

Major Stakeholders Review

The following pages list the vested stakeholders in the Tulare Unit. Each stakeholder has their own reasons for wanting fuel reduction projects. It may be to increase grazing capacity, make their land more usable for other reasons, or to protect their investments from an uncontrolled fire.

Nature used to keep the forests and rangelands in check with fire. But for over 130 years we have actively suppressed and extinguished these wildfires. This has consequently increased the accumulation of fuels and gradually replaced the once grasslands with brush fields. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District has levied a \$5.40 an acre smoke mitigation fee that make VMP burns very expensive, and has hindered current fuel reduction projects. Proposition 40 funds added to the VMP program should allow VMP projects to progress again. We are hoping to try some mastication, and mechanical fuels treatments which traditionally have been under utilized in the Tulare Unit.

There are several ways we can balance the needs for an ecological environment and improve fire safety. Listed below are some of the ways we can obtain our objectives.

- Work with Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service, BLM and other stakeholders in implementing fuel modification projects, and to keep fire/ flooding damages to a minimum.
- Continue with VMP projects for fuel reduction in the larger areas.
- Use chippers in residential areas and roadside brushing projects. This method is quicker than burning, and reduces the smoke irritants in the air.
- Encourage the local landowner to do preventative maintenance by cleaning their property of the excess fuels, limbing trees, and developing greenbelts as described in PRC 4290.
- Use CAL FIRE Tulare Unit, Forest Service, and BLM inspectors to continue to insure PRC 4291 compliance.
- Utilize local Fire Safe Councils and other local entities to educate homeowners on how they can create a defensible space. This can be accomplished through demonstration projects.
- Use the local newspapers and media to inform the public on fire safety and upcoming events.
- Utilize CAL FIRE's Team Teaching program and VIP's to teach fire safety in the local schools and at community events.
- Maintain our massive pre-suppression project inventory. These mainly consist of suppression tanks, fire control roads, and fire safe areas. Maintaining existing infrastructure should be the first priority, before development of new projects occurs.



Sequoia Fire Safe Council

The Sequoia Fire Safe Council was established in June of 2005 to facilitate fuels treatment and large vegetation management projects. Their goal is to obtain funding and treat fuels. They are currently working under Tulare County Resource Conservation Districts non profit status pending their own 501 (c) 3.

Mission Statement

Sequoia Fire Safe Council is dedicated to increasing community awareness of “High Fire Threat” danger. We will provide property and business owners with the resources needed to decrease the threat of wildland fires. The council brings together public and private partners to accomplish common objectives.

Projects in Progress

Fuel reduction on the Pot Holes fire control road is completed. The priority has now shifted to the Grouse Valley, Blue Ridge and Rancheria Fire Control Roads.

Project Description

A Wildfire defense zone will be maintained along existing CAL FIRE control road located on private property. Surface vegetation and lower branches of trees will be manually removed for a maximum distance of 50 feet on either side of the road. Treated vegetation will be disposed by piling and burning or chipping.

Participants of the Sequoia Fire Safe Council

Bobby Kamansky
Brent Huntington, D-K Ranch
California Department of Forestry
Carri Diaz
David Witt
Elizabeth Palmer
Everett Welch
Jim Burr
Jim Sullins
Joe Williams
Joel Hayden
John Shannon
John Vincent Jr., Sequoia Ranch
Kyle Loveall, Elliott Land & Cattle Co.
Megan Bidart
National Park Service, Sequoia / Kings National Park
Ron Frazier
Southern California Edison
Tom Daly,
Tulare County Cattlemen’s Association
UC Cooperative Extension
United States Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest
Warren Hutchings