

Projects by Battalion

Badger Battalion (11)

Badger / Miramonte Fuel Break:

- Build a shaded fuel break along the Badger / Miramonte Fire Control Road to provide an area to stop an established wildfire spreading from the Drum Valley / Highway 245 corridor. The Badger / Miramonte FCR is located on advantageous topography to provide a suitable control point to limit a fires spread into populated areas of Tulare and Fresno counties. The fuel break should be void of any continuous chaparral for twenty feet on either side of the road. Trees should be limbed up and thinned to limit spacing as needed. Funding for this project will be minimal and can be absorbed by the unit(s) for regular fire control road maintenance if there is no available grant funding sources.

Mankin Flat Fuel Break:

- Engineer the fuels along the Mankin Flat Fire Control Road starting at the point where the Davis Spur and Mankin Flat Fire Control Roads intersect. The road is strategically positioned along the ridge which separates the Dry Creek and Sheep Creek drainages. This location would be a valuable control point in containing wildfires which start on either side of it. The fuel break should be void of chaparral for twenty feet on either side of the road, and trees should be limbed up and thinned to limit spacing as needed. This project due to its size, may take several years to implement. Funding for this project to could be acquired through available grant programs.

Shadequarter to Mankin VMP:

- The object of this project is to create a series of burns along the ridgeline that connects Shadequarter Mountain to Mankin Flat. The most important aspect of this project is that it would engineer a significant age class reduction of fuels from Eshom Valley at the edge of our DPA to where the fuels transition to grass / oak woodland. These projects should be completed sequentially from north to south to minimize control difficulties and to limit the amount preparation needed. A maintenance cycle should be established to insure the effectiveness. Funding to be provided through Local, State, and Federal grants, as well as Department funds specifically allocated for this type of project.

Buzzard Roost suppression tank

- Build a 5,000 gallon suppression tank on Buzzard Rust Fire Control Road at the intersection of Dry Creek Dr. This critical piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to acquire. This tank requires development of a nearby spring to be able to maintain the tanks capacity. Once this has been accomplished, maintenance requirements should be minimal.

Kaweah Battalion (12)

Pre-Attack plans:

- Develop updated maps utilizing GIS technology to capture all roads, fuel breaks, water locations, staging locations, and plot probable control lines. Possible strategies for fire suppression could be pre-determined utilizing fire history, typical fire weather and fire behavior models. Distribute the maps so equipment from other stations / areas can efficiently function within the Kaweah Battalion.

North Fork "Rat Trail":

- Construct a 4-6 foot by 4.3 mile long fuel break along the county road right-of-way along the East side of North Fork Drive. This fuel break begins ¼ mile south of the Sheep Creek Fire Control Road and proceeds north to the Cherry Falls recreation area. The fuel break is intended to stop or slow accidental or incendiary road side ignitions, which it has historically done with much success. Funding to be absorbed through normal unit operating funds due to its minimal expense.

Kaweah Lake "Rat Trail":

- Construct a 4-6 foot by 6.7 mile long fuel break along the state highway right-of-way, on the East side of Highway 198. This fuel break begins at the bottom of "Lemon Hill" at the end of the citrus grove and proceeds east / northeast and terminates at the Slick Rock recreation area. This fuel break is intended to stop accidental or incendiary road side ignitions, which it has historically done with much success. This annual project should be completed before Memorial Day.

Grouse Valley FCR Fuel Break:

- Engineer the fuels along the Grouse Valley Fire Control Road to create a shaded fuel break, creating an advantageous control point for fire suppression. The Grouse Valley FCR is located along the east side of our unit near the SRA boundary. The topography is much more suitable than anything to the east for establishing control lines to protect the homes along South Fork Drive from wildfire established in the confluence of this drainage. The fuel break should be void of any chaparral for 100-150 feet on the downhill side of the road and 50 feet on the uphill side. Trees should be limbed and thinned to limit spacing as needed. Funding for this project is through acquired available grant funding via the Sequoia Fire Safe Council.



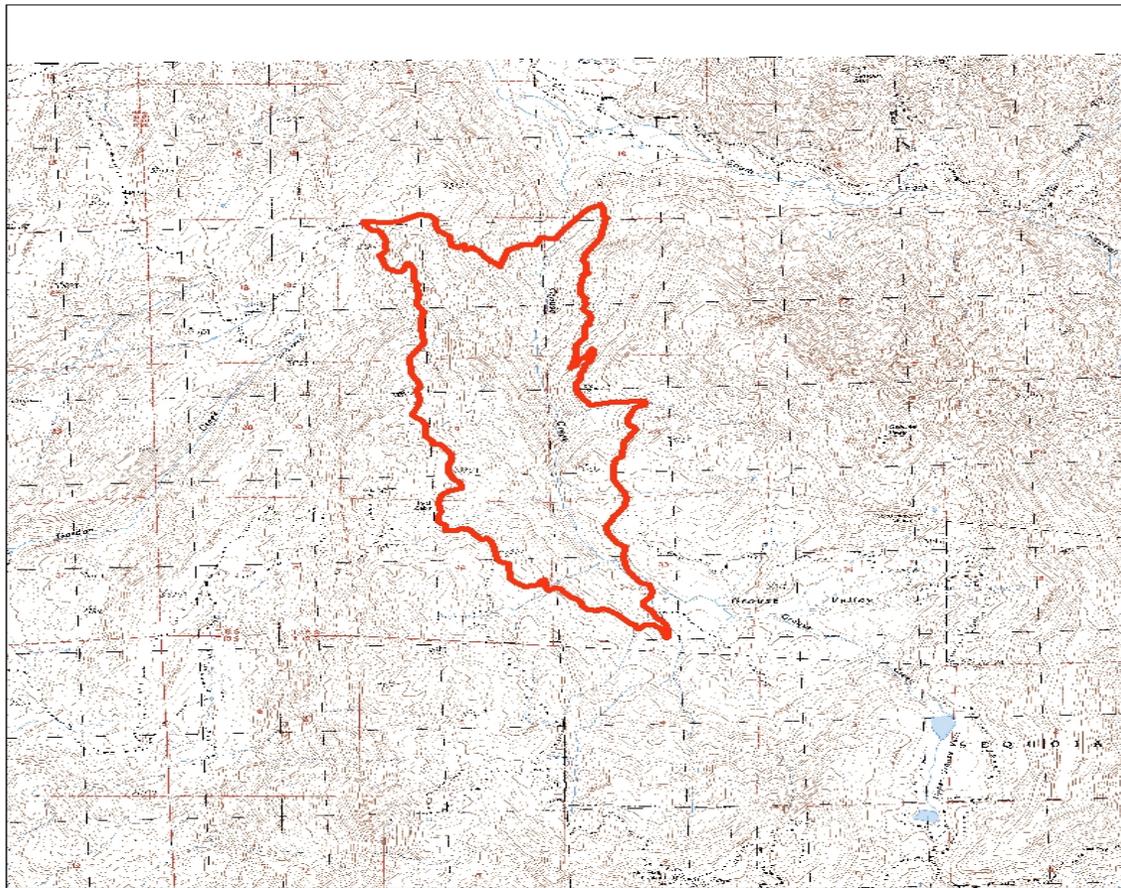
Grouse Valley before and after



Grouse Valley VMP:

- This is a 1500 acre VMP located in the upper reaches of the Grouse Creek Watershed. Grouse Creek is a tributary to the South Fork of the Kaweah River. The objectives are to reduce hazardous fuel buildup of 50 year old chaparral, improve grazing conditions, and improve wildlife habitat. The cooperators in this project would be; California Department of Fish & Game, and two private cattle ranches. The main environmental issue is air quality to the adjacent community which lies in area considered to be smoke sensitive. Work is in progress and is scheduled to be completed as soon as Department funding, and Air Pollution Control District fee assessments are exempted for this type project.

Grouse_VMP



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Three Rivers FFS Demo Project

- Maintain the “Fire Safe” landscape area that is visible to all residents and visitors to the Three Rivers Forest Fire Station which will demonstrate the “ideal” fire safe landscaped home. Maintain and publicize this project annually to use as the local model.



Sheep Creek Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 5,000 gallon tank built by CAL FIRE in the 1950's. This critical piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to acquire. The tank's maintenance costs are negligible and requires little effort. Maintain the spring box and plumbing to insure the unrestricted flow of water into the tank and stock trough.

Salt Creek Suppression Pond

- Maintain the 5,000-10,000 gallon reservoir built by CAL FIRE in the 1950's. This reservoir requires annual brush removal and opening / closing of the head gate to allow filling of water, and removal of sediment. This reservoir is adjacent to the Salt Creek Fire Control Road and provides critical water storage in an very remote area.

Blue Ridge Fuel Break

- Maintain the pre-existing shaded fuel break that runs from Blue Ridge road This break requires annual to semi annual removal of new shrubs, and dead / dying trees brush. The road serves as a wild fire defense zone that primarily follows a north-south oriented ridgeline. Fuels reduction is proposed along 9 miles of the fire control road for a maximum distance of 150 feet. Funding for this project is available grant funding via Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Tule Battalion (13)

Cow Mountain Fuel Break

- Maintain the pre-engineered fuels along the Cow Mountain Fire Control Road to create / maintain a shaded fuel break, creating an advantageous control point for fire suppression. The Cow Mountain Fire Control Road lies on the east side of the unit near the SRA / FRA boundary. The fuel break should be void of any chaparral for 100-150 feet on the downhill side of the road and 50 feet on the uphill side. Trees should be limbed and thinned to limit spacing as needed. This project to be funded through unit funds and available acquired grant funding.

Rancheria Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 5,000 gallon suppression tank built by CAL FIRE in the 1970s adjacent to the Rancheria Fire Control Road. This critical piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to acquire. This tank requires development of a nearby spring to be able to maintain the tanks capacity. Once this has been accomplished, maintenance requirements should be minimal.

Wishon Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 10,000 gallon suppression tank along Wishon Road. below the community of Doyle Springs which was built by CAL FIRE in the 1990s. This piece of infrastructure is critical in the support and protection of the Doyle Springs cabins. This tank requires minimal annual maintenance.

Success Lake Rat Trail

- Construct a 4-6 foot by 3 mile long fuel break along the state highway right-of-way, on the east side of Highway 190. This fuel break begins at the point where Highway 190 meets the hill near Success Market and proceeds east / north east and terminates at the Success Lake Bridge. This fuel break is intended to stop or slow accidental or incendiary road side ignitions, which it successfully did twice in 2003. Funding to be absorbed through normal Unit operating funds due to its minimal expense.

Rancheria Fuel Break

- Maintain the pre-existing shaded fuel break that runs from Balch Park Road., east to the Rancheria Fire Control Road. This break requires annual to semi annual removal of new shrubs, and dead / dying trees brush. Funding to be through available acquired grant funding. Funding for this project is through available grant funding via Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Pierpoint Fuel Break

- Create a shaded fuel break that will be 100 to 300 feet wide and 1 ½ miles long forming a protective ring around the community of Pierpoint Springs and the western side of Camp Nelson. The United States Forest Service is establishing a fuel break on their jurisdictional ground to tie in with our jurisdictions. The break will utilize existing roads, natural openings, and clearance around structures to form an effective control point / belt of engineered fuels. CAL FIRE was awarded a grant to accomplish this project.

Camp Nelson Fuel Break

- Create a shaded fuel break that will be constructed 200 feet wide and 1 ½ miles long around the eastern and southern perimeter of the community of Camp Nelson. This project would be in cooperation with the United States Forest Service and multiple private landowners. This project will create a needed buffer between the community and the wildland.

Battle Mountain VMP

- Reintroduce fire to the area previously burned utilizing our Vegetation Management Program Burn. This will be phase two of the 2001 burn to treat the regeneration of chaparral and try and convert the fuel type. Scheduled for 2009 / 2012.

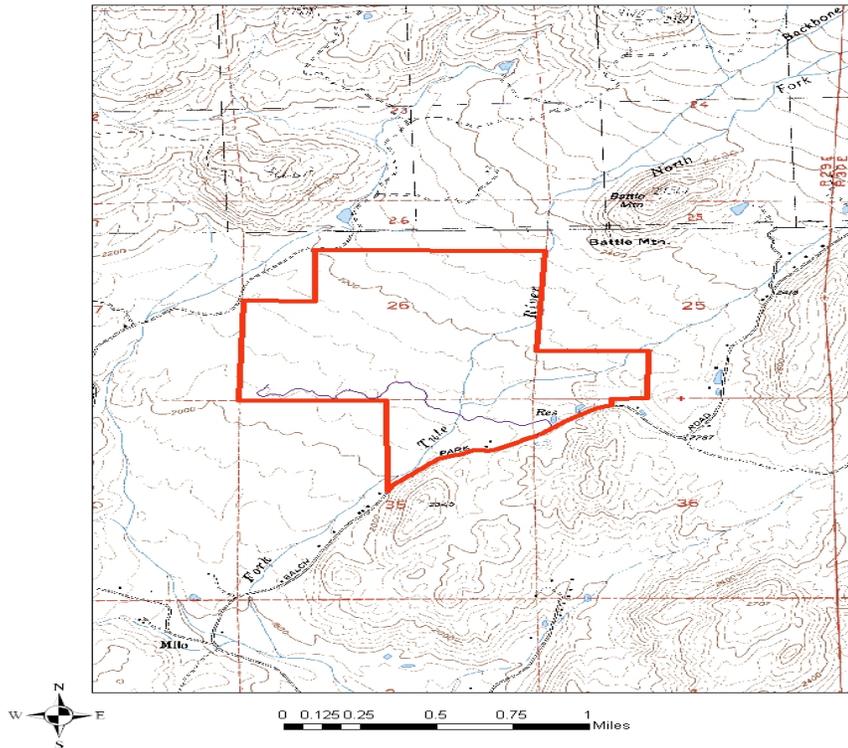
Cow Mountain Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 10,000 gallon suppression tank built by CAL FIRE in the 1970's. This piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to obtain. The tanks maintenance costs are negligible and require little effort.

Mossy Rock VMP

- This 580 acre VMP is located seven miles north of the town of Springville adjacent to Balch Park Road. The objectives are to reduce the fuel loading by chipping, piling, and broad casting the fifty to sixty year old chaparral, Live Oak and brush. This would establish an age class change in the fuel to be utilized as a wildfire control point, improve wildlife habitat, and improve livestock grazing conditions. This project would be in cooperation with local rancher. This project poses some challenges due to the location of the proposed site in proximity to areas within the same drainage in respect to air quality issues.

Mossy Rock VMP





Mossy Rock VMP fuel reduction right side of photo treated left not treated

Balch Park Road Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 10,000 gallon suppression tank built by CAL FIRE in the 1970's. This piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to obtain. The tank's maintenance costs are negligible and require little effort.



Fountain Springs Battalion (14)

Posey Fuel Break

- Create a shaded fuel break near the communities of Panorama Heights and Poso Park. The fuel break is a joint venture between the U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE Tulare Unit and the local residents requiring little cost to those involved. The project consists of limbing trees, removing excess brush, restrict mistletoe spread and disposing of the excess waste by burning or chipping. Most of the treated lands is on federal land next to the Tulare County Posey Fire Station.

Uhl Pocket Fuel Break

- Maintain the Uhl Pocket fuel break that was created in the late 1990's. This fuel break lies on USFS and CAL FIRE jurisdictions. Major treatments have been completed and require 10-20 days of cutting and burning / chipping per year to maintain it in a useable condition.

Pine Mt. Fuel Break

- Maintain the Pine Mt. fuel break that was created in the late 1990's. This fuel break protects the community of Pine Flat and lies on USFS land. Major treatments have been completed and require 10-25 days of cutting and burning / chipping per year to maintain it in a useable condition.

Pine Mt. VMP

- This proposed project is a 1600 acre VMP 2-3 miles southwest of the community of Pine Flat. This is mostly on National Forest / Monument lands that lie within CAL FIRE's DPA. The objective of this burn is to reduce fuel load, improve wildlife habitat, and improve grazing. The effects of the burn should create a protection zone for the communities of Pine Flat and California Hot Springs.

Sandy Creek Fuel Break

- Construct a shaded fuel break along the Sandy Creek Fire Control Road to the forest boundary. This will provide a control point for the protection of Poso and Panorama Heights. The fuel break is to be constructed 200' x 1 mile. The Project is still in planning stages.

Gibbons Peak VMP

- This proposed project is an 1800 acre VMP 12 miles northwest of California Hot Springs. Roughly 1400 acres on SRA, and the remaining on BIA land. Contracts and agreements still need to be obtained for all of the cooperators involved. The objective of this burn is to reduce fuel load, improve wildlife habitat, and improve grazing.

Mt. Home Demonstration State Forest

- Continue fuel treatments within 100' of primary roads. Work involves pre-commercial thinning of conifers typically less than 8 inches DBH and full removal of woody brush species. Material generated from the uphill side of the road is either pulled to the road and chipped or piled for seasonal burning. Material generated from below the road is piled for seasonal burning. All cutting, piling and chipping is performed by MHCC crews, USFS "blue card" crews and/or MHDSF staff. Burning is performed by MHDSF staff on permissive burn days with a permit through the Tulare County APCD.
- Maintain a defensible fuel profile within and around day use areas and campgrounds. Saplings and small poles shall be marked by MHDSF staff for cutting and chipping. This work will take place within the common campground and day use facilities and shall extend for a distance of at least 100' from the campground improvements.
- Maintain 4291 clearance around all State owned and operated structures that are maintained for human habitation. This shall include the summer and winter headquarters, barracks, Jack's house and pack station. Similar maintenance shall be performed around the fuel tank, and warehouse as well.
- Continue fuel treatments in selected areas throughout the forest. Strategically located areas that are within close proximity to roads or trails shall be selected for treatment. These areas shall be treated by pre-commercial thinning of conifers typically less than 8 inches DBH and full removal of woody brush species. All cut vegetative matter shall be piled for seasonal burning. All cutting and piling shall be performed by MHCC crews, USFS "blue card" crews and/or MHDSF staff.

Deep Fuel Break

- Submit Timber Harvest Plan that will expand upon the dozer line that was constructed during the "Deep Fire" in 2004. The harvest area shall extend approximately 300 to 500 feet on both flanks of the ridge line that extends from the Copper Mine Road at the north end through the Methuselah Campground area, to the southern forest boundary. This harvest shall focus on leaving a residual stand that contains between 50 to 160 square feet of basal area per acre. Residual trees shall be the largest and most fire resistant specimens from the pre-harvest stand. The intent of the fuel break is to slow or stop a wildfire coming from the Wishon Fork of the Tule River before it enters the major land holdings of the State Forest. The harvest will further focus on disconnecting the horizontal and vertical fuel ladders creating a defensible fuel profile. Large trees shall be logged conventionally with ground-based heavy equipment while small trees generally less than 24" DBH shall be logged mechanically with feller bunchers. Utilizing mechanized harvest equipment will allow for "whole tree" harvest operations resulting in reduced slash accumulations post harvest. Sub-merchantable trees and brush shall be treated by either hand cutting and piling, hand cutting and broadcast burning, or mastication. All three methods could potentially be combined.

Deep Fuel Break cont.

This project is necessary to protect the public, infrastructure, State property and forest resources, watershed and habitat values, soil, and old-growth giant sequoia.

Unit Projects

Battalion Fire Prevention Signs

- Identify by Battalion sign locations and numbers of fire prevention signs. Work with field battalion staff to determine appropriate sign messages for the time of year. Seek out grant funding to maintain and replace dilapidated signs, and sign stands. Obtain a GPS coordinate for each sign location and create a data layer that can be used against our ignition data layer to develop prevention messages to meet the local ignitions.

