

Riverside Unit
Fire Management Plan

2009

**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Riverside Unit**

John R. Hawkins, Unit Chief



APPROVED BY:

2009 Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan

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Community Wildfire Protection Plan Content Agreements

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Chief John R. Hawkins

Riverside County Fire Department
Chief John R. Hawkins

Riverside County Board of Supervisors:
District 1 - Bob Buster
District 2 - John Tavaglione
District 3 - Jeff Stone
District 4 - Roy Wilson
District 5 - Marion Ashley

Idyllwild Fire Protection District

Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council
Idyllwild Chapter
Pine Cove Chapter
Pinyon Chapter
Poppet Flats/Twin Pines Chapter

Southwest Riverside County Fire Safe Council

United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service
Cleveland National Forest
San Bernardino National Forest

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Mount San Jacinto State Park
Lake Perris State Park
Anza-Borrego State Park

Bureau of Land Management

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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Executive Summary

The 2009 Riverside Unit Pre-Fire Management Plan strongly reflects the continuing State of Emergency that exists in the San Jacinto Mountains (Battalion 11) within the Unit. Unit personnel, including the Unit Chief, Deputy Chief – Western Operations, Bautista Division Chief, Pre-Fire Division Chief, Pre-Fire Battalion Chief, Pre-Fire Engineer, unit foresters, and Riverside County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services are working diligently with the Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST) to come up with solutions to mitigate this problem. Although Pre-Fire activities continue in other parts of the county through the shifting of resources, the focus of our activities has been and must continue to be these communities and watersheds within the mountainous area until the unprecedented threat can be sufficiently mitigated.

In spite of the emphasis on the San Jacinto Mountain communities, Pre-Fire projects have also been planned and implemented on State Responsibility Area lands in and adjacent to the Cleveland National Forest. A number of cooperative projects have taken place with many more being planned. We have also been treating fuels on Multi-species Preserves and other public lands within SRA but not proximal any national forest.

Plan Concept and Process

The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) have drafted a comprehensive update of the Fire Plan for wildland fire protection in California. The planning process defines a level of service measurement, considers assets at risk, 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 Pre-Fire Management Plan is to reduce total government costs and citizen losses from wildland fire in the Riverside Unit by protecting assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and increasing initial attack success. The Fire Plan has five strategic objectives:

- ◆ Create wildfire protection zones that reduce the risks to citizens and firefighters.
- ◆ Include all wildland, not just the state responsibility areas. Analysis will ultimately include all wildland fire service providers - federal, state, local government, and private. This is the long-term strategy. This plan is primarily focused on the CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area (DPA) of the Riverside Unit, however the current extreme fuel conditions existing in the San Jacinto Mountains require the Unit to include the State Responsibility Area (SRA) within U.S. Forest Service DPA also.
- ◆ Identify and analyze key policy issues and develop recommendations for changes in public policy. Analysis will include alternatives to reduce total costs and/or increase fire protection system effectiveness.

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- ◆ Describe the wildland fire protection system in fiscal terms. This can include all public/private expenditures and potential economic losses.
- ◆ Translate the analysis into public policy.

Fire Plan Framework

The five major objectives form the basis of an ongoing fire planning process to monitor and assess Riverside County's wildland fire environment. They include:

- ◆ Wildfire Protection Zones. These zones are buffers around the community to reduce citizen and firefighter risks from costly and damaging fires.
- ◆ Initial Attack Success. 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.
- ◆ Assets Protected. 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.
- ◆ Pre-fire Management. This is the process that assesses alternatives to protect assets from unacceptable risk of wildland fire damage. Project alternatives may include a combination of fuels reduction, ignition management, fire-safe engineering activities, and forest health improvement to protect public and private assets.
- ◆ Fiscal framework. This is a tool for assessing and monitoring the cost-effectiveness of the wildland fire protection systems.

Pre-Fire Management Plan Applications

- Identify those areas of concentrated assets and high risk for state, federal, and local officials and for the public
- Allow wildland fire service providers to create a more efficient fire protection system focusing 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 costs and citizen losses from wildfire.

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- Encourage an integrated intergovernmental approach to reducing costs and losses.
- Enable policy makers and the public to focus on what can be done to reduce future costs and losses from wildfires.

Assessment Framework

The Pre-Fire Management Plan includes a framework for a systematic assessment of the existing levels of wildland protection services, identifies high-risk and high-value areas that are potential locations of costly and disastrous wild fires, ranks the areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribes what can be done to reduce the future costs and losses. This assessment system has four major components:

- Level of Service
- Assets at Risk
- Hazardous Fuels
- Severe Fire Weather

During the data collection and validation phase, input is solicited and invited from interested stakeholders as it pertains to assets at risk. Stakeholders may be other government agencies, private landowners, service groups, or homeowner associations. It is an objective of the Pre-Fire Management Plan that those who benefit from the protection of an asset should also share in costs for protecting that asset. Thus, asset stakeholders are encouraged to provide financial support for the projects that provide significant benefits to their assets at risk.

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COLLABORATION

Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST)

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), in cooperation with all of the agencies and individuals in the Riverside County MAST, have teamed up to mitigate an unprecedented emergency facing the forested mountain communities. Multiple years of severe drought combined with drastically overstocked tree stands have resulted in tremendous rates of tree mortality due to bark beetles in and around the community. In March 2002, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency. In March 2003, Governor Davis concurred with the County and issued his own State of Emergency Proclamation. Those emergency declarations are still active in 2009.

The MAST was formed to mitigate the threat to life, property, watershed and the ecosystem. It is currently Riverside Unit's single greatest threat to SRA, (even though it is within federal DPA) and is the number one priority of the Riverside Unit. This is not only for the protection of life, property and resources, but to protect the lives of CAL FIRE and other agency firefighters and law enforcement personnel that may be called to fight a fire or conduct large-scale evacuations in communities within the San Jacinto Mountains.

In addition to CAL FIRE, the MAST consists of members from many agencies, groups and elected officials: Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council; U.S. Forest Service; Riverside County Fire Department; Natural Resource Conservation Service; Idyllwild Fire Protection District; Riverside County Board of Supervisors; Riverside County Office of Emergency Services; State OES; Riverside County Flood Control; Southern California Edison; Senator Feinstein; Congresswoman Bono-Mack; Senator John Benoit 37th Senatorial District; Assemblymen Manuel V. Perez 80th District and Brian Nestande 64th District; California Department of Fish and Game; California Department of Transportation; Riverside County Transportation Land Management Agency; South Coast Air Quality Management District; Pine Cove/Idyllwild/Fern Valley/Lake Hemet Water Districts; Riverside County Waste Management; Pine Cove Property Owners Association; UC Co-op Extension Service; Riverside County Sheriffs Office; California Highway Patrol. The MAST is organized using the Incident Command System (ICS) with a unified command; formal Incident Action Plans (IAPs) are produced and followed by the MAST members.

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The MAST ICs have set the following incident objectives:

- Provide for Public and Employee Safety
- Clear transportation and utility corridors of dead trees
- Protect Communications Systems
- Protect the community from catastrophic fire and tree falling hazards
- Develop and implement the following plans:
 - Immediate – Evacuation, structure contingency, transportation and utility corridors, communication sites, damage assessment and dead tree removal.
 - Mid-term – Transition to long-term community protection, regeneration and forest health.
 - Long-term - Strategic actions leading to continued forest health and community safety
- Provide for coordinated Public Relations Program with the public, elected officials and within agencies
- Provide for coordinated agency responses
- Maintain emergency response capability including structure protection contingency
- Prioritize and maintain transportation and utility corridors and communication sites
- Prioritize community protection through Defensible Fuel Profile Zones, hazard tree abatement, fuelbreaks and fire law/code enforcement
- Provide for removal of trees and slash through solid waste management and development of private sector utilization and markets
- Provide cost/benefit analysis of actions based upon objectives
- Identify and develop financial aid opportunities through grants and incentives.

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Specific MAST Division Assignments for CAL FIRE Personnel

- Remove dead/dying trees that threaten to block vital evacuation corridors using conservation camp crews working in partnership with CalTrans and county road department. Assignment is ongoing daily.
- Develop a structure protection pre-plan for all mountain communities. Assignment was completed August 8, 2003 for Pine Cove, Idyllwild, Mountain Center. The plan was updated in 2008 to include the Pinyon, Anza, Poppet Flats and Twin Pines.
- Identify and construct safety zones for use by firefighting/law enforcement resources, which can be also used as a “shelter in place” option for members of the public, should there not be sufficient time to evacuate. To date six safety zones have been identified and completed. The safety zones are – Tahquitz Pines, Idyllwild Pines, Buckhorn Camp, Astro Camp, International School Of Music and the Arts (ISOMATA), and the Idyllwild Transfer Station.
- Assist private property owners with identifying dead/dying trees that must be removed due to fire and falling hazards – work with FEMA, OES, the County and other agencies to help secure funding to assist property owners with the extreme and unexpected costs of removing trees around their structures. As of May 1, 2005, over \$28,254,000 has been obtained for the County of Riverside, through FEMA, USFS, NRCS and other federal grants to assist with dead tree removal and fuels treatment on private SRA lands.
- Create Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZ) around the communities on both public and private lands in order to have sufficient defensible space to keep a wildfire from entering or leaving the community – accelerate work on Red Hill VMP shaded fuelbreak and add additional land under contract – Initiate work on the Baldy Mountain VMP project to protect the communities of Mountain Center and Baldy Mountain Village.
- Assist the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council in securing grants for fuel reduction projects in the communities – provide technical assistance on setting up and administering projects. This is an on-going project.
- Develop a community evacuation plan in cooperation with the other fire and law enforcement agencies. This project was completed primarily by CAL FIRE personnel August 8, 2003 and is updated annually.
- Work with utility companies to ensure dead/dying trees are felled and removed that threaten to fall on lines and start fires or interrupt service. Identify communication sites that need tree removal in order for them to be protected and available in the event of fire or other type incident. SCE has completed their first and second passes through the San Jacinto Mountains and surrounding communities. SCE is currently working on “maintenance” type removals, removing new mortality as it is located.

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- Enforce the Public Resources Code and other applicable fire codes/ordinances on all properties within the community to reduce fuel loading. Develop educational materials to assist the property owners in knowing what exactly is required. Pre-Fire Staff have been hosting various meetings with agencies and the public to ensure equal enforcement and education in the communities. Station personnel are gearing up to begin LE-100 inspections in their areas, with additional follow-up by Fire Prevention staff to issue citations as appropriate.
- Develop a reforestation and forest health management plan that will keep fuels at acceptable levels and ensure forest health. Through Forest Health Grants, two Forestry Assistant II's and an office tech have been hired to begin working on forest rehabilitation and forest health issues.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy for disposing of the enormous amount of fuels being generated by the felling of dead/dying trees. CAL FIRE personnel, working in cooperation with Riverside County Waste Management and the USFS have set up a tub grinding operation capable of grinding up to 40" diameter logs and all the associated slash into wood chips. The wood chips are going to a wood-burning electrical generation plant and/or to a company that produces mulch for the public market.
- Work with the USFS, University of California and other agencies to develop markets to take advantage of the massive volume of logs and biomass that are resulting from the tree die-off and subsequent removal:

A \$1,800,000 Economic Assistance Program grant was awarded to Riverside County to promote wood utilization in the San Jacinto Mountains. A pallet mill is currently being built in Beaumont CA to utilize the logs removed from the area and is expected to be operational by 2010. These funds are also being used to purchase a Hook Lift truck with large capacity bins to collect slash, brush or wood chips and a skid steer tractor to help with the removal.

- Work with other MAST agencies and Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to develop a shared GIS database for use by all MAST agencies in conjunction with public access of select portions of that GIS along with other educational information on the emergency via a public website, www.calmast.org. The initial database and website are complete as of August 28, 2003. Numerous upgrades and additions will be constantly occurring.

This Incident Action Plan for this emergency is constantly evolving. It was initially estimated that it would take at least 5 years of a constant massive effort to remove the vast amount of hazardous fuels existing in the San Jacinto Mountains. With the persisting drought and additional opportunities for more fuels reduction projects, work is ongoing and can be expected to last another 5 years. The MAST organization will continue to contribute to the communities and agencies after the work is done.

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MAST Accomplishments as of April 2009

- All 6,477 parcels within the MAST area received some level of survey for dead trees
- Riverside County Fire Contracts have resulted in 472 Acres Treated, 15,352 Dead Trees Removed and 1,444 Property Owners Assisted using federal grant funds.
- Riverside County Fire Contracts resulted in removal of 1,509 trees on six MAST – Designated Safety Zones
- SCE has removed 28,265 trees at a cost of \$31,976,361.
- NRCS has treated 7,257 acres treated in dead tree removal or brush mastication projects
- USFS has treated 26,605 acres on fuels treatment projects which include dead tree removal, brush mastication, green tree thinning and other projects.
- Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council completed PRC 4291 hazard abatement on 1,235 private parcels for 1,071 acres
- 3,850 hours spent by 32 detailed CAL FIRE Foresters assisting RRU/RVC during this emergency
- Evacuation Table Top Exercise Conducted June 24, 2004
- MAST I-Zone Drill conducted on June 15, 2005
- MAST Table Top Exercise Conducted May 23, 2008

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Government Stakeholders

An integrated, intergovernmental approach is used to assess all wildlands. Federal, state and local wildland fire and resource protection agency partners in planning are:

- United States Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Service
 - San Bernardino National Forest, San Jacinto Ranger District
 - Cleveland National Forest
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service
- United States Department of Interior
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
- State of California
 - Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 - Department of Fish and Game
 - Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Department of Transportation
- Riverside County
 - Riverside County Fire Department
 - Transportation and Land Management Agency
 - Riverside County Parks and Recreation
- The Following Cities:
 - Banning
 - Beaumont
 - Calimesa
 - Canyon Lake
 - Corona
 - Desert Hot Springs
 - Hemet
 - Lake Elsinore
 - La Quinta
 - Moreno Valley
 - Murrieta
 - Norco
 - Palm Springs
 - Palm Desert
 - Perris
 - Riverside
 - San Jacinto
 - Temecula

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Private and Quasi-Public Stakeholders

- Private individuals / property owners.
- Ranchers and farmers utilizing open lands.
- Corporate entities holding lands or conducting business in areas at risk.
- Home and property owners associations.
- Real Estate and Business Associations.
- Coordinated Resource Management Planning Committees (CRMP).
- Firesafe Councils and Alliances.
- Water companies relying on watershed areas.
- Electric companies concerned with power generation and distribution.
- Railroads and other transportation entities traversing wildlands.
- Communication companies with facilities sited on or traversing wildlands.
- Agricultural commissions, boards, committees and associations.
- Habitat conservation groups.
- Groups and associations promoting various outdoor activities.
- Historical societies.
- Tourism and commerce promoting groups.
- Petroleum/Natural Gas pipeline companies

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Assets at Risk

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

A closer look at a specific asset at risk in Riverside County, wildlife habitat, reveals the complexity involved with assessing and managing for these assets. Riverside County is home to numerous endangered plant and animal species, all of which are affected by fire in some manner. Endangered species play a critical role in the ecosystem and must be factored into the equation when ranking assets. Managing for these species and their habitat is often in direct conflict with the management of other assets such as the protection of lives and property. The attached asset rankings map displays how these assets are ranked within the county.

ASSET AT RISK	PUBLIC ISSUE CATEGORY	LOCATION AND RANKING METHODOLOGY
HYDROELECTRIC POWER	PUBLIC WELFARE	1.) WATERSHEDS THAT FEED RUN OF THE RIVER POWER PLANTS, RANKED BASED ON PLANT CAPACITY; 2.) CELLS ADJACENT TO RESERVOIR BASED PLANTS (LOW RANK); AND 3.) CELLS CONTAINING CANALS AND FLUMES (HIGH RANK)
FIRE FLOOD WATERSHEDS	PUBLIC SAFETY PUBLIC WELFARE	WATERSHEDS WITH A HISTORY OF PROBLEMS OR PROPER CONDITIONS FOR FUTURE PROBLEMS. RANKS ARE BASED ON AFFECTED DOWNSTREAM POPULATION
SOIL	ENVIRONMENT	WATERSHED RANKED BASED ON EROSION POTENTIAL
WATER STORAGE	PUBLIC WELFARE	WATERSHED AREA UP TO 20 MILES UPSTREAM FROM WATER STORAGE FACILITY, RANKED BASED ON WATER VALUE AND DEAD STORAGE CAPACITY OF FACILITY
WATER SUPPLY	PUBLIC HEALTH	1.) WATERSHED AREA UP TO 20 MILES FROM WATER SUPPLY FACILITY (HIGH RANK); 2.) GRID CELLS CONTAINING DOMESTIC WATER DIVERSIONS, RANKED BASED ON NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS, AND 3.) CELLS CONTAINING DITCHES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS (HIGH RANK)
SCENIC VALUE	PUBLIC WELFARE	FOUR MILE VIEWSHED AROUND SCENIC HIGHWAYS AND ¼ MILE VIEWSHED AROUND WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS, RANKED BASED ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO VEGETATION TYPES (TREE VERSUS NON-TREE TYPES)
TIMBER	PUBLIC WELFARE	TIMBERLANDS RANKED BASED ON POTENTIAL DAMAGE BY FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS (FIA) REGION AND OWNERS.
RANGE	PUBLIC WELFARE	RANGELANDS RANKED BASED ON POTENTIAL REPLACEMENT FEED COST BY REGION/OWNER/VEGETATION TYPE
AIR QUALITY	PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC WELFARE	POTENTIAL DAMAGES TO HEALTH, MATERIALS, VEGETATION, AND VISIBILITY; RANKING BASED ON VEGETATION TYPE AND AIR BASIN
HISTORIC BUILDING	PUBLIC WELFARE	FROM STATE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION, RANKED BASED ON FIRE SUSCEPTIBILITY
RECREATION	PUBLIC WELFARE	UNIQUE RECREATION AREAS OR AREAS WITH POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO FACILITIES, RANKED BASED ON FIRE SUSCEPTIBILITY
STRUCTURES	PUBLIC SAFETY PUBLIC WELFARE	RANKING BASED ON HOUSING DENSITY AND FIRE SUSCEPTIBILITY
NON-GAME WILDLIFE	ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC WELFARE	CRITICAL HABITATS AND SPECIES LOCATIONS BASED ON INPUT FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
GAME WILDLIFE	PUBLIC WELFARE ENVIRONMENT	CRITICAL HABITATS AND SPECIES LOCATIONS BASED ON INPUT FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
INFRASTRUCTURE	PUBLIC SAFETY PUBLIC WELFARE	INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY AND OTHER CRITICAL SERVICES (E.G. REPEATER SITES, TRANSMISSION LINES)

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Water quality has proven to be another example of a critical asset within Riverside County. Water stored in reservoirs within the county is supplied to businesses and residences throughout the Los Angeles Basin as well as the Inland Empire. Maintenance of water quality is crucial to Riverside County's 1.5 million residents and the support of its largest business, agriculture. Public consumption, recreation, and hydro-electricity are all affected by the quality of water. There are 8 reservoirs within the county that supply water for drinking, recreation, or hydro-electricity. They are: Lake Perris, Lake Mathews, Vail Reservoir, Lake Hemet, Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Lake Skinner and Diamond Valley Lake. The following is a summary of the assets at risk, by Battalion for Riverside Unit. The information primarily is in consideration to the potential for large and damaging wildland fires, and the potential for a significant amount of structures damaged.

Battalion 1 – Perris

Significant damage would most likely be seen in the east side of the Perris Valley between Station 3 (Nuview) and Station 54 (Homeland), as there are some high dollar homes in the area. The potential for large and damaging fires, in the potential amount of structures lost, is more of a problem in the Good Meadow area. This is due to the large amount of mobile homes and scattered single-family dwellings in the Good Meadow area. The mobile homes, coupled with scattered structures presents a significant exposure problem in the event of a fast moving grass fires.

Battalion 2 – Lake Elsinore

The primary assets at risk in B-2 are homes interspersed in the WUI. There is also a set of major electrical transmission lines on the East side of I-15 that pass through the County Ecological preserve. I-15 can and will be affected in the event of a major fire incident on either side of the freeway causing potential closures and economic/traffic impacts. Following any major fire occurrence on the Trabuco District, a severe winter will pose flooding and life safety risks. The West portion of the Battalion has suffered several major fires in recent history to include the Decker canyon fire in August of 1959 which claimed the lives of 5 firefighters, and the Ortega fire in 1988 which burned 16,000 acres from Orange County into Lakeland Village. The valley also experiences a unique weather pattern in the summer months called the "Elsinore effect". Valley floor heating creates a thermal low which draws a strong onshore flow over the Ortega Mountains and down into the valley creating strong down slope/down canyon winds during the heat of the day.

Battalion 3 – Beaumont

The assets at risk within Battalion 3 are predominately residential and recreational. The primary recreational assets are located in Poppet Flats, and Bogart Park in Cherry Valley. One of the areas at risk is the Morongo Indian Reservation. In this area, there is poor hazard reduction compliance, arson issues, and high amounts of off-road vehicle use. A fire in the Banning Water Canyon is a risk to the water supply of the water district as well as a threat to the San Bernardino National Forest Wilderness and the Community of Oak Glen. Additionally, annual maintenance of fire roads including the International Truck Trail, Mile-High Truck Trail, and the Cherry Truck Trail, has been completed allowing critical access to the

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areas. Fires in these areas can be expected to burn through multiple burning periods.

Battalion 4 – Corona

The major assets at risk from a Santa Ana River bottom fire are the structures that line the bluffs overlooking the river, which would be susceptible to a fire coming out of the river bottom, and potential wildlife habitat. There is a problem gaining access to a good portion of the river bottom.

A small portion of the Chino Hills is located along the west end of the County line and on a normal fire day we are able to contain a fire there to 100 acres or less. When there is a Santa Ana wind event, a fire has the potential to run into Orange County rapidly and threaten hundreds of homes in the Yorba Linda/Carbon Canyon areas. The Chino Hills State Park covers just over 13,000 acres of the Chino Hills and holds recreational values and wildlife habitat.

The Dawson Canyon and Spanish Hills areas consist of the hills south of Home Gardens running east to Lake Hills and running south basically along the east side of I-15 to Lake Street. The assets at risk generally consist of the approximately 35 homes located in the two areas.

The assets at risk in the foothills that run along the Cleveland National Forest (Trabuco Ranger District) from the Orange County line to the Battalion 2/4 dividing line consist of the numerous housing developments that are adjacent to the wildland areas and the numerous houses built in some of the canyons and hillsides.

Battalion 5 – San Jacinto

The major assets at risk within Battalion 5 are the residential areas of the San Jacinto Valley, and the community of Sage, located near Station 28. The biggest risk currently facing Battalion 5 is the west-facing slope below the communities of Idyllwild and Pine Cove. A repeat of the 1974 Soboba Fire is now possible due to fuel conditions. Also at risk in Battalion 5 are the foothills surrounding Simpson Park, located south of the community of Hemet. A fire starting at the east end of Simpson Park, in conjunction with Santa Ana wind conditions, has the potential to be a multi-million dollar loss fire.

Battalion 11 - Mountain

Station 23 – Pine Cove

The assets at risk in the Pine Cove/Idyllwild area include residences, business, and a significant number of camps, which are typically occupied by children throughout the summer. The potential problems faced in the communities include: difficult ingress and egress, potential for smoky conditions and limited visibility coupled with narrow; winding roads, power lines throughout forested and residential areas, and steep rocky terrain.

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Station 29 – Anza

The assets at risk in the Anza area are primarily the large number of homes scattered throughout the brush fields in the valley. All of the large public assets, such as the Trinity Boys Home property, propane storage facility, schools, and the community itself are well protected with large areas of defensible space.

With the predominately east wind influence present, any fire started within the brush fields to the south and east ends of the valley will have the potential for a large damaging fire due to the response times of both initial attack engines and extended attack engines. This with the scattered homes in these areas will cause a chance of property loss. The northern portion of the valley has large stands of brush Fuel models 4 and 6 that can be influenced by winds both east and west that can push fire through the areas up the south slopes of Thomas and Cahuilla Mts. to the USFS lands. This area all so has scattered homes through out the brush areas. There has been no real large fire history with the valley area in the past 15- 20 years.

Station 30 – Pinyon

The major assets at risk located in the Pinyon area consist of scattered, residential single-family dwellings located. Also included is the BLM Santa Rosa National Monument.

Station 53 – Garner Valley

Assets at Risk include scattered residences, community areas and several campgrounds and recreation areas. A fire near Lake Hemet would affect the local tourism and commerce of the area as well as provide an evacuation hazard for people at the campgrounds and Lake. Fuels reduction projects and thinning has reduced the fire threat for some of the area, but persistent drought has left an abundance of dead and down fuels in areas that have not been cleared or thinned..

Station 77 – Lake Riverside

Aguanga is a rural community and within the last year a large increase in private dwellings has been noticed. Several senior trailer parks, an elementary school, casino, and a private extreme sports camp are located within its boundaries. San Bernardino national forest skirts the northern boundaries of Station 77's Primary Response Area.

Battalion 13 – Menifee

Battalion 13 is 42 square miles and has roughly the following boundaries: North of Murrieta city, South of Perris city, West of the Winchester area and just East of Elsinore (halfway down Railroad Canyon Road).

The area with the highest potential for large and damaging fires is in the area of Menifee, Station 68's PRA. The primary housing construction in the area of Cottonwood Canyon is single and doublewide mobile homes. The hazards include, but are not limited to: Limited access and egress, limited water supply, and housing construction.

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The area south of Bundy Canyon Road may also pose a problem, however it is at least a north facing aspect. During north wind conditions, coupled with a wildland ignition, the potential exists for fire to rapidly spread south to Murrieta.

Battalion 15 – Temecula

Station 12 – Temecula

Major assets at risk in the Temecula area include the De Luz area (A major Avocado producing region) inter-mixed with very high dollar housing and the Santa Margarita river drainage, which runs from Temecula to the Pacific Ocean. Old Town Temecula is also at risk, due to prevalent westerly afternoon winds, which have pushed fire downhill into Temecula in the past.

Additionally, a community of homeless has set up a decent size encampment at the mouth of the Margarita drainage. The potential is here as everywhere in the county for a large high dollar fire. If there were a start in the Santa Margarita drainage, it would be difficult to achieve initial attack success, due to fuels, topography, and accessibility.

Station 75 – Bear Creek

The major assets risks within Station 75's Initial Attack area (SRA) include hundreds of residential structures with a minimum square footage of 4,000 feet up to a maximum of 12,000 square feet on five-acre parcels in the LaCresta and Tenaja area. This area is a significant watershed and environmental sensitive area. The 6,500-acre Santa Rosa Nature Conservancy contains over 10 miles of roads only accessible by Type III engines is also entirely within Station 75's initial attack area. Recreational areas include Tenaja Falls and a portion of the Wildomar Off Highway Vehicle area on the Cleveland National Forest, both of which are located in the Initial Attack area. There are also numerous equestrian facilities and trails in the LaCresta area.

A significant potential for a large destructive wildfire exists within Station 75's area. This potential includes reasons listed above, a lack of any significant recorded fire history, and climatic conditions relating to the daily coastal influences. There are also several large communities with hundreds of significantly sized residences within the wildland urban interface and only two routes of ingress or egress in the event of an emergency. The general population frequently uses significant recreational areas and opportunities to access the National Forest areas. In the event of a wildfire there is a significant reflex time to augment required resources to affect evacuations and structure protection necessary in the area.

92 – Wolf Creek

Major assets at risk within Station 92's first in area include hundreds of custom and ranch style residential structures with some equestrian activity. Accessibility and water supplies/sources to these residential structures is good. Another area is the Pala/Temecula Grade, where there is a very heavy brush load, and an active real estate market has generated large, high dollar homes in the area. There are also two smaller and older style developments/communities, which have limited access and poor water supplies. As a general rule, access to the residential structures can be made by Type I engines, however access to the wildland is limited to Type III engines.

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96 – Glen Oaks

Major assets at risk within Station 96's first in area include the Glen Oaks area and the Temecula Wine Country (A major grape / wine producing region) inter-mixed with very high dollar housing. This area also has a significant watershed and environmentally sensitive areas.

Battalion 17 – Cajalco

The major assets at risk within Battalion 17 are scattered residential areas in the Mead Valley, Glen Valley, Lake Matthews, and Gavilan Hills areas and the two large Ecological Reserves the Lake Matthews Estelle Mountain Reserve and Harford Springs Reserve. The structures are primarily single family homes from mobile homes to multi million dollar homes. The property surrounding the Lake Matthews Reserve has an established Fire Plan. Also included is threat of a major fire running through the surrounding areas of the Lake Matthews Reservoir which is a drinking water reservoir for Southern California. The potential water run off and sediment could cause an issue.

2009 Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan

The Fire Situation

General Description

Riverside Unit has not experienced a major wildland fire since the Esperanza Fire burned more than 40,000 acres in October of 2006. The massive Freeway Fire in 2008 started in extreme western Riverside County, but burned most of its acreage in surrounding counties. The absence of large fire events in Riverside during this time period cannot be attributed to any one reason; certainly aggressive, effective initial and extended attack efforts, fire prevention efforts and/or pre-fire projects can be listed as contributing factors. Riverside Unit experienced the same extreme fire weather events of 2007 and 2008 as San Diego, Orange Los Angeles and other Southern California counties but did not suffer a major wildfire even though the number of fire starts may have been more than surrounding counties.

During the October 2007 Southern California Fire Siege, four different major fires threatened to move into Riverside County from adjoining counties. The Rice, Poomacha and Ammo fires in San Diego and the Santiago fire in Orange County were all poised to make potentially strong runs into Riverside County with the Santa Ana wind reversal that has caused many problems in the past. Riverside CAL FIRE Unit Chief/Riverside County Fire Department Fire Chief John Hawkins ordered a Strategic Contingency Planning Team be formed which included members from Cal Fire, Riverside County Fire, Riverside County Office of Emergency Services and the Riverside Sheriff's Office. The team members worked to assist some of the Incident Command Teams on the adjacent major fires with their contingency planning and also developed the Riverside County Strategic Contingency Plan which covers the southern and western borders of Riverside County. Three community informational meetings were held during this event to advise and inform local residents. They were in the City of Temecula, 5000 attendees; Temescal Valley, RivCo (Sup's Buster & Tavaglione), 500 attendees and Riverside County-San Jacinto area, 200 attendees.

This plan is currently being expanded to cover additional areas of the county and is being incorporated into the Mobile Data Computing Solution in order for responding resources to have access to this information readily.

Riverside Unit has an elevated potential for large fires in 2009. The Energy Release Component (ERC) at our weather station facilities are predicted to spike to extreme levels after the traditional "June Gloom" marine layer gives way to normal hot summer temperatures and low relative humidity. A "bad" Santa Ana season in the fall may be blowing over a very dry and flammable fuel bed.

2009 Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan

General Description of Desired Future Condition

San Jacinto Mountains

- 1) Reforestation efforts will help restore species forest stand structure and composition back to uneven-aged mixed conifer.
- 2) Reforestation efforts will aid preventing erosion and protect water quality.
- 3) Shaded fuelbreaks are a method of protecting communities from catastrophic fire by removing (Brush) ladder fuels and while retaining larger mature trees
- 4) Generally, Height growth is a function of tree genetics and site quality; while diameter growth is a function of stand stocking or number of trees per area.
- 5) Fire behavior is a function of fuel, weather and topography. The amount and type of fuel can be treated so that catastrophic fire is mitigated.
- 6) An overall goal of 40-80 Trees Per Acre (TPA) is recommended, and staff is currently working to educate the public on the concept of Basal Area/Acre as the preferred method for determining stocking standards.
- 7) Our goal is to manage the watershed to result in a more fire safe and healthy forest and chaparral ecosystem.

2009 Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan

Vegetative Wildfire Fuels

Wildland fuels (live and dead vegetation) are a key component of fire behavior. The various fuels found in California have specific characteristics, which allow fire behavior analysts to categorize them based on how they burn. The Fire Behavior Prediction System (FBPS) was the method chosen for categorizing fuels for the fire plan process. This method classifies fuels into 13 different fuel models, each of which has specific physical and burning characteristics. The models include 3 grass, 4 brush, 3 timber and 3 slash fuel types. Custom fuel models have also been developed from these basic models to take into account the variations found in desert areas and wildland areas with an urban component.

The fuel models are used to label current and historic fuels. Historic fuels, those fuels that existed prior to a significant wildfire or VMP burn, are important because they tell us what the climax vegetation and fuel type will be for a particular area. The historic fuel models are used to label the Unit's planning belts in the fire plan.

Current fuel models are used along with slope class, ladder fuel component, crown closure, and difficulty of control rating to derive the fuel hazard rank for each quad 81st. It has been determined that in California no wildland fuel can be considered to have a low hazard rating, so the adjective descriptions only include medium, high or very high.

In Riverside County, as well as San Bernardino and San Diego, we have seen dramatic and historic changes in our montane chaparral and timber fuel types in the last few years. The persistent drought, bug kill, frost kill, and disease have killed huge stands of timber and brush over tens of thousands of acres in our wildland areas. It has become the number one fuel problem for our County. Mortality mapping is constantly being updated cooperatively through the MAST using GIS technology.

Battalion 1 – Perris

Generally Battalion 1 consists of a light grass in the populated areas on the west and east sides of the Battalion. The medium fuels are in some of the same areas, but in the more sparsely populated areas, such as Santa Rosa Mine Road and Juniper Flats.

Battalion 2 – Lake Elsinore

The Battalion 2 area East of Interstate 15 is comprised mainly of type 1 fuels that have a significant fire history. The West portion of the Battalion consists of a mix of SRA, LRA, USFS land with CAL FIRE DPA and USFS land with Federal DPA. This area is known collectively as the Ortega Front country and is bordered on the South by La Cresta and to the North by the Battalion 2/4 border. This area poses one of the greater fire risks in Riverside County and consists primarily of a fuel model 4 (Coastal Chaparral). There are portions of this area with significant fire history and areas that have no recorded fire history.

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Battalion 3 – Beaumont

The fuels in Battalion 3 are widely varied, ranging from grass, coastal sage scrub, chamise, Russian Thistle to scrub oaks. In the area north of Cherry Valley, manzanita is the predominate fuel. The South area of the Battalion, on the Northern slopes of the San Jacinto foothills have been primarily reduced to annual grasses with some larger pockets of coastal sage and chaparral, due to fuel model conversion from recent fires.

Battalion 4 – Corona

In the Santa Ana River bottom there is a continual bed of fuels just east of the Van Buren Boulevard bridge in Pedley extending west to Highway 71 along the county line. The river bottom fuel load is made up of annual grasses, bamboo, various brush species and various types of trees.

In the Chino Hills area annual grasses are abundant, with small patches of brush and a few oak/sycamore trees in the canyon areas. Most of this area was burned in the 2008 Freeway Fire.

In the Dawson Canyon and Spanish Hills area the fuels are annual grasses and light brush. These hills have been burned numerous times over many years, with the exception of a few canyons. Because of the light fuel load, the large fires in this area have been predominantly wind driven.

In the foothills that run along the Cleveland National Forest the fuels are generally light grasses with heavy brush. CAL FIRE and USFS have been maintaining the fuel breaks that run along the Main Divide Truck Trail and down several main ridge lines into the Temescal and Corona Valleys.

Battalion 5 – San Jacinto

The fuels in Battalion 5 below 2000' in elevation mostly consist of grasses and coastal sage scrub (Fuel Model 2). Above 2000' in elevation the fuel type is dependent on the length of time since last fire, i.e. less than 20 years ago - grass and medium brush (Fuel Model 6), greater than 20 years ago - heavier mixed brush (Fuel Model 4). A high dead to live ratio exists in the mature chaparral fuels due to the persistent drought over the last few years.

Battalion 11 – Mountain

Station 23 – Pine Cove

The fuels in the Pine Cove/Idyllwild area are composed of mature chaparral with a mixed conifer forest over-story. The predominant understory species include manzanita, chaparral whitethorn, deer brush and chamise. The tree over story consists of mixed stands of Jeffery Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Coulter Pine, Incense Cedar, White Fire and Sugar Pine. There is no recorded fire history for the area since fire records started being kept around 1924; therefore it is assumed the vegetative community is at least 75 years old.

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Station 29 – Anza

The fuel types in the Anza area consist of approximately 25% fuel model 1 mostly located on the valley floor on the Cahuilla Indian Reservation and along the Cooper Cienega Truck trail to the south. Fuel model 4 is approximately 30%, inter-mixed in areas through the valley. Fuel model 6 is approximately 45%, consisting of larger stands of manzanita and red shank with plant height as high as 10-15 feet on average.

Overall, the area has a grass under story, which is 12-18" in height. The grass is also matted down, which adds to the fuel loads. The red shank is showing new stringy bark, which adds to the ladder fuels in the brush fields.

Station 30 – Pinyon

The fuels in the Pinyon area consist of Fuel Models 4 and 6, with patches of Fuel Model 1 located throughout. A fuels reduction project has thinned and removed fuels along Hwy 74 and around some communities, to allow safe egress from the mountain.

Station 53 – Garner Valley

The persistent drought has left an abundance of dead and downed fuels as well as a high dead to live ratio in the chaparral fuels. The understory and grass crop is continuous. The brush that is not dead is showing normal growth this year. Some areas have had fuels reduction projects to thin and remove fuels near transportation corridors and communities and camping areas.

Station 77 – Lake Riverside

The Lake Riverside area is located near Aguanga. The fuels near Highway 79 and Highway 371 consist of grass (Fuel Model 3) and progressing northeast on Highway 371 the fuels change into fuel model 4.

Battalion 13 - Menifee

Battalion 13 is 42 square miles and has roughly the following boundaries: north of the Cities of Murrieta and Wildomar, south of City of Perris, west of the Winchester area and northeast of the City of Lake Elsinore. The fuels consist of light native California vegetation, i.e. brush. The area is surrounded and interspersed with a healthy grass crop that has already "turned".

Battalion 15 – Temecula

Station 12 – Temecula

The fuels in the Temecula area include annual grasses (Fuel Models 1 and 3) and brush species chamise, sage, buckwheat (Fuel Models 4,5 and 6).

Station 75 – Bear Creek

Within the SRA of Station 75's IA there are Fuel Models 1 and 3 (Short and tall annual grasses) along with Fuel Models 4, 5, and 6 (Chaparral and dormant brush including chamise and coastal sage).

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Station 92 – Wolf Creek

Station 92's fuels are generally made up of annual grass, chaparral and, dormant brush including chamise and coastal sage.

Station 96- Glen Oaks

Station 96's fuels are generally made up of annual grass, chaparral and, dormant brush including chamise and coastal sage.

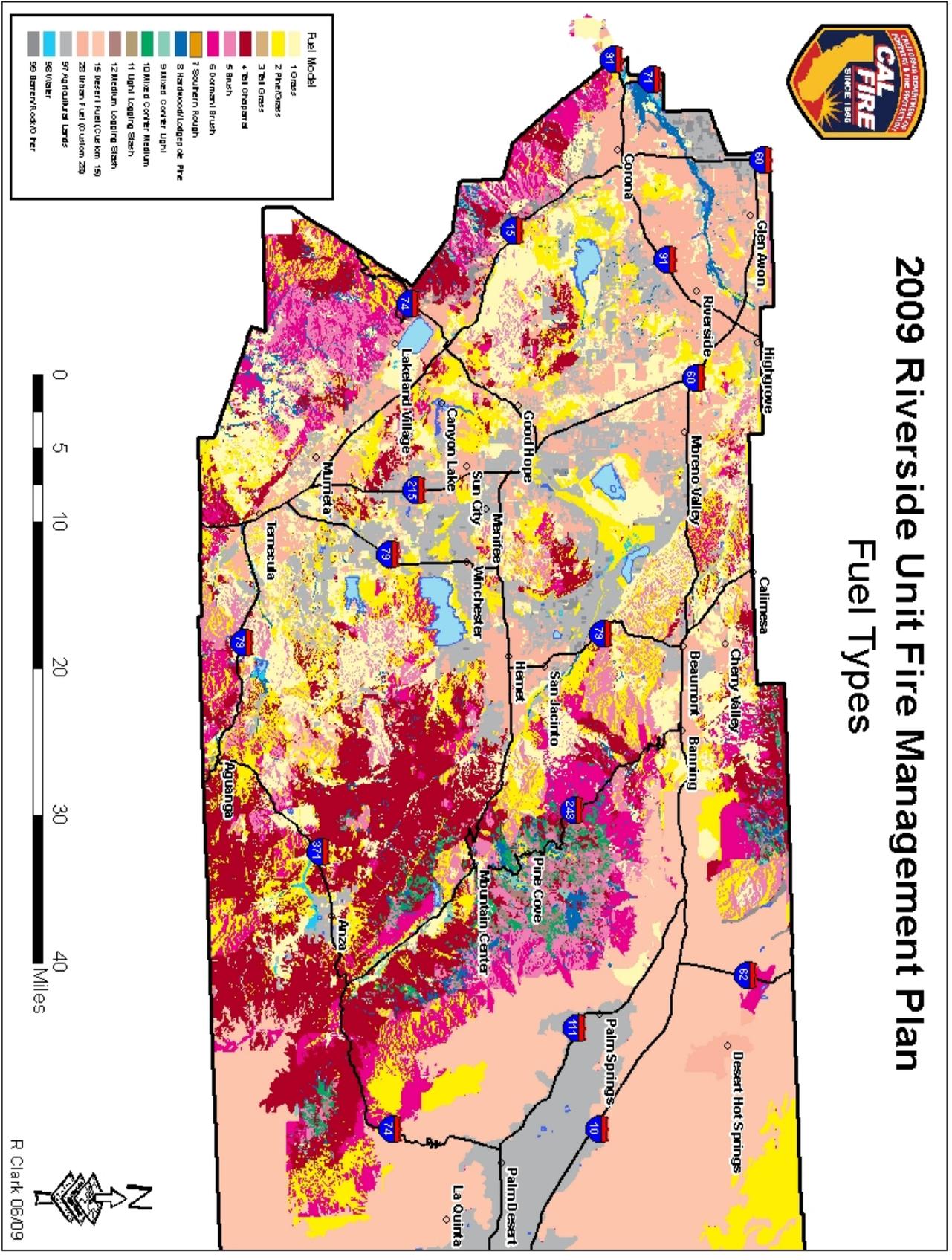
Battalion 17 – Cajalco

Battalion 17 is located between Perris Valley to the East and Temescal Valley to the west. The battalion also contains two Ecological Reserves, the Lake Matthews Estelle Mountain Reserve and the Harford Springs Reserve. The fuels in the area consist mostly of annual grasses and coastal sage scrub with some pockets of chaparral species in canyons and on the northern slopes.



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Fuel Types



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Structure Fuels

Defensible Space/Fire Safe Inspections

Riverside Unit is conducting Fire Safe Inspections utilizing the LE-100 program throughout the county. The LE-100 form contains a compilation of codes, from both the Public Resources Code and the Riverside County Ordinance 787.2, which adopts the Uniform Fire Code. This allows for the utilization of PRC 4291, and some more site specific regulation required by the County Ordinance.

As a part of the MAST Organization the private lands in the San Jacinto Mountains are being inspected by three different agencies, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Riverside County Fire, the United States Forest Service, and The Idyllwild Fire Protection District.

LE-100 INSPECTIONS REPORT 2005-2008					
YEAR	2005*	2006*	2007	2008	
Number of Inspections	2277	3169	34113	39968	
Number in Compliance	2135	2691	30818	34664	
Number of Violations	142	478	3295	5304	
Number Cited	13	27	**	16	

These numbers reflect inspection by Riverside County Fire and CAL FIRE only.

*2005 & 2006 only tracked State engine inspections

** No citations listed due to change of PRC 4291 and public awareness program.

2008 FFI AUGMENTATION STAFFING	
Total Inspections	5458
Hours Spent	986
Prevention Contacts	382

- Firefighter I hired under Governors Executive Order S-03-08

Ordinances Regarding Construction

The Riverside Unit has adopted the 2000 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code, which specifies various requirements for the development of new construction within the County. The Planning and Engineering Department of the Riverside County Fire Department is responsible for ensuring new developments within the county meet the various ordinances pertaining to building homes in the wildland. These ordinances include PRC 4290, PRC 4291, Riverside County Ordinance 787.2, and the new Fire Marshal Building Standards.

- Unit Staff are working with the local Fire Safe Councils to disseminate information and educate the public on the message of Firewise home construction practices. The LE-100 program at the station level provides for a one-on-one contact with residents. This is the opportunity for residents to discuss what they can do to ensure their homes survivability in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire.

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Frequency of Severe Fire Weather

Fire behavior is dramatically influenced by weather conditions. Large costly fires are frequently, though not always, associated with severe fire weather conditions. Severe fire weather is typified by high temperatures, low humidity, and strong surface winds.

The Fire Plan's weather assessment considers different climates of California, from fog shrouded coastal plains to hot, dry interior valleys and deserts to cooler windy mountains. Each of these local climates experiences a different frequency of weather events that lead to severe fire behavior (severe fire weather). The Fire Plan's weather assessment uses a Fire Weather Index (FWI) developed by USDA Forest Service researchers at the Riverside Fire Lab. This index combines air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed into a single value index. This index can be calculated from hourly weather readings such as those collected in the Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) data collection system. The FWI does not include fuel moistures, fuel models and only uses topography to the extent that RAWS station weather readings are influenced by local topography.

Weather assessment information will be used to help analyze how changes in fire suppression forces will affect the Unit's level of service.

Riverside Unit weather narrative

Riverside Unit is characterized by typically long fire seasons with periods of severe fire weather. Significant rainfall in Riverside has been trending toward starting well into December and ending by the end of March, with just a few exceptions over the last several years. Except for the typical "June Gloom", our summers can have temperatures well into the hundreds with RH typically in the teens or single digits. Santa Ana Foehn wind events occur both in the spring and the fall with extreme winds, high seasonal temperatures and very low RH. Our worst fires tend to be in fall Santa Ana events due to the combination with very low live and dead fuel moisture in the vegetation.

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Vegetation Management Program Projects

Summary of the Vegetation Management Program

The Riverside Unit integrated its Vegetation Management and Pre-Fire Engineering Programs in January 1998 and created a Pre-fire Management Division. This integration has combined the planning and assessment tools developed for the 1995 California Fire Plan with the resources of the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) in order to implement fire hazard/fuels reduction projects in the most appropriate areas of Riverside County. The VMP Program has been used very successfully for fire hazard reduction in Riverside County since the program was first created. The use of fire weather, fire history, and fuels information provided through the Fire Plan provides a foundation to explain and justify to management and to the public why we are spending limited VMP resources and staff time in these high fire hazard areas.

The focus of VMP in Riverside County has historically been and will continue to be directed at fire hazard/fuels reduction and ecological restoration projects. The presence of numerous endangered species throughout Southern California has made burning for native habitat restoration a valuable tool. In most cases, these restoration burns also lend themselves to reduce fuel loads that pose a fire hazard to adjacent urban development. There is very little grazing activity in the county and therefore burning for range improvement has not been a priority. Pre-fire staff is assisting several ecological reserves with the development of fire management plans that will involve fuels management as a component; additionally these plans assist fire managers in pre-planned control objective during wildfire events. Chipping is also a very appropriate tool that is used, particularly where there are smoke sensitive issues or where there is too great a threat to use prescribed fire. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grants from the USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and similar (USFS) United States Forest Service grants are often required to help finance these critical projects. These grants are awarded on an annual basis and must meet the criteria set forth by each agency.

Past Projects

Lake Mathews VMP

The Management Plan for the Lake Mathews/Estelle Mountain Reserve specifies the use of prescribed fire to reduce or eliminate the non-native annual grasses and return the landscape to the native grass and sage scrub species. The vegetation within the Reserve is comprised primarily of non-native annual grassland, with smaller areas of mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and California juniper woodland. Ultimately, VMP plans will be developed to implement prescribed fire on the 6,478 acres within the northern half of the Reserve. The area has been divided into forty-three (43) prescribed fire units that will be burned on a rotational basis that best mimics the natural fire cycle.

Three units totaling 500 acres were scheduled for burning during the spring of 2002. However, numerous lawsuits prevented any work from occurring on that project. It is currently suspended pending a resolution of those legal issues.

2009 Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan

In spring 2003, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) approached CAL FIRE about conducting VMP on lands owned by MWDF in the Lake Mathews Project area. We are currently working with the MWD environmental consultant in pursuing the identification of specific project units in order to proceed with environmental review.

Tenaja VMP

The Tenaja VMP project is located west of Murietta along the De Luz Creek drainage south of the intersection of Tenaja Road and Avenida La Cresta. The northern and eastern portion of the project is comprised mostly of large residentially zoned parcels. The central and southern project area is conservation and park land primarily covered with chaparral plants on the slopes and Engelmann Oak woodlands in the drainages.

The purpose of the Tenaja VMP is to reduce hazardous fuel loading in the upper De Luz Creek watershed. Historically, large fires initiating in the De Luz, Fallbrook, and Camp Pendleton areas have burned with the prevailing on shore winds and threatened the now developed areas on the Santa Rosa Plateau. This project is part of a larger plan to reduce the fuel loading adjacent to the plateau communities of Tenaja and La Cresta. Prescribed burning has taken place on the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve immediately to the east since 1987 and additional projects are planned to the northwest on both state responsibility lands and the Cleveland National Forest within the next three years. Combined, these projects will provide a significant buffer against fires moving with the onshore prevailing winds from the south and west toward these now heavily developed communities.

Specifically, the Tenaja VMP will use prescribed fire to treat 364 acres of watershed in and adjacent to the De Luz Creek drainage. The northern end of the project will tie into Tenaja road and a newly constructed fuelbreak along the Rancho California Road easement. The west and east flanks will primarily utilize existing road systems with some new hand line construction. The southern end of the project area is steep with no existing roads and will therefore involve mostly construction of hand line. The interior vegetation will be burned in a mosaic pattern to develop age classes that are less likely to sustain major wildfires and enhance wildlife habitat.

The primary objectives of the prescribed burn project are to reduce fuel loading in the chaparral plant species and develop a mosaic of age and species diversified vegetative cover. An overall reduction in chaparral fuel loading of 50 to 80% is desired. Engelmann oak woodlands will not be treated and will be protected from adjacent burning operations. Approximately 300 acres have been completed to date and as of 2003, the Tenaja project was incorporated into the Santa Rosa Plateau Reserve Project because the land involved was given to the Reserve. Additional acreage will be added to the remaining balance of 64 acres and it was slated for burning in fall 2003 or spring/summer 2004. Currently, the Tenaja project is held up in litigation. The project remains open, but with no foreseeable short-term resolution to the lawsuits.

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Ronald McDonald House CFIP

The project is located in the north end of Garner Valley; Section 4, Township 6 south, Range 3 east, San Bernardino Base Meridian, Idyllwild quad. Pre-commercial thinning and pruning of 5 acres. Brush competing with the conifer stand will also be removed or thinned. The project is designed to reduce competition for water, nutrients and light concentrating biomass production on remaining trees and creating a healthier more vigorous forest. The project will also reduce fuel loading and reduce ladder fuels creating a more fire safe forest and wildland urban interface. In addition, a forest management plan has been prepared which the landowner may use now and in the future years to guide them in sound forest and land management practices which include fire safe considerations for both natural resources and developed portions of the land.

As of August 2003, a majority of the work has been completed. In addition to the initially targeted vegetation removal, dead trees resulting from the drought and bark beetles have also been removed. This has resulted in a property that has had its fuels sufficiently treated so that this camp has been identified as a “shelter in place” facility where members of the public or other camps can come to survive the passage of a fire if they are unable to evacuate off the mountain.

Lake Mathews/Estelle Mountain Core Reserve

The Lake Mathews/Estelle Mountain (LMEM) Core Reserve is located in western Riverside County and is currently 11,232 acres in size. The Reserve’s current configuration and management structure has its origins in a 1996 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Stephen’s kangaroo rat. The Reserve Management Committee (RMC) is comprised of representatives from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, and the Center for Natural Lands Management.

The 1993 fire management plan serves as a foundation and model to expand the planning effort into the LMEM Core Reserve. In May 1998, the RMC initiated the expanded fire management planning effort in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The expanded plan, completed in the spring of 1999, addresses pre-fire fuels management and fire suppression planning issues as they relate to the protection of public safety and endangered species habitat management.

Pre-fire management projects will focus on the implementation of prescribed fire on 6,478 acres within the northern half of the reserve. The area has been divided into forty-three (43) prescribed fire units that will be burned on a rotational basis that best mimics the natural fire cycle. Pre-fire management efforts in this area will focus on fuelbreaks, weed abatement and focused fire prevention activities aimed at keeping fire out of the area in order to facilitate regeneration of native species. In 2004 prescribed fire had been utilized on 1,006 acres in the reserve, and the plan remains open to continue the rotation of burning the prescribed fire units.

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Mount Baldy

The Mount Baldy VMP is an emergency fuels reduction project that will be done cooperatively with the San Bernardino National Forest. This 272-acre project represents a critical piece of ground that is the last remaining link tying the former West Ridge II VMP project with the 1999 Mixing Fire. Without treating these fuels, which include large acreages of dead chaparral resulting from the drought, a fire starting along State Highway 74 in the Dry Creek area would be able to sweep uphill to threaten Mountain Center and Baldy Mountain Village. Although only 75 acres of SRA would be treated in this co-op project, these acres are critical to the project due to topography. Three-quarters of this project was completed in Fall 2003, and the remaining one-quarter is scheduled for Spring 2005.

Current Projects

El Cariso and Decker Canyon Fuelbreaks Rancho Capistrano

This project will involve the improvement of a fuelbreak in the El Cariso/Decker canyon area located along Highway 74 west of Lake Elsinore. The location of these communities puts them at extreme risk from wild fires burning under coastal or Santa Ana wind conditions in predominantly chaparral fuels. This project will reduce the fire hazard by modifying the fire environment and giving fire protection agencies points of access to initiate defensive and offensive control strategies around the community.

The project is divided into the following components:

El Cariso Fuelbreak: Establish a 100' wide fuelbreak completely around El Cariso Village. A fuelbreak was originally constructed in 1990 on State Responsibility Lands north of Highway 74. This fuelbreak is being reconstructed with a new segment added south of Highway 74 in order to completely encircle the village. Cut material is being piled and burned or chipped on site. In June 2004, the El Cariso Fuelbreak was completed.

Decker Canyon Fuelbreak: Vegetation is planned to be thinned, pruned, and/or cleared within 50 feet of each side of the primary roads within Decker Canyon in order to improve access for fire equipment and escape routes for residents leaving the area. Cut material will be chipped and spread on site or piled and burned. Cooperators in this project will include private landowners, the Cleveland National Forest, the Orange County Fire Authority and the Riverside Unit of CAL FIRE. This project is being planned; hopes are to see the projects be established by 2010. These projects will link a recently approved major fuel break system on the Cleveland National Forests, the North and South main divide truck trail/fuel break.

Poppet Flats Fuelbreak

The rural community of Poppet Flats is located at the northern end of the San Jacinto Mountains, approximately six miles south of Banning along Highway 243. Within the community there are over 400 private parcels, many of which contain occupied residences. The largest landowner is the Silent Valley Club, which is a 460-acre RV Park housing 850 campsites and 1150 storage units. Lands managed

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by the San Bernardino National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs surround most of the community. Access in and out is limited to Poppet Flats Road running out to Highway 243 on the east. Secondary access can be made to the southwest; however, it is unreliable due to locked gates at the Soboba Indian Reservation and lack of maintenance.

Poppet Flats sits in a southwest-facing valley, which ranges in elevation from 3200 to 4000 feet. Numerous fires have started on the Soboba Indian Reservation below Poppet Flats as well as recent arson fires along Highway 243 to the northeast. The physical orientation and location of the community places it at extreme risk from the normal southwest wind driven fire as well as the "Santa Ana" wind driven fire from the east. Vegetation within and around the community is composed primarily of chaparral species such as chamise and manzanita, however, a significant cover of native California oak species is found along Poppet Creek. The age class of the vegetation varies since several large fires have burned in the area over the last three decades.

Phase one, completed July 2003 involved the construction of the fuelbreak and truck trail on private, National Forest, and BLM lands east of Poppet Flats Road. Phase two of the project completed the construction of a fuelbreak north and west of the community. The truck trail was re-constructed to allow access for Type-3 engines and vegetation cleared to create a fuelbreak with an average width of 100 feet. Actual width will varied in order to create a feathered, mosaic appearance. All cut material will be piled and burned or chipped. Vegetation Management Program (VMP) agreements will be re initiated with private property owners to facilitate work and address environmental concerns on their lands.

In addition to the perimeter fuel modification, a community-chipping program will continue facilitating the disposal of green waste generated by the property owners' annual weed/brush abatement activities. Chipping is accomplished by CAL FIRE fire crews using a State-owned chipper housed at Oak Glen Conservation Camp. Local residents within the community are very supportive of the projects. The Silent Valley Club, which is the largest private landowner within the project area, has committed their support through use of equipment and other resources. The San Bernardino National Forest and Bureau of Land Management are also committed to providing resources and support to the project.

This projects initial work was instrumental in protecting the community during the fatal Esperanza incident in 2007, few residences were lost directly in part of the fuels reduction surrounding the community by all agencies and home owners involved. See **appendix C** for a report on the effectiveness of the fuelbreak in the Esperanza fire.

Lake Perris VMP

Lake Perris State Recreation Area is located in western Riverside County about 18 miles southeast of the city of Riverside. The project area is located at between 1600 and 1700 feet in elevation in the basin northeast of the lake. Lake Perris has approximately 2000 acres of habitat that is grassland. These grassland areas were highly disturbed in the past by grazing and agriculture and are currently

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dominated by non-native plants. The predominant plants are European annual grasses and mustards including Wild oats (*Avena* spp.), Bromes (*Bromus* spp.) and mustards (*Brassica* spp.). Also present, but less dominant are annual forbs including filaree (*Erodium* spp.).

The project implements prescribed fire within the Lake Perris State Recreation Area for the purpose of habitat restoration. This is part of a long-term management plan to restore fire to the LPSRA at intervals that mimic the natural fire cycle as closely as possible.

The specific objective of this project is to create conditions favorable to the Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) and other native wildlife species by removing European annual grasses and mustard and promoting the growth of low growing annual forbs and selected native grasses. Complete consumption, > 90% is desired, with removal of the annual grasses and mustard as well as their seed and accumulated litter from the burn unit.

The current project area covers 500 acres divided into four (4) burn units. Two of the units covering 250 acres are planned for 2009; 133 acres were last burned in 2001. The State Park continues to approach CAL FIRE for additional burning opportunities within the park.

Red Hill North / Red Hill South Fuel breaks

The unincorporated community of Pine Cove, located in the San Jacinto Mountains of Riverside County, has a population of approximately 1500 permanent residents on 2200 improved parcels. Pine Cove is situated predominately on a western/southwest aspect of the San Jacinto Mountain range at 6200' elevation and is "mid-slope" between the San Jacinto Valley to the west at 1700' in elevation and San Jacinto Peak at 10,804' in elevation to the east. Lands owned and protected by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service/San Bernardino National Forest and San Jacinto State Park surround the community of Pine Cove.

The vegetative community is comprised of mature chaparral with a mixed conifer forest over story. The predominant under story species include Manzanita, Chaparral whitethorn, deer brush and chamise. The tree over story consists of mixed stands of Jeffery Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Coulter Pine, Incense Cedar, White Fire and Sugar Pine. There is no recorded fire history for the area since fire records started being kept around 1924; therefore it is assumed the vegetative community is at least 75 years old.

The Riverside Unit has re-entered into agreements with the current private property owners whose properties lie within the Red Hill Vegetation Management Program and established new projects such as the Maxwell Trail and Point of Rocks VMP's, which add protection from a fire spreading down slope into the communities from the north and east, project area encompasses 500 acres. In addition to maintaining the prescribed fuel loading levels completed, it is proposed that CAL FIRE increases the treatment area within the same private properties to broaden the "shaded fuelbreak" and create a wider buffer of protection. The actual width of the treated area will vary depending on the type of vegetation and topography. The

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proposed fuel reduction project will be completed by piling dead vegetation, thinning brush and small trees with chainsaws and placing this material into small piles to be burned in cool weather or chipped where accessible. The net treatment area is approximately 750 acres.

This fuel reduction project is part of a larger plan to tie several fuel treatment projects together and thus provide a continuous fuel modification zone along the western edge of the San Jacinto Mountain communities

These projects have the potential to reduce the damages from wildland fires spreading into the community of Pine Cove, Idyllwild, and Fern Valley. Fire history records indicate that fires in the surrounding area are traditionally slope and wind driven, burning in an easterly direction. The only exceptions to this historical data are those fires that are wind driven during a “Santa Ana” wind event.

The proposed project is intended to provide a buffer of protection to the communities of Pine Cove and Idyllwild by reducing fuel-loading levels and to provide an area to which fire suppression forces can safely take action on an encroaching fire.

The original 1991 Red Hill Vegetation Management Project was supported by the Idyllwild/Pine Cove Coordinated Resource Management Planning Group (CRMP) and by the Pine Cove Property Owners Association. The project was also well supported by the participating property owners. In addition, the 1991 Red Hill Vegetation Management Project was conducted in conjunction with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service/San Bernardino National Forest fuelbreak project that “linked” federal lands that separated the private property parcels of the original project.

Since this project was initially envisioned in the 2000 RRU Fire Plan, the massive tree mortality and resulting State emergency declaration for the area have occurred. Thousands of trees have died within the project area. Therefore, CAL FIRE is reentering the same project area on multiple occasions, as more trees die and future treatment will be required for several years to come. Insect control crews from Bautista and Oak Glen camp as well as regular grade crews are working on this massive fuel reduction project.

Southwest Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve/Johnson Ranch

The Southwest Riverside County Multi-species Reserve incorporates approximately 15,000 acres in southwest Riverside County around Lake Skinner and north to the Diamond Valley Lake. The reserve is a composite of ownerships comprised of the Metropolitan Water District, Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District, and the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency. The reserve was established to enhance and protect endangered species habitat and protect the watersheds surrounding Lake Skinner and Diamond Valley Lake. A committee, comprised of a representative from each of the landowners as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, is responsible for management decisions on the reserve lands.

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The final plan was completed in 2008 and initiated use of prescribed fire and other fuels management projects including broadcast burning and shaded fuel breaks networks through out the reserve. In May/June 2009, 90 acres were burned contributing to a successful reintroduction of (SKR) Stephen Kangaroo Rats into those units. Much more is planned with possibilities of re-establishing native oak trees into areas farmed and stripped years ago. Fuels reduction through out the project will afford protection to the surrounding communities of Sage, Hemet, Murrieta, and the Temecula Valley.

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve VMP

The project involves prescribed burning on the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, which is located immediately west of Murrieta in the eastern foothills of the Santa Ana Mountain Range. A VMP plan was first developed for the Reserve in the mid-1980's and subsequent burn plans have been in place ever since. There are 4,230 acres covered under the current agreement.

Prescribed fire was introduced onto the reserve primarily to simulate natural fire cycles and characteristics that support native vegetation communities historically present in the area. The reserve is divided into numerous burn units that are randomly selected for burning each year. On average fire is returned to the same unit approximately every five to seven years with between 500 and 1500 acres being treated annually. In addition to the ecological benefits, these recurring cycles of fire generate plant communities with less dangerous wild fire behavior characteristics. They also develop vegetative age classes that will be less likely to create or sustain major wild fires.

Fuels are primarily annual grasses with oak woodland cover; however, chaparral is present in all or portions of several units. Project preparation work involves cutting of hand line and road maintenance to facilitate access and control lines. Burning is typically carried out using drip torches and aerial ignition devices. Management of the reserve has changed, and is now the responsibility of The California Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of a management committee. Ownership is comprised of The California Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy, the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District. The new agreement with the Department of Fish and Game took effect in February 2004.

The burning on this project has greatly increased the re-establishment of local native grasses and a very healthy habitat area.

List of projects for 2009

- Skinner MSR VMP 14,000 acres, broadcast burning, shaded fuel break, chipping.
- Red Hill North /Red Hill South VMP 700 acres, shaded fuel break, chipping, pile burning.

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- Point of Rocks VMP 100 acres, shaded fuel break, chipping, pile burning.
- Santa Rosa Plateau VMP 4000 acres, broadcast burning, shaded fuel break, chipping, pile burning.
- Johnson Ranch VMP 1500 acres, broadcast burning.
- San Jacinto State Park VMP 200 acres, broadcast burning, shaded fuel break, chipping.
- Lake Perris VMP 250 acres, broadcast burning.
- Oak Glen VMP 1600 acres, shaded fuel break, chipping, pile burning.
- Maxwell VMP 400 acres, shaded fuel break, chipping, pile burning.

California Forest Practice Act – Exemptions and Emergency Notices

There are numerous Timber Harvest Plan (THP) exemptions and emergency notices in effect that are resulting in thousands of trees being removed with 100% slash cleanup in most cases. This activity will have an enormous impact on reducing the staggering amount of fuel that has resulted from the drought and bark beetle outbreak. CAL FIRE Foresters have been busy conducting Forest Practice inspections on the timber operations occurring on private land.

The governor's emergency proclamation temporarily lifted the requirement for filing exemptions and notices with the State. However, all other provisions of the Forest Practice Act and Rules are in affect. It is estimated that tens of thousands of trees have been removed off of SRA lands in the last year by Licensed Timber Operators and tree service contractors and that thousands more trees need to be removed.

Along power line rights of way CAL FIRE foresters are working closely with Southern California Edison (SCE)-hired foresters and line clearing crews to ensure compliance with the forest practice rules. We are also working with government crews that are removing trees along state highways and county roads for the same purpose.

As part of the VMP program and the San Jacinto Zone of Infestation authorized insect control program, CAL FIRE conservation camp crews are also removing thousands of trees in compliance with the forest practice rules.

Future Projects and Priority Rankings

Fleming Ranch

The Fleming Ranch VMP is a proposed cooperative project with the San Bernardino National Forest in the San Jacinto Mountains north of Garner Valley. The Forest Service has previously used prescribed fire in this area and CAL FIRE is currently working with the owner of the Fleming Ranch to expand fuels treatment onto SRA lands. Although in the early planning stages, this project will greatly enhance the other fire hazard reduction efforts occurring within the mountain communities. Overall, 1,300 acres are proposed to be treated.

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Pinyon VMP

The Pinyon Project is a proposed project to protect the community of Spring Crest, near Pinyon. The proposed project involves construction of fuelbreaks along the roads surrounding the community, and roads with in the community. This will provide for resident and firefighter safety, ease of ingress and egress during a fire, and increasing the defensibility of the homes in the area.

The contributors to the project will be CAL FIRE/RVC, USFS, and Private Landowners.

Water Canyon VMP

There project consists of three treatment sites as follows: one (1) prescribed fire in the Water Canyon area, and maintenance of three existing un-maintained fuelbreaks surrounding the Oak Glen area.

The Oak Glen area surrounds Beaumont, an interface community identified in the August 17, 2001 Federal Register, Part III Department of Agriculture Urban Wildland Interface Communities document. The community and surrounding area is directly above wildland fuels with three or more homes/business structures per acre, five watersheds, power lines, transportation, and shared municipal services. The overall purpose is to modify or break up the fuels in such a way as to lesson catastrophic fire and its threat to public and firefighter safety and damage to property.

Unit staff are currently planning, completing environmental documentation, making site inspections, and developing a site-specific project work plan for each treatment site. Local CAL FIRE crews and equipment will be assigned to the three project sites to remove hazardous fuel buildup during non-fire season and provide maintenance of the sites during early fire season, and also conduct a prescribed fire.

Snow Creek VMP

The Snowcreek area consists of 39 homes located at the base of the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountain National Monument, which is now surrounded by federal/state land. This project has recently come to the Unit's attention. Staff is currently working with residents of the Snow Creek area, and other agencies; primarily BLM; in order to assist this rural community. The Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council has been in contact with the spokesperson for the area, and discussions are underway to bring them in as a chapter of the MCFSC.

The homeowners in the area have developed the following goals:

- Create wildfire protection zones that reduce the risk to citizens and fire crews.
- To access all wildlands, not just state responsibility. Analysis will identify fed/state/local government & private properties. Identify high-risk areas.
- Identify key policy issues, recommendations to reduce total cost & losses by increasing fire protection system effectiveness.
- Strong fiscal policy focus.
- Translate to public.

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Assets of Snowcreek Village:

- Citizens lives
- Structures (homes and buildings)
- Historical (1900's)
- Indian Pictographs/Indian caves
- Human Burial Grounds (1918 grave marker)
- Desert Water Agency (east canyon)
- University of California Wildlife study area (west canyon)
- National Monument
- Pacific Crest Trail (passes thru Village)
- Community of Idyllwild
- Palm Springs Tram
- Major development due east (Highway 111)
- Endangered and non-endangered wildlife (owls, hawks, tortoise, big horn sheep, desert life)
- Vegetation (Milk Vetch endangered)
- Scenic
- Tourism/Commerce
- Electric power lines hillsides and canyons
- Bird watchers, artistry, recreation, etc.
- Transportation
- Air & water quality

Stakeholders

- Homeowners
- Private land owners
- BLM National Monument
- State of California Department of Parks & Recreation, Fish & Game
- Desert Water Agency
- SCE
- University of California
- Resource Conservation
- USDI Fish & Wildlife
- County Fire Department
- Transportation land management agency
- Cities: Palm Springs, Cabazon, Idyllwild
- Habitat
- Conservation groups
- Historical societies
- Tourism
- Commerce

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Planned projects for 2009

- Simpson Park VMP 300 acres, thinning, broadcast burning.
- March SKR Reserve 1500 acres, broadcast burning.
- El Cariso/Decker Canyon VMP 800 acres, shaded fuel break, pile burning, broadcast burning.
- Communication Tower VMP Project 200 acres, shaded fuel break, pile burning, chipping.
- Rancho Capistrano VMP 100 acres, shaded fuel break, pile burning, chipping.

FHEP and HFT grants.

Significant Forest Health Enhancement Program and Hazardous Fuels Treatment grant funds have come to CAL FIRE in Southern California from the USFS. These funds have been used to augment our traditional programs, including VMP and CFIP by providing additional staff for planning projects and helping to cover operational costs. A complete list of the VMP, HFT, and FHEP Projects are in **appendix B**.

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Institutional Issues

Fire Closure Areas

The Riverside Unit has seven areas that are closed to the public during declared fire season. These areas were determined based upon the following criteria:

- Critical access areas
- Light, flashy fuels
- Difficult access
- Extended response time
- Potential for structure loss in a very short period of time

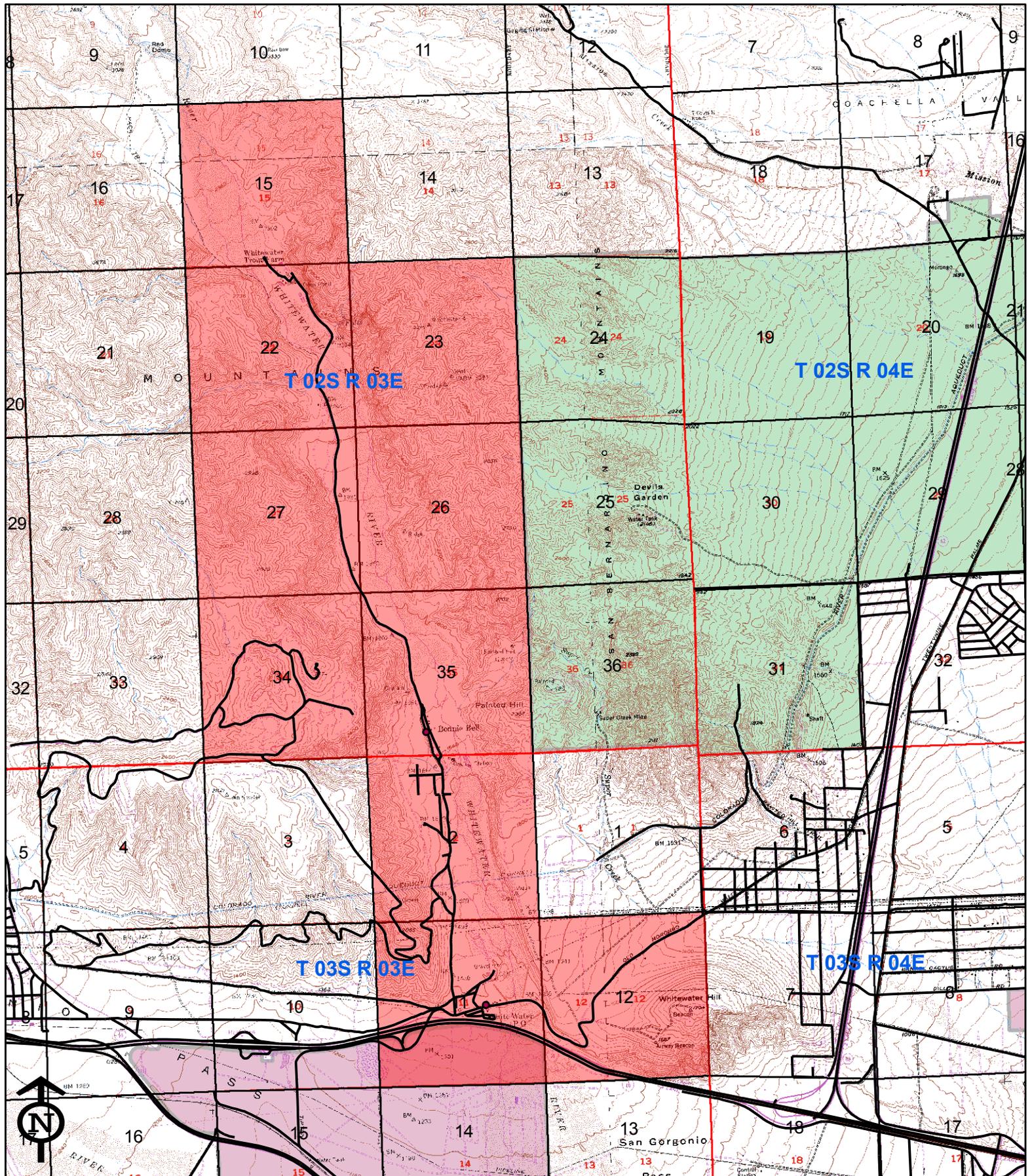
The seven areas affected by the closure are:

- Minto Way (Wildland Urban Interface issues)
- Reinhart Canyon
- Bautista Canyon
- North Mountain & Indian Canyon
- Lakeview (Wildland Urban Interface issues)
- Ramona Bowl (Wildland Urban Interface issues)
- Whitewater Canyon

Section 4 of Appendix II-A of the Uniform Fire Code Restricted Entry is utilized to authorize and enforce the closure.

The chief is hereby given the authority to officially determine and publicly announce the closure of any hazardous fire area or portion thereof. However, any closure by the chief for a period of more than fifteen (15) days must be approved by the Board of Supervisors within fifteen (15) days of the chief's original order of closure. No person shall go in or be upon any hazardous fire area, except upon the public roadways and inhabited areas therein during such time as the area is closed to entry. This section shall not prohibit residents or owners of private property within any closed area, or their invitees, from going in or being upon their lands. This section does not apply to any entry, in the course of duty by a peace officer or any other duly authorized public officer, member of any fire department, or member of the U.S. Forest Service or CAL FIRE, nor does this section apply to National Forest Land in any respect. During periods of closure, the chief shall erect and maintain at all entrances to the closed areas sufficient signs giving adequate notice of closure.

See maps of Hazardous fire area closures in **appendix A**

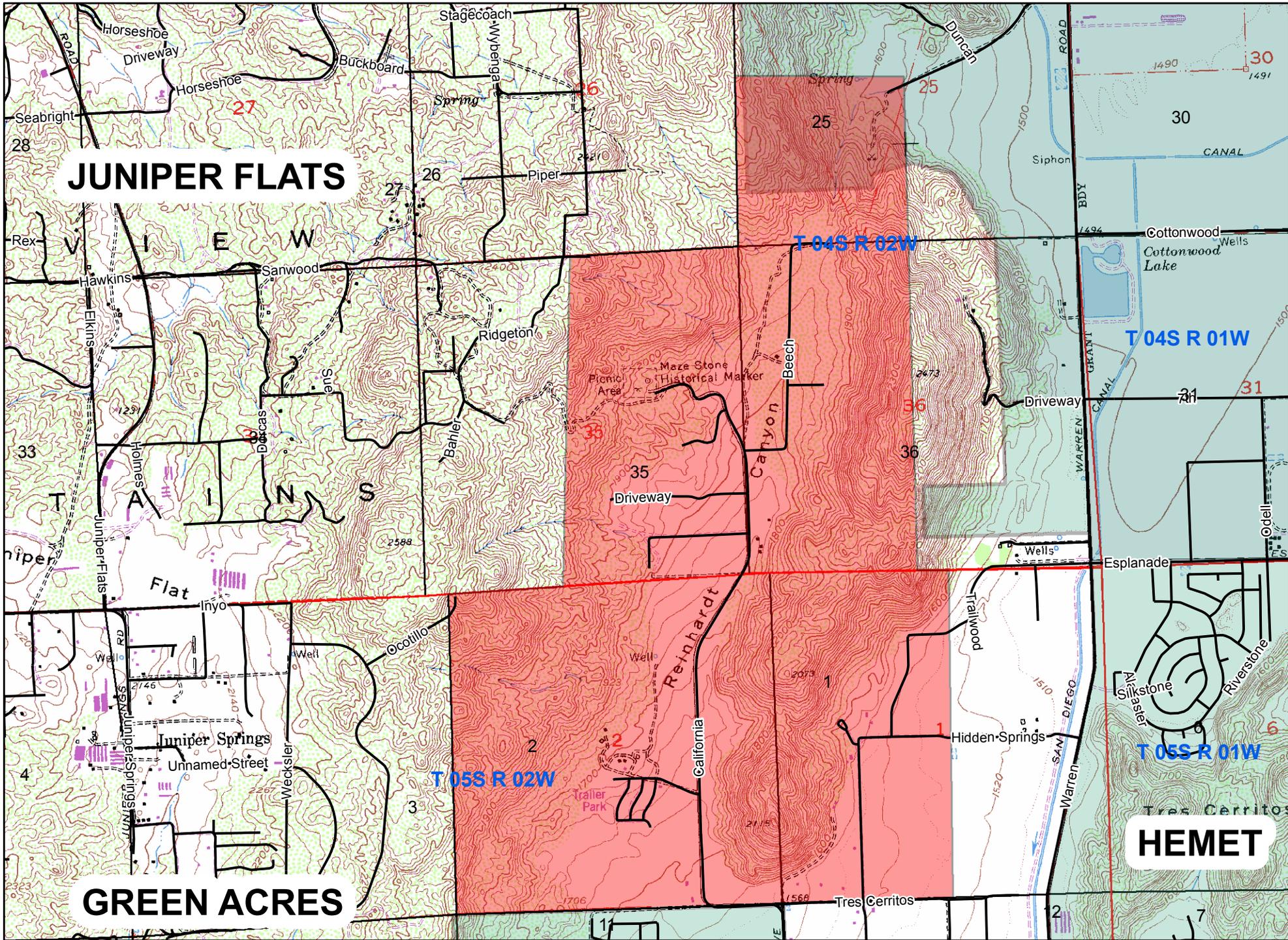


Fire Closure Area Whitewater Canyon

 Fire_Closure



Miles



JUNIPER FLATS

GREEN ACRES

HEMET

T 04S R 02W

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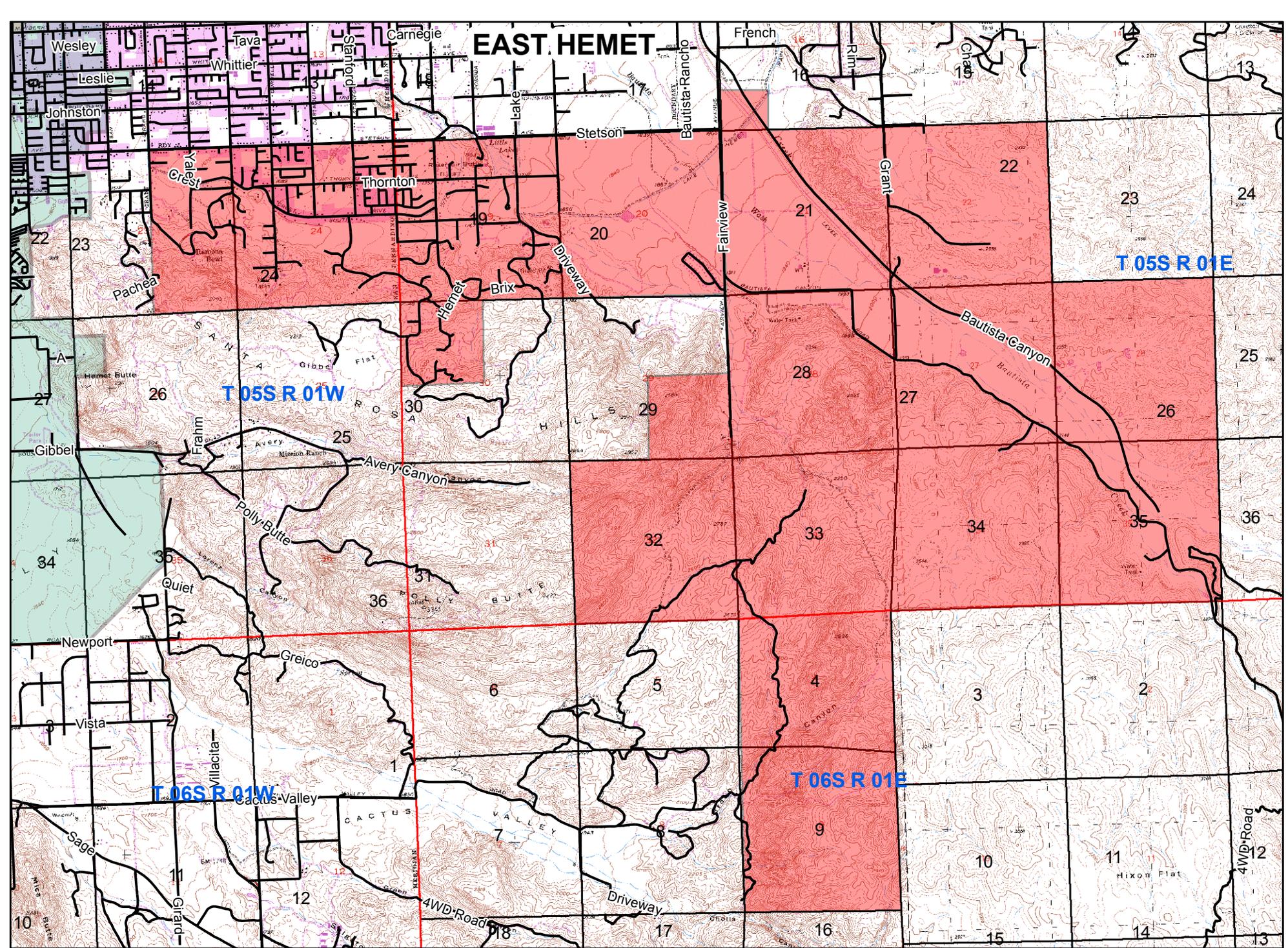


Fire Closure Area

**Fire Closure Area
Reinhardt Canyon**



Miles RClark 06,09

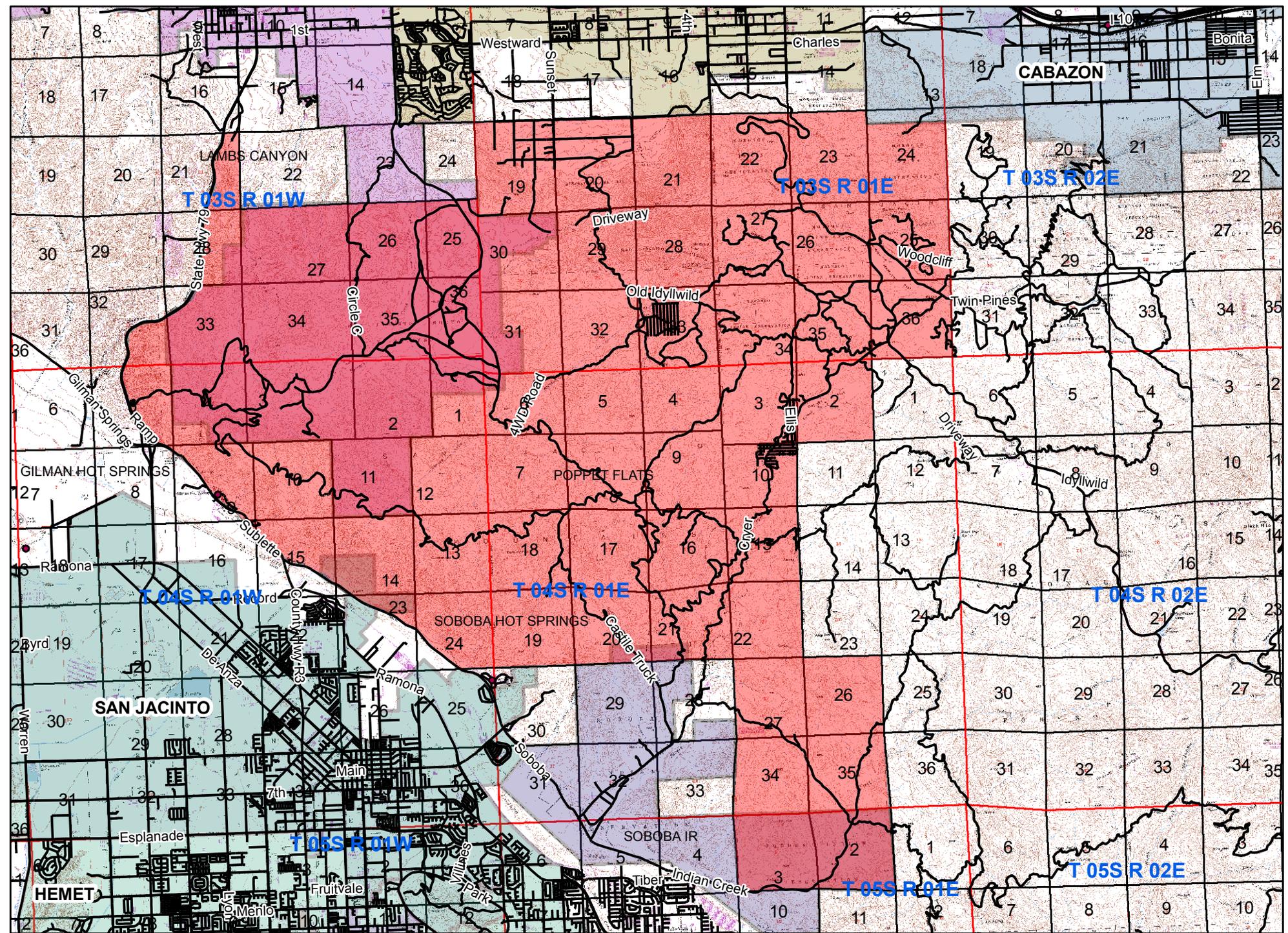


 Fire Closure Area

Fire Closure Area Ramona Bowl & Bautista Canyon



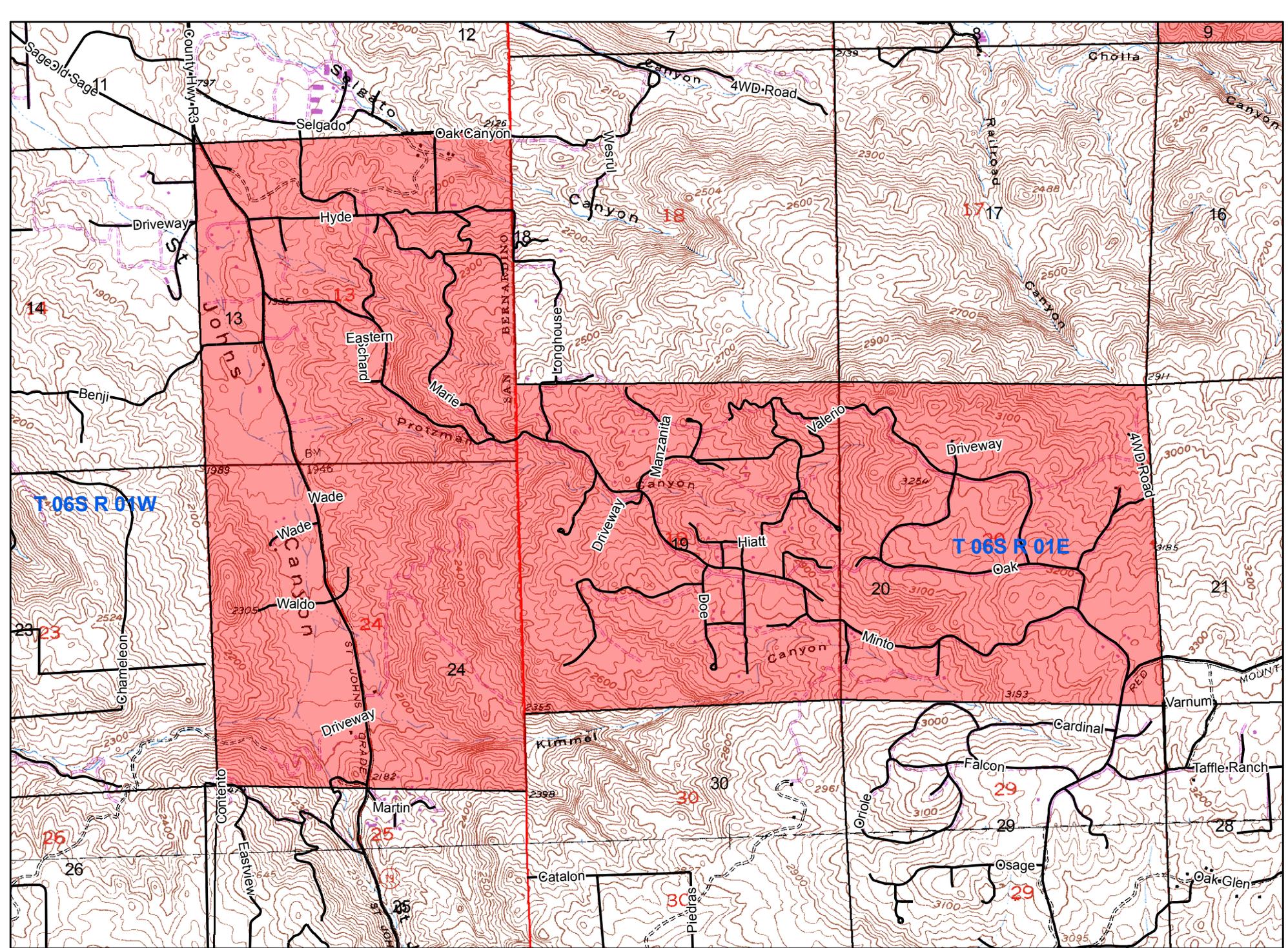
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Fire Closure Area

Fire Closure Area North Mountain & Indian Canyon



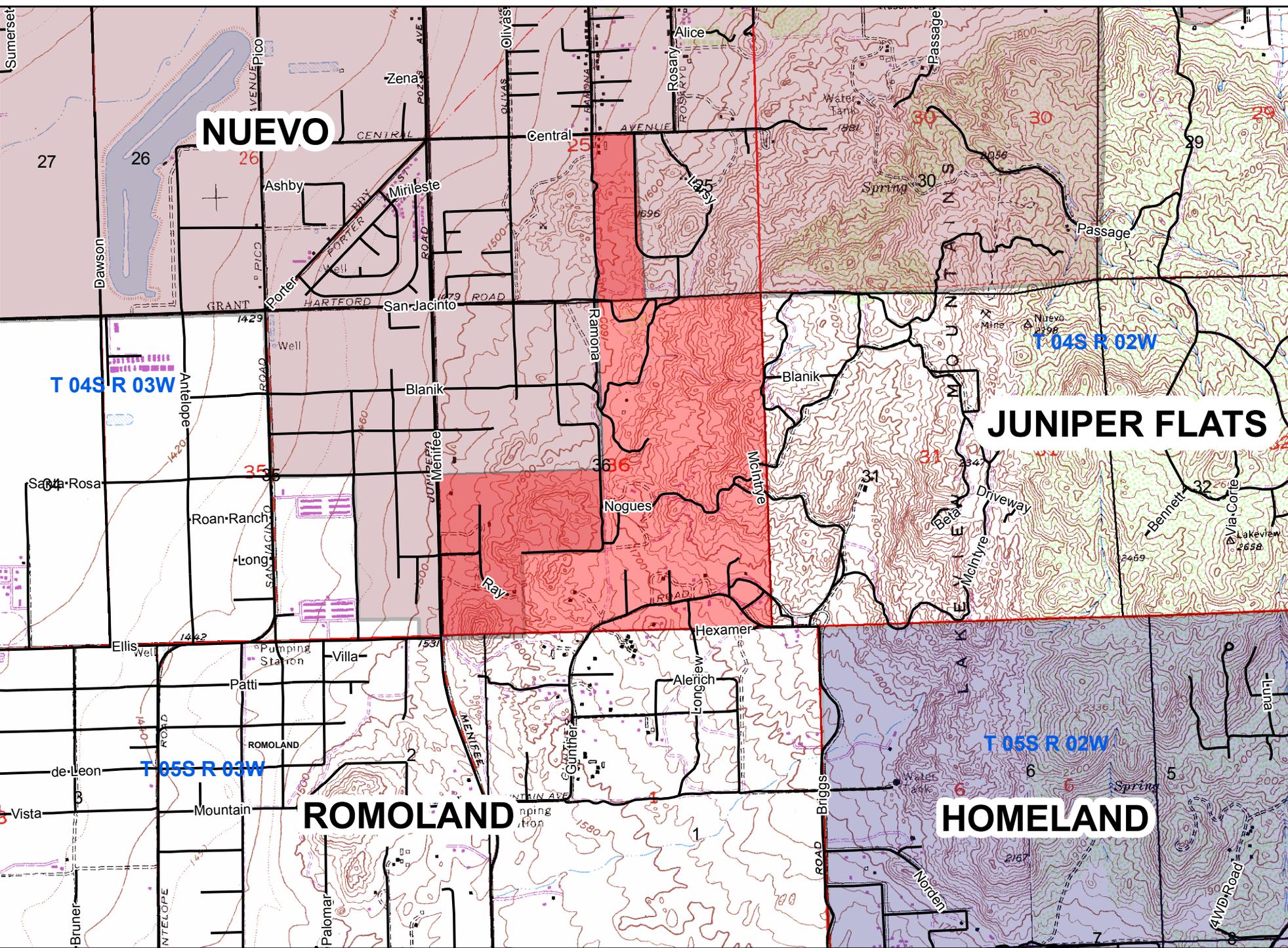


 Fire Closure Area

Fire Closure Area Minto Way



Miles RClark 06,09



NUEVO

JUNIPER FLATS

ROMOLAND

HOMELAND

 Fire Closure Area

**Fire Closure Area
Lakeview**



Miles RClark 06,09



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Project Number	Project Name	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SITE DESCRIPTION	Total # project Acres	Total # Acres Completed	COMMENTS
RRU-9 COMPLETED	Buckhorn Hwy Tree Limbing	Formerly RRU 1.3 Project treats a 1/4 mile long curved section on Hwy 243 near Franklin Drive to increase the visibility on Hwy 243 for cars while improving the health of the residual stand. Tasks include limbing large trees and thinning small trees.	Hwy 243 x Franklin Drive	2	2	A few trees remain along the highway but will require traffic control.
RRU-16 COMPLETED	Deadman's Curve Cleanup	Formerly RRU 4.1 This project is a coordinated clean up of dead tree debris from a previous felling operation. Project is critical to protect vital escape route/transportation corridor.	Hwy 243 x Deadman's Curve	5	5	This stretch of highway is critical for evacuation as the highway doubles back on itself with a 180+ degree turn.
RRU-25 COMPLETED	Saunders Meadow Rd - Chipping Project	Formerly RRU 4 Transportation Corridor protection along Saunders Meadow Road opposite the Idyllwild Transfer Station. These trees were cut several years ago by the CDF Bug Crew, but the slash was never cleaned up.	Saunders Mdw. Rd. opposite Idyllwild Transfer Station.	2	2	Completed the chipping portion of this project 1st quarter of calendar year 2005.
RRU-33 COMPLETED	Slate Way Tree Removal	Removing hazard trees along Slate Way in Pine Cove.	Slate Way in Pine Cove	4	4	Transportation Corridor hazard tree removal.
RRU-5 COMPLETED	Red Hill DFPZ - Phase II	Formerly RRU 2.1 This is the second phase of the Red Hill DFPZ on private property and next to USFS property. The planning component was completed in Phase I	On the west side of the community between Pine Cove and Idyllwild	60	60	Create a shaded fuel break
RRU-7 COMPLETED	Logan Creek WLPZ Rehab	Formerly RRU 1.2 Rehabilitation of a 100 section of Logan Creek following tree removal operations. Major removal of overstory exposed surface area to debris impacting the creek. This project is the rehab of this project	Logan Creek x Logan Creek Road in Pine Cove	2	2	Miminal planning required to begin this project. Pine Cove Water District will provide assist for the cleanup
RRU-8 COMPLETED	Red Hill WLPZ Rehab	Formerly RRU 1.2 Rehab along a 200' section of a un-named drainage on the Red Hill DFPZ. This area was impacted by heavy tree mortality near structures requiring their removal. Heavy rains washed debris into the drainage & blocked one culvert.	Pine Cove Road x Red Hill Truck Trail Road	2	2	Project is to remove the debris and restore slope to natural grade. No major planning for this project - work needed to be completed ASAP to project Red Hill Truck Trail Road from major damage.

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RRU-10 COMPLETED	Bear Trap Creek WLPZ Rehab	Formerly RRU 1.4 This project treats the WLPZ portion of Beartrap Creek (class II) that has been impacted by heavy tree mortality. Pproject is with the Red Hill VMP. Work includes hand removal of dead tree debris from the WLPZ & hauling to tub grinder.	Beartrap WLPZ section whcih begins at West Camp to where the trail trail to Boy Scout camp splits off from creek.	6	6	Archeology and biology covered in Red Hill VMP. Handwork only in the WLPZ, using wheel barrows to haul out debris!
RRU-11 COMPLETED	Idyllwild County Park Nature Tail Rehab	Formerly RRU 1.5 Felling of large dead hazard trees and removal of debris from already fallen trees along the Riverside County Park nature trail system to make them safe and passable until a dead tree & debris removal project can occur winter of 2005/6.	Within the Idyllwild Riverside County Park.	5	5	NRCS has done the environmental reviw for this project as they will contract to remove the material winter of 2005/06. CDF project enables the park to be used by forest visitors during the peak visitor months. All hand work, no equipment.
RRU-12 COMPLETED	Lawler Lodge County Park Rehab	Formerly RRU 1.6 Restoration of trail system in this county park	Hwy 243 x Lawler Lodge County Park	5	5	Heavy tree mortality has adversely impacted the nature trail system and general safety of this county park. Project will remove dead/down debris and treat standing dead trees threatening trees and WLPZ.
RRU-13 COMPLETED	Pine Cove: Infrastructure Protection	Formerly RRU 3 Increasing DFPZ near Pine Cove Water District Tanks and the Radio Towers near Pine Cove Water Disticts water tanks. Project primarily is the removal of the understory vegetation and enhance local site area	PC radio towers site off of Marion Ridge Rd and the water tank sites off of Hwy 243	15	15	PCWD assisted with the project
RRU-14 COMPLETED	Idyllwild WD: Infrastructure Protection	Fomerly RRU 3.1 Tree removal project on Idyllwild Water District, MAST identified infrastructure protection.	Foster Lake x Sherman Drive	2	2	1038 B, Dead and dying tree removal under Forest Practice Rules and Emergency Declaration
RRU-15 COMPLETED	Idyllwild WD: Infrastructure Protection #2	Fomerly RRU 3.2 Tree felling to project the Idyllwild Water Districts water tanks inside Mt. San Jacinto State Park. MAST identified DFPZ protection.	Rockdale Spur x State Park Property	2	2	1038 B, Dead and dying tree removal under Forest Practice Rules and Emergency Declaration
RRU-18 COMPLETED	Spring 2005 Planting	Formerly RRU 6.1 Spring 2005 planting of 1000 Jeffery Pine Seedlings at various locations	Buckhorn Camp x Hwy 243	15	15	Most of the seedlings were planted at the camp and a few went to Camp Joe Sherman in Garner Valley
RRU-26 ACTIVE	Pine Cove Infrastructure Protection, Lower Site	Creation of Defensible Fuel Profile Zone around the lower PCWD water tank site that will protect the infrastructure and be a safety zone for firefighters. MAST identified infrastructure protection.	Pine Cove Water District tanks along Highway 243 between Deadman's Curve and Marion Ridge Road.	4	4	This is a coop project with PCWD for infrastructure protection and to provide a FF safety zone. Work consited of felling dead trees, limbing green trees, removing brush understory competition.

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RRU-28 COMPLETED	Spring 2006 Tree Planting	Tree planting in early 2006 on various properties.	Various and to be determined during planning process.	260	260	Will plat various projects including those treated by NRCS for site prep.
RRU-31 COMPLETED	Stone Creek Campground Rehab	Rehabilitate State Park Campground forested area severely impacted by bark beetle mortality.	Stone Creek Campground, Dark Canyon Rd X Highway 243.	20	20	CDF depended upon State Park's archaeology and biology review.
RRU-35 COMPLETED	San Jacinto State Park: Green Tree Thinning	Green tree thinning in co-op with state parks	San Jacinto State Park	15	15	Archeology/biology completed by CDPR. Implementation Jan. 06.
RRU-36 COMPLETED	Stone Creek State Park: Green Tree Thinning	Green tree thinning in co-op with state parks	Stone Creek State Park	500	45	Archeology/biology completed by CDPR. Implementation after Idyllwild project.
RRU-40 COMPLETED	Baldy DFPZ	Prescribed burn tree and brush thinning to protect the community	Baldy Mountain village	12	12	Piles under the mobile home park to be burned Jan. 06. Trees felled under County Contract.
RRU-17 ACTIVE	MRC Demonstration Zone	Formerly RRU 5.1 To demonstrate the process of inventory, assessment, marking and the removal of trees within the community for the purpose of creating a healthier forest	Hwy 243 x Franklin Drive	5	5	This project is a coop project with RVC and MCFSC on private property adjacent to the MRC.
RRU-41 COMPLETED	Baldy Extension DFPZ	Prescribed burn tree and brush thinning to protect the community	McCall Park	39	39	A unit was burned this quarter. Waiting for good Wx.
RRU-47 PLANNED	ROWTS Utility Line Thinning/Sanitation	Removal of damaged for forest health and fuels reduction	Various locations in the mountain communities			Emailed all potential partners, SCE, Caltrans, TLMA, USFS. Positive response.
RRU-63 COMPLETED	Idyllwild Nature Center Demo Site	Development of LE100 demonstration site for public education purposes of new home hazard abatement requirements	Idyllwild Nature Center	20	20	5500' elevatration, Co-Op Agencies - Riverside County Parks and Open Space District, MCFSC
RRU-64 COMPLETED	Reforestation 2007		In an around the Lake Hemet Campground property	10	10	Joe Sherman area treated by NRCS. Arch & bio was done under NRCS.
RRU-69 COMPLETED	Lake Hemet Reforestation Demo	Reforestation Demonstration Area	Lake Hemet	15	15	Reforestation and ??? Sites w/vexor/weedmats
RRU-70 COMPLETED	Idyllwild Co Park Reforestation	Reforestation, Tree Planting	Idyllwild Co Park Area	11	11	Reforestation following DD Tree Removal

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RRU-71 COMPLETED	Bear Trap Ridge Reforestation	Reforestation, Tree Planting	Bear Trap Ridge Area	34	34	Much of this area has been treated by Cal Fire and NRCS. Much of the project was masticated by NRCS in 2007.
RRU-79 COMPLETED	2008 Duntley Ranch Reforestation	Reforestation/Tree Planting	Duntley Ranch Area	20	20	Reforestaion Following Dead Tree Removal
RRU-80 COMPLETED	2008 Worth Reforestation	Reforestation/Tree Planting	Worth Ranch Area	20	20	Reforestaion Following Dead Tree Removal
RRU-83 COMPLETED	Twin Pines Reforestation	Reforestation	Twin Pines Boys Camp	3	3	Planting trees around Ezperanza burn for education.
RRU-86 PLANNING	Fleming Ranch Mastication (Mastication Contract)	Fleming Ranch Mastication		95	0	
RRU-88 ACTIVE	Idyllwild Co Park Hazardous Fuel Removal	Limbing around campsites at Idyllwild Co Park	Idyllwild Co Park	15	11	Cooperative effort with Co Parks
RRU-90 Completed	2009 Reforestation	Planting		40	40	
RRU-17 ACTIVE	MRC Demostration Zone	Formerly RRU 5.1 To demonstrate the process of inventory, assessment, marking and the removal of trees within the community for the purpose of creating a healthier forest	Hwy 243 x Franklin Drive	5	5	This project is a coop projnct with RVC and MCFSC on private property adjacent to the MRC.
RRU-26 ACTIVE	Pine Cove Infrastructure Protection, Lower Site	Creation of Defensible Fuel Profile Zone around the lower PCWD water tank site that will protect the infrastructure and be a safety zone for firefighters. MAST identified infrastructure protection.	Pine Cove Water District tanks along Highway 243 between Deadman's Curve and Marion Ridge Road.	4	4	This is a coop project with PCWD for infrastructure protection and to provide a FF safety zone. Work consited of felling dead trees, limbing green trees, removing brush understory competiitiion.
RRU-34 COMPLETED	Oak Glen Camp: Dead Tree Felling	Removal of beetle-killed trees on camp compound	Oak Glen Camp	10	10	
RRU-39 PLANNED	Goldenrod DFPZ	Prescribed burn tree and brush thinning to protect the community	Idyllwild near transfer station	20		Archeology complete working on biology.
RRU-49 COMPLETED	Fern Valley Log Deck Removal Planning	Removal of decked log piles from within the community	Fern Valley area of Idyllwild			Contract specs. Prepared. Property owner agreements received back. Handed over to county for

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						implementation.
RRU-52 COMPLETED	Silver Fir Soil Erosion Rehab	Soil erosion mitigation measures following dead tree removal	South edge of Cedar Glen	2	2	Work Completed
RRU-53 COMPLETED	Ostrowiecki Hazard Tree Removal	Hazard Tree Removal		5	5	Emergency tree removal next to homes to assist NRCS projects
RRU-54 COMPLETED	Lake Hemet Dam Hazard Tree Mitigation	Public use area hazard tree removal	Lake Hemet	15	15	
RRU-66 ACTIVE	Mt. San Jacinto State Park Coop Burn	Forest Health understory burn on State Park Land	Mt. San Jacinto State Park, Stone Creek Drainage	TBD		
RRU-85 ACTIVE	Oak Glen VMP Project Maintenance	Fuels Reduction Project Maintenance	Oak Glen/Banning Water Canyon	121	36	Thinning/Chipping/Pile Burning
RRU-87 ACTIVE	Point of Rocks: DFPZ & Hazard Tree Removal Phase II	Continue fuel break along state park land behind Point of Rocks resident area	Point of Rocks area north of Idyllwild	50	15	RRU-37 - Project Phase I, HFT RRU-203 - Project Phase II, This is project Phase III - Crews to construct shaded fuel break
RRU-89 ACTIVE	Lake Hemet Dam Hazard Tree Removal: Phase II	Removal of hazard trees in Lake Hemet Area	Lake Hemet Area	15	8	

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Project Number	Project Name	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SITE DESCRIPTION	Total # project Acres	Total # Acres Completed	COMMENTS
RRU-201 (formerly RRU-6) ACTIVE	CALTrans- Safety Corridor #2	Phase II: Removal of dead or dying trees along the state highway for a safe corridor in the event of community evacuation	The length of forested state highways of 243 and 74.	80	1	Primary work includes removal of dead along the main safety routes for community evacuation.
RRU-202 (formerly RRU-27) PLANNED	Apple Canyon Ranch	Project consists of removal of dead and dying trees and potential green tree thinning and tree planting. Project will also protect prehistoric archeological site from further resource degradation.	Apple Canyon Ranch in the Bonita Vista area.	120	0	It has been determined that CDF will turn this project over to NRCS for implementation. All field work provided to NRCS
RRU-203 (formerly RRU-37) ACTIVE	Point of Rocks: DFPZ & Hazard Tree Removal Phase 3	Create fuel break in Mount San Jacinto State Park to protect the northwest corner of Idyllwild	From Point of Rocks to upper Pine Crest	75	0	Archeology complete by CDF/CDPR. Biology completed by CDPR. Joint project with State Parks.
RRU-204 (formerly RRU-42) PLANNED	Pinyon DFPZ	Prescribed burn tree and brush thinning to protect the community of Pinyon	Pinyon Crest	100	0	Consulted with USFS and NRCS several occasions on this. Project is on hold due to environmental concerns by the public.
RRU-205 (formerly RRU-43) ACTIVE	Spring Crest DFPZ	Prescribed burn tree and brush thinning to protect the Spring Crest community (33 acres completed Spring 2008)	Spring Crest (near Pinyon)	33	0	Property owner agreements mailed. A number have signed up. 33 acres net treated to protect 205 projected total acres.
RRU-206 (formerly RRU-44) ACTIVE	Hurkey Creek: Diseased Tree Removal & Green Tree Thinning	Remove beetle-killed and diseased trees to improve forest health and safety of the public	Hurkey Creek	75	0	Work ongoing in campground.
RRU-207 (formerly RRU-46) ACTIVE	Hwy 243 & Hwy 74 Thinning/DFPZ: Fuels Reduction Project	Extend the USFS 243 project onto private lands to protect transportation corridor	Various locations in the mountain communities	95	0	Initial planning phases. Have consulted with Caltrans, USFS and NRCS.
RRU-208 (formerly RRU-57) ACTIVE	MAST Safety Zone Green Tree Thinning	Green Tree Thinning - Forest Care	Various locations in the Idyllwild mountain communities	20	0	Bautista Crews conducted Thinning. County Contractor disposed of the materials.
RRU-209 (formerly RRU-58) ACTIVE	Middle Ridge DFPZ	Shaded Fuel Break	Middle Ridge in Idyllwild	20	0	Multiphased project Phase 1 dead tree removal accomplished by County Fire. Phase 2 thinning to be accomplished by Cal-Fire

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RRU-210 (formerly RRU-61) ACTIVE	OakGlen/Water Canyon VMP	Construction and maintenance of fuel break in te Oak Glen community	To protect Oak Glen community	134	0	
RRU-211 (formerly RRU-62) ACTIVE	Maxwell Project	Thinning, brush removal, burning and chipping	Project adjacent to Maxwell Trail	88	8	6000' elevation. NRCS Co-Op Agency. 45 trees replanted by NRCS.
RRU-212 (formerly RRU-65) ACTIVE	RED Hill North DFPZ	DFPZ construction adjacent to Old Banning-Idyllwild Rd on 4 private parcels.	Old Banning-Idyllwild Rd (Hwy 243)	36	17	
RRU-213 (formerly RRU-68) ACTIVE	James Reserve WLPZ	Fuels reduction to protect the UCR James Reserve research facility and forest Green tree thinning and brush removal	James Reserve	15	0	Bio partnership between Cal-Fire, Cal Fish & Game, and UCR James Reserve - Dr. Mike Hamilton
RRU-214 (formerly RRU-72) PLANNED	Fleming Ranch Green Tree Thinning & Fuels Reduction	Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	Fleming Ranch/Apple Canyon	300	0	
RRU-215 (formerly RRU-73) PLANNED	Halkin/Maxwell Green Tree Thinning & Fuels Reduction	Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	Eastern side of Fern Valley	300	0	
RRU-216 (formerly RRU-74) PLANNED	O'Neil/Suicide Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	Create fuel break along western side of Fern Valley adjoining the state park wilderness	180	0	
RRU-217 (formerly RRU-75) PLANNED	Alves/Pinewood Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	To protect Pinewood Estates and the surrounding national forest	200	0	
RRU-218 (formerly RRU-76) PLANNED	Thousand Trails Green Tree Thinning & Fuels Reduction	Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	To protect the northern approach to Pine Cove from fires coming off the state park	200	0	
RRU-219 (formerly RRU-77) PLANNED	Idyllwild Arts/Camp Emerson	Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	Project will protect the western approach to Idyllwild from fires coming out of Strawberry Creek Drainage	134	0	

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RRU-220 (formerly RRU-78) PLANNED	Pine Springs Ranch/Zen Center	Green Tree Thinning and Fuels Reduction	Project will protect the camp and private property at the end of Apple Canyon from fires coming off the national forest wilderness	638	0	
RRU-221 (formerly RRU-81) ACTIVE (added project)	Riverside County Park Nature Trail Rehabilitation #2	Removal of DDD trees	Idyllwild Co Park Area	25	25	Removal of Dead and Dying Trees near campsites
RRU-222 PLANNED (new project)	Lawler Lodge			TBD	0	
RRU-223 ACTIVE (new project)	Nature Center Fuel Break Maintenance	Maintenance of existing fuel break		22	22	
RRU-224 PLANNED (new project)	Right of Way Tree Sanitation (ROWTS)	Removal of brush and small trees growing under power line rights of way	Project will be in cooperation with other MAST agencies. Large trees will be removed by County Fire or SCE and CAL FIRE will remove low-growing fuels	TBD	0	
RRU-225 PLANNED (new project)	Goodhart VMP	Chaparral prescribed burn and other treatments	This project will treat the Goodhart property newly acquired by the Riverside Conservation Agency in three blocks	TBD	0	
RRU-226 PLANNED (new project)	Poppet Flats Community Protection	Continuation of fuels treatment to protect Poppet Flats Communities	This project will work off previously accomplished work done on both private and BLM lands	TBD	0	
RRU-227 PLANNED (new project)	Wilson Valley VMP	Chaparral prescribed burn and other treatments	This will treat newly acquired lands of the Riverside Conservation Authority	TBD	0	

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RRU-228 PLANNED (new project)	Simpson Park VMP	Chaparral prescribed burn and other treatments	This is a wildland park owned by the city of Hemet located in SRA. There will be multiple entries to put the brush in rotation	TBD	0	
RRU-229 PLANNED (new project)	Critical Communication Sites Infrastructure Protection	Fuels reduction to protect approximately 30 critical communication sites in Riverside County	These community sites may be County or State and service fire, law and other vital government functions	TBD	0	
RRU-233 ACTIVE (New Project)	State Park Fuel Reduction	Assisting State Parks with fuel reduction activities	State Park in the Idyllwild/Pine Cove area	10	9	
RRU-234 ACTIVE (New Project)	MSR Skinner VMP/Rx-South-055-RRU	Fuels Management, Thinning and Broadcast Burning	Northeast of the community of Temecula and south of Hemet	TBD		
RRU-235 ACTIVE (New Project)	County Parks - Delano		20 acres parcel of County Parks land	20		
RRU-236	Santa Rosa Plateau VMP					
RRU-237	Rancho Carillo Dead Tree Removal	Brush Access Road and remove dead and dying trees from community				
RRU-238	Com Tower Fuel Reduction Project					
RRU-239	Post Project Assistance					
RRU-240	Rancho Capistrano Hazardous Fuel Removal					
RRU-241	El Cariso Village Hazardous Fuels Removal					
RRU-242	Red Hill South Maintenance			10		
RRU-243	Riverside County Park Nature Trail Rehabilitation #3			3	3	
RRU-244	Lake Perris State Park VMP					
RRU-245	Johnson Ranch VMP					
RRU-246	March SKR VMP					

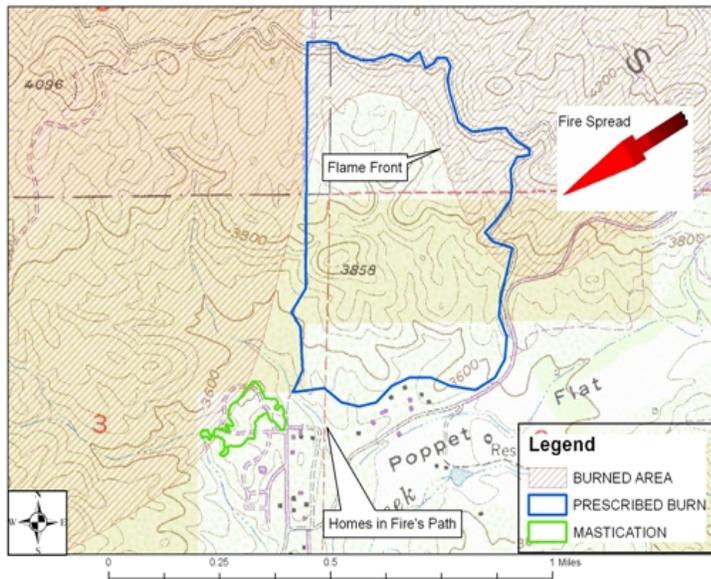
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	South Main Divide Evacuation Route	Brush the CDF DPA side (East) of the road. This is a critical holding point for fires moving East and west and also access/egress for the Rancho Capistrano community.				
	El Cariso Road Evacuation Route	Brush/shaded fuel break on both sides of the road from Grand to the N. Main Divide.				
	Canyon Lake Fuels Reduction	This includes the San Jacinto river from the base of Canyon Lake Dam to the I-15 bridge				
	Ortega Highway Evacuation Route - Grand to S. Main	Brush/Thin both sides of road				
	Elsinore Front Fuelbreak	Shaded fuelbreak along the private property/ Forest boundary along the toe of the slope from Wildomar to McVicker Cyn.				
	I-15/Lake St Fuelbreak	This would include the ridge on the East side of I-15 from Nichols Rd to into the Spanish Hills				
	Horse Thief/McVicker Cyns. Brushing	This includes improving East Horse Thief Trail from Mountain Rd into the top of the Horse Thief Tract				

ESPERANZA FIRE and BLM/CDF FUELS TREATMENTS

In 2000, the BLM and CDF began working on a large-scale, interagency community fuel break to protect the communities of Poppet Flat, Rancho Encino, and the Silent Valley RV Club. The strategic placement of this fuels treatment project on both public and private lands protected the community from the Esperanza Fire and slowed the fire's progress. Federal and state agencies worked together across jurisdictional boundaries to complete an effective fire defense system around the communities. On the west side of the communities was a large area of chaparral between the homes and the fuel break. A prescribed burn was planned to reduce the fuel loading in this area. In 2005 the first unit was burned along with the fuel break north and west of town. The morning of October 26th the Esperanza Fire spread beyond Highway 243 and began to threaten the area. As the fire approached the community its progress was slowed by the fuel breaks and diverted by the prescribed fire. When the fire hit the prescribed burn it was diverted north around the community giving the residents the ability to remain in the community or "shelter in place" while the fire burned past. This saved people from needing to evacuate on Highway 243 through the fire in the area of Twin Pines and down hill to Banning. During the Esperanza Fire morning briefing the incident command team thanked those responsible for the fuels project and acknowledged its strategic importance in helping firefighters save the communities and allowing approximately 250 citizens to shelter in place. Approximately 140 homes and 500-600 RVs were spared from the fire. One mobile home was destroyed that was on the far west end of the community in an incomplete portion of the project and one unoccupied outbuilding was destroyed. The last figure is a map of the fire showing a large unburned island in the fire; this is the Poppet Flat area. The gratefulness of the local residents for their safety and their unburned homes makes this one of the most rewarding projects I have been involved with. With the growing population and development in Southern California interagency fuels projects such as this are crucial in protecting communities and resources.

Esperanza Fire and Poppet Prescribed Burn



POPPET FUELS TREATMENT

	<u>Acres: BLM</u>	<u>Private</u>
Mastication	22	60
Dozer	60	5
Prescribed Fire	180	205
Fuel Break	approx 5 miles	

Planned Treatments

Prescribed Fire	300	100
Mechanical	25	75

Landscape-scale treatments across jurisdictional boundaries are planned for an additional 500 acres in the coming years to maintain the fuel breaks and continue to protect the communities.

Figure 1 The map shows the direction of the fire's spread and the location of the most recent fuels treatments both mastication and prescribed burn



Figure 2 Mastication work at Poppet Flat



Figure 3 Fire stopped at treated area (foreground) behind homes



Figure 4 Treatment behind home



Figure 5 Edge of prescribed burn where Esperanza Fire stopped



Figure 6 and 7 Prescribed burn units that helped to divert the Esperanza Fire around the community

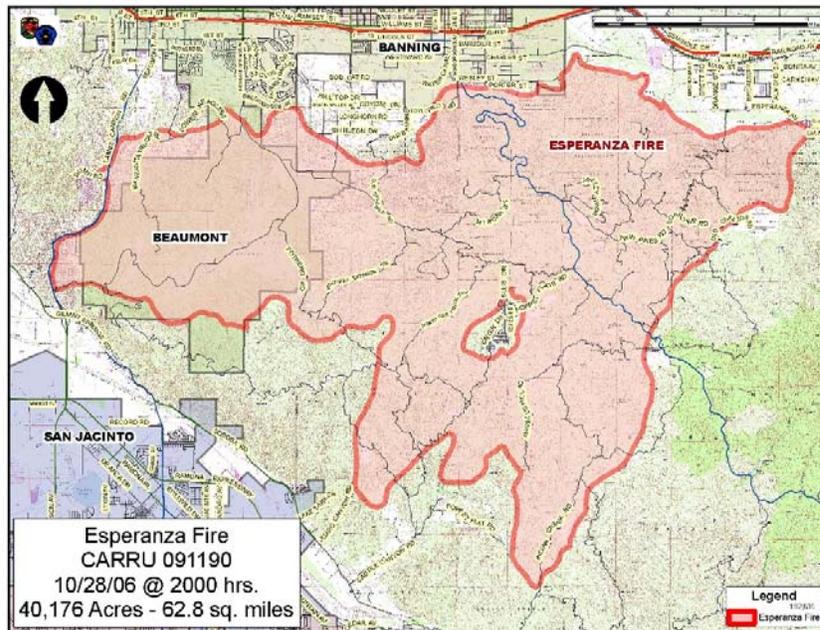


Figure 8 CDF's map of the incident showing the unburned "island" of Poppet Flat