

# **FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008**

Lassen-Modoc Unit

## **I. Executive Summary**

The Lassen Modoc Unit includes Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties and portions of Shasta and Siskiyou Counties. The Unit's Fire Management Plan is intended to provide information to Cal Fire personnel, the various County Boards of Supervisors, Fire Safe Councils and other stakeholders focused on identifying specific problem areas and solving the mutually agreed upon fire issues.

The Lassen Modoc Unit Fire Management Plan documents the assessment of the fire situation in the Unit. It includes stakeholder contributions and priorities which identify strategic targets for proactive approaches and project based solutions.



While the Unit Fire Management Plan addresses local needs, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection also has legislative mandates dating back to 1945 requiring it to determine the “intensity” or appropriate level of fire protection for all state responsibility areas in California (*Public Resources Code §4130*). The Unit Fire Management Plan is the means of focusing efforts on local needs while working within the framework of the California Fire Plan as adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

It is intended to be an ever-evolving working document which can be used to identify potentially hazardous areas or communities at risk, provide guidelines for fire prevention and protection projects and to assist the Fire Safe Councils and community groups with useful information in making their communities fire safe. This document should be used as a foundation that can be amended over the years as necessary and as a general guide for fire prevention projects within the Lassen Modoc Unit.

The *California Fire Plan (1996)* is outlined within this document. It is the goal of the Unit to apply the California Fire Plan to accomplish a systematic assessment of the fire problem. Through this assessment, the Unit strives to develop “fire safe” communities and reduce the potential occurrence of devastating wildfires. In the efforts to implement the California Fire Plan, the Lassen Modoc Unit utilizes computer based data and Geographic Information System (GIS) to comprehensively analyze fire hazards, assets at risk and the level of service, all of which are included in the Unit Fire Management Plan.

The Unit Fire Management Plan systematically assesses the existing levels of wildland protection services, identifies high-risk and high value areas that are potential locations for costly and damaging wildfires, ranks the areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribes actions that can be taken to reduce future losses. The assessment system has four basic components, which are discussed in greater detail later in this document. These components are:

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Level of Service (LOS)

Assets at Risk (AAR)

Hazardous Forest Fuels

Historic Fire Weather

## **Unit Fire Plan Assessment Process**

The Lassen Modoc Unit Pre Fire Management Program has been in place since 1997. During the past eleven years, data has been validated and processed in order to assess vegetative fuels, assets at risk, fire weather, and level of service calculations. The assessments now include changes in the dynamics of the actual on-the-ground work that has been accomplished. This is an ongoing process.

The development of a method for incorporating the current and past Timber Harvest Plans, Emergency Notices, Exemptions, and Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans into a GIS format is under way. The data to be collected and utilized will include the locations and types of fuels treatments in areas containing assets having the greatest value. This information can be utilized in many aspects by the unit and cooperating agencies.

## **Unit Fire Plan Data Layers**

The Unit Fire Management Plan Data layers, which consist of fuels, weather, fire history, emergency activity reporting, assets at risk and level of service have been completed to date, however, conditions are dynamic in nature and must be re-validated on a regular basis.

## **Unit Fire Management Plan Integration into Daily Operations**

Over the years, many of our managers and supervisors have had priorities and goals to reduce fuels around many of the communities within the Unit. The development of the Unit Fire Management Plan was based on the strong support and assistance from the Fire Safe Councils. Many of the ideas from these collective influences are now coming to fruition.



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### **Key Fire Plan Players**

The Lassen-Modoc Unit's Pre Fire Engineer is instrumental in working with the Fire Safe Councils and Cal Fire personnel in the development and implementation of many of the current and proposed projects within Unit. The Battalion Chiefs, Foresters, and Fire Station personnel also work closely with the councils to assist in grant writing, grant administration and preparation and project monitoring.

In closing, the intent of the Lassen-Modoc Unit Fire Management Plan is to document the findings of the assessments, identify and document fuels management goals and to communicate priorities toward solving mutually agreed upon fire problems within the Unit. This Fire Management Plan examines data from over a ten year span (1997 to 2007) to analyze what took place during 2007. Our fire activity for 2007 was above the ten year average.

This Unit Fire Management Plan will be especially helpful to our Fire Safe Councils in supporting their future requests for grant funding and in providing a basis for many of their ongoing and proposed projects and providing the justification needed for these projects. It is the intent of this document to provide a simple, easy to understand report and working guide that will be used and remain as a dynamic document driven by local community needs.

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