

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008

Lassen-Modoc Unit

Lassen Modoc Unit Description

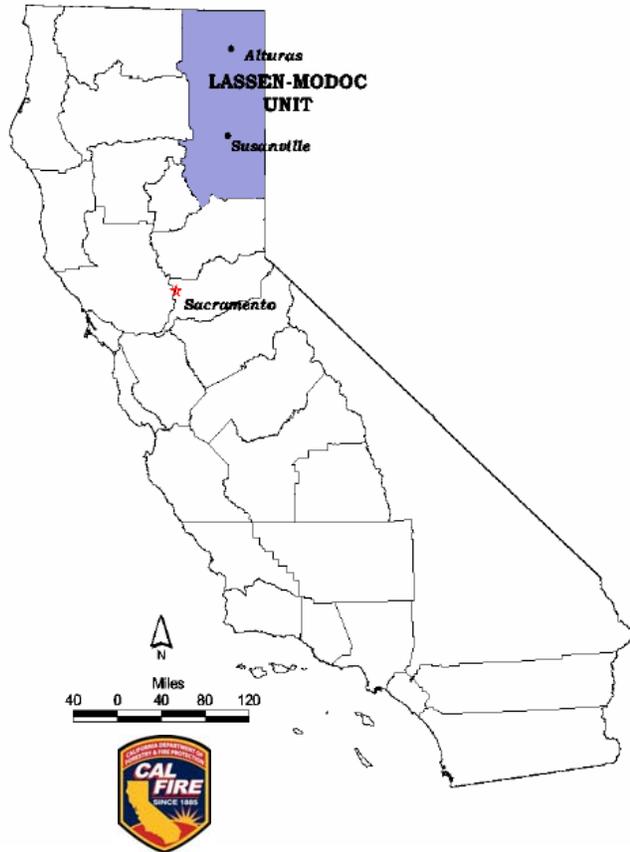
Lassen-Modoc Unit is located in the northeastern corner of the State. It consists of Lassen, Modoc, Plumas and portions of Shasta, Sierra and Siskiyou Counties. A total of 1.6 million acres are within the Direct Protection Area of the Unit.

The Cascade Mountain Range ends near the Almanor Basin. The Sierra Nevada Range begins and runs to the South along the Diamond Mountains on the Southwest edge of the Honey Lake Valley. The unit encompasses the Northeastern Plateau of California with an average elevation of 5000 feet above sea level.

Vegetation types range from mixed conifer and ponderosa and lodgepole pines along the West side of the Unit, to sage brush, oaks, and annual grasses mixed with juniper in the desert to the East. The Eastern boundary of the Unit is the beginning of the Great Basin, which continues East to the Great Salt Lake of Utah.

The majority of the populated areas are located in the Honey Lake Valley, Lake Almanor Basin, Big Valley and Alturas. The Honey Lake Valley is home to the City of Susanville, and the communities of Janesville, Standish, Litchfield, Wendel, Milford, Herlong, and Doyle.

The Almanor Basin consists of the City of Chester, Almanor, Almanor West, Prattville, Peninsula, Hamilton Branch, Canyon Dam, Clear Creek and Westwood. The Big Valley area includes the communities of Bieber, Nubieber, Lookout, and Adin. The Alturas area consists of the City of Alturas and the towns of Likely, Canby, Cedarville, Davis Creek and the community of Cal Pines.



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U.S. Highway 395 runs North to South along the East side of the Unit, from Lakeview, Oregon to Reno, Nevada. State Highways 70, 139, 299, 44 and 36 transect the Unit West to East and State Highway 89 runs North to South along the West side of the Unit traveling through Lassen National Park. Numerous visitors and transients travel these routes throughout the year, as well as interstate commerce from the Sacramento Valley and Oregon in search of a shorter way to the East bound interstate highways.

Logging, correctional institutions and recreation are the major industrial economic factors to the region. Over the past few years, logging has diminished due to environmental concerns and regulations from the Federal and State governments. Recreation, although very seasonal, flourishes during the spring and summer months. Watershed from Lassen-Modoc Unit flows to the Feather River and the Sacramento River. Most of these watersheds are the head waters to these major rivers in the state.

The Lassen-Modoc Unit resources and facilities include:

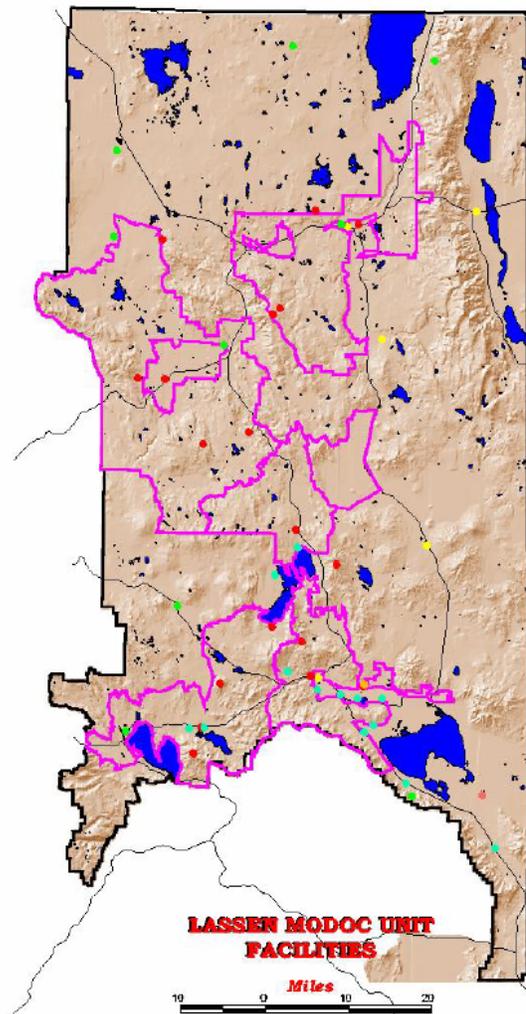
Susanville Interagency Fire Center

- 8 Fire Stations,
 - 13 front line fire engines,
 - 2 reserve fire engines,
 - 5 Lookouts,
 - 3 Conservation Camps,
 - 14 Inmate Fire Crews
- Susanville Inmate Training Center
- 3 medium fire bulldozers,
 - 1 medium helicopter with crew.

Volunteer fire departments provide structure fire protection within the unit, with paid fire departments in Susanville City, Janesville, Westwood, West Almanor, Peninsula, Hamilton Branch and Chester. During the winters of 2001 through 2003, the Unit had Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements (Amador Plan) in the communities of the Standish-Litchfield, Westwood, Stones – Bogard, Bieber and Janesville Fire Protection Districts.



- Facilities
 - BLM Facilities
 - California Correctional Center
 - LMJ Facilities
 - USFS Facilities
 - PPD
 - VFD
- Battalion's
- Lassen Modoc Unit
- Lakes
- State Highways



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The Susanville Interagency Fire Center provides emergency dispatch services for all of the Federal, State and local government fire agencies in Lassen County and the Almanor Basin. The Modoc County Sheriffs office dispatches the local government fire agencies in Modoc County.

Cooperating government agencies within the Lassen-Modoc Unit include:

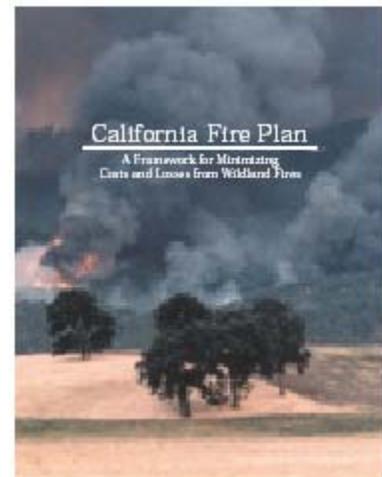
USDA - Lassen National Forest
USDA - Plumas National Forest
USDA - Modoc National Forest
USDI - Lassen Volcanic National Park
USDI - Lava Beds National Monument
USDI - Bureau of Land Management
USDI - Bureau of Indian Affairs
Natural Resource Conservation Service
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Transportation
California Highway Patrol
Department of Defense, Herlong Army Depot
Lassen County Sheriffs Office
Plumas County Sheriffs Office
Modoc County Sheriffs Office
Public Works and County offices of Lassen, Modoc and Plumas County

THE CALIFORNIA FIRE PLAN (1996)

The *State Board of Forestry (BOF)* and the *California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)* drafted the *California Fire Plan (1996)*. This document is a comprehensive fire plan for the wildland fire protection in California. The fire plan consists of a planning process which considers: level of service measurements, assets at risk assessments, incorporates the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis.

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the *California Fire Plan* is to reduce the total losses and ever increasing costs from wildland fires in California by protecting the assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and improving the potential of initial attack success.



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The *California Fire Plan* has five strategic objectives:

- ❖ To create wildfire protection zones that reduces the risks to citizens and firefighters.
- ❖ To assess all wildlands, not just the state responsibility areas. Analyses will include all wildland fire service providers – federal, state, local government and private. The analysis will identify high risk, high value areas, and develop information on and determine who is responsible, who is responding, and who is paying for wildland fire emergencies.
- ❖ To identify and analyze key policy issues and develop recommendations for changes in public policy. Analysis will include alternatives to reduce total cost and losses by increasing the fire protection system effectiveness.
- ❖ To have a strong fiscal policy focus and monitor the wildland fire protection system in fiscal terms. This will include all public and private expenditures and economic losses.
- ❖ To translate the analyses into public policy.

Fire Plan Framework

Five major components will form the basis of an ongoing fire planning process to monitor and assess California's wildland fire environment.

WILDFIRE PROTECTION ZONES A key product of this Fire Plan is the development of wildfire safety zones to reduce citizen and firefighter risk from future large wildfires.

INITIAL ATTACK SUCCESS The fire plan defines an assessment protection system for wildland fire. This measure can be used to assess the department's ability to provide an equal level of protection to lands of similar type, as required by Public Resources Code 4130. This measurement is the percentage of fires that are successfully controlled before unacceptable costs are incurred. Knowledge of the level of service will help define the risk to wildfire damage faced by public and private assets in the wildland areas.

ASSETS PROTECTED The plan will establish a methodology for defining assets protected and their degree of risk from wildfire. The assets addressed in the plan are citizen and firefighter safety, watersheds and water, timber, wildlife and habitat (including rare and endangered species), unique areas (scenic, cultural, and historic), recreation, range, structures, and air quality. Stakeholders-national, state, local, and private agencies, interest groups, etc., will be identified for each asset at risk. The assessment will define the areas where assets are at risk from wildfire, enabling fire service managers and stakeholders to set priorities for pre fire management project work.

PRE FIRE MANAGEMENT This aspect focuses on system analysis methods that assess alternatives to protect assets from unacceptable risk of wildland fire damage. Projects include a combination of fuels reduction, ignition management, fire-safe engineering activities, and forest health to protect public and private assets. The priority for projects will be based on asset owners and other stakeholders' input and support. Pre fire management prescriptions designed to protect these assets will also identify who benefits and who should share in the project cost.

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FISCAL FRAMEWORK The Board of Forestry (BOF) and Cal Fire are developing a fiscal framework for assessing and monitoring annual and long-term changes in California's wildland fire protection system. State, local and Federal wildland fire protection agencies, along with the private sector, have evolved into an interdependent system of pre fire management and suppression forces. As a result, changes to budgeted levels of service to any of the entities directly affect the others and the services delivered to the public. Monitoring system changes through this fiscal framework will allow the BOF and Cal Fire to address public policy issues that maximize the efficiency of local, state, and federal firefighting resources.

Fire Plan Framework Applications

- Identify for state, federal, and local officials and for the public those areas of concentrated assets and high risk.
 - Allow Cal Fire to create a more efficient fire protection system focused on meaningful solutions for identified problem areas.
 - Give citizens an opportunity to identify public and private assets to design and carry out projects to protect those assets.
 - Identify, before fires start, where cost-effective pre fire management investments can be made to reduce taxpayer cost and citizen losses from wildfire.
 - Encourage an integrated intergovernmental approach to reducing cost and losses.
- Enable policy makers and the public to focus on what can be done to reduce future cost and losses from wildfire.