



Ventura County Fire Protection District

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

JULY 2009



Defensible space proves its benefits as seen after a fire passes a home with a well executed Wildfire Action Plan that stresses prevention.

Committed to Excellence...Delivered with Pride

Providing protection and preservation of life, property and environment to:
The Cities of Camarillo, Moorpark, Ojai, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks
and the unincorporated areas of Ventura County.



Bob Roper
Fire Chief
Ventura County Fire Protection District

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Executive Summary

THE CALIFORNIA FIRE PLAN

The State Board of Forestry and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) 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. Ventura County Fire Protection District is one of the Contract Counties that maintain a contractual relationship with CALFIRE and utilizes the California Fire Plan within Ventura County.

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal is to reduce total cost and losses from wildland fire in California by protecting assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and increased initial attack success.

The California Fire Plan has five strategic objectives:

- To create wildfire protection zones that reduces the risks to citizens and firefighters.
- To assess all wild lands. Analyses will include all wildland fire service providers – federal, state, local government and private. The analysis will identify high risk, high value areas, and develop information on and determine who is responsible, who is responding, and who is paying for wildland fire emergencies.
- To analyze and identify key policy issues and develop recommendations for changes of public policy. Analysis will include alternatives to reduce total cost and losses by increasing the fire protection system effectiveness.
- To have a strong fiscal policy focus and monitor the wildland fire protection system in fiscal terms. This will include all public and private expenditures and economic losses.
- To translate these analyses into public policy.

Fire Plan Framework

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

Wildfire Protection Zones

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



Initial Attack Success

The fire plan defines an assessment protection system for wildland fire. This measure can be used to assess the department's ability to provide an equal level of protection to lands of similar type, as required by Public Resources Code 4130. This measurement is the percentage of fires that are successfully controlled before unacceptable cost is incurred.

Knowledge of the level of service will help define the risk to wildfire damage faced by public and private assets in the wildland.

Assets Protected

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

Pre-fire Management

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

Fiscal Framework

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



The Fire Plan Framework Applications:

The Fire Plan framework identifies for state, federal, and local officials and for the public those areas of concentrated assets and high risk.

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



Description of the County and the Fire Protection District

Ventura County Overview

Ventura County was formed in 1873 from Santa Barbara County and is home to beautiful, livable communities with unique characteristics. Many have names that reflect the native Chumash Indian, Spanish and Mexican heritage of the area. Early Spanish settlers described the area as the “land of everlasting summers” and named the region “San Buenaventura”, which means “good fortune.” The 10 incorporated cities in Ventura County are Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, San Buenaventura (Ventura), Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Thousand Oaks.

Each city has distinct features that make their communities stand out. From the natural beauty of the terrain to mild climates with diverse recreational opportunities, the cities offer safe neighborhoods and family-oriented communities that make for a satisfying lifestyle.

Ventura County Geography

- Covers an area of 1,873 square miles, including 43 miles of coastline.
- Located northwest of Los Angeles County and bordered by Kern County to the north, Santa Barbara County to the west, and the Pacific Ocean on the southwest.
- 7.5 miles of shoreline are public beaches and 411 acres are State beach parks.
- The Los Padres National Forest accounts for 860 square miles of the northern portion of the county (46% of the county’s land mass.)
- Elevation ranges from sea level to the highest point on Mount Pinos at 8,831 feet.
- Ventura County ranks 26th in land size among California’s 58 counties.
- Gateway to Channel Islands National Park, one of only four designated national marine sanctuaries composed of five tranquil islands located a few miles off the Ventura County coast, comprising a 250,000-acre wilderness preserve/marine sanctuary.

Demographics of Ventura County

- Population of 797,740 makes Ventura County the 12th most populous county in the State of California.
- Median household income in Ventura County consistently exceeds national and state levels; median family income in 2007 estimated at \$72,762.
- Median home price (May 2005) - \$667,130.



Climate of Ventura County

- Coastal areas offer a Mediterranean climate often described as the best in the world, with average annual temperatures of 74.2 degrees.
- Ventura County's mountains, valleys and seashore give the area six different microclimates, more than any other county in the nation.



Ventura County Fire Protection District

The Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD) has 31 stations serving a population of more than 480,000 in six cities – Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Camarillo, Port Hueneme and Ojai – and the unincorporated areas of the county. The District operates four Administration and Support facilities, 30 first-run fire engines, one first-run Quint, 17 reserve fire engines, 11 wildland fire engines, four ladder trucks (including one reserve), five water rescue and fire boat craft, four paramedic squads, 14 command vehicles, nine pieces of heavy equipment (bulldozers, etc.) and 38 other emergency response vehicles. The District responds to an average of about 90 calls for service every day.

Wildland Fire Protection Strategy

The VCFPD takes a dynamic and strenuous approach to the prevention of wildland fires. A key component to the prevention strategy is the Fire Hazard Reduction Program. This program calls for a 100-foot mandatory brush clearance zone from homes located in the wildland urban interface. The mandate is rigorously enforced although the District typically receives better than 95 percent voluntary compliance.

In conjunction with FHRP, the District employs a comprehensive wildland fire prevention program to educate Ventura County residents on how to prepare their homes against a wildland fire, how to assemble everything they need for an orderly, and early, evacuation and, finally, how to safely evacuate in advance of the fire. This program is called “Ready, Set, Go!” and it consists of a multi-faceted educational approach that includes, brochures, videos, community meetings and other methods of communication.

The “Ready, Set, Go!” and FHRP initiatives, along with effective code enforcement efforts, work together to create defensible space, promote fire-safe construction and fire-resistant landscaping, emergency preparedness and ember awareness.



Ember zone may impact homes up to 1 mile from the fire front.



These elements all combine to create tactical advantages for firefighters when the inevitable wildland fires occur. They help to provide homes hardened against wildland fires, reliable water supplies, access and safety zones.

Defensible space, hardened homes and a population educated on the dangers of wildland fires allow firefighters to protect more property using fewer resources, while reducing the risk of injury to firefighters and civilians and helping to limit property losses.



Positive results achieved by combining
Defensible Space, Hardened Homes and Preparedness

The sum effect of the Ready Set Go! Program is a force multiplier for active fire fighting resources. A single fire fighting resource may protect many more structures when preventative measures have been properly employed. In some cases, fire fighting resources may not be necessary at all thus freeing them for other uses.

Fire Suppression

The most effective time to control a wildfire is in the incipient stages when intensities are lower and the perimeter is short. The combined resource attack is a coordinated suppression effort including ground assets (engines, crews & dozers), aviation assets (fixed and rotary wing), passive fire protection measures, and command elements. Using in-place passive fire protection systems, incident commanders weave the varied active fire suppression assets into an aggressive and coordinated fire fighting effort.





Fuel Bed Management

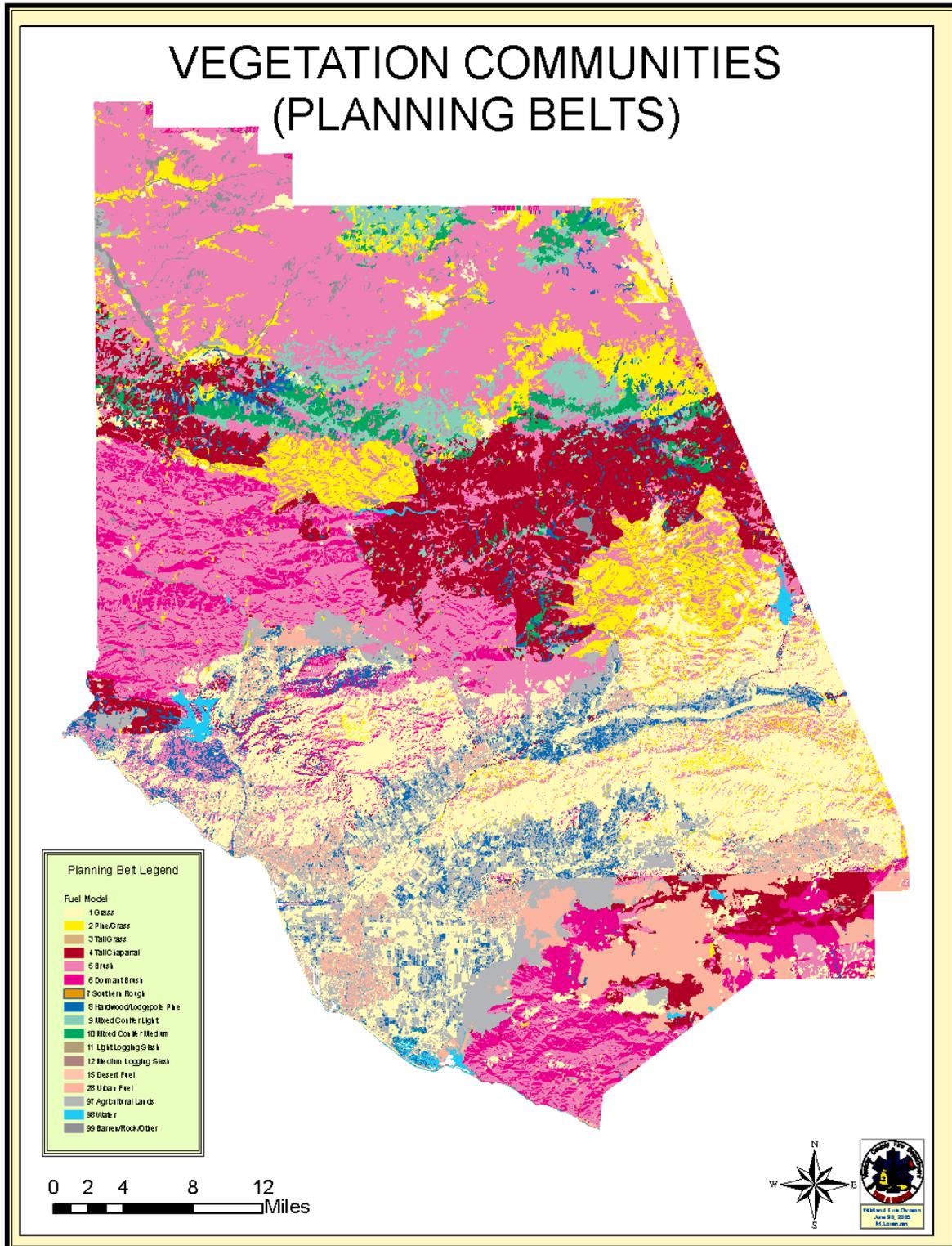


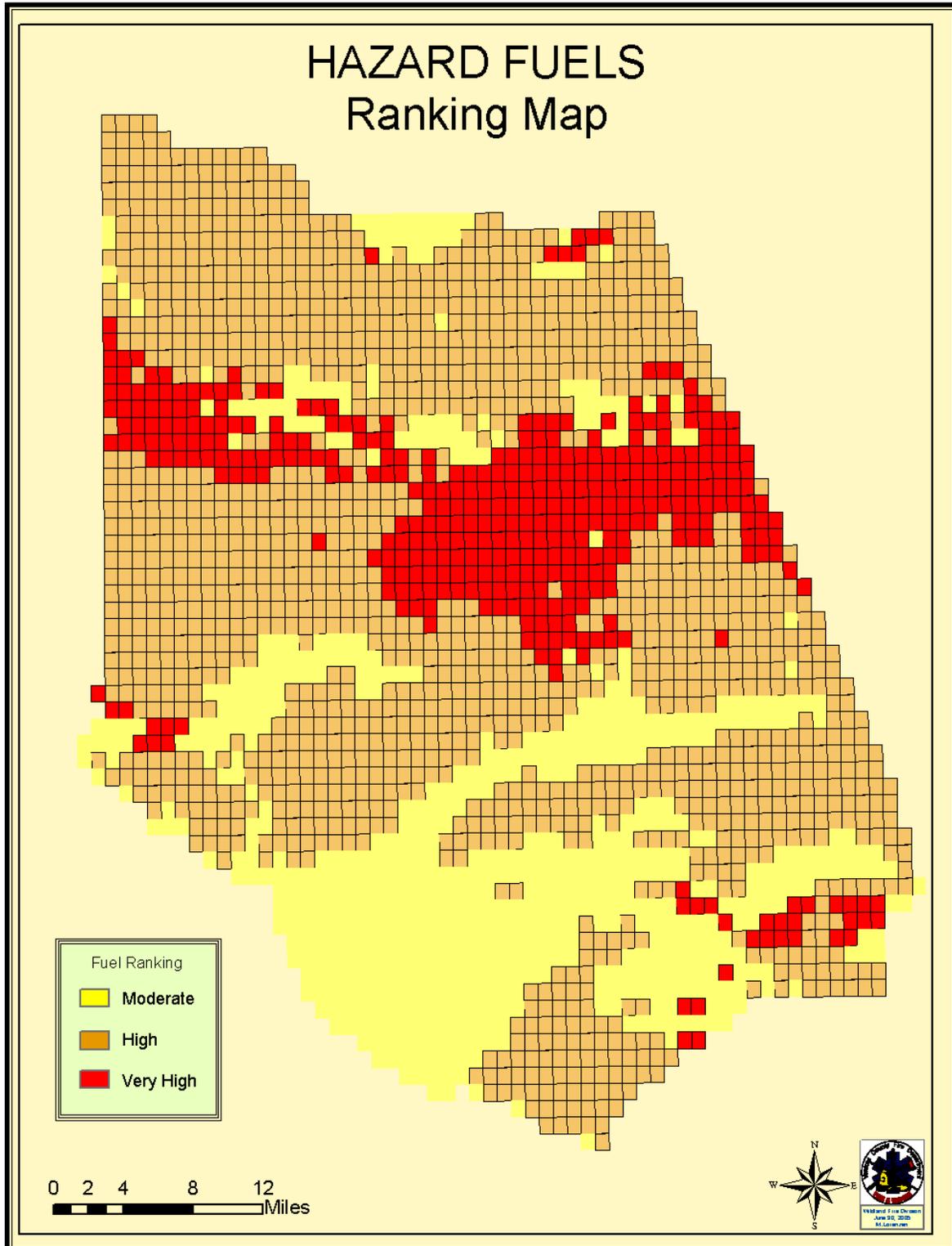
Aggressive prevention and suppression policies can artificially age fuel beds to a point of uncontrollable volatility. Fuel beds are managed to reduce the age and expanses of volatile fuel and provide barriers between values at risk and large areas of hazardous fuel. Particular attention is given to those areas in fuel beds that are adjacent to the interface.

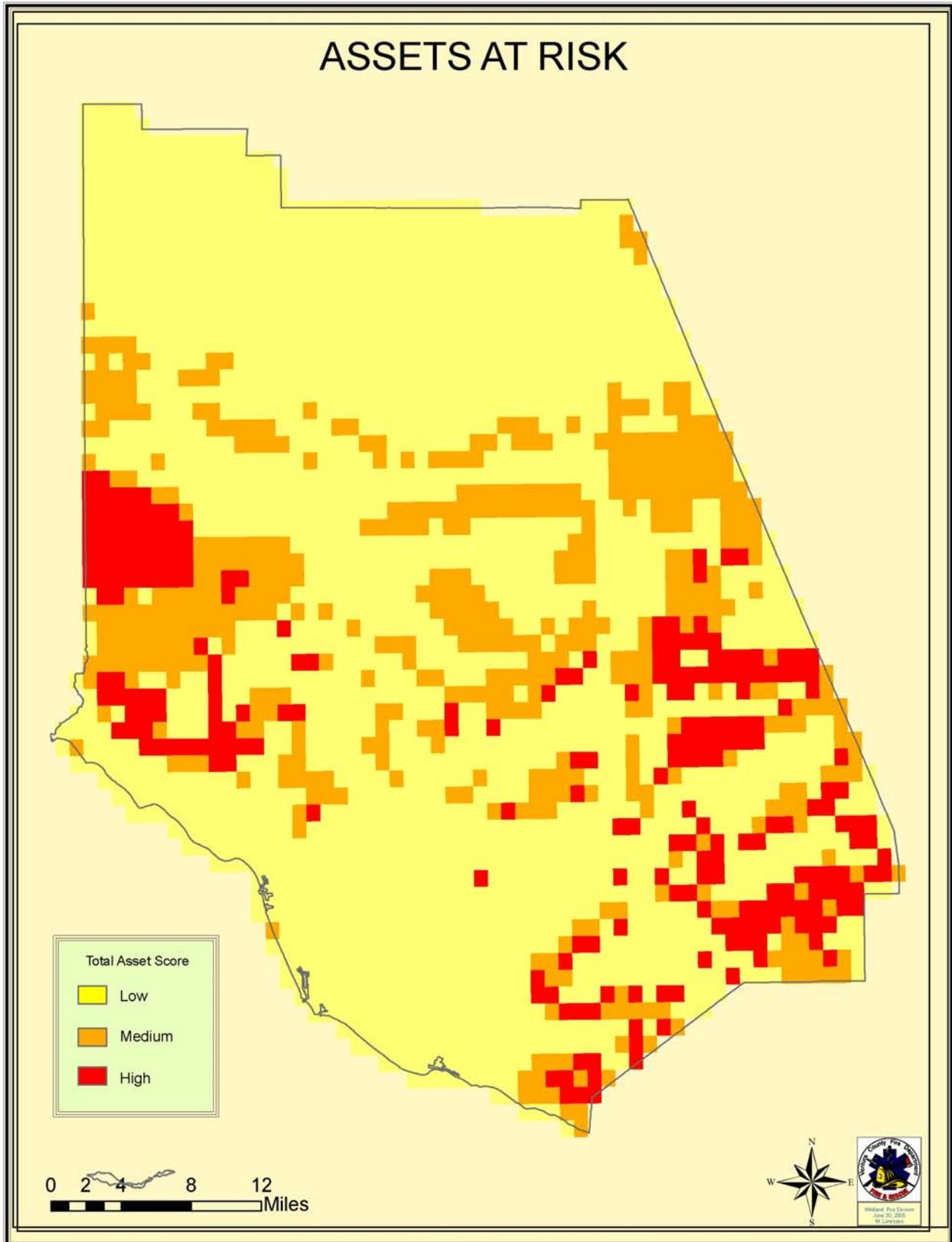
One of the first steps in the hazard assessment process is the development of vegetation coverage maps and corresponding fuel rankings. The initial evaluation begins with identifying the vegetative communities that exist within the County. Having established a base from which to evaluate the available fuels, additional efforts are made to evaluate the hazards generated by these fuels in combination with other factors. The rankings depicted on the Hazard Fuels Ranking Map below are based on a combination of factors that affect fire behavior including the fuel type, slope and presence of ladder and crown fuels.

As part of the Fire Plan, methodology was developed for analyzing Assets at Risk (AAR). For each AAR, geographic areas will be ranked based on the potential impacts of a large fire event. This provides a series of displays of spatial rankings to assist in the identification of “high value” areas. Additional data related to fuels, weather, and level of service will be used to rank areas in terms of the likelihood or “risk” of a large fire event. This data provides the basis for identification of “high value/high risk” areas. As such, the analysis serves as a pointer as to where pre-fire projects might have the highest benefit in terms of reduction of potential damages.

Assets susceptible to fire damage are identified in the Fire Plan as air quality, range, recreation, structures, timber, water and watersheds, wildlife and habitat, and other resources (cultural, historic, and scenic). For purposes of this plan greater weight was given to the protection of structures and infrastructure. Additional assessment maps will be available to assist in locating future pre-fire projects once adequate data is available to evaluate ignition starts and successes and severe fire weather patterns.









Collaborative Efforts between Partner Agencies and Cooperators

Fire knows no boundaries and accordingly, neither should a plan that seeks to reduce the risks from wildland fires. Collaboration is vital in developing a plan that helps us to protect our communities and assets at risk.

Other agencies and stakeholders, which VCFPD works closely with, are:

<u>Political Entity</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERVISORS	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
LOS ANGELES, CITY OF	LOCAL GOVERNMENT/ LRA FIRE PROTECTION
LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT	LRA AND SRA FIRE PROTECTION
CONEJO OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AGENCY	OPEN SPACE CONSERVATOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, DPA FIRE PROTECTION
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, SRA FIRE PROTECTION
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, RECREATIONAL USE
CONEJO & SIMI REC. & PARK DISTRICTS	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, RECREATIONAL USE
LOCAL WATER COMPANIES	WATER STORAGE & TREATMENT
NON-PROFIT OPEN SPACE DISTRICTS	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES	STATE/COUNTY
CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FORESTRY	STATE/COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT	STATE/COUNTY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME	STATE/COUNTY
USDA-SOILS CONSERVATION	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
U.S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Stakeholders

<u>Political Entity</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>
THOUSAND OAKS, CITY OF	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ROCKETDYNE	PRIVATE/FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIP
SIMI VALLEY, CITY OF	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, RECREATIONAL USE
AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY	PRIVATE LAND/FARMING
VENTURA COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION	PRIVATE LAND/RANGE MANAGEMENT
WATERSHED FIRE COUNCIL	STATE/COUNTY
CALTRANS	STATE/COUNTY
ADVISORY COUNCILS	STATE/COUNTY
INSURANCE INDUSTRY	STATE/COUNTY
SERVICE CLUBS (KIWANIS/LIONS)	STATE/COUNTY
WATERSHED FIRE COUNCIL	STATE/COUNTY
LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE	COUNTY
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS	COUNTY
LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT	COUNTY



Stakeholders (cont.)

<u>Political Entity</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>
HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATIONS	COUNTY
DEVELOPERS AND BUILDERS	COUNTY
PROPERTY MANAGERS	COUNTY
PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATIONS	COUNTY
YOUTH GROUPS (4-H, FFA, BOY SCOUTS)	COUNTY
ARCHITECTS	COUNTY
LOCAL NURSERIES	COUNTY
AMERICAN RED CROSS	COUNTY

Fire Safe Councils

Fire Safe Councils utilize the combined expertise, resources and distribution channels of its members, the Fire Safe Councils fulfill its mission to preserve Ventura County's natural and manmade resources by mobilizing all residences to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe.

Ojai Fire Safe Council
Will Castagna, Secretary
1330 Foothill Rd.
Ojai, CA 93023
wdc@mac.com
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Mt. Pinos Communities Fires Safe Council
Janine Tominaga, President,
mtpinosfsc@frazmtn.com

Santa Clara River Valley Fire Safe Council
Richard Atmore, President
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Ventu Park Fire Safe Council
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VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT





VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIVE-YEAR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan of the Ventura County Fire Department (commonly referred to as the Five-Year Burn Plan) was developed as a planning tool to assist in the overall strategic objective of modifying hazardous fuels within the county. Because vegetation management planning is dynamic by nature, this plan is intended to be a living document subject to changes caused by many variables. These variables include, but are not limited to, changes in fuels due to natural fires, residential and commercial development into the interface areas, special governmental funding programs for hazardous fuels reduction, and continued participation by public and private landowners.

Six prescribed fire benefits, as defined by Cal Fire's Vegetation Management Program, were evaluated to prioritize specific projects. These benefits are fire hazard reduction, water yield, wildlife habitat improvement, fisheries habitat improvement, air quality improvement, and range forage improvement.

Based on analysis of the fire benefits, projects in each identified area are prioritized as high, medium or low. Projects having significant fire hazard reduction components are rated as a high priority, while projects having benefits other than fire hazard reduction are rated as either a medium or low priority based on the value of the other derived benefits. All of our projects have a maintenance component to keep the threat reduced.



FUEL BED ANALYSIS

Ten fuels beds were identified and serve as the geographical basis from which the plan was developed. Fire history from the past 100 years, assets at risk, fuel types and weather patterns were all considered in the development of this plan. Maps of each fuel bed with proposed fuel modification locations are included for reference. Each fuel bed analysis also includes a summary of the fuel bed, assets at risk, fire history and project descriptions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

This section gives more specific details of projects that are planned for the five-year window of this document. Please note the project descriptions include generalized concepts; accordingly, the actual burn plans should be referred to for detailed information and prescription requirements. As new projects are identified, they will be prioritized and added to this plan accordingly. Time frames are estimated as fuel and weather conditions can have a significant impact on the timing of prescribed fires and therefore, can cause considerable delays.





**VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
WILDLAND FIRE DIVISION
FIVE – YEAR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Project Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Adams Ventura Motorway	1	1	1	M	M
Broome Ranch					P
Cheeseboro Dennison Park Black Mnt.				P P	P
Fairview/Foothill Fillmore/Piru WUI (Fillmore Front)	M 1	M 1	1 1	1 M	M
Fillmore/Santa Paula WUI Haley		P 2	1 2	1	1
Buena Ventura Hopper	1	1 M	1 M	1 M	1 M
Kevington			1		M
NPS Roadside Clearance Oak Park WUI		P	1		
Palo Comado				1	
Shelf Road Sheppard's Flat				M	P
Sisar	1	1	M	M	M
South Mountain Wildwood/COSCA	P	1	1		P
Reagan Library	1	1	M	M	M
Las Lajas Fuel Break		P			
Corriganville Break KFA	P	P 1	1	1 M	
Yerba Buena			P	1	
Dos Vientos		P			
Vedder Motorway		P	1		

Project Priority Ranking: 1=High 2=Medium 3=Low
M=Maintenance P=Preparation Stage





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Casitas Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Casitas Fuel Bed is bordered on the south by the Pacific Ocean, on the north by Camino Cielo, on the east by Highway 33 and on the west by the county line with Santa Barbara.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of very heavy oak and heavy brush on the north facing slopes and light to medium brush on the remaining slopes

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

Structures and orchards in the interface are at the greatest risk. Homes, ranches and orchards along Highway 150 pose the most significant risk in this fuel bed and also are the most difficult to protect through fuel modification because of their sporadic placement. Homes along Santa Ana Road present a lesser risk due to the nature of the surrounding fuels and historical fire data. The Lake Casitas watershed is a low risk, high value community resource that needs consideration in this planning process.

Oil production facilities dominate the interior canyons of this fuel bed south of Lake Casitas, east of Highway 33 and north of Highway 101. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk potential in a wildfire.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

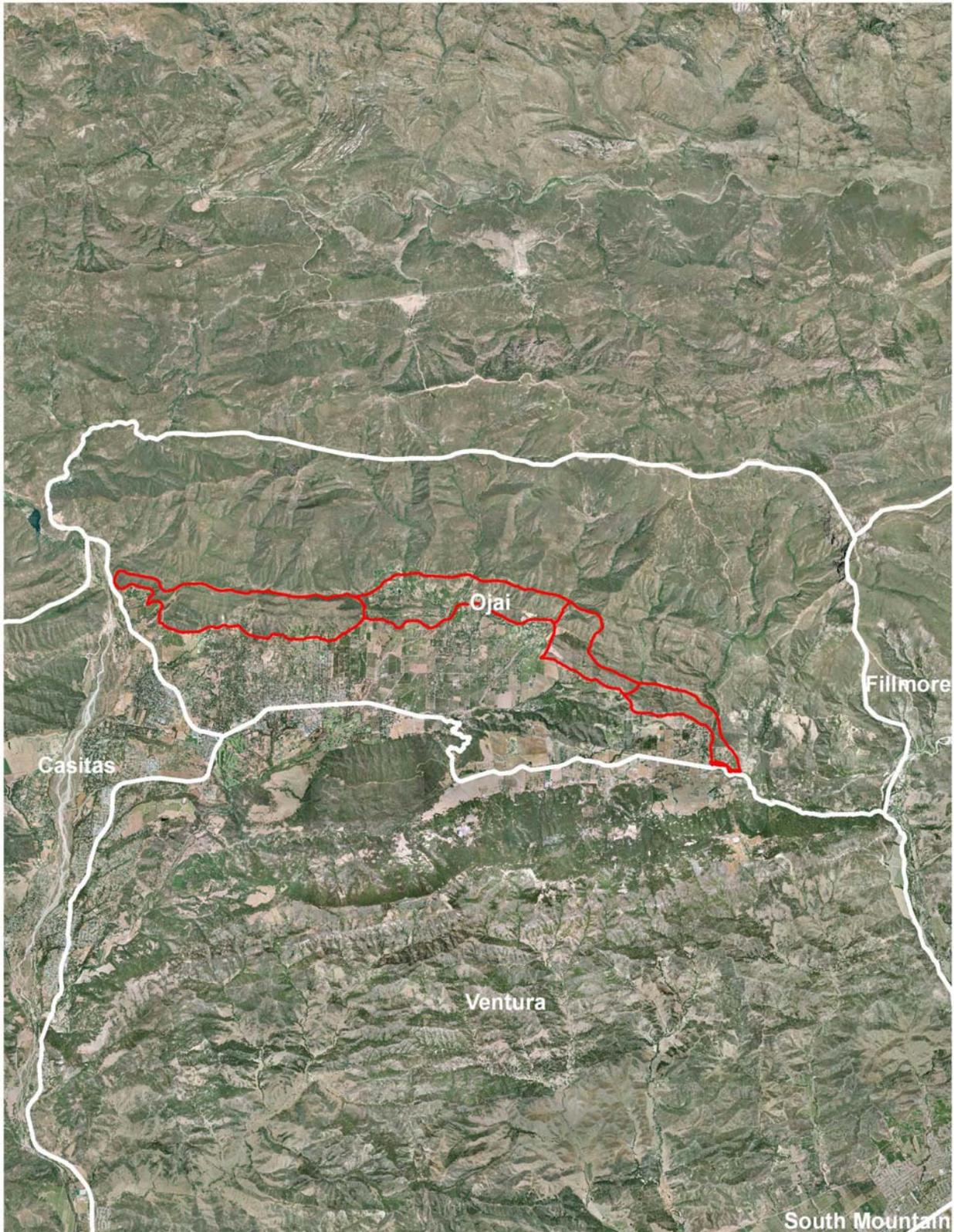
Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
6	21,025 acres. 686 acres without the 122,724 acre Wheeler Fire Zaca 240,207	Varied	4 of 6 large fires were wind driven. 2 of 6 were fuels Wind and topography driven.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Haley Project. The fuel modification area will be located north of the oil facilities in Padre Juan Canyon, south of Hwy 150, east of Los Sauces Creek and west of Lake Casitas. This area will serve to protect the Lake Casitas watershed and support range improvement. This project area may also prevent fire from entering into Forest Service lands when a fire start occurs off the oil leases with an on-shore wind influence. The methods of treatments will be prescribed fire, handwork and mechanized work.



Fuel consumption on the prescribed burn is planned to be 65-90%. The project area will be reseeded by the property owner for erosion control and increased grazing opportunities. Because of the continual grazing that will occur, reentry is not planned for at least 20 years





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Ojai Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Ojai Fuel Bed is bordered on the south by Highway 150, on the north by the Sespe River, on the east by the Santa Paula Creek, and on the west by Highway 33.

The ground cover and vegetation of concern consists of light to medium brush north of the City of Ojai and adjacent to the Upper Ojai community. The main ridges primarily run from east to west.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

Structures and orchards in the interface area are at the greatest risk. The areas of greatest concern are on the northern border of the City of Ojai, where fingers of development into the urban interface have created potential problems. Orchards are mixed in with this development creating additional assets that are threatened in a wildfire. The majority of the residents in the community of Upper Ojai live in areas that blend with their natural surroundings creating an environment that will be challenging to defend in a wildfire.

Oil production facilities exist in the area east of Santa Paula Creek. The layout of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed in a wildfire.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
7	27,068 acres	July - October with one large fire in December	7 of 7 large fires were wind driven.
	21,645 Wolf	June	

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Fairview/Foothill and Shelf Road Project. The fuel modification area will be located north of Fairview and Shelf Roads, south of Nordoff Ridge, east of Cozy Dell Canyon and west of Gridley Road. These areas have been selected due to their ability to provide protection to the at risk assets in east and northeast wind driven fires. Accordingly, the project has been prioritized as high. The method of treatment will be a combination of cut, stack and pile burning, chipping, mechanized work. This break will be maintained as needed.



Sisar Road Project. The second area will be located north of Ojai Santa Paula Road, south of Nordoff Ridge Road, east of Horn Canyon and west of Bear Canyon. This area has been selected due to its ability to provide protection to the at risk assets in east and northeast wind driven fires. The method of treatment will be a combination of cut, stack and pile burning. This project was funded through a USFS grant and was completed in 2007. This project is being maintained as needed to reduce structure threat. Research for the possible extension of the existing break westward along the foothills is ongoing.

Dennison Park. Improve the defensible space around the existing park.

Black Mountain Fire Road. Reestablishment of the fire road would provide better access for fire apparatus. In the event of a wildfire it could be used as a control line to suppress or control the spread of the fire.





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Ventura Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Ventura Fuel Bed is bordered on the north by the Ojai Valley, on the south by the City of Ventura and Highway 126, on the east by Highway 150 and on the west by Highway 33. The highest elevation of the fuel bed is approximately 2,727 feet.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of very heavy oak and heavy brush in steep canyons running out to lighter, flashy fuels in the foothills north of the City of Ventura. The main ridges primarily run from east to west.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

The greatest area of risk in the Ventura Fuel Bed is in the interface area that separates the City of Ventura from the County jurisdictional areas. Fingers of development have continued to grow over time. Development in the areas between Harmon, Sexton, and Barlow Canyons would be challenging to protect in a wild fire driven by winds from the northeast. Additional at risk areas include Sulphur Mountain Road, Creek Road and the east side of Highway 33. Orchards are also at risk throughout this fuel bed and need consideration when planning for fuel modifications.

Oil production facilities can be found along Shell Road, the eastern portion of Sulphur Mountain Road and at the north end of Wheeler Canyon. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk potential in a wildfire.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire spread Characteristics
14	8,706 Acres	July-October	10 to 14 large fires were wind driven. 4 of 14 were fuels and topography driven.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Adams Canyon Project.

The preferred treatment area is the area north of Foothill Road, south of Sulphur Mountain Road, east of Lake Canyon and West of Highway 150. This area has been selected due to its ability to protect the interface area from Ventura to Santa Paula in a wind driven fire. Treatment will also support range and watershed improvement. The fire history in the area supports the location of the fuel modification area. The method of treatment will be prescribed fire. This project has a priority rating of medium



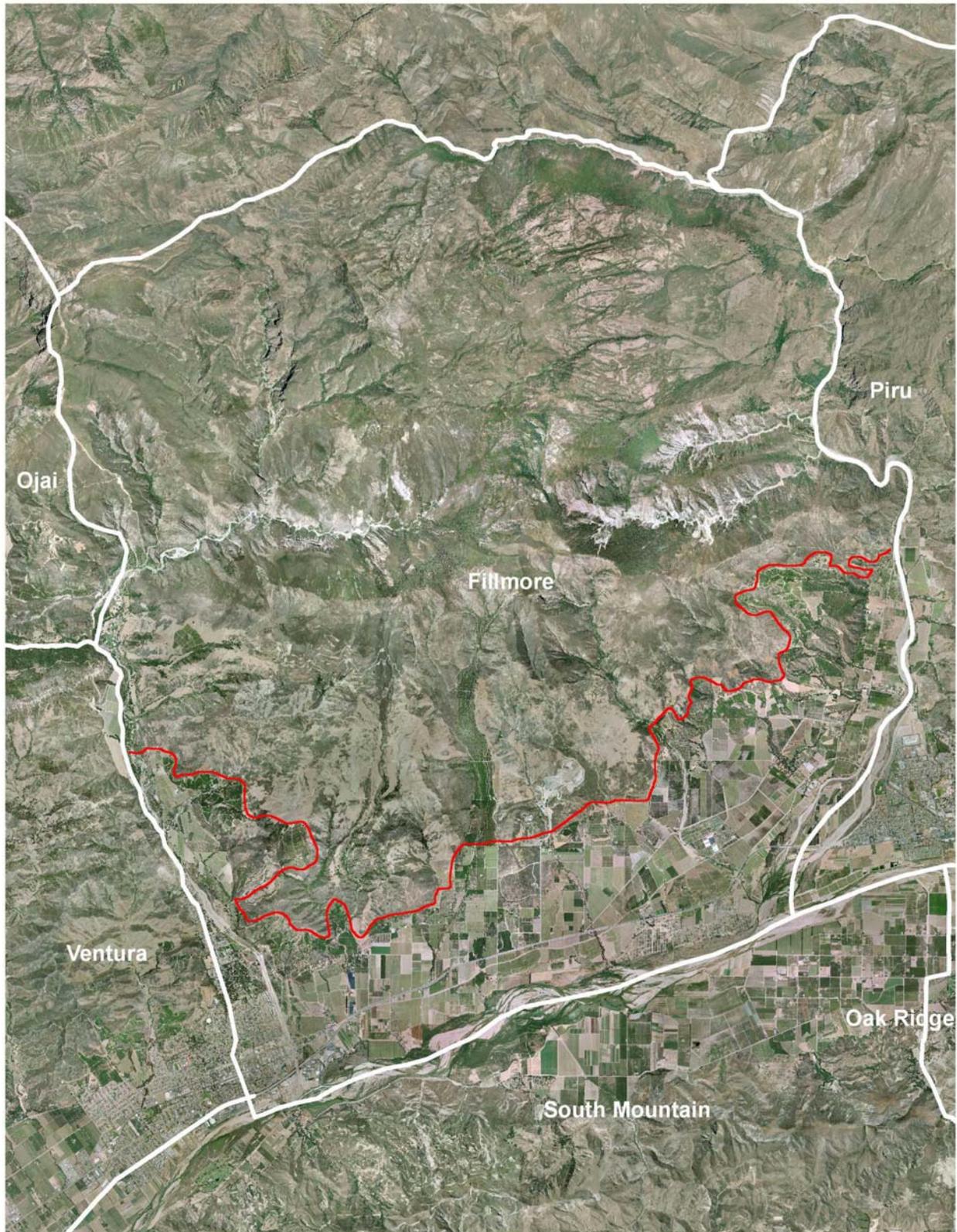
since it could positively impact the interface area and has other fire benefits. Adams Canyon was completed in 2007. Prescribed grazing is maintaining the fuel loads in much of the project area.

Ventura Motorway Project

This project reestablishes a fire road that runs from Canada Larga at HWY 33, north of the City of Ventura to HWY 150, west of the City of Santa Paula. This project is important for the fire department to gain access in initial attack fires and for the movement of fire equipment to travel on. The motorway is intersected by access roads in Adams Canyon, Wheeler Canyon, and Aliso Canyon.

San Buenaventura Project

This project is located north east of the City of Ventura. It consists of the following canyons: Sexton, Harmon, Sloan, Aliso, Barlow, Canada Larga, School, Hall, Lake, Wheeler, O'Hare, and Manual. This project is 43,362 acres and has been selected due to its ability to protect its interface area from Ventura to Santa Paula. The method of treatment consists of cut, stack and pile burning, prescribed fire and mechanized work.





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Fillmore Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Fillmore fuel bed is bordered on the north by Sespe Creek and River Road, on the south by Highway 126, on the east by Hopper Canyon, and on the west by Santa Paula Canyon. The highest point is the Topa Topa Bluffs at 6,244 feet.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of light to medium brush in the areas of concern. Heavier brush and stands of timber can be found in the Sespe Creek area at the extreme north end of the fuel bed.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

Ranches, residences and orchards between Santa Paula and Fillmore present the greatest risk exposure.

Oil production facilities are located in the area of Anlauf Canyon. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed in a wildfire.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
13	8,213 acres	April - December	12 of 13 large fires [^] were wind driven. 1 of 13 were fuels and topography driven.

FUEL BREAK LOCATION AND METHOD

PIRU / FILLMORE FRONT:

1. Citrus, Avocado and ornamental plant production are assets that fall within the WUI area between the cities of Fillmore and Santa Paula. The Ventura County Fire Department recognizes the potential for high dollar loss when these assets are destroyed by fire. This project will, through the use of several different vegetation management practices, alter the state of hazardous ground and ladder fuels on up to 1,470 acres. In turn the defensible space established would provide a buffer from ignition sources that could occur along the farm road system thus providing protection to the vast open space that constitutes the adjacent California condor habitat. The Ranch fire did not reach the front country-parallel highway 126 in these areas. After removal of the brush a maintenance program will be established.



2. Road system improvement. An extensive dirt road system exists across the foothills between Fillmore and Santa Paula. Improvement of these roads by establishing drains in known washout areas would provide better access for fire apparatus in the event of a wildfire and also can be utilized as control lines to suppress or control the spread of fire. After repairs and improvements are made a maintenance program will be established.





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan South Mountain Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The South Mountain Fuel Bed is bordered on the north by Highway 126, on the south by Highway 118, on the east by Highway 23 and on the west by Highway 118.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of light grasses and light to medium brush.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

Ranchlands, scattered residences and orchards are the primary assets at risk in this fuel bed.

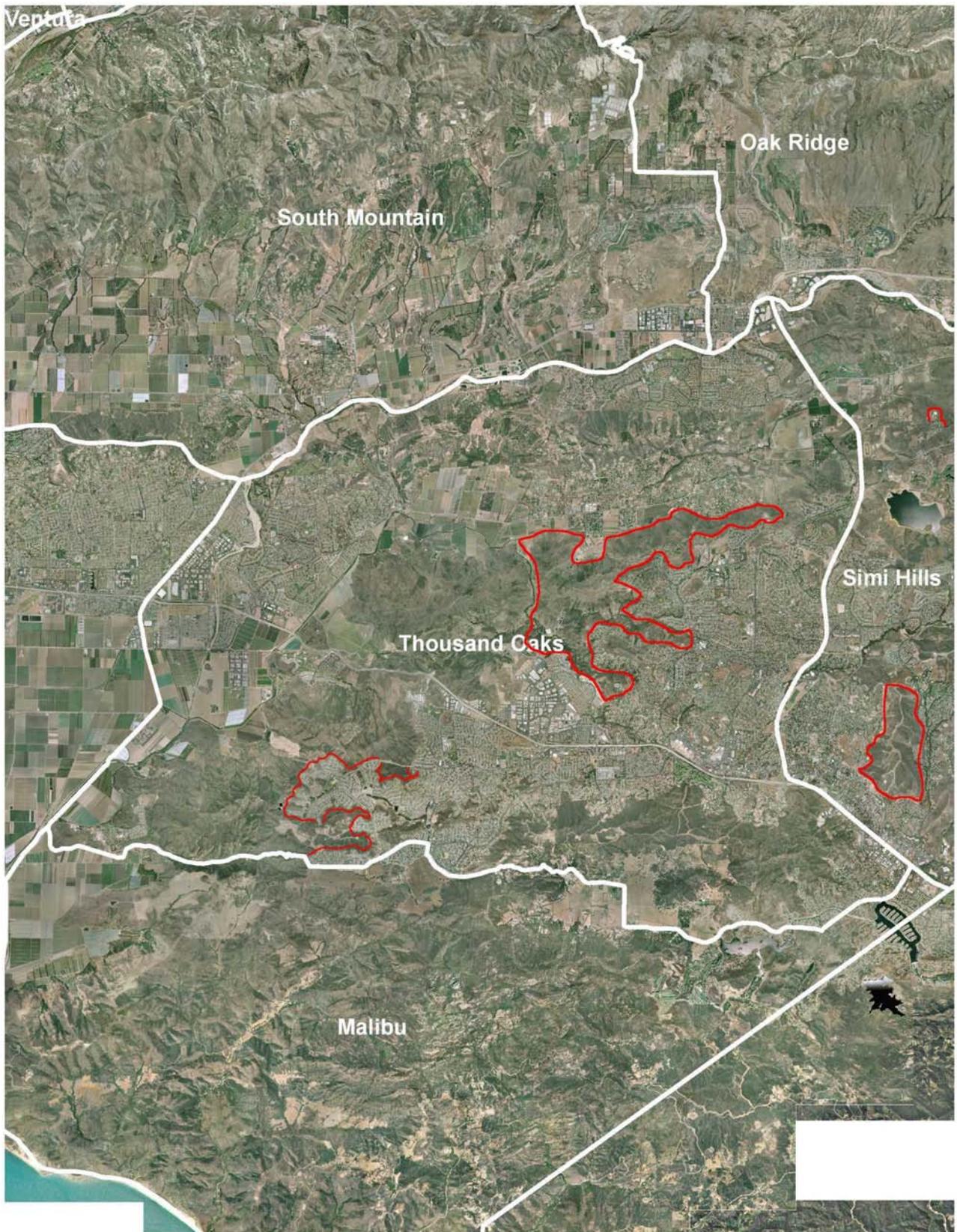
Oil facilities are located in the area of South Mountain and have been a source of many of the larger fires analyzed in the historical data. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed to the facilities in a wildfire.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire spread Characteristics
12	6,836 13,600 Shekell Fire	May-December Dec 06	12 of 12 large fires were wind driven

FUEL BREAK LOCATION AND METHOD

After a risk and workload analysis, no modification areas have been identified in the South Mountain Fuel Bed for treatment within the next five years.





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Thousand Oaks Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Thousand Oaks Fuel Bed is bordered on the north by Highway 118, on the south by Potrero Road, on the east by Highway 23 and on the west by the Oxnard Plains.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of heavy brush on the north facing slopes just south of the City of Thousand Oaks. Lighter, flashy fuels and medium brush can be found in the remainder of the fuel bed. The main ridges primarily run from east to west.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

Thousand Oaks is a growing urban area that has interface issues along its perimeter. This is illustrated by the setting found in the Wildwood Park area where steep topography with hazardous fuels is found below many residences. Because of the significant development in the area many of the fuels that used to exist in the area have been mitigated due to the expanding urban area. As the Dos Vientos project continues to grow to the north of Potrero Road, ongoing evaluation of risk exposure will need to occur.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
11	2 681 acres	June - December	10 of 11 large fires were wind driven. 1 of 11 were fuels and topography driven

FUEL BREAK LOCATION AND METHOD

Wildwood III Project. The area selected for fuels treatment is in the area of Wildwood Park. This area is north of Newbury Park, south of Santa Rosa Valley, east of Hill Canyon and west of the City of Thousand Oaks. This is a continuation of a prior project that was funded through a FEMA grant. The treatment of this area will afford protection from wildfire to the residences that are in the interface area. Due to the proximity of the homes to the treatment area, fuels will need to be cut, stacked and pile burned. This project is rated as a high priority because of its interface protection value. The project will be spread out over a three-year period pending completion of its environmental review.



COSCA Project

The Ventura County Fire Dept. and COSCA will work together in developing a fuel management plan that will enhance our efforts to further mitigate our threat, community partnerships that focus public education in creating defensible space will yield the most tangible results in combating the wildfire hazard. The fuel management plan will consider the effects upon the environment, wildlife, soils, and plant life. The method of treatment will consist of cut, stack and pile burning, handwork, chipping, and mechanized work.





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Malibu Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Malibu fuel bed is bordered on the north by Potrero Road, on the south by Highway 1, on the east by the Los Angeles County line and on the west by Lewis Road. The highest elevation on the fuel bed is Sandstone Peak at 3,111 feet.

The ground cover vegetation consists of light to medium brush, with light flashy fuels on the north end of the fuel bed, turning to medium to heavier brush, as you get closer to the coast and north slopes.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

Structures located in narrow canyons with limited access present the greatest risk to both local assets and firefighting resources. The fact that the majority of the structures at risk are scattered throughout the fuel bed makes large-scale prescribed fire projects ineffective for protective purposes. Some ranch and agricultural assets exist in Hidden Valley and on the western portion of the fuel bed in the Broome Ranch area.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

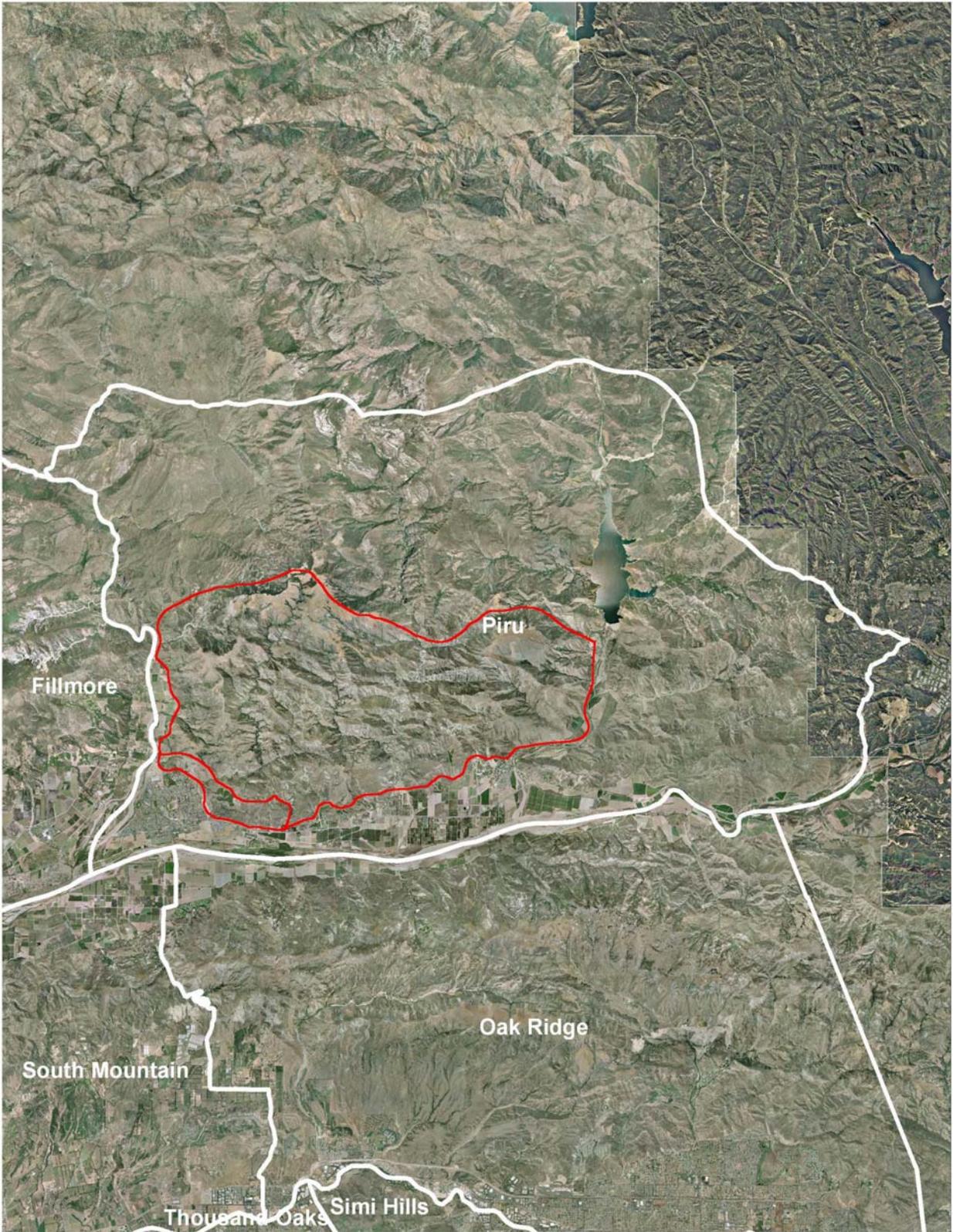
Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
25	6200 acres	July - December	22 of 25 large fires were wind driven. 3 of 25 were fuels and topography driven

FUEL BREAK LOCATION AND METHOD

Vedder Motor Way

Reestablish the Vedder motorway from the end of Carlisle Canyon road to Yerba Buena road. This fire road will help fire equipment gain better and quicker access to the area between Carlisle Canyon rd. and Yerba Buena rd. This fire road can be utilized as a control line to assist in suppressing or controlling the spread of fire.

NPS Clearance Project. Pending





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Piru Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Piru Fuel bed is bordered on the north by Agua Blanca Creek, on the south by the Santa Clara River, on the east by Del Valle and on the west by the Hopper Canyon west slope.

The ground cover and vegetation consists of light to medium brush in the areas of concern. The fuel bed has large areas of southern aspect slopes. The Santa Clara Valley alignment runs west to east and provides for erratic fire spread with a west wind condition.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

Ranches, residences and orchards between Fillmore, Piru and the Los Angeles County Line present the greatest risk exposure.

Oil production facilities are located in the area to the northwest of the line connecting Oat and Hopper Mountains and in the Holser Canyon area. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed in a wildfire.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
12	4881 Acres 162,702 Day	July-December	6 of 12 large fires were wind driven. 6 of 12 were fuels and topography driven

FUEL BREAK LOCATION AND METHOD

Condor Refuge

The US Fish and Wildlife contracts with the Ventura County Fire Department to provide defensible space around the Hopper Ranch Center and the bird pens.

Fillmore and Piru Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuel Break. This federally funded project will occur to the northeast of Fillmore and to the Northwest of Piru. The project will result in the creation of a fuel break, the purpose of which is to prevent fire from entering the cities from the Piru fuel bed. The method of treatment will be mechanized, hand cutting, stacking and pile burning with the possibility of prescribed fire.



HOPPER MOUNTAIN REFUGE:

1. Increase the defensible space surrounding the Refuge Head Quarters buildings and support facilities.

- Increase the existing break surrounding the Headquarters compound to 200'
- Establish stand-alone breaks around all water tanks and piping, radio repeaters, observation pen, and isolation pen.

2. Provide wildland training for the biologist and associates assigned to work in the refuge area. This would include formal classes that would be applicable to conditions that may be experienced in the field. In addition to specific instruction on the use care and maintenance of wildland personal safety equipment radios and fire shelters.

3. Creation of an emergency plan for the Refuge area. A written plan will be created to identify escape routes and safety zones, cell sites, radio reception/transmission areas and emergency procedures in the event of fire or medical emergency. In addition, road maps will be created for emergency routes utilizing the Burson Ranch Fire Road and other road systems throughout the refuge area.

4. Establish equipment cash for structure protection and provide training for the use care and maintenance of the equipment. Equipment examples included but not limited to: Aluminum wrap, portable pump/sprinkler system, and gel system.

PIRU CANYON:

Removal of dead fuel caused by the incomplete burning of brush along the roadside extending from the town of Piru north to Blue Point Campground gate. A shaded fuel break will be established and maintained as natural fuels are allowed to re-establish themselves. Evasive non-native species will be identified and eradicated to preserve the natural environment.

PIRU / FILLMORE FRONT:

1. Citrus, Avocado and ornamental plant production are assets that fall within the WUI area between the cities of Fillmore and Santa Paula. The Ventura County Fire Department recognizes the potential for high dollars loss when these assets are destroyed by fire. This project will, through the use of several different vegetation management practices, alter the state of hazardous ground and ladder fuels on up to 1,470 acres. In turn the defensible space established would provide a buffer from ignition sources that could occur along the farm road system thus providing protection to the vast open space that constitutes the adjacent California condor habitat. The Ranch fire did not reach the front country-parallel highway 126 in these areas. After removal of the brush a maintenance program will be established.



2. Road system improvement. An extensive dirt road system exists across the foothills between Piru Canyon and Fillmore city. Improvement of these roads by establishing drains in known washout areas would provide better access for fire apparatus in the event of a wildfire and also can be utilized as control lines to suppress or control the spread of fire. After repairs and improvements are made a maintenance program will be established. Note: Hopper Mountain NWR Emergency Access. Due to the extreme cost and the potential for severe road damage in the future we feel that re-establishing the Angels pass access and the surrounding road system would not be a wise investment of current funds.

3. Fourth of July Patrol. The Ventura County Fire Department will establish a fire watch patrol on the Forth of July for the area surrounding the City of Fillmore.

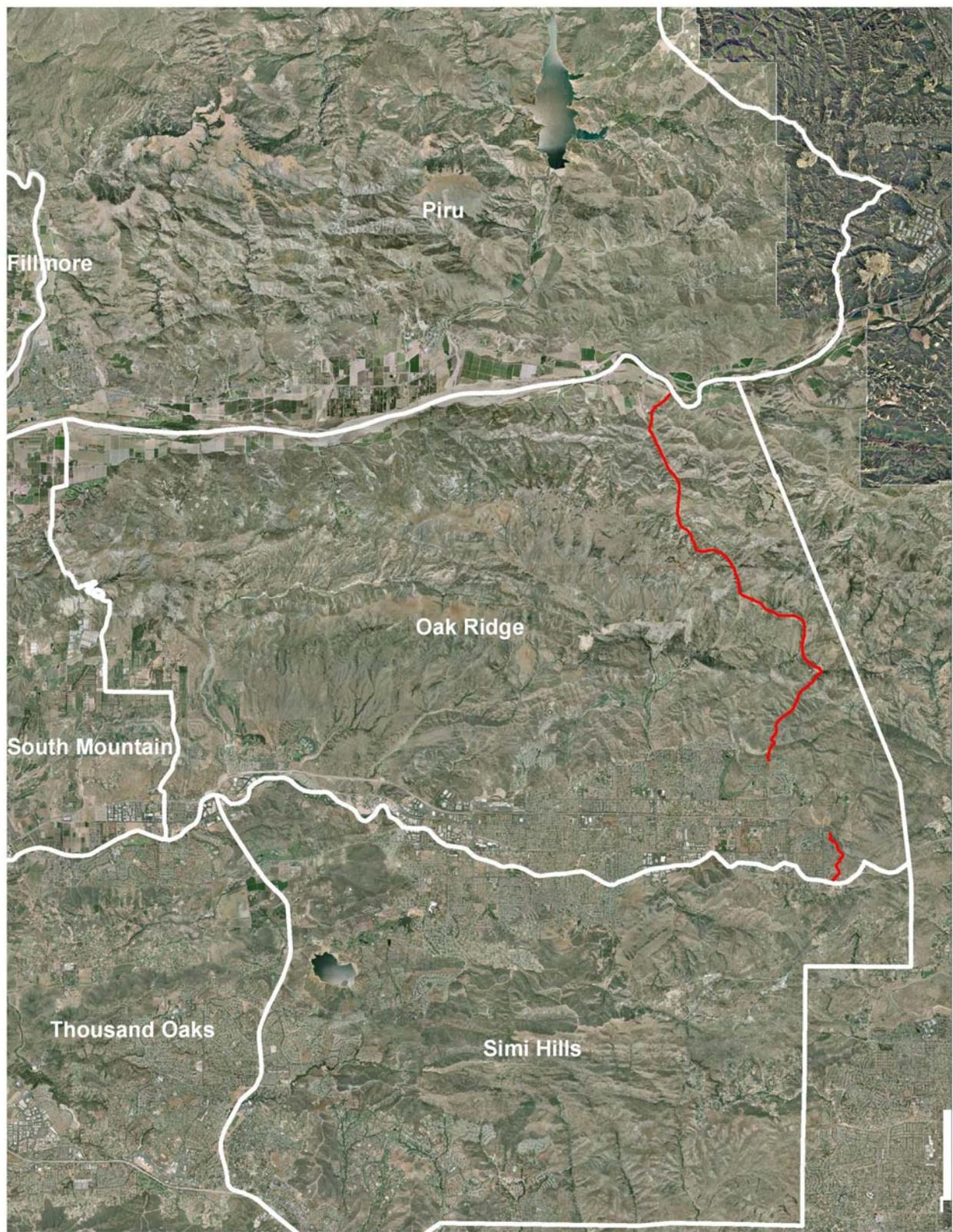
GOODENOUGH ROAD - FILLMORE:

Citrus and Avocado orchards are assets that fall with in the WUI area paralleling Goodenough Road. The Ventura County Fire Department recognizes the potential for high dollars loss when these assets are destroyed by fire. A defensible space will be created by a number of methods including but not limited to cut and stack pile burning of brush, mechanical treatment and were practical broadcast burning. The Ranch fire did not reach this area. After removal of the brush a maintenance program will be established.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM:

1. Creating defensible space in the WUI areas is only part of the equation. The homeowner must do their part to provide a home that will be better able to withstand the effects of a wildfire. Providing a community education program for the Cities of Piru and Fillmore (In conjunction with the Fillmore Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service) will provide homeowners with the knowledge to recognize potential problem areas.

2. Community clean-up program. Example of services offered would be waste containers for green waste. Assisting homeowners with removal of combustible material from roofs and gutters cleaning and trimming trees that limit fire department access.





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Oak Ridge Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Oak Ridge fuel bed is bordered on the north by the Santa Clara River, on the south by the Simi fuel bed, on the east by the Los Angeles/Ventura County line and on the west by Highway 23.

The highest elevation of the fuel bed is 2,992 feet. The ground cover of the bed consists of medium brush on the North Slope and light, flashy fuels on the south slope.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

The interface area along the northern boundary of the City of Simi Valley increases in size as rapid development occurs. As this residential area grows, so does the risk from wildfire.

Oil production facilities are located in the area of the Big Mountain Oil Field, Shiells Canyon, Calumet Canyon, Torrey Canyon and the north end of Grimes Canyon. The arrangement of these facilities and the brush clearances around them normally will reduce the risk posed in a wildfire.

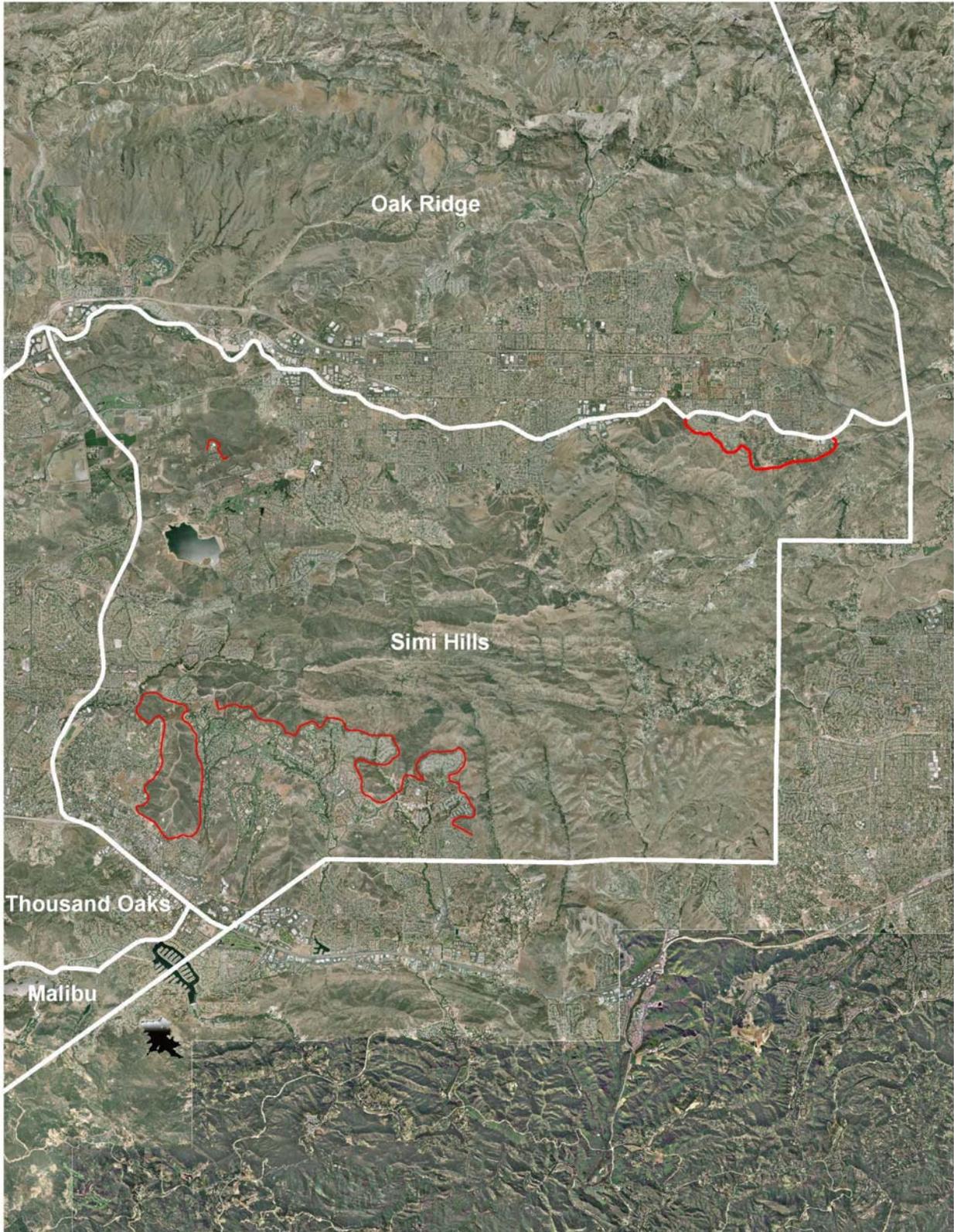
HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
18	9626 acres	June - November	14 of 18 large fires were wind driven. 4 of 18 were fuels and topography driven

FUEL BREAK LOCATION AND METHOD

Las Lajas Fuel Break. Establish a fuel break from Evening Sky to HWY 126.

Corriginville. Create and improve defensible space fuel break for Santa Susana knolls.





Five-Year Vegetation Management Plan Simi Fuel Bed

FUEL BED DESCRIPTION

The Simi Fuel Bed is bordered on the north by Simi Valley, on the south by Highway 101, on the east by the San Fernando Valley and on the west by Highway 23 and Olsen Road.

The highest elevation of the fuel bed is Simi Peak at 2400 feet. The ground cover of the bed consists of medium brush in the steep canyons and light flashy fuels make up much of the fuel bed on the north and the south slopes.

PREDOMINANT RISK EXPOSURE

The east end of Thousand Oaks, the communities of North Ranch and the Community of Oak Park have many assets that are exposed to the hazardous fuels along the interface area. The south side of the City of Simi Valley, while exposed to the fuels along the north side of this fuel bed, does not have as great a risk due to the historical patterns of east wind driven fires.

HISTORICAL FIRE DATA (1950-2007)

Number of 300+ Acre Fires	Average Size	Time of Occurrence	Fire Spread Characteristics
16	12089 Acres 24,175 Topanga 107,560 Simi	July-November 48 Structures lost	13 of 16 large fires were wind driven. 3 of 16 were fuels and topography driven

FUEL BREAK LOCATION AND METHOD

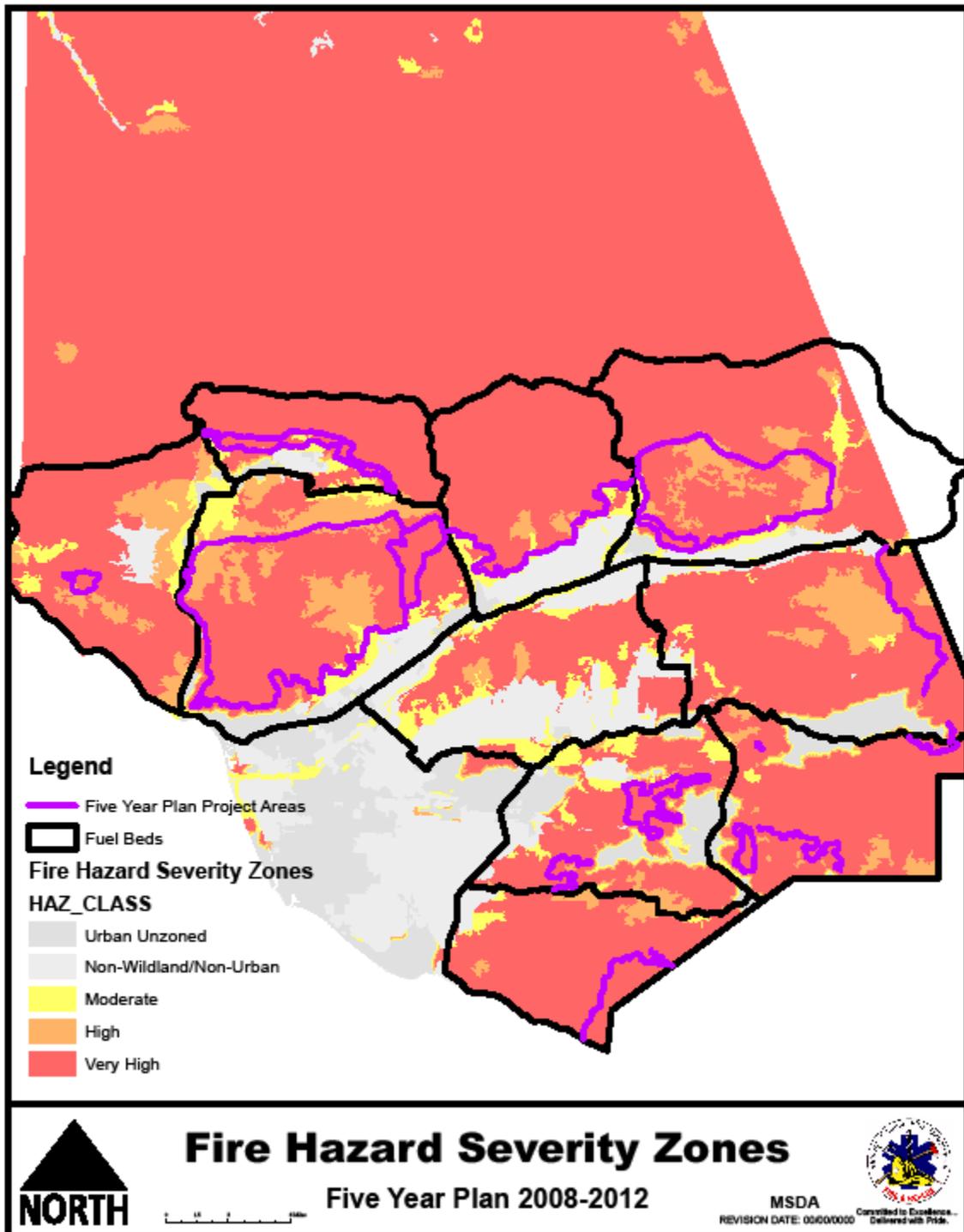
Oak Park Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Project. This project area surrounds the northeastern portion of the Community of Oak Park. The goal of this project is to increase the defensible space along the perimeter of the community. This project is currently under review for federal funding through the National Park Service and its viability may depend on said funding. The project will be accomplished through hand cutting and broadcast chipping or stack and pile burning.

Kevington Project. The project is located in the Skeleton Canyon area. This is a prior project that was funded through FEMA and will be treated for re-growth. The project will be accomplished through hand cutting, stack and pile burning. Once sufficient re-growth occurs, this project will have a high priority due to its proximity to the interface area. The project is planned for 2009/10.



Corriginville. Create and improve defensible space fuel break for Santa Susana knolls

Reagan Library. Maintain the existing fuel break that surrounds the library, through the use of hand cutting, broadcast chipping and brush mowing.





SUMMARY

The Ventura County Fire Protection District is responsible for wildland fire protection within Ventura County under policies set forth by the Board of Directors. The elements of effective protection are:

- Comprehensive Planning
- Ongoing Community Education and Involvement
- Vigorous Prevention
- Aggressive Fire Suppression

With the proper mix of these elements, values at risk within Ventura County can be effectively and economically protected from the risks of wildfire.