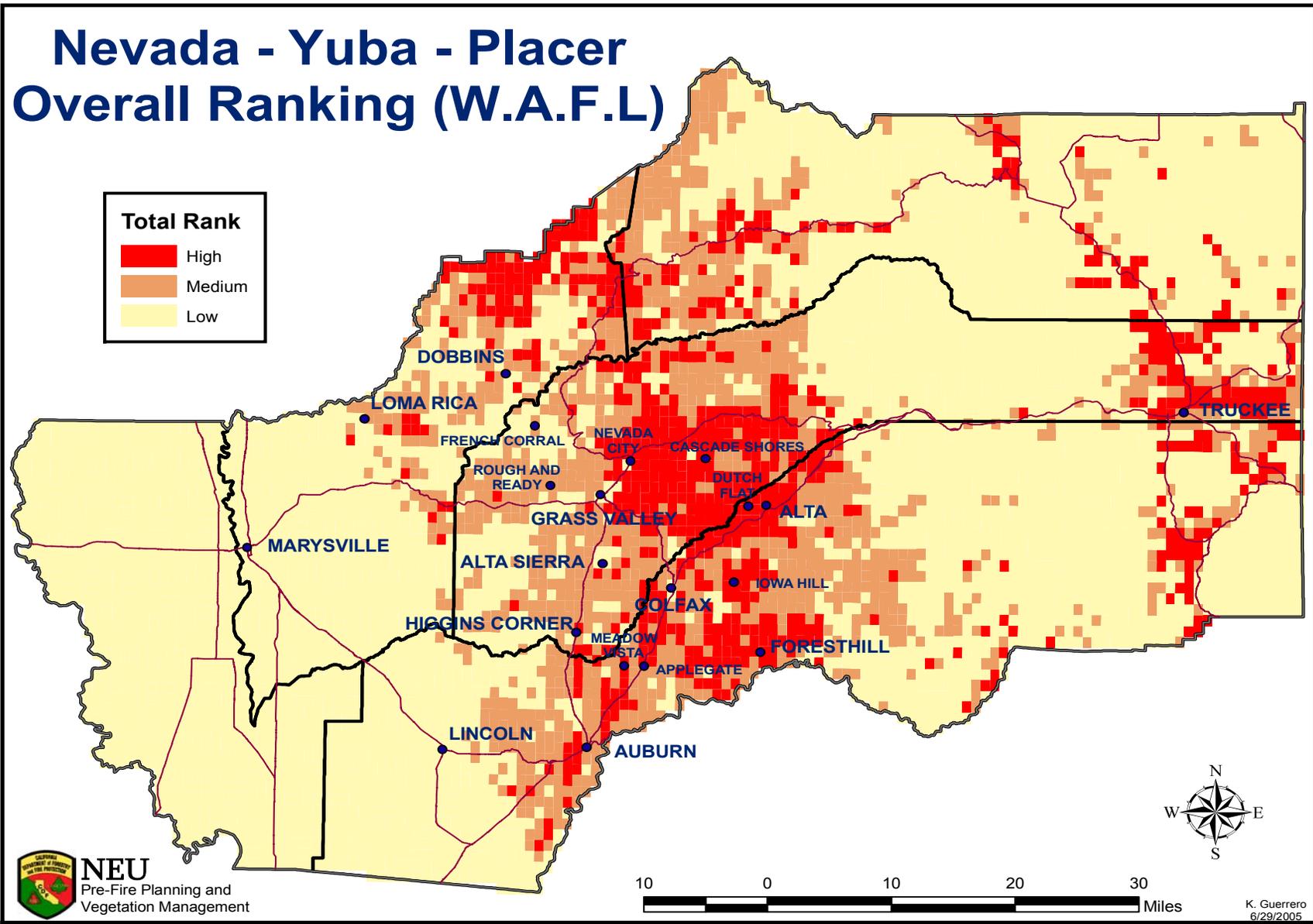
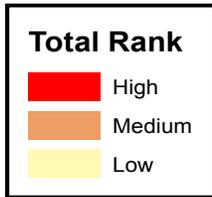
Yuba Co: 7 projects for 189 acres (**\$204,095**)

Sierra Co: 1 project for 35 acres (**\$22,598**)

This amounts to **69** projects over **2191 acres**. (**\$2,106,415**)

As one of the major goals in our unit is to “Develop a ‘land stewardship’ ethic in the residents of the wildland areas within the Unit”, we believe the interest shown in these projects by the public can be considered one of our most significant successes.

Nevada - Yuba - Placer Overall Ranking (W.A.F.L)



K. Guerrero
6/29/2005

9) NEVADA YUBA PLACER UNIT PRE-FIRE PROTECTION PLANNER PROJECT PROPOSAL (# 1 Priority Project)

Pre-Fire Planner Rationale - Along with the areas identified as high priority, the Unit also identified the need for personnel to work directly with the county Planning Departments to ensure that all new development meets fire safe standards. Due to the rate of growth in each of the counties, this was determined to be the most important proposal in the NYP Pre-Fire Management Plan to implement. Whereas the other projects would affect specific areas of the counties, a Pre-Fire Planner could affect change on a countywide basis and result in the greatest overall benefit to the public. As of 2006 the Unit has been successful in establishing a Pre-Fire Planner in each of the counties (see [Completed Projects](#)).

***** Moved to Completed Projects *****

10) NEVADA – YUBA - PLACER FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT PROPOSAL (# 1 Priority Project)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: All of the field projects identified in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer *Pre-fire Management Plan* identify the need for a chipper. In the NYP CDF Unit, the chipper will provide support to the homeowners that do the clearing around their structures as required by the Public Resources Code (PRC 4291) and be utilized to reduce the material removed from the shaded fuel breaks to a manageable size.

Once the homeowners accomplish their necessary 4291 clearance, they need a way to dispose of the vegetative waste that is created. The current options are: burn it, haul it to a disposal site, pile it and allow it to turn to mulch, or hire a contractor to dispose of it. Additionally, studies have shown that defensible space and construction materials have the greatest effect on a structure's survival of a wildland fire. This project directly affects defensible space and will have the most effect in reducing structure damage or loss in wildfires.

The Fire Plan assessment process has identified debris escapes as the leading cause of ignitions throughout the Unit. This debris burning results in an increased fire risk and diminishes the air quality, both of which are potentially hazardous to the public. As the rural population continues to grow throughout the Unit, both air quality and fire risk are going to become bigger issues. The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Placer County Air Pollution Control District, and the Feather River AQMD all strongly support the use of a chipper program to accomplish the required fuels reduction.

Another problem inherent to an increasing population is that of waste disposal. Currently our landfills are becoming overburdened with waste. The addition of vegetative waste only compounds the problem. One advantage of the chipper program is that it reduces the volume of the vegetative material and also expedites the process of natural breakdown. The Nevada-Yuba-Placer *Pre-fire Management Plan* designates that the chips created in this process will be distributed back onto the property of origin allowing the landowners to utilize the material as they see fit. Dispersion of the chipped material back onto the site also reduces the germination of annual grasses and the sprouting of brush.

Many landowners have constructed piles from the material they removed. However, due to the restriction of burn days and the cost and labor requirements to haul it away they just allow the piles to sit and decompose naturally. This system is beneficial in that it does not reduce air quality; however, it does create many heavy pockets of dead fuel available to an encroaching fire. These pockets of fuel can have an adverse effect on fire behavior. A slow moving ground fire burning into one of these piles will increase the potential for spotting and hamper control efforts. Depending on the placement of the piles, there is an increased chance for torching nearby trees and other vegetation.

The final option for the landowners is for them to hire a private contractor to dispose of the vegetation. The contractor would, most likely, use one of the methods mentioned above, so the

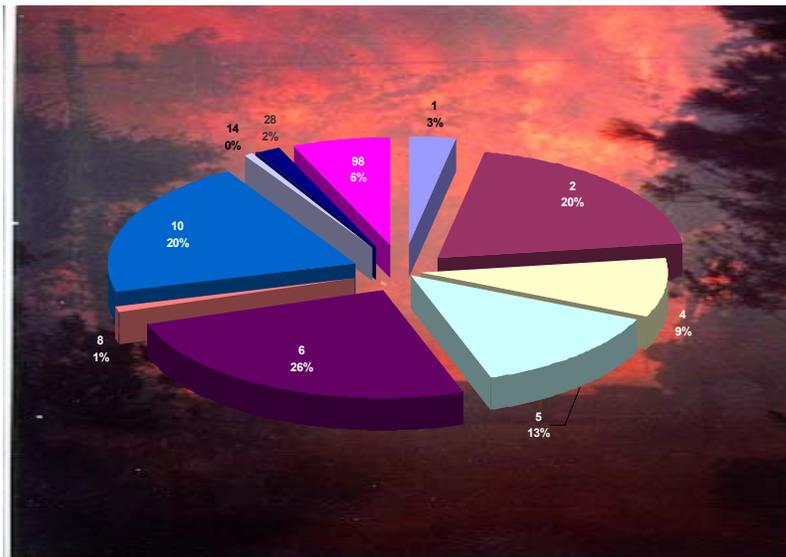
ultimate effects are unchanged. Of the options mentioned above, chipping the material is the most preferable in relation to the fire hazard and air quality. Currently, the costs of chipping make it unfeasible for many small landowners. Each landowner has to pay a “Haul-in” or “Setup” fee and are generally required to pay for a minimum of one hour when using a private contractor.

Coordinators are currently overseeing chipping programs throughout Nevada and Placer Counties. These programs are a result of many funding sources working together to accomplish fuels reduction work where it is most beneficial and manageable. The Coordinators group landowners that are in close proximity to each other and make the arrangements for a chipper crew to respond. The initial work provided through these programs allow for the removal of the old, decadent material that has become established over the last 100 years of fire suppression. Once this build-up of fuels is eliminated the landowners will be better able to deal with the fuels on an annual basis. It is the Unit’s expectation that once it is shown how beneficial this project is to individual neighborhoods, those areas will utilize the process on their own as a method of maintaining the required clearance around structures. In addition, this program would encourage people to do their PRC 4291 required clearing that would not have done it voluntarily as now there is a method of disposing of the cut material.

The fuel models in the area are displayed in figure 1 below. As is evident from the chart, nearly fifty percent of the fuels are in brush models. The fuel model 10 in this area also has a heavy brush component in the understory. So far the fuels around more than 9,500 homes have been modified from the brush models to a fuel model 8. A wildland fire that now encroaches on these homes will experience a significant reduction in fire behavior. It is estimated that there are still over 140,000 properties in the Unit requiring inspections. Of those approximately 130,000 will require brush disposal. By encouraging those property owners to meet PRC 4291, we will effectively treat a minimum of 20,000 acres within the Unit. This treatment will affect the fuels immediately adjacent to homes. Many studies have shown this combined with building construction measures to be the most effective treatments for protecting structures during a wildfire.

10.1 Estimated Project Cost
\$2,750,000

Chipping programs have been successfully operating in each of the three counties for three or more years. Even though these programs are separate and operated in various fashions, the overall results remain the same.



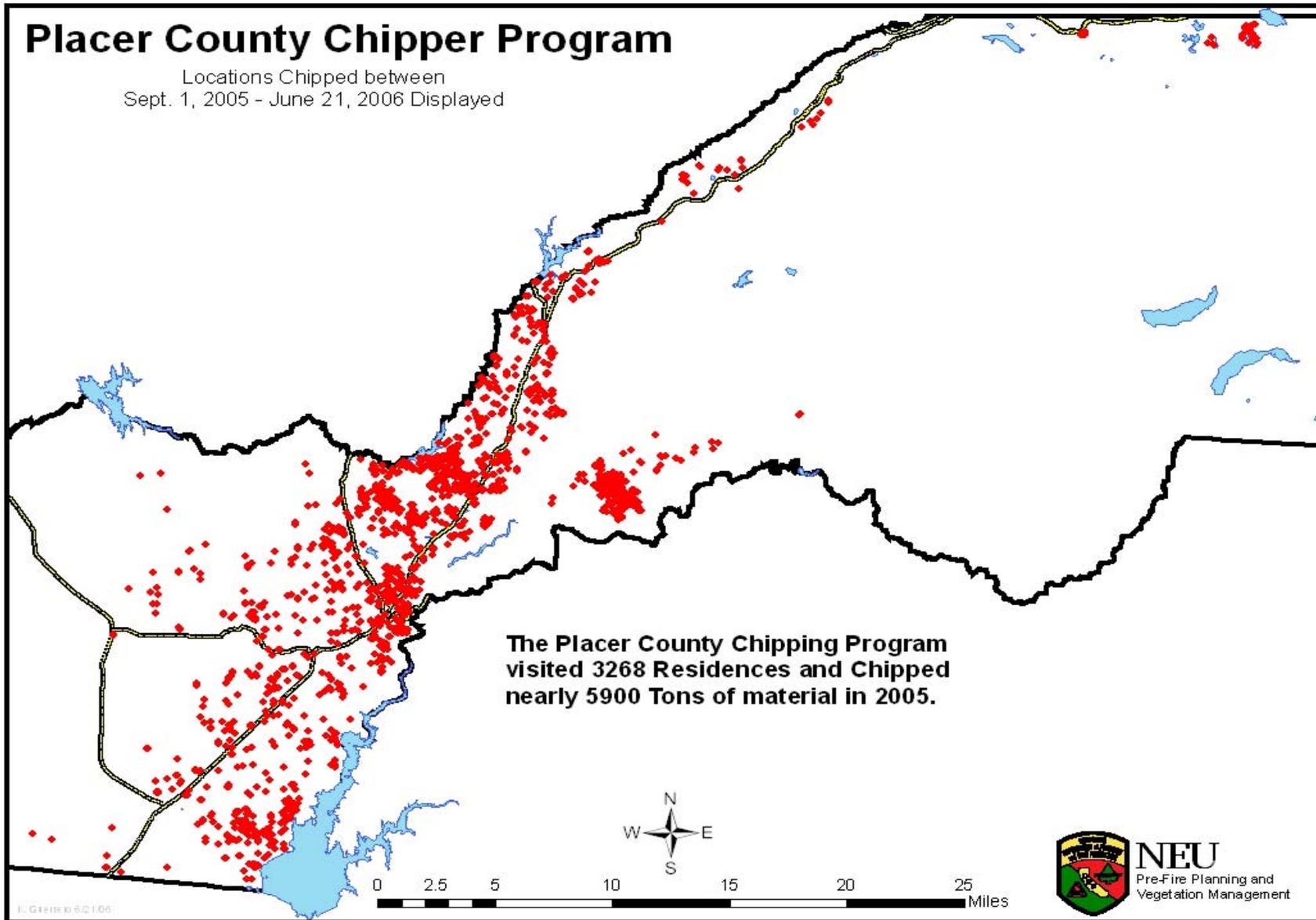
Nevada County – The fuels reduction program within Nevada got its start through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program (HGMP). We initially received approval for approximately \$600,000 to create fuel breaks and provide chipping services to specific areas within the County. This program sparked the interest of many of the residents that lived outside of the identified project areas and they immediately began requesting that the same service become available throughout the County. The following year we were able to accomplish that through \$22,000 of Fuels Reduction funds provided by CDF through the Fuels Reduction Program. Those funds introduced many residents to the Chipping Program and resulted in a demand that was greater than we could have hoped for. To date the Chipper Program has resulted in the treatment of over 2,917 residences by processing in excess of 208,000 cubic yds of fuels at those residences. We have also treated over 80 acres along more than eight miles of roads by removing more than 1,200 tons of vegetative fuels to create roadside fuels reduction areas. We have continued the program over the years through funds from a variety of sources including but not limited to: WUI Grants (\$216,000), Forest Stewardship Grant (\$165,000), BLM (\$228,000), USFS (\$220,000), Northern Sierra AQMD (\$75,000), Nevada County (\$129,000), Allstate Insurance (\$33,000), Proposition 40 Funds (\$235,000) in 05-06 FY, and a number of home-owner associations (\$45,000). Through Prop 204 (\$125,000) over 300 acres were treated by our cooperators. Options are now being considered to allow the program to continue if Grant funding becomes unavailable in the future.

Placer County – Initial fuels reduction efforts in Placer County were undertaken as an outcome of the settlement between Placer County and Pacific Gas & Electric. Approximately \$271,000 was set aside to reduce the fuel loading within the County. We utilized that as start up money to initiate the Residential Chipper Program within the County. To date the Chipper Program has resulted in the treatment of over 13,086 residences by processing in excess of 25,568 tons of fuels at those residences. Operation of the Placer County Chipper has also significantly reduced the volume of air pollutant emissions within Placer County. The following table contains the pollutant emission estimates prevented thru operation of the Placer County Chipper Program 1998-2006:

<u>Particulate Matter 10 (PM10)</u>	<u>276 tons</u>
<u>Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5)</u>	<u>237 tons</u>
<u>Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)</u>	<u>48 tons</u>
<u>Oxides of Sulfur (Sox)</u>	<u>1.4 tons</u>
<u>Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)</u>	<u>197 tons</u>
<u>Carbon Monoxide (CO)</u>	<u>2,102 tons</u>

We have also treated over 150 acres along more than 40 miles of roads removing over 5,367 tons of vegetative fuels to create roadside fuels reduction areas. These areas will allow for reduced fire behavior along the roadways in times of fire emergencies. The program has been able to continue with the application of funds provided through Proposition 204 (\$252,000), Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grants (\$506,000), Placer County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) (\$65,000). Options are now being considered to allow the program to continue if Grant funding becomes unavailable in the future.
([see Map following](#))

Yuba County - The fuel reduction efforts in Yuba County have been directed primarily at large landowners. Approximately \$966,000 has been spent treating parcels ten acres and larger. These funds were obtained by the Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council through Prop 204 monies. NYP has established a contract with the Dobbins-Oregon House Fire Department to provide chipping services throughout the foothill communities of Yuba County. By July 1, 2005 residential chipping services should be in place. These additional services will be dependent on Proposition 40 funding.



11. AUBURN FUEL BREAK

This project is within the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) Fire Management Plan developed as part of the contract between CDF, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and State Parks (CSP&R). A complete copy of the 2005 ASRA Fire Management Plan can be found near the back of this document ([see Appendix 6](#)). The Auburn Fuel Break is designed to reduce the threat of a canyon fire moving into the residential area of Auburn along the rim of the North Fork of the American River. It will also help protect the ASRA from a fire moving from residential area. The residential properties are immediately adjacent to large tracts of federal land, which extend all the way to the river and up the other side. The federal lands were originally established to occupy the river canyon up to, and including, the predicted high water mark for the proposed Auburn Dam Project. Since the dam is yet to be constructed the lands are open to the public for recreational purposes. Due to its proximity to the river, the use of these lands by recreationists dramatically increases during the summer months when the fire danger is at its highest.

Project Proposal

Work with the BOR and CSP&R to develop a fuel break on the public lands along the ridgeline and below the private property. Assist Auburn City in encouraging the private landowners immediately adjacent to the public land to commit to fuel reduction projects on their own land. The goal is to establish a 300 foot modified shaded fuel break along the ridge that utilizes both public and private lands in an effort to protect the interests of all those involved.

Event 1: Using GIS and other means identify the properties that will require fuel modification in order to establish an effective fuel break. Notify those landowners in an effort to educate them on the necessities of the fuel break and attempt to get their “buy-in” to the project.

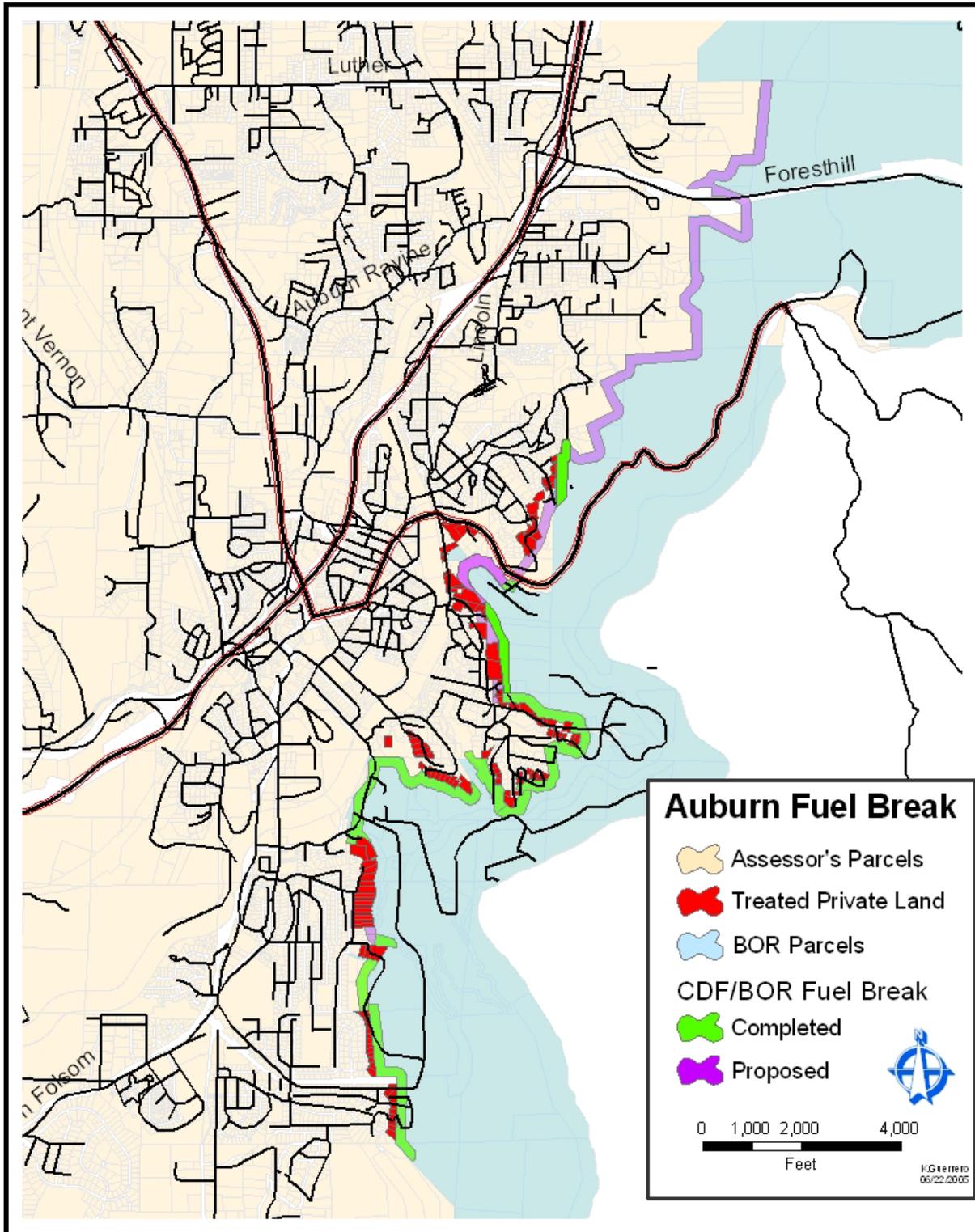
Event 2: Assist Auburn City with developing a use agreement with the private land owners that will allow the City to act as a contract agent on their lands to assist in the fuels modification work.

Event 3: Identify the BOR parcels that will require fuels modification work and work with them to complete the fuels modification work in whatever means are available.

Event 4: A second fuel break is proposed for the rim of the canyon on the other side of the river and will be addressed in the Amador – El Dorado Fire Management Plan and the ASRA Fire Management Plan.

The proposed fuel break is approximately nine miles long and will occupy over 325 acres.

Estimated Project Cost \$300,000 Primarily funded by the BOR with some assistance to the home owners via the Placer County chipping program.



12. FORESTHILL FUEL MODIFICATION PROJECT

The Foresthill pre-fire project was designed to tie in with and increase the effectiveness of current projects that the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) has implemented in the area as a result of grant funding from CDF and fuel break projects the Tahoe National Forest has started to the east of Foresthill. The RCD projects include a demonstration of a shaded fuel break for forest lots, education of the local population of fire safe standards, and fuel break planning for the Foresthill Divide.

Foresthill Pre-fire Project:

Event 1: An inspection program of the Foresthill Divide area to enforce the Public Resources Code 4291 Fire Safe standards (LE 38 Inspection). Placer County Planning Department estimates that there are approximately 2,400 housing units on the Divide. Over 700 of these homes have been inspected so far. Inspection of these housing units will serve two purposes:

1. Ensure compliance with PRC 4291. This will promote a fuel condition adjacent to structures where fire suppression resources will have a better chance of protecting homes should a wildfire occur.
2. Educate the homeowners of the state law requirements regarding defensible space standards and what they should do to help the chances of their house surviving a wildfire in the area.

The Nevada Yuba Placer Unit has found, in its Nevada County LE 38 Inspection program in 2001, that 33% of the residences require a second inspection to ensure compliance with PRC 4291. Approximately 1% of the residences required a third inspection.

Event 2: Second LE 38 inspection of approximately 800 housing units.

Event 3: Third LE 38 inspection of approximately 24 housing units.

*Includes General Services vehicle rental for inspectors.

Event 4: A series a roadside fuel modification projects located in strategic areas to allow fire fighting resources access and a location to effectively suppress an encroaching wildfire.

This portion of the project has been completed.

Event 5: Homeowner support for removal of vegetation as a result of the LE 38 inspections. The inspections will most likely occur in the late spring and summer months. Residents who remove vegetation as a result of the inspections may need alternative ways to dispose of the material. Burn days will be limited due to air quality and fire hazard concerns. The proposed support for the homeowner is to notify the residents that have been inspected as to a time frame when a chipper and crew will be by their street. The homeowner can then clear vegetation around their residence and bring it to the curbside. The crew will then chip the vegetation and deposit the material back onto the property. Multiple residents within the project area have made use of the

chipper program and many others have cleared around their homes in an effort to reduce their fire hazard. Inspectors are not concentrating in the Foresthill area this year (2006) as the community has begun to self police and make use of the chipper program in record numbers.

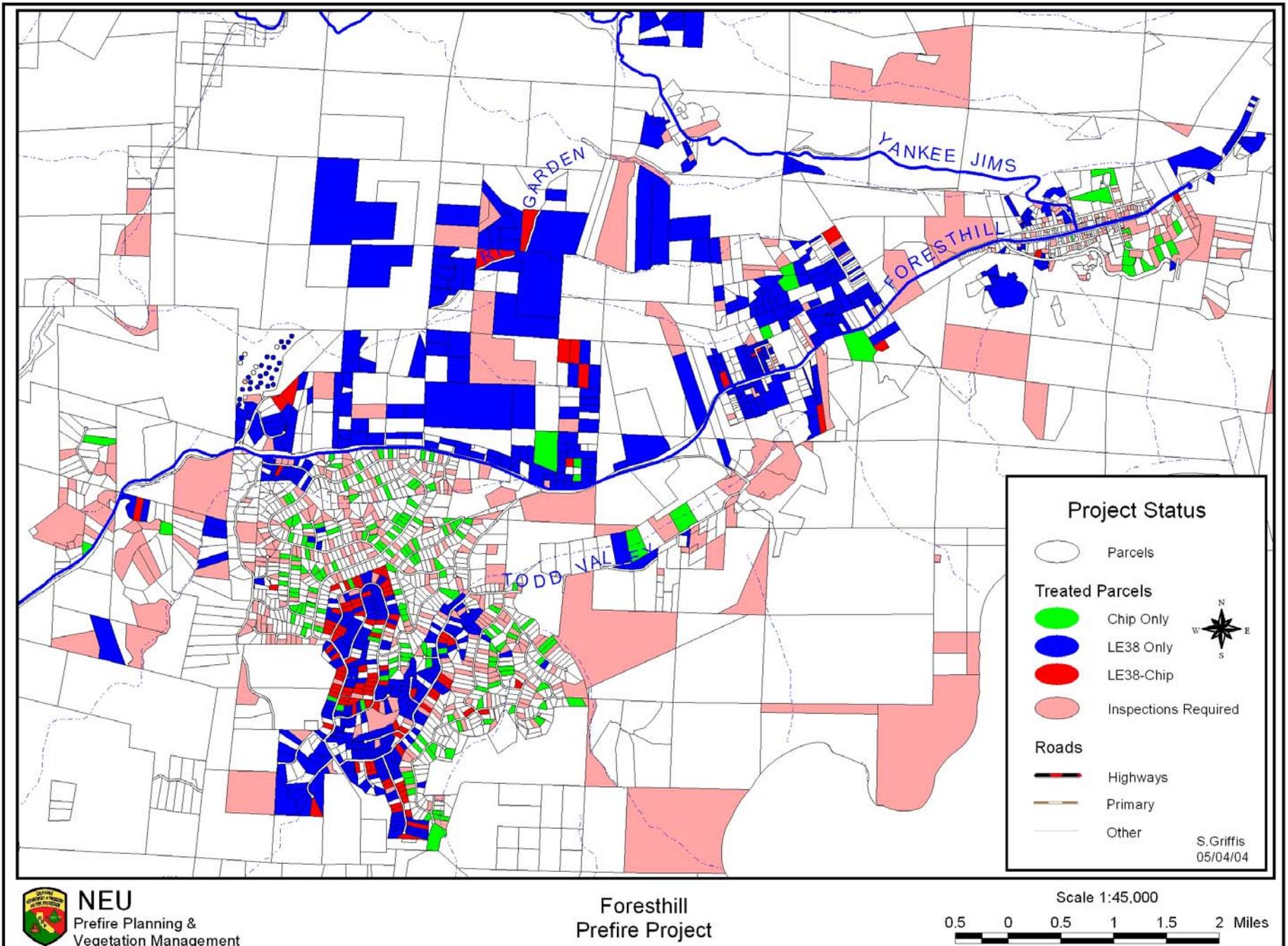
Potential Stakeholders to participate in Cost Sharing to Fund the Project:

- Placer County
- Todd Valley Homeowners Association
- Local Service Groups
- Placer County Resource Conservation District
- Placer County Air Pollution
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- California Energy Commission
- Tahoe National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- American River Watershed CRMP
- Foresthill Fire Protection District
- Pacific Gas & Electric

Estimated Cost of Proposed Project: \$153,910.14

To date over \$75,000 has been expended towards this program. The funding has come from a variety of programs including Pacific Gas & Electric settlement funds, Prop 204, and National Fire Plan monies.

Nevada-Yuba-Placer
Fire Management Plan



13. MEADOW VISTA / APPLGATE PRE-FIRE PROJECT PROPOSAL

The Meadow Vista / Applegate pre-fire project was also designed to augment current pre-fire projects that have been implemented by the Placer County Resource Conservation District, in conjunction with Placer Hills Consolidated Fire District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Black Oak Waldorf School, through grants funded by way of CDF and other sources. These projects include demonstrations of a CDF Vegetation Management Program prescribed burn, shaded fuel break, defensible space, and hand versus mechanical methods of fuel reduction, and a handbook for home-owners about defensible space. There is strong support of these pre-fire projects by the local community as evidenced by heavy attendance of public workshops and landowner participation.

Meadow Vista / Applegate Pre-Fire Project

Event 1: A series of roadside fuel modifications, located in strategic areas to allow fire fighting resources access and a location to effectively suppress an encroaching wildfire. Using existing roads for the location of the fuel modification takes advantage of the area occupied by the road surface, which is devoid of all vegetation. Modifying the fuels for a distance of 25 feet on both sides of the existing road will give an effective fuel break width of approximately 70 to 80 feet for secondary roads. The location of these fuel modifications will allow ready access and a strategic defensive position for fire suppression resources and facilitate long term maintenance of the fuel breaks.

Proposed Roadside Fuel Modifications:

1. Canyon River Fuel Break separating Applegate from the North Fork of the American River. The fuel break will follow primarily along portions of Cerro Vista Drive, and Boole Road.
 - Approximately 7 miles (**This portion has been completed**)
2. Placer Hills Road Fuel Break from I 80 to and including Weimar Cross Roads to I 80 again.
 - Approximately 8 miles

The total area encompassed by the shaded fuel breaks is about 90 acres over a distance of approximately 15 miles.

Event 2: An inspection program of the Meadow Vista and Applegate area to enforce the Public Resources Code 4291 Fire Safe standards (LE 38 Inspection). Placer County Planning Department estimates that there are approximately 3,400 housing units in this general area. Inspection of these housing units will serve two purposes: To date over 2,600 of the homes in the area have been inspected for compliance with PRC 4291. Of those inspected, less than twenty percent received a warning notice and more than 280 have made use of the chipping program. There were an additional seventy-one residents that utilized the chipper without having an inspection to encourage them.

1. Ensure compliance with PRC 4291. This will promote a fuel condition adjacent to structures where fire suppression resources will have a better chance of protecting homes should a wildfire occur.
2. Educate the homeowners of the state law requirements regarding defensible space standards and what they should do to help the chances of their house surviving a wildfire in the area.

The Nevada Yuba Placer Unit has found, in its LE 38 Inspection program in 2003, that less than 1% of the residences required a third inspection.

Event 3: Second LE 38 inspection of approximately 1,122 housing units.

Event 4: Third LE 38 inspection of approximately 34 housing units.

Event 5: Homeowner support for removal of vegetation as a result of the LE 38 inspections. The inspections will most likely occur in the late spring and summer months. Residents who remove vegetation as a result of the inspections may need alternative ways to dispose of the material. Burn days will be limited due to air quality and fire hazard concerns. The proposed support for the homeowner is to notify the residents that have been inspected as to a time frame when a chipper and crew will be by their street. The homeowner can then clear vegetation around their residence and bring it to the curbside. The crew will then chip the vegetation and deposit the material back onto the property.

Event 6: A series of prescribed burn units along the north side of the North Fork of the American River designed to reduce the fuel load along the slope in a mosaic pattern. Treatment of these units will break the continuity of the mature and dense brush currently occupying the slope. The advance of wildfire at this location would slow as it moved into a treated unit allowing fire suppression resources more time and a better location for fire fighting operations.

- Prescribed Fire size is approximately 320 acres over 8 units

Potential Stakeholders to participate in Cost Sharing to Fund the Project:

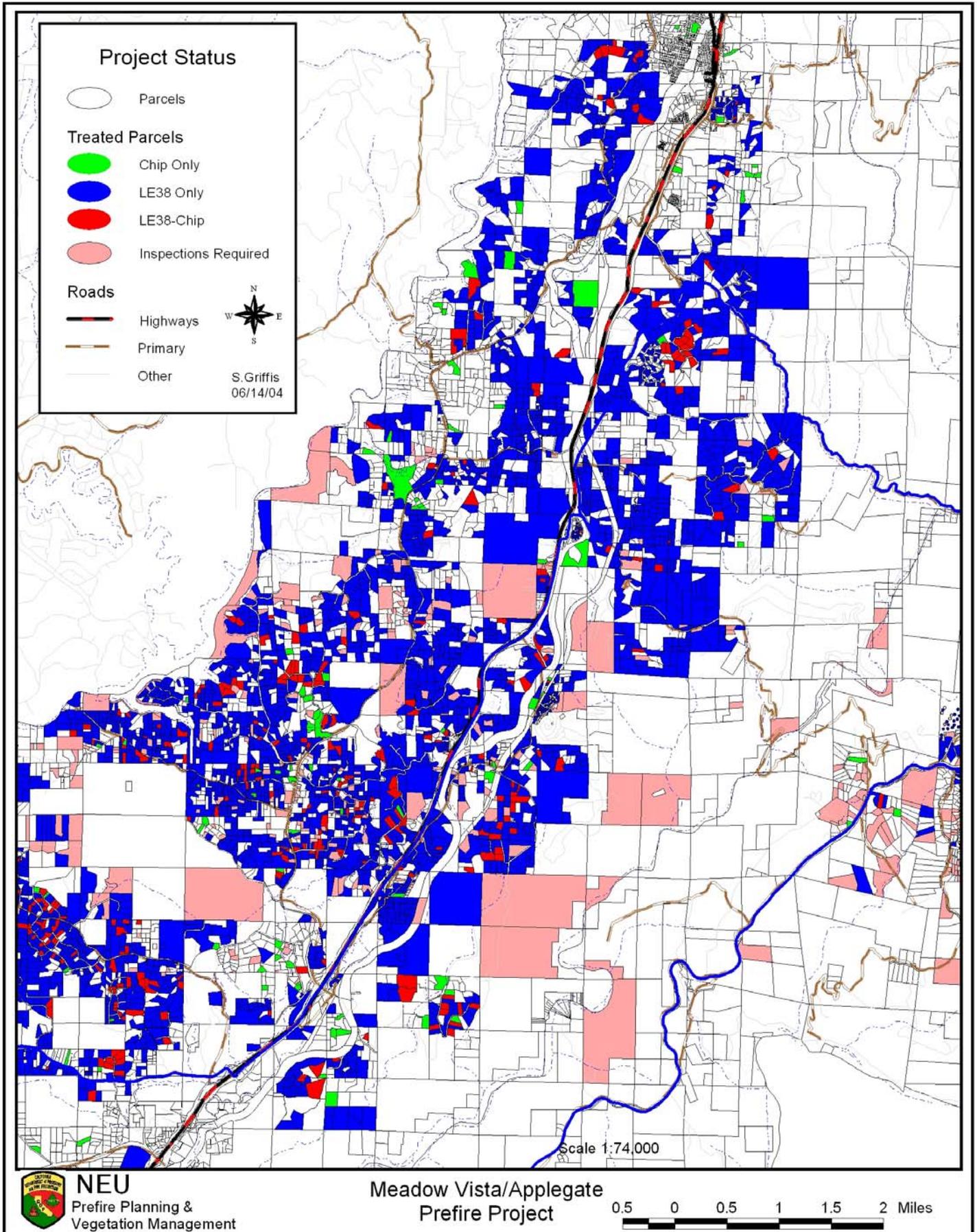
- Placer County
- Local Service Groups
- Placer County Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Placer County Air Pollution
- Placer Hills Fire District
- American River Watershed CRMP
- Homeowners Associations

Estimated Cost of Proposed Project

Total = \$259,355.70

To date over \$98,000 has been expended towards this program. The funding has come from variety of programs including Pacific Gas & Electric settlement funds, Prop 204, and National Fire Plan monies.

Nevada-Yuba-Placer
Fire Management Plan



14) STAKEHOLDER PROJECTS

The **Placer County Office of Emergency Services** has identified, in coordination with other Stakeholders in the County, a number of projects in their Disaster Mitigation Action Plan (DMA) that deal with the Wildland Urban Interface. Following are the Project Summaries as provided in their plan.

Project #1: DEVELOP A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREVENTION PLAN (CWPP) FOR THE WESTERN SLOPE OF PLACER COUNTY

Issue/Background: Fuels/vegetation management is ongoing. The HMPC agreed that ongoing vegetation management is THE most important factor in reducing the wildfire hazard in Placer County.

The Placer County Fire Safe Alliance (“the Alliance”), with its open partnership, including the various fire safe councils and major landowners and managers, is uniquely situated to assist with the coordination for and prioritization of scarce resources.

Because of the difference in needs between the Tahoe Basin and the Western Slope of the County, and because the Tahoe Basin already has a Community Wildfire Protection Plan under development, this Action applies to the development of a CWPP for the Western Slope only. The projects defined as a result of this effort will result in Fuels Management efforts coordinated among the Alliance stakeholders, as well as the general public, on the Western Slope of the County.

Vegetation management projects will result in ongoing fuels/vegetation reduction and management on public and private lands; implementation and enforcement of defensible space requirements on private land for both existing properties and new development; and development of criteria for on-going maintenance of the fuels management and defensible space program.

The plan will be consistent with the document “Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities” at <http://www.stateforesters.org/pubs/cwpphandbook.pdf>. As appropriate, projects defined in the CWFP will be included in the update of this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, due in 2009.

Given how closely inter-related the communities are on the Western Slope, defining a CWPP at the individual Fire Safe Council level is not the most effective methodology. Instead, the Alliance partners plan to develop the CWPP for the Western Slope in phases. Phase 1, already in process, focuses on the foothills communities which are represented by the following Fire Safe Councils:

- Iowa Hill/Foresthill FSC
- Placer-Sierra FSC (City of Colfax, Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Area Municipal Advisory Council and Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council)

- Greater Auburn (City of Auburn, North Auburn/Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District, Bowman, and Christian Valley)

Subsequent phases will be developed once Phase 1 is completed.

Other Alternatives: Continue to implement programs at the local level, without an overall system of risk assessment and resource prioritization.

Responsible Office: Placer County Fire Safe Alliance partners, including the various Fire Safe Councils, fire agencies, Placer County Office of Emergency Services

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: The plan is being developed as part of existing agency workloads. Funding for public meetings and review copies of the plan may be needed, but the cost will be minimal.

Benefit: Coordinated projects with a broader impact than individual efforts by the County, agencies, groups, businesses, and individual landowners.

Potential Funding: National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Initiative; WUI Grant; local financing, private foundations, grants from state bond acts, Sierra Conservancy, and Title III funds from the *Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000* (AKA “HR 2389 Timber Tax”) payments to Placer County, PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes).

Schedule: Phase 1: Steps 1, 2, and 3, as defined in the Handbook, are already completed and Phases 4, 5, and 6 are in process, with a target completion of Fall 2005.

The above target was not met, however on May 10, 2006 multiple stakeholders met with a Consultant to begin the GIS mapping and assessment process. The new target date for completion will be sometime this calendar year.

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #2: MAINTENANCE ON SHADED FUEL BREAKS AND DEMONSTRATION FUEL BREAKS.

Issue/Background: Several roadside shaded fuel breaks and demonstration fuel breaks were created from 1998 to 2002 using a grant from Proposition 204 funds and other sources. In order for these fuel breaks to continue to be effective, maintenance must be done on a periodic basis.

The fuel breaks are on primarily private property, and the property owners are expected to perform the maintenance with some cost-share assistance. The fuel break locations, size, and resources protected are listed in the following table:

Location	# Acres	# Homes Protected	Value*
Aeolia Heights demo SFB	20		Educational
Alta demo SFB	20		Educational
Foresthill School demo SFB	25		Educational
Maidu demo SFB	20		Educational
Foresthill Divide Rd. (Todd Valley)	36	1,500	391,500,000
Michigan Bluff	43	14	3,654,000
Boole Road	11	100	26,100,000
Cerro Vista	16	100	26,100,000
Ponderosa Road	21	100	26,100,000
Spring Garden Road	25	100	26,100,000
Yankee Jims Road	55	50	13,050,000
TOTALS	312	1,964	512,604,000

*The value is based on the average home value for the unincorporated County from the Assessor's Roll Values. The number of homes is approximate.

Other Alternatives: Taking no action will result in the continued re-growth of vegetation and the disappearance of the fuel breaks.

Responsible Office: Rich Gresham, Manager, Placer County Resource Conservation District

Priority (H, M, L): Medium

Cost Estimate: Estimated cost is \$500 per Acre for a total of \$156,000.

Benefit: The roadside fuel breaks protect homes valued at approximately \$512,604,000, and also shield evacuation routes and firefighter access. The demonstration fuel breaks educate and encourage homeowners to create and maintain defensible space. The cost of \$156,000 is 0.03 percent of the values protected.

Potential Funding: The roadside fuel breaks are on private property. This project would offer staff to provide follow up recommendations. Costs could be reduced by sharing costs with private property owners.

In general, the cost of maintenance is about \$500 per acre, depending on the method used. The cost share for the project is estimated to be \$78,000, with the property owners contributing an equal amount of their own funds and/or labor. The County Chipper Program will be used to help reduce the overall cost. The costs include funds for staff time and project management.

The responsibility for maintenance of the demonstration fuel breaks varies. The Aeloia Heights fuel break is on public and private lands; Alta's is managed by the Alta Fire Safe Council; the one at Foresthill School is maintained by the school; and the Maidu project is on private property within the Auburn Fuel Break and will be maintained as part of that project (described separately). This project would offer staff to provide follow-up recommendations plus cost-share funds for the private lands portions of the Aeloia Heights and Alta fuel breaks.

Possible source of funding are National Fire Plan, the Healthy Forests Initiative, CalFed grants, and EQIP.

Schedule: Every 3-5 years, if funding is available, starting in the spring of 2005 or 2006.

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #3: ANNUAL DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS PROGRAM IN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY

Issue/Background: Defensible space is recognized by CDF as the single most important action that a homeowner can take to increase the chances that homes and other structures will survive a wildfire. Defensible space also helps to protect the wildland from a structure fire. Another benefit of defensible space is that it provides firefighters with a safe place to work while defending a home from fire.

When SB 1369 took effect on January 1, 2005, the minimum defensible space requirement increased from 30 feet to 100 feet.

Many homeowners are not aware of the requirements of defensible space, especially new residents who move to the County from highly urban areas where it is normal to expect a fire engine, or even multiple engines, to be dedicated to fighting a structure fire. However, during a wildfire, this is not feasible. Homes and other structures must be able to withstand an approaching wildfire with no assistance from firefighters. Also, fire fighters will not defend a home unless they can do so safely.

Regular inspections, based on the requirements of California Law as specified in Public Resources Code 4291, can help ensure that homeowners create and maintain adequate defensible space. The inspection process is also an opportunity to educate and motivate the homeowners to take action to improve their wildfire safety.

While CDF has the legislative mandate to perform these inspections, in reality budgets do not provide for sufficient staffing to do this beyond the occasional inspection requested by a homeowner. Since 1998, PRC 4291 inspections in the Placer County Foothills have been funded by grants from Prop 204, the Community-Based Wildfire Protection Program through the California Fire Safe Council and BLM, and Title III funds from the *Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000* (AKA “HR 2389 Timber Tax”) payments to Placer County.

Future programs need to expand to include the south County, especially the South Placer Fire Protection District and the Loomis Fire Protection District.

Other Alternatives: Taking no action will result in less compliance with defensible space requirements.

Responsible Office: Placer County Fire Safe Alliance partners, including fire agencies

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: Inspections cost approximately \$10.50 for the inspector’s time and insurance, mileage, and a manager. Adding administrative overhead brings the cost to about \$11.50.

(These are 2001 dollars.) An additional cost is for literature to handout. The most important handout is the Homeowner's Checklist, which can be downloaded at http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/education_checklist.php.

The most recent grant for Defensible Space Inspections was for \$79,746.67 with an in-kind match for literature and other support by CDF for \$13,236.50. These inspections focused on the foothills communities of Foresthill, Iowa Hill, Weimar, Meadow Vista, Applegate, the Colfax area, etc. There are approximately 7,000 homes in this area. Inspections cost approximately \$10.50 for the inspector's time and insurance, mileage, and a manager. Adding administrative overhead brings the cost to about \$11.50. An additional cost is for literature to handout. The most important handout is the Homeowner's Checklist, available at http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/education_checklist.php or from CDF. Color copies of this document cost from \$1.50 to \$2.00 depending on the number of copies.

Benefit: Life Safety; Reduce property Loss. A cost of \$13.00 per home inspected (\$11.50 + \$1.50) is about 0.005 percent of the average Assessor's Roll Value of about \$260,000 per home (which is far below actual replacement value).

Potential Funding: Potential sources of funding include: National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Initiative, and Title III funds from the *Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000* (AKA "HR 2389 Timber Tax") payments to Placer County.

Schedule: Annually, as funding permits. Since not every property needs to be inspected every year, doing inspections on a rolling basis would allow smaller annual grant amounts to be needed.

**** A total of 5393 inspections were completed in 2005 ****

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #4: ONGOING COUNTY CHIPPER PROGRAM OPERATION FUNDS

Issue/Background: Since 1998, the Placer County Chipper Program has provided a free service to residents of the County. This helps to lower the costs of creating and maintaining defensible space and also reduces the amount of outdoor burning and the associated air pollution as well as escaped fires.

The County owns four chippers and tow vehicles, purchased from a PG&E settlement and supplemented by a Prop 204 grant. Maintenance is performed by CDF. Therefore the annual cost is for the four crew managers, one for each chipper, and the crews. In order to keep costs down, trustees from the County Jail are used as crews.

Response to the program has been excellent. As of June 2004, an estimated total of 17,486 tons of vegetation had been processed through the Chipper Program since its inception. The number of parcels chipped has steadily increased every year.

Other Alternatives: No Action - If the Chipper Program is not continued, there is a risk of lower compliance with defensible space requirements as well as increased burning.

Responsible Office: Rich Gresham, Manager, Placer County Resource Conservation District; CDF NYP, Placer County

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: The cost of operation is about \$191,000 annually, or an average of \$76 per parcel chipped.

Benefit: Life Safety; Reduce property Loss. A cost of \$76 per parcel is about 0.03 percent of the average Assessor's Roll Value of about \$260,000 per home (which is far below actual replacement value).

Potential Funding: Current funding is through a WUI grant. However this funding is not guaranteed for future years and options are now being considered to continue this service when Grant funding is no longer available.

Schedule: Ongoing annually.

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #5: ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFE COUNCILS ON THE WESTERN SLOPE

Issue/Background:

Many residents of this area are not aware of the wildfire hazard. This hazard was illustrated by the 2001 Sierra Fire in the Loomis/Rocklin area, which destroyed six homes, numerous outbuildings, and several vehicles. A couple of years ago, a home was lost to a grass fire in Loomis!

Establishing Fire Safe Council(s) in this area of the County is a first step towards educating local residents about the fact that they live in an urban forest and there is a wildfire hazard, and motivating them to take appropriate action to reduce their risk.

Other Alternatives: Taking no action will continue to leave these homes at risk.

Responsible Office: Placer County Fire Safe Alliance partners, including local fire agencies

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: The major cost involved is fire agency manpower, especially on the part of the Prevention Officer/Fire Marshal. There may also be some administrative cost for mailings, etc. However, most of these costs can probably be included in normal operating expenses.

The “Core Group” models used by the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council and the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council in their Partnership Agreements could be replicated to create a local base of involved citizens to work with their local fire agencies.

Benefit: Fire Safe Councils have been demonstrated across the state as being effective in informing and motivating local residents to take action to create and maintain defensible space. It costs almost nothing to start and operate a fire safe council and to create local education programs. Grant funding for larger projects will be worked through the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance partners and the developing Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Potential Funding: Existing Budgets

Schedule: Start up at least one additional Fire Safe Council in 2005. Sub-chapters could be implemented via homeowner associations, neighborhood watch groups, and other existing community-based organizations.

**** *The Colfax, Meadow Vista, Alta, and Ponderosa proposed Fire Safe Councils were all combined into the “Placer Sierra FSC” this year. There are now a total of 4 FSC’s in the County – Greater Auburn, Foresthill, Iowa Hill and Placer-Sierra.***

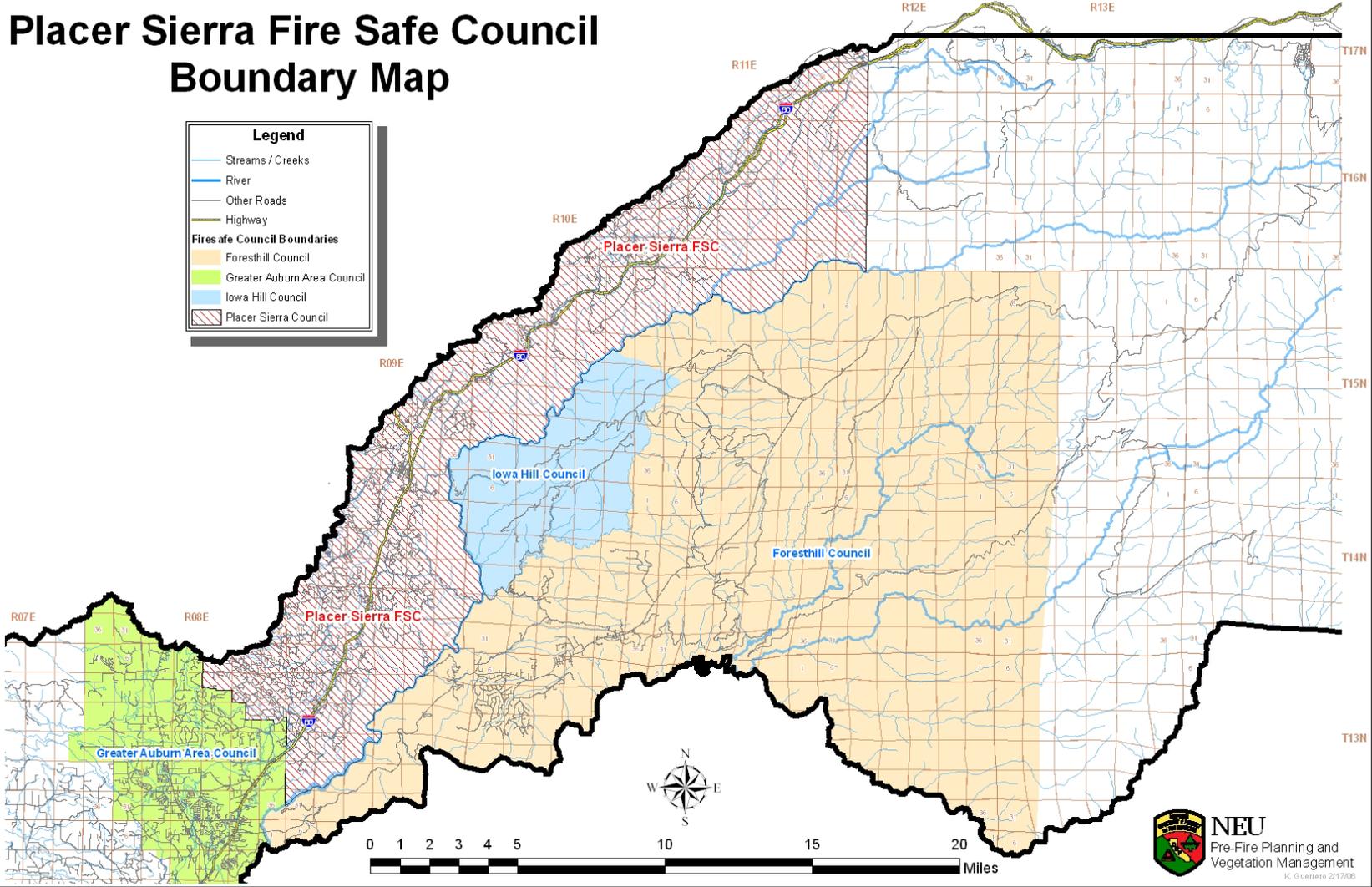
Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Boundary Map

Legend

- Streams / Creeks
- River
- Other Roads
- Highway

Fire Safe Council Boundaries

- Foresthill Council
- Greater Auburn Area Council
- Iowa Hill Council
- Placer Sierra Council



Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #6: ENHANCE ENFORCEMENT OF COUNTY BUILDING CODES TO INCREASE COMPLIANCE WITH SB 1369 DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND OTHER FIRE SAFE REQUIREMENTS IN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY

Issue/Background: When SB 1369 took effect on January 1, 2005, the minimum defensible space distance increased from 30 feet to 100 feet (or to the property line). Further, for new or replacement construction, SB 1369 requires that the owner shall obtain a certification from the local building official that the dwelling or structure, as proposed to be built, complies with all applicable state and local building standards, as well as upon completion of the construction or rebuilding, the owner shall obtain from the local building official, a copy of the final inspection report that demonstrates that the dwelling or structure was constructed in compliance with all applicable state and local building standards.

The building inspection process is an excellent time to initiate compliance with SB 1369. For example, if the creation of the minimum 100 feet (or to the property line) defensible space area was required before the building is started to be built, it is a lot more likely to be maintained after construction. This would also be a good time to enforce the PRC 4290 requirements for house and road signage installation.

Specific details of the process would be worked out among the responsible parties listed below.

Other Alternatives: No action continues to leave defensible space creation up to the good will of the homeowner.

Responsible Office: Placer County Building Department, Placer County Fire Safe Alliance partners, including CDF and local Fire Agencies

Priority (H, M, L): Medium

Cost Estimate: There is no cost involved to the responsible parties since the existing building inspection process would be used. (The cost for implementing the certification process required by the legislation is outside the scope of this project since it has to be done anyway.)

Benefit: Life Safety; Reduce property loss - with a zero cost project...

Potential Funding: Existing Budgets

Schedule: Early 2005

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #7: ENSURE THAT ALL HOMES IN THE PLACER COUNTY FOOTHILLS HAVE PRC 4290 COMPLIANT ADDRESS SIGNS

Issue/Background: Many homes in the Placer County Foothills do not have adequate house signage, which makes it difficult for emergency responders to quickly locate addresses requesting assistance.

Homeowners either are unaware that their house signs are not adequate, and/or do not know where to go to purchase PRC 4290 compliant signs, and/or balk at spending what it costs to obtain such a sign.

Other Alternatives: The only other alternative is no action.

Responsible Office: Assistant Chief Loren Snell, CDF Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: Existing Homes:

- Cost of single PRC 4290 compliant signs is about \$30 plus \$5 for a stake (from The Sign), with a second sign costing \$20 plus stake. The proposed project would provide cost-share funds. Homeowners would pay \$5 to \$10 per sign, plus stake. Low-income homeowners would pay no more than \$5 for both sign and stake. The cost-share funds would provide the rest of the cost.
- There are approximately 7,000 homes in the Weimar, Applegate, Meadow Vista, Foresthill, and unincorporated county around Colfax. Of these, an estimated 50 percent do not have adequate address signage.
- Total estimated number of homes needing signage in the Placer County Foothills: 3,500.
- Cost for the project: \$122,500 total; \$105,000 is needed in cost-share funds if homeowners provide a \$10 match; \$87,500 needed if homeowners provided a \$5 match. (The grant amount would need to include funds for administration of the grant as well as project management, so the actual grant request would be higher. The homeowner co-pays would provide the required matching funds.)
- Some ways to reach the homeowners: (1) during future PRC 4291 Inspections; (2) use local Boy Scout or similar organizations; (3) booths at fairs; (4) newspaper articles; (5) school newsletters; (6) hand out order blanks at supermarkets and home improvement centers.

New Homes:

County building inspector to require installation of PRC 4290 compliant address signs prior to issuing final use permit. These signs are already required by County Code, but enforcement is needed. No additional cost to the County.

Benefit: Homeowners have no easy access to a source for PRC 4290-compliant signage. They have to do research to find a place to buy them. Then they have to be willing to pay \$35 per sign and install it once they receive it. This project would remove all of the above obstacles, and thereby facilitate emergency responders in locating addresses quickly.

The longer the response time, the greater the potential damage:

- Structure fires attacked within 10 minutes of ignition have the greatest possibility of rapid extinguishment, and thus a decrease in potential life and property loss as well as reducing the likelihood that a house fire will spread to the wildland.
- Vegetation fire ignitions must be attacked quickly or they can rapidly become quite large, depending on the amount and condition of the vegetation, the relative humidity, and wind.
- Without medical intervention, certain death can occur in persons with heart attack, severe bleeding, and respiratory ailments in as little as four to six minutes

Potential Funding: Possible funding sources are National Fire Plan or Title III funds from the *Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000* (AKA “HR 2389 Timber Tax”) payments to Placer County.

Schedule: Applications for HR 2389 Title III Funds are due to the Placer County Executive’s Office in August of each year.

Applications for National Fire Plan Funds can be submitted to the Clearinghouse at any time; however, Federal funding cycles determine when projects will actually be considered for funding. Usually late Fall is the time for submitting concept papers for consideration in the next year’s funding cycle. See http://grants.firesafecouncil.org/resource_center.cfm for more details on the California Fire Alliance Grants Clearinghouse and <http://www.cafirealliance.org/downloads/resourceguide.pdf> for the California Fire Alliance Resource Guide.

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #8: MODIFY COUNTY CODE (UBC) TO REQUIRE CLASS A ROOFING ASSEMBLY ON A COUNTYWIDE BASIS.

Issue/Background: Equally important for effective wildfire mitigation in Placer County, is the type of materials used in the building construction. Currently the UBC Code as adopted by Placer County requires a Class A Roofing Assembly be used in new roof construction or when more than 20 percent of the existing roof is replaced. This is limited to the central and eastern portion of the County. The Code should be modified to be implemented on a countywide basis. As currently written, the code only arbitrarily applies to certain areas with no distinction between fuel loads in these areas. Stricter application of Fire Codes can reduce future risk from fires.

Other Alternatives: Expand the existing boundary for enforcement of Class A Roofing Assembly to the West including all areas of the County that lies East of the line that is created by Freeway 80 at the intersection with the Southern boundary of Placer County to Highway 65 North at the Northern boundary of Placer County.

Responsible Office: Western Placer County Fire Chiefs Association; Placer County Building Department

Priority (H, M, L): Medium

Cost Estimate: Existing budgets and staff time

Benefit: Life Safety; Reduce property losses. More stringent fire codes will mitigate the effects of future fire events.

Potential Funding: None Necessary

Schedule: Initiate within one year

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #9: DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING GIS LAYERS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES WITHIN PLACER COUNTY: FIRE IGNITIONS LAYER, CRITICAL FACILITIES LAYER, AND FIRE HYDRANTS/WATER SOURCES LAYER

Issue/Background: It is misleading to only consider past large acreage fires when evaluating fire risk, because any ignition can lead to a wildfire with major losses, even if the acreage is small (witness the 2000 Heather Fire, which was only 10 acres but resulted in \$305,000 in damages because a house was lost.)

Over 90 percent of wildfires are human-caused, and therefore suitable for mitigation activities.

Readily accessible information is needed in order to know where to focus efforts to reduce ignitions. CDF identifies over ten causes of fires. While the latitudes & longitudes and causes are available in Excel files for each year, this format is not easy to use.

Mapping ignitions by cause for a 5 or 10 year period would give fast visual access to determine where to focus efforts to reduce ignitions and what type(s) of ignition to target. The base map for this would be the roads, cities, and parcels map for the County. The map could be posted to the County's web site for easy access.

While Placer County has some mapped data on critical facilities, the data is incomplete and was not available for analysis during this project. The County's ability to assess risk at all facilities is important. Critical facility risk and vulnerability assessment can be accomplished manually, but it is extremely time consuming and subject to error. Mapped facilities compared against mapped hazard areas will provide the greatest ability to assess risks and vulnerabilities for mitigation planning.

Placer County should have the ability to assess the status of critical facilities at the time of an incident. This assessment is currently accomplished by taking reports from selected facilities as facilities report in. If an agency or employees at a facility do not report then the data is not available and critical facilities may be missed or may be assumed to be intact. Mapped data would improve this process by allowing the Emergency Operations center to compare a mapped hazard against mapped facilities allowing for a more precise query of affected facilities. Mapped data will significantly improve the direction of damage assessment teams as an example.

Placer County does not currently have a single map with all fire hydrants and water sources. All of the County's fire agencies routinely provide mutual aid into each other's jurisdiction. Mapped fire hydrants and water sources will reduce the time that it takes an engine company to find an adequate water source in the event of a fire. This effort is particularly important in the mountain areas of Placer County, where deep snows bury hydrants every year, causing the affected fire districts to have to dig them out in selected communities either at the time of an emergency or after a heavy snow.

Other Alternatives: Continue to estimate fire mitigation measures based on memory and un-mapped data. Continue to estimate critical facilities risk and vulnerability based on un-mapped data. Continue to use manually mapped fire hydrant data that is seldom shared with agencies who are providing mutual aid to a sister agency.

Responsible Office: Placer County Fire Chiefs Association / Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association

Priority (H, M, L): Medium

Cost Estimate:	Fire Ignitions Layer	\$ 6,000
	Critical Facilities Layer	\$12,000
	Fire Hydrant/Water Sources Layer	<u>\$50,000</u>
	TOTAL	\$68,000

Benefit: The development of GIS based mapped data will significantly improve the quality of the County's risk and vulnerability assessments. Mapped data will improve planning accuracy, will improve precision in operations and will improve response timeliness. It is not possible to quantify cost savings in terms of dollars. It is clear, however, that precisely mapped data will significantly improve our efficiency in future mitigation planning projects and will afford first responders and support staff with critical operational data that is essential to their response functions.

Potential Funding: TBD

Schedule: Completion by no later than the next update of the Placer County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, due in 2009.

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #10: DEVELOP AND FUND AN ENFORCEABLE WEED ABATEMENT ORDINANCE

Issue/Background: Similar to the defensible space issue, weed abatement is an important factor in both reducing ignitions and the potential for fire to spread. An effective, countywide ordinance would further the County's fuel management objectives and would mitigate the risk of wildfires in the County. To be effective, the weed abatement code will need to have language ensuring accountability as well as a strong enforcement component.

Responsible Office: Fire Departments in conjunction with Placer County's Public Works

Priority (H, M, L): Medium

Cost Estimate: Code Development: Existing budget and staff

Cost Benefit: Life Safety; reduce property losses

Potential Funding: TBD

Schedule: Within one year

Stakeholder Projects (cont)

Project #11: ADD AN EXIT FROM EASTBOUND INTERSTATE 80 ONTO CAPE HORN ROAD FOR USE BY EMERGENCY VEHICLES ONLY

Issue/Background: When Caltrans closed the Magra exit from Eastbound Interstate 80 a side effect was to increase the response time from Colfax to Cape Horn Road.

Emergency responders to the Cape Horn area primarily come from the CDF station in Colfax, Colfax City Fire, and the AMR station in Colfax. The main staging area for firefighting resources on the 2004 Stevens Fire, which threatened Cape Horn, was in Colfax.

With the closure of the Eastbound I-80 Magra Road exit, the minimum response time to Cape Horn from Colfax is 16 minutes via Norton Grade.

Infrastructure resources at risk in the Cape Horn area include: Interstate 80 and its link to nationwide commerce, Union Pacific Railroad, PG&E power lines, PCWA Boardman Canal, Kinder-Morgan high pressure gas transmission line, USFS Wild and Scenic River along the North Fork of the American River, tourism and recreation, and the American River Watershed and its water supply to other areas of California. A wildfire in the Cape Horn area would also threaten the City of Colfax and homes along Norton Grade Road.

The minimum response time could be reduced to under 10 minutes if an emergency exit at Cape Horn was available. Response time is critical because:

- Structure fires attacked within 10 minutes of ignition have the greatest chance of rapid extinguishment, and thus a decrease in potential life and property loss as well as reducing the chances that a house fire will spread to the wildland. Also, without medical intervention, certain death can occur in persons with heart attack, severe bleeding, and respiratory ailments in as little as four to six minutes.
- Similar statistics hold for rapid extinguishment of wildland fires.
- Norton Grade is a narrow road, with tight turns, and oncoming traffic. Additionally, Norton Grade can become congested with traffic if evacuations are called for.

Wildfire History:

- 1975 Sawmill fire in Cape Horn
- 1977 Another fire occurred in the same area as the Sawmill Fire
- 2001 Ponderosa Fire – came within less than ½ mile of Cape Horn
- 2004 Stevens Fire – burned 934 acres in the American River Canyon bordering Cape Horn; destroyed 2 residences and 2 outbuildings; high winds would have resulted in much higher losses

Other Alternatives: Plan for, build and staff a fire station at or near the Magra exit. This alternative, while suitable, would cost Placer County over \$3,000,000 initially and another \$800,000 yearly for the life of the station.

Responsible Office: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Nevada – Yuba – Placer Unit in conjunction with CalTrans

Priority (H, M, L): Medium

Cost Estimate: In 2004 dollars the off ramp from I-80 is estimated to cost \$5M according to the Placer County 2022 Regional Transportation Plan. Many factors could impact the final cost, such as rising construction costs, any necessity of purchasing property for right-of-way, and perhaps having to realign Cape Horn Road.

Benefit: A structure fire in Cape Horn could readily set the entire area ablaze, or a wildfire from the canyon could enter the area, destroying critical infrastructure that supports the entire County as well as interrupting interstate commerce and travel, not to mention the threatening the lives and property of area residents. The faster the response time for emergency responders, the less chance there is of losing these important resources to wildfire.

It is difficult to put a precise value on the various infrastructure and other resources at risk in the Cape Horn area, but looking just at the approximately 200 homes in the area, the values at risk are \$80,000,000 (using a median value of \$400,000 per home). The cost of the exit is a very small percentage of the total resources at risk.

Potential Funding: Potential sources of funding are: Federal Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants or SHOPP funds

Schedule: The exit is already included in the Placer County 2022 Regional Transportation Plan.

It would be built during or after the planned Caltrans project to add a truck lane to the Eastbound “Three Mile” (AKA “Colfax Narrows”) area, which is several years in the future. There is no point in doing it sooner, because it would likely have to be redone after the truck lane project.

Engineering specifications will have to be developed (and approved by Caltrans), and funding acquired.

15 NEVADA COUNTY FIRE MITIGATION FRAMEWORK

Background

With its long hot summers, steep terrain, significant accumulations of wildland fire fuels, and significant residential development with lagging infrastructure, Nevada County represents the ideal environment for large, damaging wildfires. Over the years, much has been done to address the problem; from conditioning projects with fire protection measures, to adopting new ordinances in 1992, and most recently the coming together of a wide range of stakeholders to create the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County. Unfortunately, to this point much of the effort towards fire safety has been in response to specific issues or mandates and has not addressed the entire complex problem. The issues of, risk reduction, suppression capability, circulation, public desires, fuels management, affordable housing, evacuation planning, and fire prevention funding all need to be considered as the County addresses the wildland fire problem. A number of similar programs have been developed elsewhere; however, none of them have addressed all of these issues. This document could become a blueprint for other counties to follow. (Actual Plan in [Appendix 9](#))

Proposal

This request proposes that an inclusive effort be put into place to prepare a comprehensive Wildland Fire Mitigation Framework for Nevada County. Currently, within the various stakeholders i.e. fire service, law enforcement, development community, planners, and community groups, there is a wealth of knowledge and high level of awareness that can be captured and utilized to develop a framework for the County. This framework can be used to provide fire hazard mitigation measures; however, currently none of these groups are prepared to compile all of the knowledge, data, or information into a working document. This proposal would provide funds for a field professional to create the framework that would define the process for the County to develop fire hazard mitigation measures relative to the wildland fire problem, the impacts of current and future development, the need for review of existing regulations for adequacy and appropriateness, and improved circulation routes to provide for safe emergency access and evacuation, through the expertise of the local knowledge base. The field professional will be responsible for arranging, facilitating, and recording meetings to gather the necessary information from the local experts and compiling that information into the aforementioned framework.

Event 1

Nevada County Board of Supervisors to appoint a Fire Plan Committee. Task completed September 2004. (CDF Unit Chief – Tony Clarabut, USFS Forest Fuels Management Specialist – Gary Fildes, Nevada County Consolidated Fire Chief – Tim Fike, Nevada County OES – Rich Reader, and Fire Safe Council of Nevada County Representative – Jeff Dunning)

(This portion has been completed)

Event 2

Hire a consultant to arrange, facilitate, and record meetings to gather the necessary information from the local experts and compile that information into the framework.
(This portion has been completed)

Event 3

Hold a series of committee meetings to develop the goals, objectives, and recommendations to present to the Board of Supervisors.
(This portion has been completed)

Event 4

Hold a series of public meetings to develop consensus across the various interests in the County. This will allow the committee to present the Board with a document that should be met with a minimum amount of resistance from the variety of special interest groups present in the County.
(This portion has been completed)

Event 5

Present the document to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.
(This portion has been completed and the plan is being reviewed and considered)

Event 6

Implementation of the Nevada County Fire Plan.

1. Success Measurements

The success of this proposal will be determined when the County decides whether to adopt the framework into the planning process. It has the potential to affect each and every citizen of Nevada County either directly through wildland fire mitigations or indirectly through high governmental costs and citizen losses due to another costly and damaging fire such as the Forty-Niner fire. A number of similar programs have been developed elsewhere; however, none of them have addressed all of these issues or developed a “road map” to help the community plan for the future. This document could become a blueprint for other counties to follow.

There are however, some issues that currently surround the plan that have delayed its adoption by the Nevada Co. Board of Supervisors. These include (but are not limited to) an upcoming Environmental Impact Report to assure the document is CEQA compliant. It is anticipated that these concerns will be addressed with ultimate adoption of the Plan.

Potential Stakeholders to participate in developing the final document

- Nevada County
- FireSafe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC)
- Nevada County Board of Realtors
- California Association of Property Owners
- Sierra Club

- Residents of Nevada County
- Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Estimated Cost of Proposed Project

Total = \$20,500

16. STAFFING OF THE NEVADA COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Nevada County is in the process of attacking the wildland fire problem in a new and innovative manner. Whereas the Defensible Space ordinances have been on the book for several years, their enforcement and effectiveness is somewhat haphazard due to the lack of resources implement the program. To address this Nevada County Board of Supervisors has assigned a committee to make recommendations to the Board in order to reduce the potential of costly and damaging fires in Nevada County. This committee has identified the fuels problem as the main issue and is looking at addressing the fuels problem at a "Defensible Communities" level instead of the standard "Defensible Space".

Nevada County Fire Marshal's Office Pre-Fire Project

Establish positions within the Nevada County Fire Marshal's Office to implement the recommendations identified in the Fire Plan Framework. This proposal will result in a self sustaining program that will allow the County to establish and enforce a hazardous fuels reduction ordinance on improved and the unimproved properties adjacent to or surrounding improved properties within Nevada County. There is currently a chipping program available to residents to encourage defensible space. The chipping program currently serves 1200 - 1500 residences annually (*1262 residences in 2004*). This project will allow us to expand the fuels reduction program to include additional residences and unimproved properties in the area of improved properties, thus extending the defensible space concept beyond structures and into the landscape. We estimate that this program will result in approximately 2000 properties being treated annually, which will provide protection to more than 500 additional homes. The program will provide inspectors to identify properties with a fuels hazard. The inspectors will then provide the landowner with educational information to encourage fuels reduction work by the owner. In the event the landowner chooses not to comply with the fuels reduction requirements, the property will be treated by a local contractor and the cost will be added to the owner's property taxes. Through this system, we anticipate creating a landscape that will result in less severe fire behavior around the residential properties. There are plans to implement a fee structure at the plan approval stage to generate future funds to continue this program once the grant expires. CDF and the Nevada County Fire Marshal's Office want to develop a program that can become a model for other communities. Instead of relying on the individual defensible space around structures we are looking at creating a defensible landscape through an integrated Fire Safe program. This program will build off of the work already being completed by entities such as the Nevada County Department of Transportation, Nevada County Fire Safe Council, and Pacific Gas & Electric.

This year, the Fire Marshal's office was staffed with one CDF Employee as an interim measure to get the project off the ground.

Details can be found in the attached Nevada County Fire Mitigation Framework in [Appendix 9](#).

Potential Stakeholders to participate in Cost Sharing to Fund the Project:

- Nevada County
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- California Office of Emergency Services (OES)
- Local Service Groups
- Nevada County Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northern Sierra Air Quality District
- Nevada County Fire Chiefs

Estimated Cost of Proposed Project

Total = \$3,000,000

17 ALTA SIERRA PRE-FIRE PROJECT

The Alta Sierra area was targeted for a pre-fire project due to its high rate of ignitions and its close location to areas to the north that have high rankings for assets, fuel hazard, and the lower rated level of service. In addition, this area has a past history of enthusiastic support of fire hazard reduction programs by the homeowners, Northern Sierra Air Quality District, and Nevada County Consolidated Fire Protection District (NCCFD). The NCCFD is currently the lead on continuing this project. They have instituted an ordinance that requires the owners of vacant lots to remove the hazardous fuels prior to fire season. If the landowner does not comply the NCCFD contracts to have the work completed and bills the landowner via their property taxes. The personnel from this department have conducted 285 inspections, which, resulted in fuel treatments on over 250 properties totaling more than 350 acres within their fire district.

Alta Sierra Pre-fire Project

Event 1: An inspection program targeting the vacant properties within the local fire district has been ongoing since 1997. They have developed a schedule that inspects each vacant property at least once every five years. This program holds the individual landowner responsible for reducing the hazardous fuels on their own lands.

Event 2: An inspection program of the Alta Sierra area to enforce the Public Resources Code 4291 Fire Safe standards (LE 38 Inspection). Nevada County Planning Department estimates that there are approximately 2,900 housing units in this area. Inspection of these housing units will serve two purposes:

1. Ensure compliance with PRC 4291. This will promote a fuel condition adjacent to structures where fire suppression resources will have a better chance of protecting homes should a wildfire occur.
2. Educate the homeowners of the state law requirements regarding defensible space standards and what they should do to help the chances of their house surviving a wildfire in the area.

The Nevada Yuba Placer Unit has found, in its Nevada County LE 38 Inspection program in 2000, that only about 5% of the residences require a second inspection to ensure compliance with PRC 4291. Approximately 1% of the residences required a third inspection.

Event 3: Second LE 38 inspection of approximately 145 housing units.

Event 4: Third LE 38 inspection of approximately 29 housing units.

*Includes General Services vehicle rental for inspectors.

Event 5: Homeowner support for removal of vegetation as a result of the LE 38 inspections. The inspections will most likely occur in the late spring and summer months. Residents who remove vegetation as a result of the inspections may need alternative ways to dispose of the material. Burn days will be limited due to air quality and fire hazard concerns. The proposed support for

the homeowner is to notify the residents of the Western Nevada County chipping program at the time of the inspections. The homeowner can then clear vegetation around their residence, bring it to the curbside, and notify the FireSafe Council of Nevada County (NCFSC) once completed. The NCFSC will then dispatch a chipping crew to the area once sufficient material has been piled to keep the chipper busy for a minimum of four hours. The crew will then chip the vegetation and deposit the material back onto the property.

Potential Stakeholders to participate in Cost Sharing to Fund the Project:

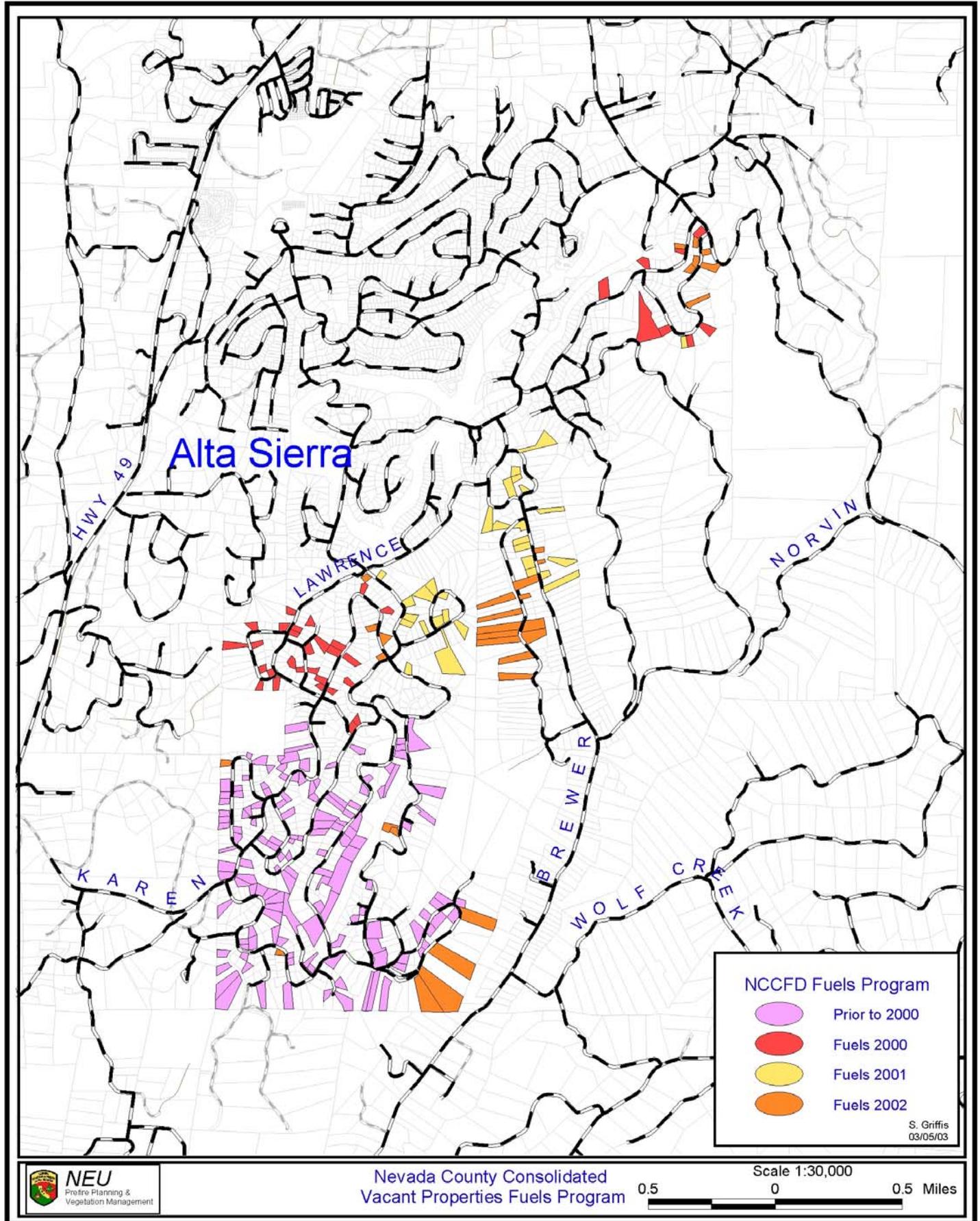
- Nevada County
- Local Service Groups
- Nevada County Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northern Sierra Air Quality District
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire Protection District
- Alta Sierra Subdivision Homeowners Association

Estimated Cost of Proposed Project

Total = \$125,652.50

The chipping portion of this program is incorporated in the amounts listed in the totals for the Unit-Wide Chipping described above. The cost of inspecting the vacant lands is being born by the Nevada County Consolidated Fire Department. The landowners fund clearing the properties.

In 2004, approximately 195 total acres on 161 parcels were treated within Nevada County between Cascade shores area and the Alta Sierra project.



18 COLUMBIA HILL SHADED FUEL BREAK PROJECT

With California's wildland-urban interface areas quickly growing, as well as the population of Nevada County, the objective of the Columbia Hill Shaded Fuel Break Project is to create a shaded fuel break in the Columbia Hill area of Nevada County. Strategically, the project will tie in with the earlier established Montezuma Fuel Break to give firefighters a place to make an efficient stand against a wildfire on the San Juan Ridge.

In the 6 mile fuel break area there are approximately 85 separate landowners, 47 of whom chose to participate in the project. Nearly all of these homeowners have insufficient defensible space and combining this with poorly maintained roadside vegetation, the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County was able to work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify the prior mentioned aspects of the area as a recipe for disaster.

The Columbia Hill area is predominately heavy timbered land with thick manzanita understory fuels.

Actions involved in the proposed project

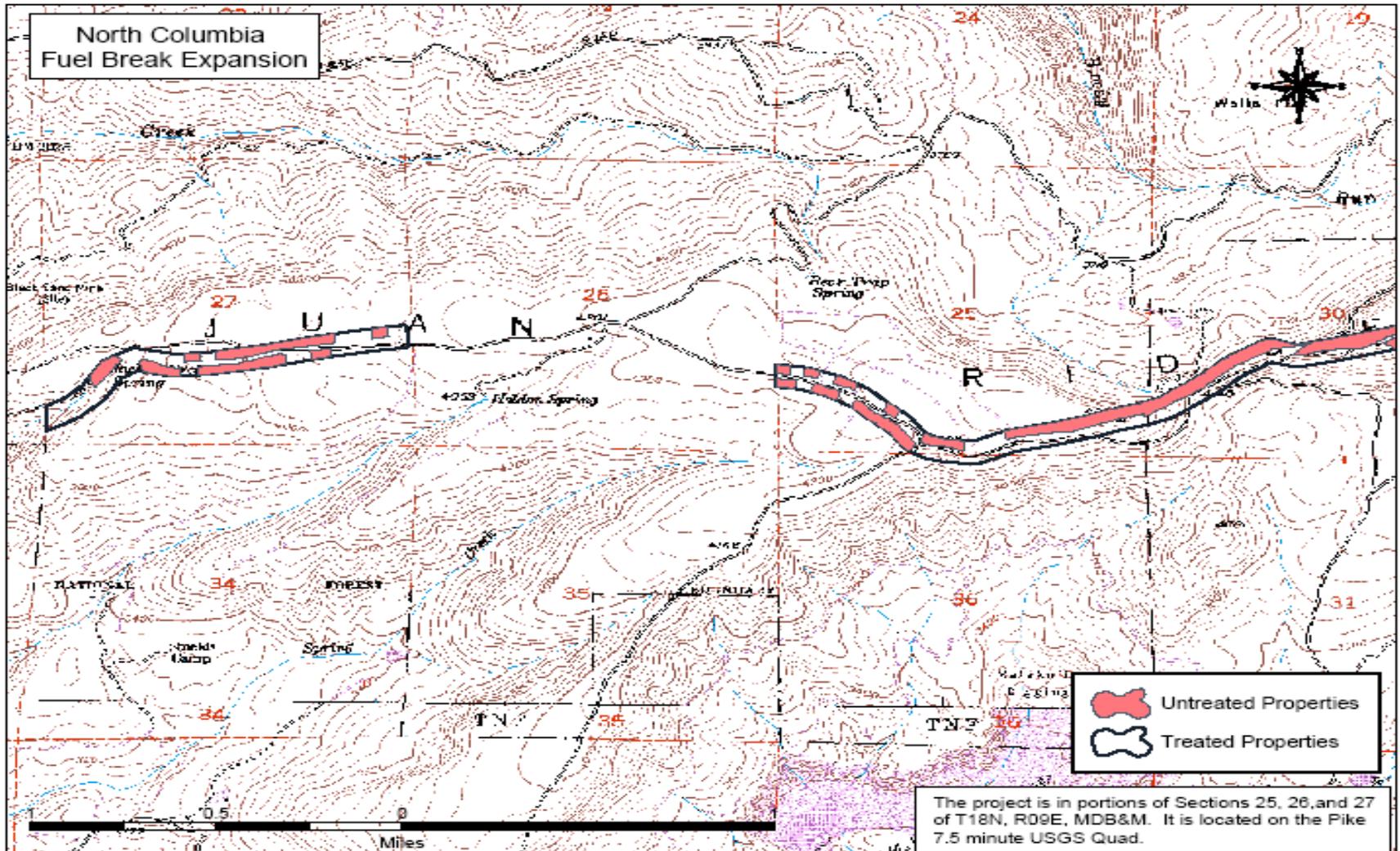
The Columbia Hill Fuel Break Project was designed to tie in with previously established fuels reduction efforts, such as the Montezuma Fuel Break. Specifications written into the project called for the creation of a 400' wide shaded fuel break to run 200' along both sides of Tyler Foote and Cruzon Grade Roads in the project area. There has been strong support and great interest in this project from the involved community.

Event 1: Fuel Break Construction. A community meeting was held in July of 2003 to introduce this project to the community. After a number of other mailings to landowners, the FSCNC began meeting with landowners who chose to participate in the project to mark property boundaries as well as determine what specific work they would like accomplished. Under the grant funding the project the FSCNC was also able to hire a contracted forester who met with each landowner who wished to have timber removed from their land to mark timber and confirm their wishes. Once this was accomplished, a Timber Harvest Plan was submitted to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the hand clearing and timber work was put out to bid. Pending approval of the Timber Harvest Plan, the FSCNC will select a licensed timber operator to contract with to complete the work at which time a FSCNC representative will be on site at all times to ensure correct operations are taking place on individually owned lands. The end result will be a 400' wide fuel break throughout much of the Columbia Hill area.

With the exception of one small area that has only been cleared to 100' along the roadsides, **this portion of the project has been completed.** The additional portion to be cleared will be funded by a newly acquired Proposition 40 Grant.

Event 2: Fuel Break Maintenance. With the exception of one parcel, all participating landowners have agreed to donate revenue from their harvested timber back to the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County. These funds will be placed in a trust fund and utilized to maintain the fuel break over the next five to ten years.

Nevada-Yuba-Placer
Fire Management Plan



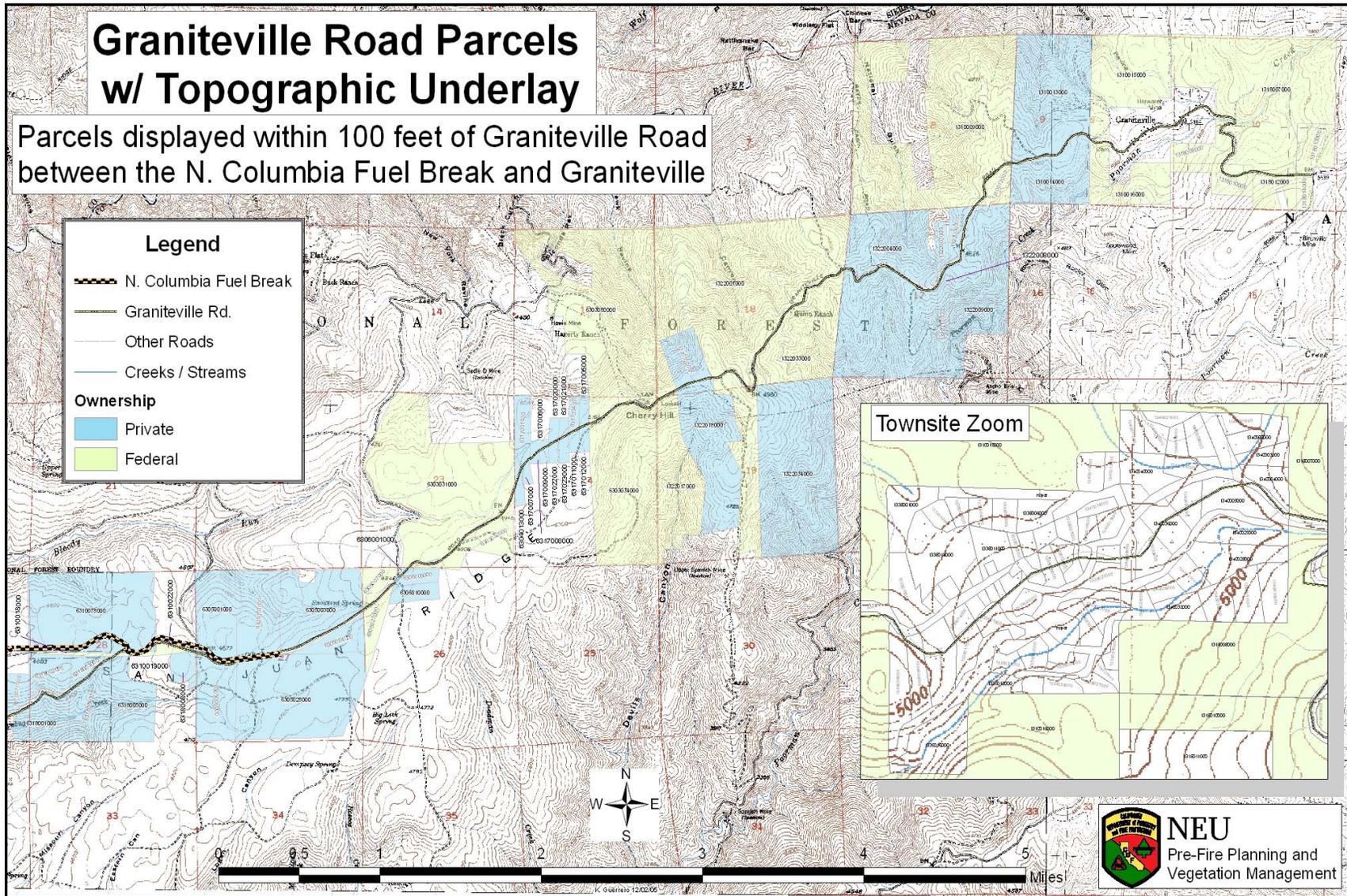
19 GRANITEVILLE TOWNSITE PROJECT

As an addendum to the existing Columbia Hill Fuels Reduction Project, the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has identified two additional areas for targeted fuels modification / reduction. One of these areas is located in the area immediately surrounding the Graniteville townsite. Graniteville is predominantly heavy timberlands with manzanita under story fuels with approximately 20 year-round residents and a number of seasonal vacation absentee property owners. The community of Graniteville has been very active in fuels reduction activities and wild fire preparedness both independently and in conjunction with the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.

Event 1: Establish Funding sources – The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has secured funding for this project from the US Forest Service.

Event 2: Fire Safe Council of Nevada County staff will be working with USFS and CDF staff to complete necessary environmental compliance for the project. Environmental compliance for this project will be completed by July 2006.

Event 3: Treatment of approximately 120 acres of non-Federal lands within and immediately adjacent to the Graniteville Townsite. This step is planned for Summer 2006 on all private lands surrounding the townsite. Project due to be completed prior to the first snowfall of winter.



20 SNOWTENT SHADED FUEL BREAK PROJECT

The second area identified by the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County as an addendum to the Columbia Hill project is the conversion of an additional 4 miles of roadway to shaded fuel break along North Bloomfield – Graniteville Road, tying the Columbia Hill project into the Graniteville Townsite Fuels Reduction. This stretch will complete a part of the North San Juan Coordinated Resources Management Plan with a shaded fuel break running from Bridgeport on the South Fork of the Yuba River to the town of Graniteville. The stretch of planned treatment area under the project is heavy timberlands with thick manzanita and suppressed conifer understory fuels.

Event 1: Establish Funding Sources: The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has secured funding for this project from the US Forest Service.

Event 2: Environmental Compliance: Fire Safe Council of Nevada County staff will be working with a privately contracted forester and CDF staff to complete environmental compliance for the project, which with the possible removal of timber, may involve the completion of an Emergency Fire Hazard Exemption. Environmental work began in January of 2006 and will be completed by July of 2006.

Event 3: Treatment of non-Federal lands, approximately 4 miles, extending from Snowtent Springs to the town of Graniteville. This step is planned for the Summer of 2006, prior to winter snowfall.

21 SENIOR AND DISABLED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has identified a need to continue the Senior and Disabled Assistance Program to provide defensible space clearing for elderly and disabled Nevada County residents unable to physically and financially clear on their own. The program currently utilizes workers from the Nevada County Probation Department's Work Release Program with supervision and direction from FSCNC staff to complete the requested work and bring participants into compliance with current defensible space laws.

Event 1: Secure Funding for Program Continuation – This program is currently funded by a grant from the Allstate Foundation, however the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County is applying for additional grants to expand program operations.

Event 2: Senior Contacts and Clearing – The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County will meet on-site with Seniors to determine what work they would like completed and consequently schedule the clearing work with the Probation Department. This task will be ongoing from the current time period until funding is no longer available.

22 DEFENSIBLE SPACE DROP OFF PROGRAMS

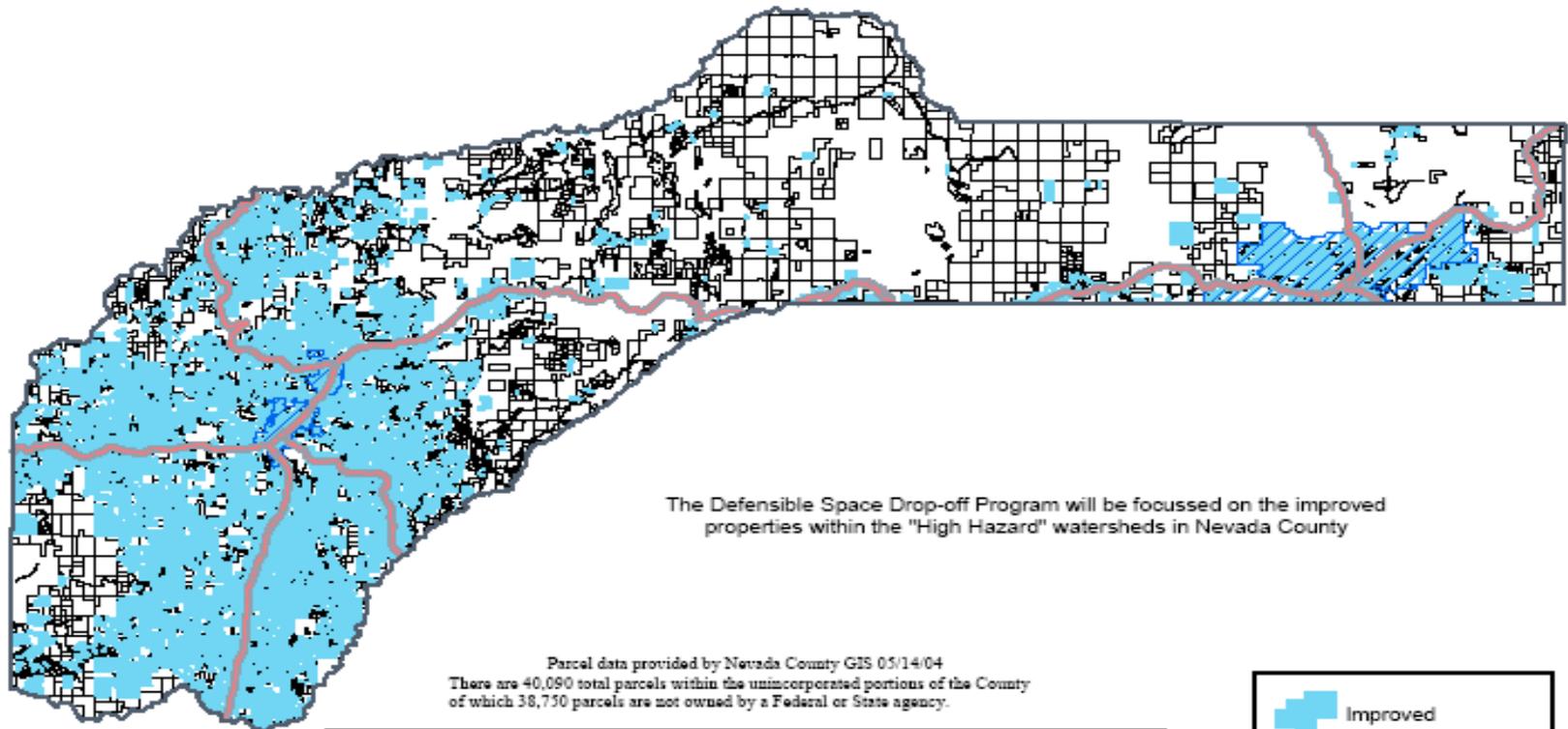
In an effort to encourage residents in outlying portions of the County and the East side of the County to clear defensible space, the FSCNC provides drop-offs days and locations throughout the County where residents are allowed to drop off vegetative material, including pine needles and other materials not able to be processed through the chipping program, for a weekend time frame. Materials are then ground and transported to cogeneration facilities or distributed as mulch. This program has proven more effective than chipping in the Eastern portion of Nevada County.

Event 1: Secure Funding for Program Continuation – This program is currently funded through grants of Proposition 40 Funds.

Event 2: Schedule Drop-offs: Multiple drop-offs have been scheduled throughout the County in 2006 in Condon Park, Owl Creek, Glenshire, Plavada, Soda Springs, Hobart Mills and Tahoe Donner.

Event 3: Conduct Drop-Offs: The drop-offs will be open for a full month with material being processed within seven days of the close of each drop-off. Material will be trucked to a cogeneration facility or left onsite.

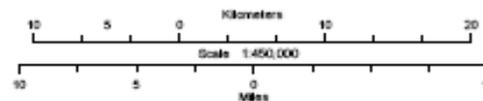
Nevada County
Defensible Space
Drop-off Program



The Defensible Space Drop-off Program will be focussed on the improved properties within the "High Hazard" watersheds in Nevada County

Parcel data provided by Nevada County GIS 05/14/04
There are 40,090 total parcels within the unincorporated portions of the County of which 38,750 parcels are not owned by a Federal or State agency.

	Improved <= 10	Improved >10	Unimproved <=10	Unimproved >10	All <= 10 acres	All > 10 acres	Total
Parcels	24,783	2,486	5,128	3,375	32,889	5,861	38,750
Acres	55,039	73,606	25,428	224,871	78,465	298,277	376,742
% of Total	14.81	19.54	8.23	59.64	20.83	79.17	



Improved
Unimproved
Incorporated Areas
Highways

S.Griffis
07/23/04

23 RED DOG – YOU BET NEIGHBORHOOD FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

In recent years the Red Dog – You Bet area of Nevada County has begun to grow dramatically and has seen a great increase in the number of recreational enthusiasts frequenting the area whom often leave illegal bonfires or campfires unattended. The residents of the Red Dog – You Bet area feel that their roadsides are insufficiently cleared and with such a large number of homes in the area, the neighborhood is at a high risk of disaster in the event of a wildfire.

Roadways in the area are very narrow and windy. There is a heavy accumulation of Pine saplings, Manzanita, Scotch Broom and other native vegetation along the roadways in the area, many of which are unpaved and feature overhanging fuels. Due to heavy fuels in the area and a growing population of residents and recreational enthusiasts alike, the Red Dog – You Bet neighborhood association came to the Fire Safe Council in 2003 seeking assistance with grant funding for roadside clearing to provide safer ingress and egress in the event of a wildfire.

Actions involved in the Proposed Project: The Red Dog – You Bet Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Project was developed to create a 15’ clearance on both sides of private roadways in the Red Dog – You Bet area, as well as provide mileage markers on main roadways. The Bureau of Land Management also considers this area as a high priority for fuels reduction efforts. There is incredibly strong support for these types of projects from the local community.

Event 1: Roadside Clearing. A Fire Safe Council of Nevada County representative will meet with landowners in the area as well as those responsible for fire protection to determine the highest priority areas to be treated. Areas to be cleared will be clearly marked and after a Request for Proposals has been put out, the FSCNC will select a clearing contractor to complete the fuels reduction work. The end result will be safer ingress for firefighters and egress for residents during a wildfire.

-As of August 2005, fuels reduction work on the first 15 miles of identified roadway was completed. Currently the CEQA and Environmental work is being done for expansion of the project for an additional 5 miles beyond the original fifteen. This expansion is in line to be completed through a Bureau of Land Management grant through the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County by using California Conservation Corps crews.

Event 2: Roadway marking. The FSCNC plans to work with landowners and firefighters in the area to determine the most critical areas in which to place mileage markers. Many of the roadways in the area are unpaved and poorly marked, thus making it difficult for those attempting to report a fire or other emergency, to accurately report their location to dispatchers. As well, many who recreate in the area are not familiar with the geography of the area, thus creating an even greater hardship in attempting to report an emergency, durable mileage markers will help to alleviate this danger.

24 YUBA COUNTY FOOTHILLS WATER SUPPLY PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND: Due to the rural make-up of Yuba County, most of the communities do not have a centralized water system. Water for fighting fires must come from ponds, creeks, pools etc... This project would establish at least two strategically located 10,000 gallon tanks in each of the foothill fire districts.

Yuba County is a very rural county. Other than one medium sized city, Yuba County is characterized by numerous small communities embedded in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas. Each of these communities is the epitome of a wildland urban interface area. The areas covered by this project are identified in the local CDF Unit Fire Plan as being at risk to a costly and damaging fire. Yuba County is recognized as having one of California's lowest per capita income levels. The communities do not have the resources or the funding to establish the water supply systems to adequately protect them from a spreading wildfire. However there is a strong sense of community involvement and any money spent will generate an outpouring of volunteers to see the project through. Since 1997, there have been two extended attack fires that threatened a number of these communities and destroyed several structures.

During the fall months, the local water agencies shut their systems down in part due to the lack of available water. Yuba Water Agency charged the fire agencies over \$15,000 for water used on the Pendola fire because they had to buy water back from other agencies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Event 1: Identify potential locations for water tanks. Work with the local fire districts and communities to determine locations that provide ease of access for fire fighting equipment, yet, discourage potential vandalism or misuse. The locations will need to be strategically located so firefighting equipment will be guaranteed an adequate supply of water until additional resources can arrive.

(This portion has been completed)

Event 2: Purchase and install water tanks. Based on the information gathered in **Event 1**, funding sources and the method(s) of installation will be determined. As this project has the potential to benefit a variety of districts, agencies, and private organizations, we anticipate a lot of participation and cooperation from the variety of stakeholders.

Event 3: Use fire personnel and volunteers to maintain the water tanks and the grounds they are placed on. Establish a maintenance schedule to keep the water storage tanks in a state of readiness.

The cost of this project will vary based on the number of locations available to site the water tanks, land costs, number of tanks, and tank costs. Original estimates were in the neighborhood of \$8,000 per tank, which would bring the total project cost to **\$80,000**. Yuba County has expressed some interest in assisting with project funding for this project.

As of June 1st, 2005, five tanks have been installed under the auspices of this project, one in each fire district (Strawberry Valley, Camptonville, Browns Valley, Smartville, and Oregon House). These tanks were funded through a Fire Safe Council Grant. A continued effort will be made to install a second tank in each district as funding becomes available.

25 YUBA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ROADSIDE CLEARING PLAN

Actions involved in the proposed project:

Roads side clearance projects that will benefit the various foothill community's fire protection and traffic safety have been identified by the cooperative efforts of CDF, USFS, and the Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council. Through a system of prioritization and cooperation the Yuba County Department of Public Works (YCDPW) will direct their roadside clearing efforts to those roads identified as having the greatest potential for improving fire safety, evacuation, egress, and access.

Event 1: A priority list of roads will be provided to the YCDPW. They will then direct their roadside clearance crews to direct their efforts on the roads based on the established priorities. Under the current plan, it is anticipated that twelve to fifteen miles will be accomplished this coming fiscal year and there are a total of eighty-eight miles identified for treatment.

This portion of the project has been completed.

Initial funding for this program was accomplished through Proposition 204 funds through the Fire Safe Council. Now that those funds have been expended YCDPW is continuing the program in coming fiscal years with partial funding through HR 2389 Title III funds and general gas tax revenues. The continuance of the funds is uncertain so currently the planning extends for the next five years. However, if additional funds become available they will be directed to the program and the list of roads may be expanded.

Justification: This project will result in a direct reduction of the fire hazard to the homes immediately adjacent to the identified roads and will provide enhanced protection to the communities of Dobbins – Oregon House, Brownsville, Challenge, Loma Rica and many more.

Potential Stakeholders to participate in Cost Sharing to Fund the Project:

- Yuba County
- Local Service Groups
- U.S. Forest Service
- Feather River Air Management District
- Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council

Estimated project cost is **\$950,000**. As of June 1, 2004, over \$200,000 had been spent on the project, the majority of which came from Prop 204. Last year \$58,500 was contributed from HR 2389 funds and \$30,000 from gas tax revenues for a total of \$88,500. Updated totals were not available at the time of publishing of this year's plan.

The program had been utilizing California Youth Authority crews from the Washington Ridge Conservation Camp to assist with the labor involved in this project. With this winter's removal of CYA crews from Washington Ridge, this program has been placed on hold. It is anticipated that the project work can resume once the transition from CYA to CDC (Calif. Dept. of Corrections) is completed at Washington Ridge.

26 Desired Future Condition

The population growth in the project areas will set the guidelines for the respective desired future conditions. Currently, the goal is to establish buffers for a minimum of thirty feet around each structure that resemble a Fuel Model 8 with an additional buffer similar to a Fuel Model 9 for another seventy feet. This would provide an overall buffer of one hundred feet around each structure where fire behavior would be significantly reduced due to the lack of ground fuels. Currently, as few as ten percent of the homes within the project areas meet the FireSafe standards. As that number approaches 100 percent, a large fuel reduction area will be created. This will ultimately result in an overall decrease in fire behavior in these areas; thereby, improving the fire services ability to extinguish the fires in the initial attack stages.

The goal of the roadside fuel reduction areas is to improve ingress and egress for the communities and develop defensible locations to be used by fire suppression resources to suppress oncoming wildfires. Any fuel break by itself will NOT stop a wildfire. It is a location where the fuel has been modified to increase the probability of success for fire suppression activities. Ground resources can use the location for direct attack or firing out. Air resources can use the location for fire retardant drops. (see Appendix D for an example shaded fuel break prescription.)

Action Plan

Currently all of the priority projects identified in this plan are in some stage of implementation. The Placer County Projects have received over \$600,000 funding through Proposition 204 and the National Fire Plan. There is also a chipper module working with the landowners throughout Placer County to aid in fuels reduction. Placer County funds ½ PY for a Pre-Fire Planner.

In Nevada County, the Fire Safe Council Coordinator position is now being funded by the County, the Forty-Niner Project has been awarded \$860,721.00 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the State Office of Emergency Services; and, a local fire district has undertaken the Alta Sierra Project. The Nevada County Consolidated Fire District (NCCFD) is currently doing inspections and enforcing the requirements of PRC 4290. Along with Nevada County and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, NCCFD is providing chipper support to the residents that complete their clearance requirement. Also, CDF and the National Fire Plan have dedicated over \$150,000.00 towards fuels reduction around residences in western Nevada County. The CDF and Nevada County have a contract to provide a Pre-Fire Planner at the county level and the position is considered a great success.

Several miles of shaded fuel break work have already been completed in the Ure Mountain and Oregon Ridge Projects in Yuba County. The recent Pendola and Williams fires have spurred the interests of the residents and brought home the importance of meeting FireSafe standards.

The Unit is constantly re-evaluating our projects and developing a plan of action with the stakeholders of any potential new projects. Each of the above projects is currently being viewed on a three-year timeline as that is what the funding periods are limited to.