

2009 Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan

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

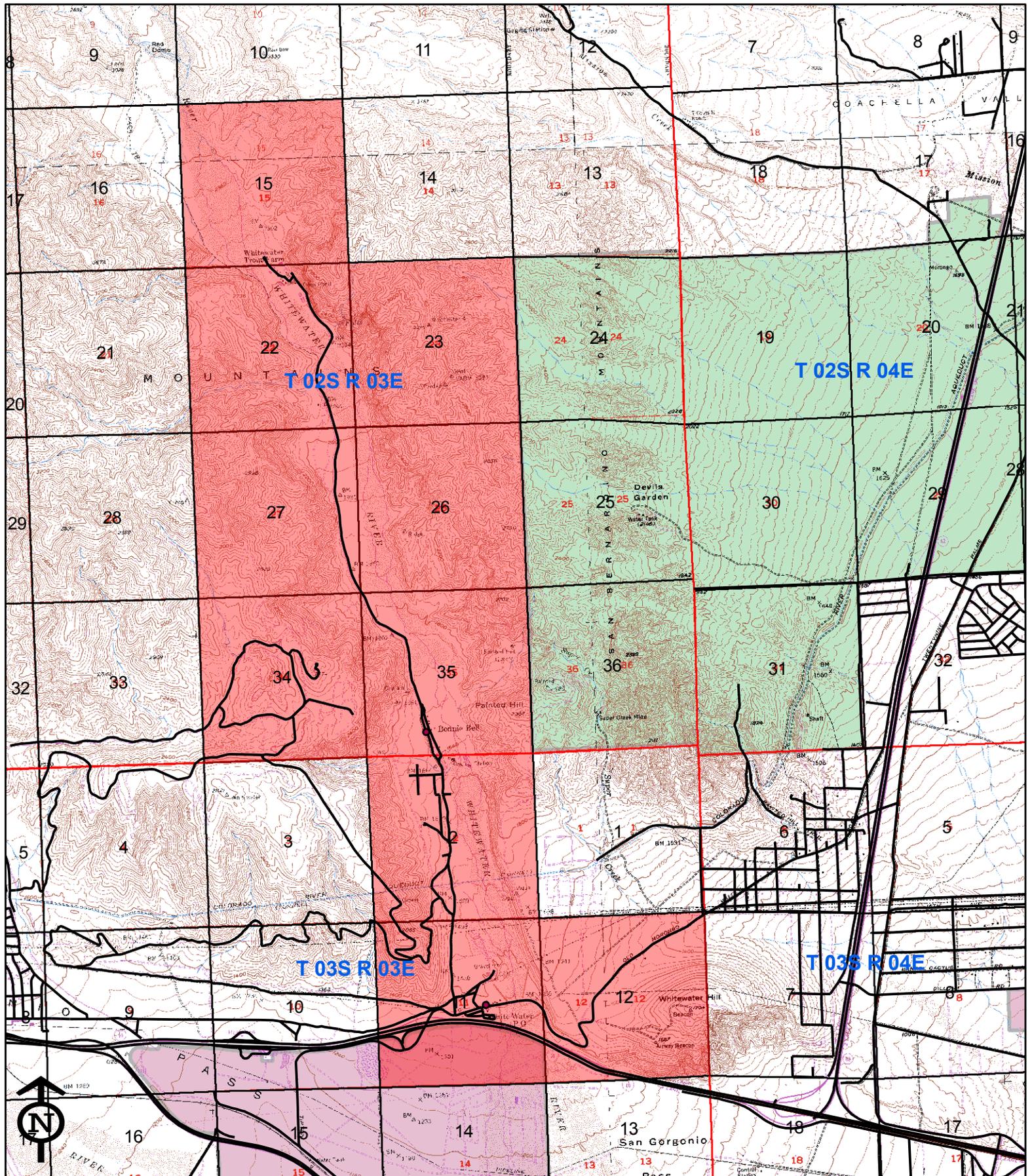
The seven areas affected by the closure are:

- 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.

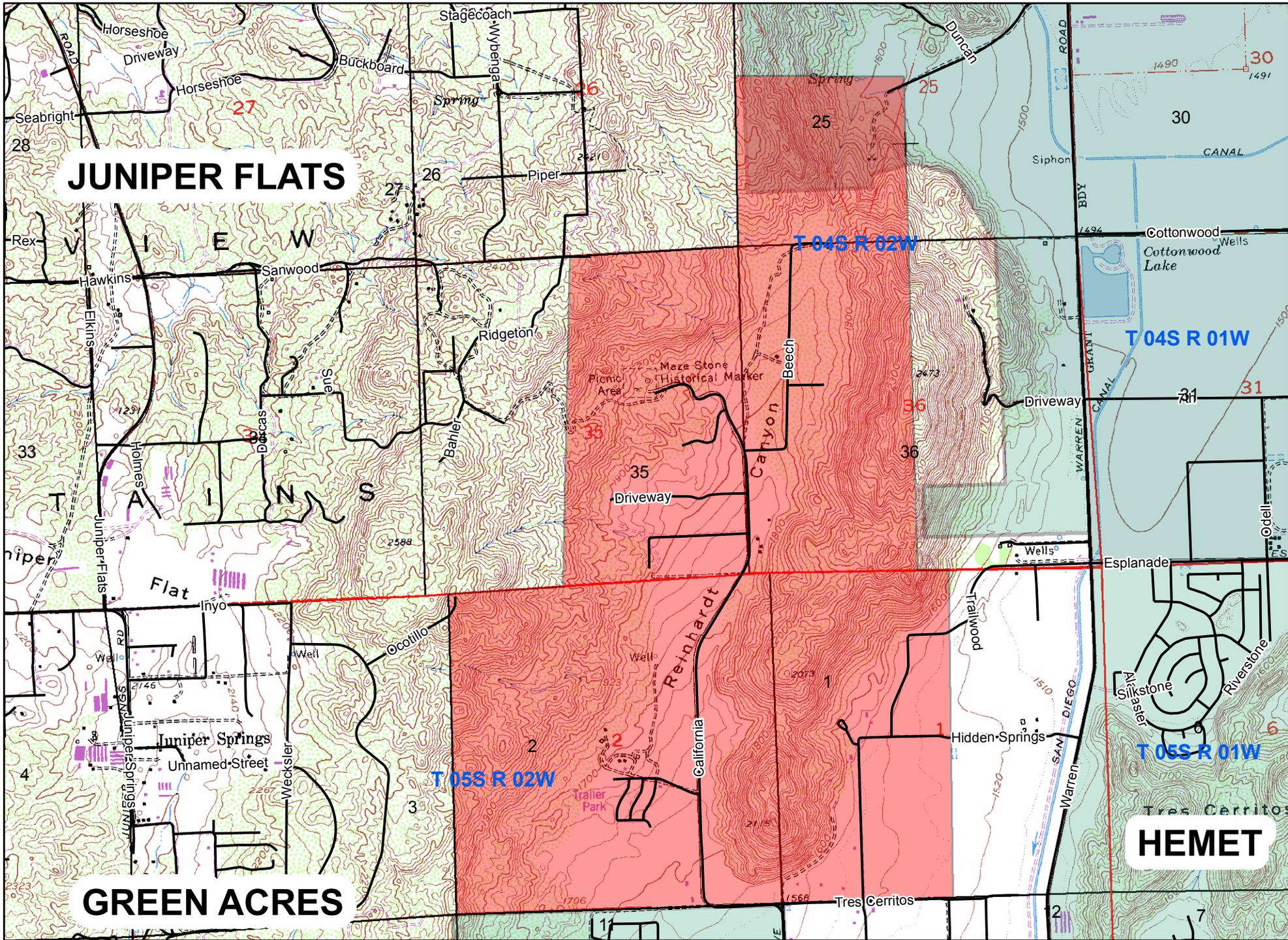
See maps of Hazardous fire area closures in **appendix A**



Fire Closure Area Whitewater Canyon

 Fire_Closure





JUNIPER FLATS

GREEN ACRES

HEMET

T 04S R 02W

T 04S R 01W

T 05S R 01W

T 05S R 02W

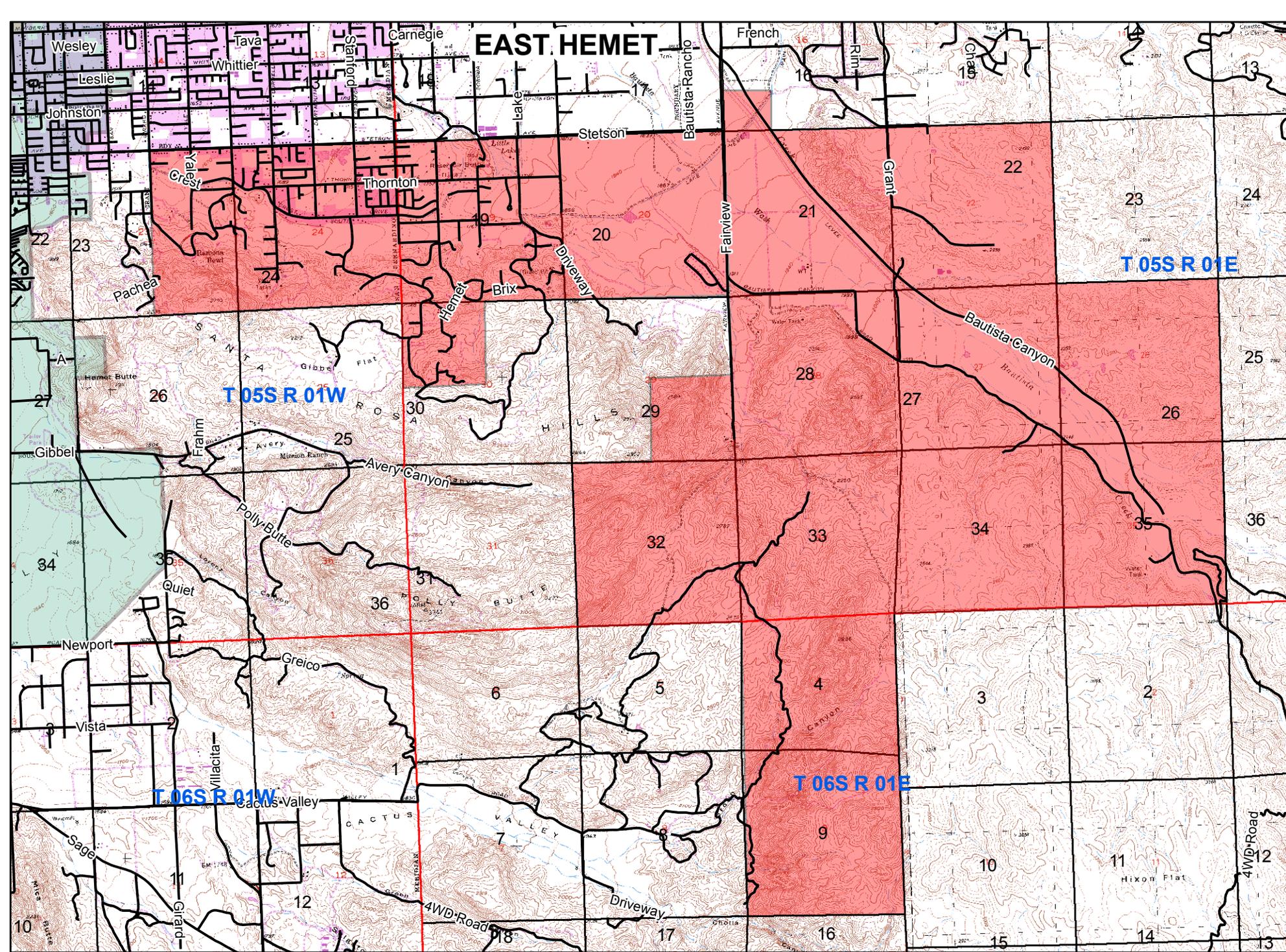


Fire Closure Area

**Fire Closure Area
Reinhardt Canyon**



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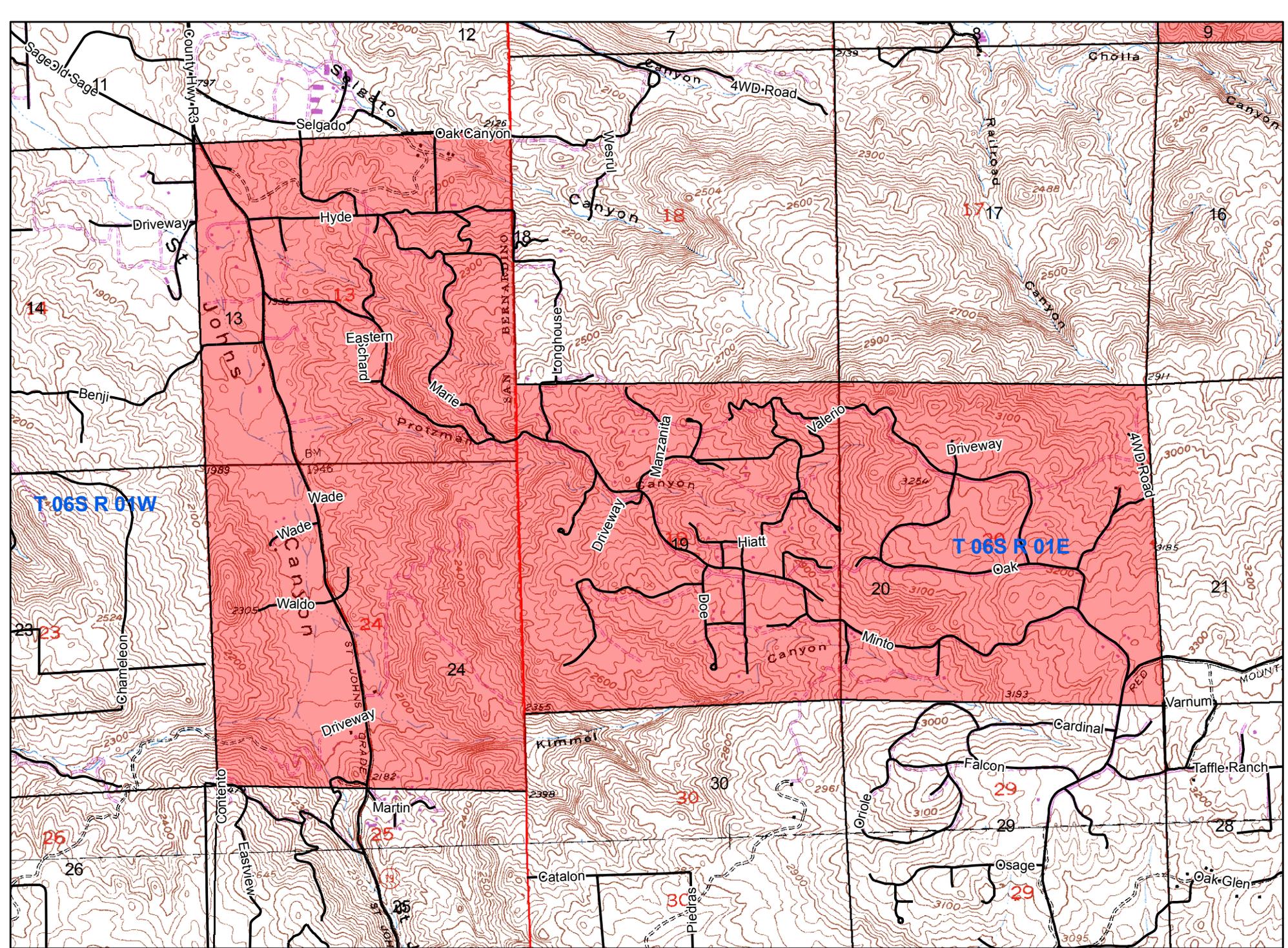


 Fire Closure Area

Fire Closure Area Ramona Bowl & Bautista Canyon



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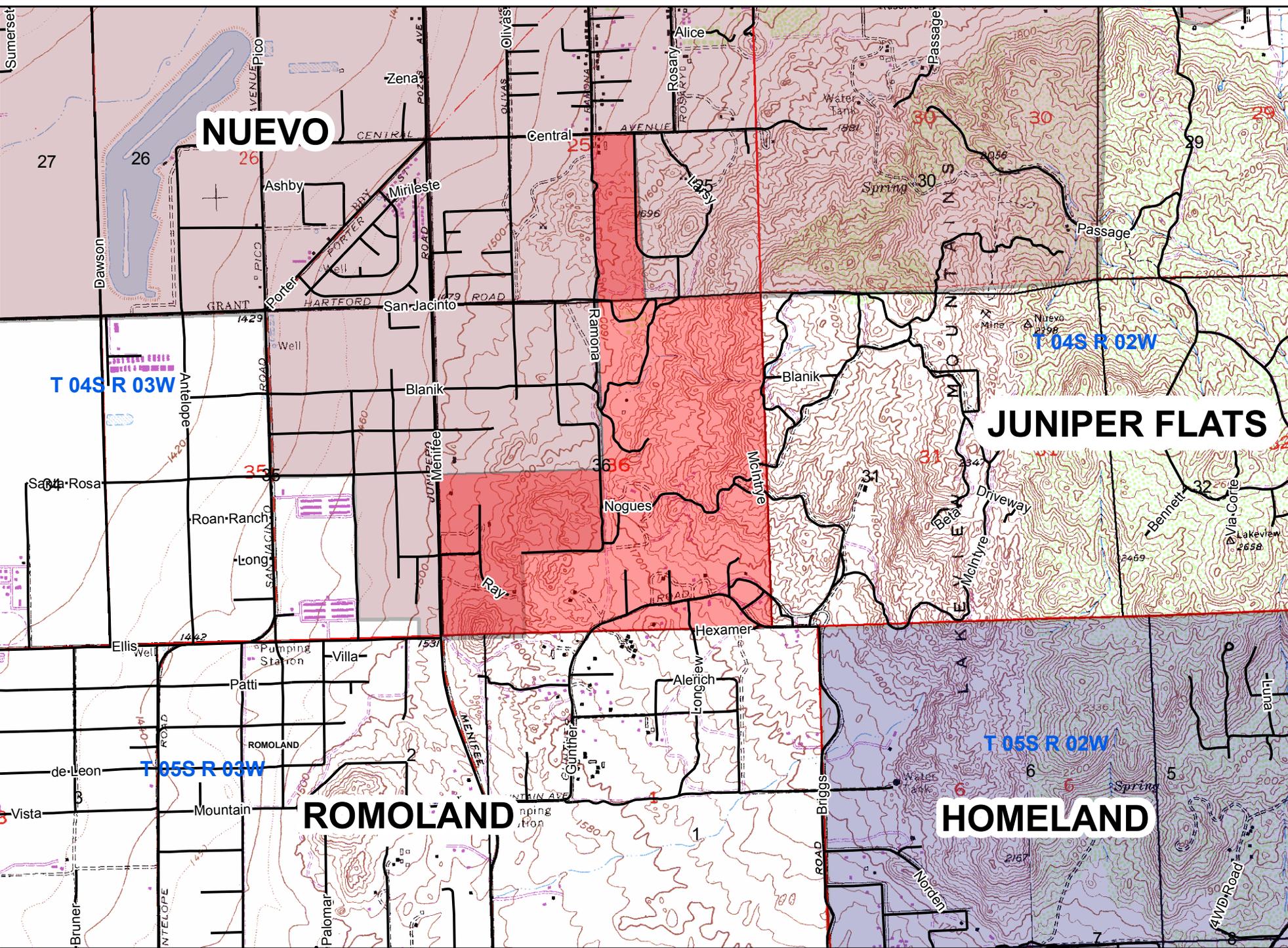


 Fire Closure Area

Fire Closure Area Minto Way



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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 competiitiion.

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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					

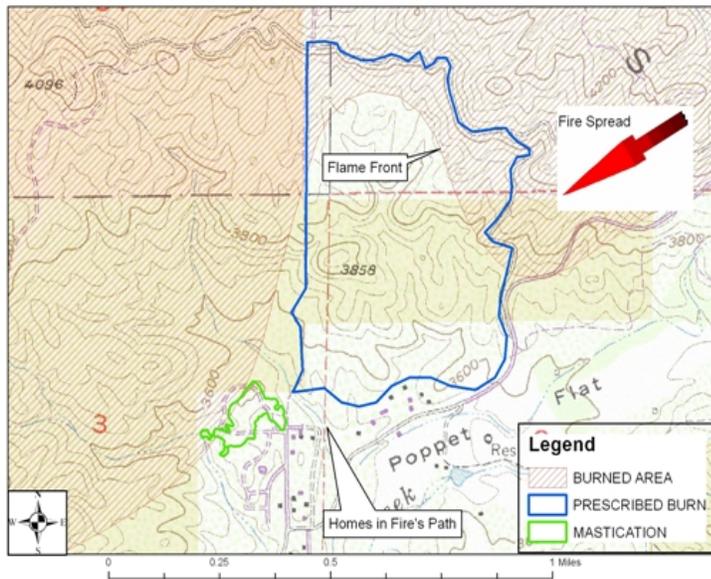
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	South Main Divide Evacuation Route	Brush the CDF DPA side (East) of the road. This is a critical holding point for fires moving East and west and also access/egress for the Rancho Capistrano community.				
	El Cariso Road Evacuation Route	Brush/shaded 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

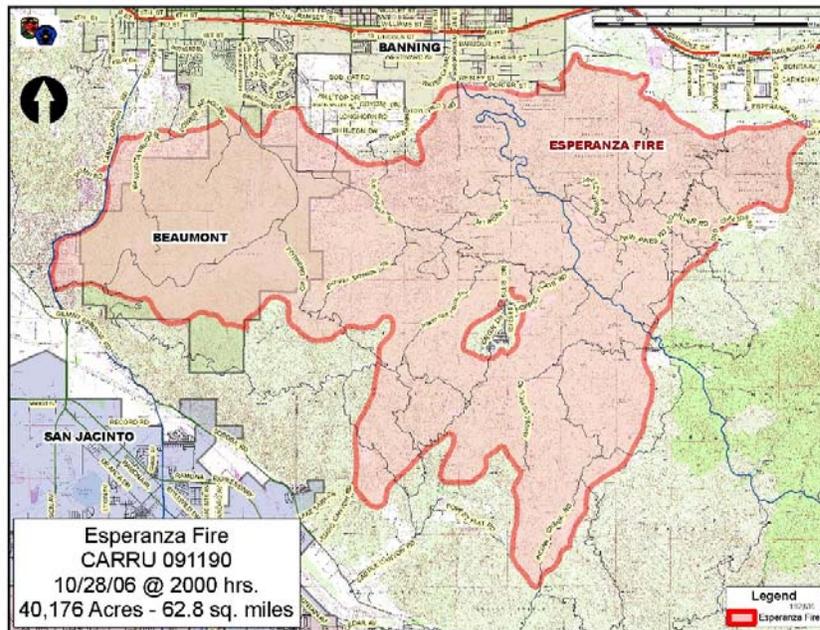


Figure 8 CDF's map of the incident showing the unburned "island" of Poppet Flat