

### ***West Ranch/Blackburn Canyon***

This area is located southeast of the City of Tehachapi. There are approximately 65 homes in the area that are served by narrow, twisting dirt roads with entrance/exit to the community made through two locations, one to the north, the other to the east. The most significant fire threat feature of this area is the volume and condition of the vegetation. The fuel models range from grass to brush to heavy concentrations of trees (oaks, pinions, gray pine, and others). There is substantial tree mortality in this area due to a combination of bug kill and dwarf mistletoe. There is a significant volume of hazardous fuels reduction work that needs to be done in this area. The residents that live in the area on a full-time basis are making progress toward reducing the total fuel volume; however, there are large numbers of absentee landowners that are not as committed to the fuel reduction. The number one priority for this area would be to reduce the number of dead and down trees that constitute a major portion of the existing fuel load. Secondly, establishing a system of shaded fuel breaks would reduce the intensity and spread rate of any fire that became established.

### ***Hart Flat***

Hart Flat has had some fuels reduction work done as a result of the FEMA Bear Valley Grant. The main focus of work here was in brushing Clear Creek Loop Road. Additionally, on an annual basis the community receives some pre-suppression protection through the maintenance of a fuel break that runs along the south side of eastbound Highway 58. This break inhibits fires that start on the freeway from spreading uphill into the Hart Flat community.

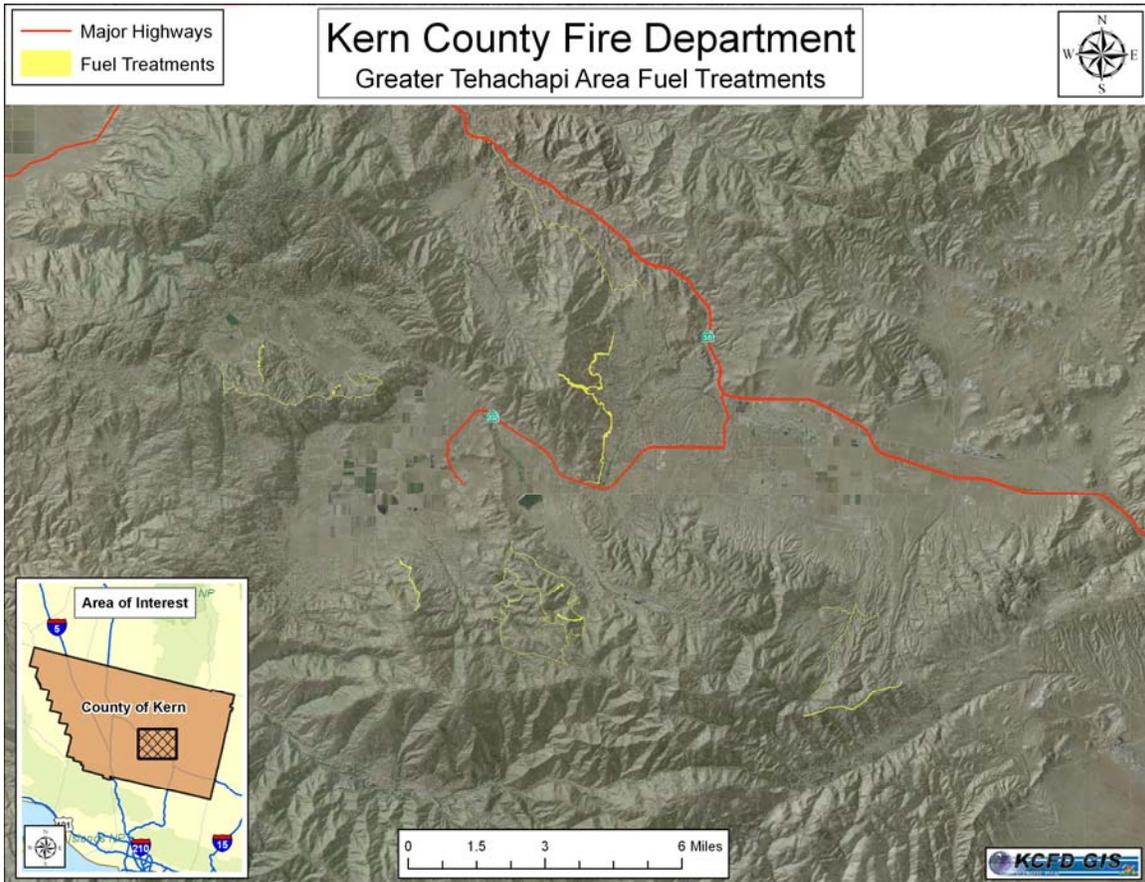
### ***Bear Valley***

Bear Valley has had extensive fuels reduction work done as a result of the FEMA Bear Valley Grant. All of Skyline Road has been brushed, and shaded fuel breaks have been established connecting Skyline Road with Fargo Ct. and Amberwood with Lower Valley Road. There is still a substantial volume of work that could be accomplished in the Sycamore Canyon area and other areas identified in the Bear Valley Springs Fire Safety Plan. Bear Valley Springs property owners have initiated a program to eliminate a number of trees that have fallen victim to the bark beetle. This project needs to be continued and an additional project initiated to reduce the fuel load along the roadways in the northern portion of the subdivision.

### **Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:**

- Bear valley Hazardous Tree Removal
- Skyline Fuel Break
- Golden Hills Phase 1&2 Fuel Breaks
- Alpine Forest Escape Route

- Stallion Alpine Fuel Break
- Old West Ranch Escape Route
- Wild horse Ridgeline Fuelbreak
- Tehachapi Mountain Park Defensible Space
- Community Chipper Events



## **Battalion 2 Western Kern**

### **OVERVIEW**

Battalion 2 comprises most of the west side of the County of Kern. West of State Highway 33 and most of what is adjacent to State Highway 166 is either SRA or Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). The FRA is predominantly Bakersfield BLM with a small portion of Los Padres National Forest, with some Fish and Wildlife Service area in the Bitter Creek Wildlife Refuge. There are no large, incorporated cities within Battalion 2 that impact the SRA; however a large portion of the area is oil installations. The total acreage is 1,100,147 which SRA acreage within Battalion 2 is 455,293.

The fuel model that covers most of the west side of the battalion is grass (FM1) with a scattering of brush and some oak trees. As the elevation increases in the southern and western end of the battalion there is more sage and pine (FM2).

### **Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:**

- Maintained Fire Roads
- Dozer Disc Breaks

## **Battalion 3 North Kern**

### **OVERVIEW**

Battalion 3 includes the north central portion of the county. Relative to the State Responsibility Area, the most important feature is State Highway 65. Highway 65 is the western boundary for most of the SRA in Battalion 3. The other main road through the area is State Highway 155 that runs east and west from Lake Isabella to Delano. To the east of the SRA in the battalion is Sequoia National Forest. There is a large portion of SRA (193,450 acres) in Station 26's area in the northwest corner of the County. The total SRA acreage for Battalion 3 is 409,566 acres. The fuel model is predominantly grass and oak trees (FM1), with some pockets of brush. Much of the area is rangeland utilized for cattle grazing, with very little public access.

There are presently no identified projects within the Urban Interface areas of Battalion 3 that would take a higher priority than projects identified in other battalions

### **Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:**

- Maintained Fire Roads
- Dozer Disc Breaks

## **Battalion 5 Mt. Pinos Communities**

### OVERVIEW

Battalion 5 is the extreme South/South West portion of the County it is bordered by Los Angeles County and Ventura County. Most of the mountain areas of Battalion 5 are sparsely populated with the exceptions of the pockets created by Lebec, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, Pinon Pines, and Pine Mountain Club. Fires that become established in or immediately adjacent to these areas will threaten lives and property in a short time.

Historically, fires in Battalion 5 in the grasslands reach large acreage in a short period of time, however, they are able to control in the first 1-2 burning periods unless there is a significant wind component associated with the spread. Fires in the higher elevations are generally much smaller, but are much more resistant to control due to the heavy fuels. A CWPP has been adopted and been put into place for the area.

### ***Digier Canyon***

Digier Canyon is a predominantly residential area north of Lebec on the west side of Interstate Highway 5. The subdivision is partially within the Los Padres National Forest, with Fort Tejon State Park on the south and Wild Wolves Preserve on the west. The only access/egress is on Digier Rd. The subdivision is comprised of approximately 30 structures, both commercial and residential. The fuel model is predominantly grass and oak trees (FM1) with a scattering of brush. The main fire concern with Digier Canyon is not the fuel, but with the egress issues and its proximity to fires starting on I-5. The priority project for this area would be to explore options for secondary egress or the development of a community safety zone.

### ***Frazier Park (south side)\****

Frazier Park is a series of streets that hop and skip from one location to another, apparently with little or no planning/development standards or guidelines. Many of the dirt roads have brush intruding into the right-of-way and little maintenance has been done. The fuel types range from grass and light brush mixed with conifers (FM1) to heavy brush (FM4). Around the south side of the subdivision is predominantly brush with scattered pines and juniper, and some oak. A grant proposal has been written and tentatively approved to construct a shaded fuel break around the south side tying into Frazier Mountain Park Road on the east and west sides. This break would be approximately 100' wide, providing a buffer for the subdivision from a fire approaching out of the forest or a fire emanating from the homes spreading into the forest.

### ***Pine Mountain Club\****

Pine Mountain Club is a planned community surrounded by the Los Padres National Forest. It has approximately 3,000 parcels. Approximately 2,000 of these parcels have been developed. For the past five years the Kern County Fire Department has been performing hazard reduction inspections in Pine Mountain Club. The fuel loading is heavy predominantly live oak, sage, and pine. KCFD and LPF personnel and the Property Owners Association have made great efforts, but the sheer volume of material has made for slow progress. The property owners commissioned a contractor to develop a vegetation management plan (which has been done) and have received a hazardous fuels reduction grant to begin implementation of the plan. Some work has already begun to construct shaded fuel breaks in the greenbelt areas of the tract.

### ***Pinon Pines\****

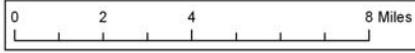
Pinon Pines is a small community between Frazier Park and Pine Mountain Club, surrounded by Los Padres National Forest. Four years ago a wildland fire destroyed one home and damaged another. This incident raised local awareness to the dangers of current fuel conditions. Residents have been fairly active in projects around their homes, but much work remains to be done. A shaded fuel break was constructed on the northeast, east, and south sides of the subdivision in 2001. The northwest and west sides remain to be done. The fuel model is mainly pinyon/juniper with a moderate fuel load.

\*SRA within LPF DPA - USFS has wildland fire protection responsibility; KCFD has fire protection responsibility for structures and improvements

### **Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:**

- Frazier Park Community Fuel Break
- Lake of the Woods Community Fuel Break
- Pinon Pines Community Fuel Break
- Camp Condor Escape Route
- Pine Mtn. Club open space Fuels Reduction
- Pine Mtn. Club Ridgeline Fuel Break (west end)

# Kern County Fire Department Mt Pinos Communities Fuel Treatments



- Major Highways
- Fuel Treatments



## **Battalion 4&6 Valley/ Foothill**

### OVERVIEW

Battalion 4 and 6 is predominantly Local Responsibility Area (LRA) on the south and east sides of Bakersfield. There is some SRA in the eastern portion of the battalion that adjoins the Sequoia National Forest. There are 96,023 SRA acres in Battalion 4. The main accesses to the State Responsibility area within Battalion 4 is along State Highway 58 which runs east and west through the battalion and Breckenridge Road, which runs northeast out of Bakersfield up into the National Forest on top of Breckenridge Mountain. Within the SRA of Battalion 4, there are no towns or cities, incorporated or unincorporated, and only one subdivision of consequence.

### ***Breckenridge Subdivision***

The Breckenridge subdivision is entirely within the boundaries of the Sequoia National Forest. It is comprised of between 35-40 cabins, with very few full-time residents. The fuels are a timber model (FM8) with heavy concentrations of down, dead fuel. Access to the subdivision is also an issue in that the paved portion is single-lane, paved forest road with dirt roads within the subdivision itself. The priority project for this area would be a general reduction of the accumulated dead and down material that is pervasive throughout the subdivision. The private properties within the subdivision are intermixed with Forestland. This creates a problem in that the private lands have had some clearing done but are immediately adjacent to Forest property, which has had no treatment. A project to reduce the fuel loading within the boundaries of the subdivision would require close coordination between the property owners and the National Forest. Additionally, a general widening of the roads within the subdivision would provide better access to the cabins and the water tanks.

### **Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:**

- Maintained Fire Roads
- Dozer Disc Breaks

## **Battalion 7 Kern River Valley**

### OVERVIEW

Battalion 7 includes the northeast portion of Kern County. It is a diverse mixture of Direct Protection Areas with Federal Responsibility Areas, both Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and SRA (253,776 acres). North/south highways include State Highways 178 and 14 and the main east/west highway being State Highway 155. There are numerous unincorporated towns within the battalion, including Havilah, Lake Isabella, Bodfish, Wofford Heights, Kernville, and Southlake. All of these towns are listed by the California Fire Alliance as being at high risk to wildfire. Battalion 7 has a history of large, damaging wildfires. Included recently are the King (2000), Borel (2002; five residences lost), and the Deer Fire (2002; 47 residences lost). The Manter (2000) and the McNally (2002) Fires also burned just north of the Kern County line in this same area. The fuel models range from grass (FM1) to brush (FM4) to timber (FM8), with large areas of pinyon/juniper (FM6). A CWPP has been adopted and been put into place for the area.

### ***Alta Sierra - SRA within SQF DPA***

Alta Sierra is within the boundaries of the Sequoia National Forest. It has substantial fuel buildup on the private properties within the County Park that is located there and on the Forest Service property surrounding the subdivision. There are currently two Forest Service grants in effect for the Alta Sierra area. One is to establish a 100-150' shaded fuel break around the entire community. The second grant is to create a "community fire safe" analysis and plan to improve the defensibility of the structures and analyze data relative to the community safety. Both these projects should be completed by November 2004.

### ***Isabella Highlands***

This area is west of Lake Isabella at the top of a narrow, steep, twisting one-lane road. It has been a victim of wild fire on a number of occasions, most recently June of 2003, with the loss of five homes. The roads within the subdivision are also narrow and encroached by vegetation throughout the area. There is currently a BLM-funded grant in effect to reduce the volume of fuel both along the roads and in the drainages leading up to the subdivision and some areas above the homes. There are additional needs within the community. Street signs, house numbers, and water source identification are among the current needs.

### ***Frontier Homes/Rogers Road***

This area is west and immediately adjacent to Kernville. Rogers Road serves about a dozen homes and leads up to the Frontier Homes subdivision. Frontier Homes has a north side and a south side. A single-lane, dead-end road serves

each side. The fuel load is mainly grass with scattered California gray pine. Some pockets of brush exist in the drainage bottoms and/or on north aspects. The main threat to this subdivision is not from the fuel within the subdivision, but from the neighborhoods below. The Rogers Road area presents one of the hazards to the Frontier Homes area. A Forest Service Grant is currently in place to do a hazardous fuel reduction project in the drainage bottom to the south of Rogers Road.

### ***Upper Bodfish/Meyers Canyon***

The upper Bodfish/Meyers Canyon area has a history of frequent fires, some of which have become quite large. The “Bodfish” fire in 1984 grew to greater than 35,000 acres. The fuel models in the area vary from grass to heavy brush to trees. The property owners have done much work, however, there are a large number of parcels that are owned by out-of-area owners. These properties represent a large fire hazard and it has been difficult to achieve successful hazard reduction code compliance. There is currently a proposed BLM-funded grant for the west side of Meyers Canyon to create a shaded fuel break. This would protect approximately 100 homes from a fire starting down canyon from the Meyers Canyon subdivision.

### **Completed Fuels Management Projects for the area include:**

- Bodfish Canyon Escape Route Phase 1-3
- Kernville Community Fuel Breaks
- Hungry Gulch/Isabella Highlands Defensible Space
- Alta Sierra Fuel Break
- Piute Meadows Escape Route
- Pala Ranches Community Fuel Break
- Squirrel Valley Fuel Break

- Major Highways
- Fuel Treatments

# Kern County Fire Department

## Kern River Valley Fuel Treatments

