
Madera County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Priority Fuel Treatment Projects (September 2008)

The Final Community Assessment list (Table 13) identifies prioritized fuel reduction projects for communities at risk for Madera County. Eleven out of the thirty-five communities assessed were classified as having a “high” rating. The communities with “high” ratings will be prioritized by their rankings and projects identified to alleviate the most severe problems associated with each community. The communities with ratings in the “moderate” or “low” classifications have fire preparedness needs as well, but with limited dollars and resources the emphasis must be on the communities identified most at risk.

When analyzing fire mitigation projects, a collaborative approach must be utilized. All Federal, State, and Local fire agencies as well as citizen groups and homeowners, should have input into developing the fire mitigation strategies. A plan should be formulated that is understood and agreeable to all parties affected by the outcome.

The following is a prioritized list of communities at risk and some potential actions that could reduce the fire risk.

Priority	Name	Total	Hazard	Ignition Risk	Values	Protecn	CatPtl	Fire
1	Cascadel Woods	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
2	Cedar Valley	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MOD
3	Road 620	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
4	Nipinnawasee	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	MOD	MOD	HIGH	HIGH
5	John West Rd.	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
6	Sugar Pine	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	LOW
7	North Fork	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH
8	Oakhurst	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH
9	Bass Lake Annex	HIGH	MOD	LOW	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	HIGH
10	Bass Lake	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	LOW
11	Sky Acres	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH	MOD
12	Marina View	MOD	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	LOW	MOD	MOD
13	Bass Lake Heights	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH	MOD
14	Yosemite Lakes Park	MOD	LOW	HIGH	MOD	HIGH	MOD	MOD
15	Quartz Mtn	MOD	MOD	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD
16	Sierra Lakes	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH
17	Ahwahnee	MOD	LOW	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH
18	Beasore Mead	MOD	MOD	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	MOD
19	Teaford Meadows	MOD	MOD	LOW	MOD	MOD	HIGH	HIGH
20	Mudge Ranch	MOD	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
21	Arnold Mead	MOD	MOD	LOW	MOD	HIGH	MOD	MOD
22	Wells/Trabuco	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD
23	Central Camp	MOD	MOD	LOW	MOD	HIGH	MOD	MOD
24	Wishon	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
25	Miami Highlands	MOD	MOD	LOW	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH
26	Coarsegold	LOW	LOW	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	LOW
27	Hidden View	LOW	LOW	MOD	MOD	HIGH	MOD	LOW
28	Yosemite Forks	LOW	MOD	MOD	LOW	MOD	MOD	MOD
29	Sierra Highlands	LOW	MOD	LOW	MOD	MOD	MOD	LOW
30	Goldside	LOW	LOW	MOD	LOW	LOW	LOW	MOD
31	Raymond	LOW	LOW	HIGH	LOW	LOW	LOW	MOD
32	Meadow Springs	LOW	MOD	LOW	LOW	MOD	MOD	LOW
33	Indian Lakes	LOW	LOW	HIGH	MOD	LOW	LOW	LOW
34	O'Neals	LOW	LOW	HIGH	LOW	MOD	LOW	LOW
35	Leisure Acres	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	MOD

Table 13 – Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Priority Fuel Reduction Projects 2009

PRIORITY #1

Community: Cascadel Woods

Location: Section 16, T8S, R23E

Population: 106 dwelling units plus numerous outbuildings

Specific problems:

- (1) A large amount of timber fuels interspersed with heavy volumes of brush within and surrounding the community
- (2) An approximate 3 mile narrow, windy two-lane road (Cascadel Road/Road 233) with contiguous trees and brush serves as the only reliable road in and out of the community
- (3) Steep brush covered slopes south and east of the community
- (4) Narrow roads with a bridge incapable of handling heavy equipment within the community
- (5) Many older homes and cabins in close proximity to one another, some with wood shake roofs and combustible exterior construction
- (6) A larger percentage of retired and absentee homeowners

Evacuation routes:

West on Cascadel Road(Road 233), then east or west on Road 225

Past actions:

- (1) Roadside fuel reduction and fuel-break construction along Cascadel Road by USFS
- (2) Fuel reduction projects conducted by joint efforts of USFS, Fire Safe Council and Coarsegold Resource Conservation District in areas near the community
- (3) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) Identify and construct safety zones that can be used as temporary shelter-in-place areas for residents as well as fire personnel
- (3) A 200' to 300' wide shaded fuel-break surrounding the community
- (4) Continued construction and maintenance of the fuel-break along Cascadel Road

(5) Fuel reduction on Sierra National Forest land adjacent to community assets by the use of harvesting or thinning projects

(6) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #2

Community: Cedar Valley

Location: Sections 13 & 24, T6S, R21E

Population: 97 dwelling units plus numerous outbuildings

Specific problems:

- (1) A large amount of timber fuels interspersed with heavy volumes of brush within and surrounding the community
- (2) A 1-1/2 mile narrow, windy two-lane road (Cedar Valley Drive) with contiguous forest fuel on both sides that serves as the only road in and out of the community
- (3) Narrow roads within the community
- (4) Older homes and cabins in close proximity to one another, some with wood shake roofs and combustible exterior construction
- (5) A large percentage of retired and absentee homeowners

Evacuation routes:

Southwest on Cedar Valley Drive to Highway 41

Past actions:

- (1) Roadside fuel reduction and fuel-break construction along Cedar Valley drive by USFS and Cal Fire
- (2) Roadside fuel reduction by Cal Fire and Madera County Road Department on roads within the community
- (3) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) Identify and construct safety zones that can be used as temporary shelter-in-place areas for residents as well as fire personnel
- (3) A 200' to 300' wide shaded fuel-break surrounding the community
- (4) The elimination or reduction of fuels 100' on both sides of Cedar Valley Drive from Highway 41 to Cedar Brook Rd.
- (5) Fuel reduction on Sierra National Forest land down canyon in the Lewis Creek drainage between Sky Ranch and Cedar Valley (possible timber harvesting or plantation thinning)
- (6) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #3

Community: **Road 620 (BISSETT STATION ROAD)**

Location: Sections 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, T6S, R21E

Population: 41 dwelling units with numerous outbuildings

Specific problems:

- (1) Road 620 is a mid-slope road with large concentrations of heavy brush on steep slopes immediately below it to the south
- (2) Homes are built along and adjacent to Road 620, a five mile long narrow, winding road with heavy volumes of trees and brush on both sides

Evacuation routes:

- (1) East on Road 620 (Bissett Station Road) to Highway 41
- (2) West on Road 620 (Bissett Station Road) to Road 628 (Round House Road)
- (3) South on Road 628 to Highway 49

Past actions:

- (1) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials
- (2) Fuel reduction by timber harvest, mechanical treatment and prescribed fire by the USFS in the general area but not immediately adjacent to the populated area

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (3) The reduction or elimination of fuel for 150' on both sides Road 620 (Bissett Station Road) from Highway 41 to Road 628
- (4) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #4

Community: Nipinnawasee

Location: Sections 13, 24, R20E, T6S

Population: 112 dwelling units with numerous outbuildings

Specific problems:

- (1) Large areas of heavy concentrations of grass and brush mingled amongst structures
- (2) Narrow winding roads with hazardous fuels encroaching one or both sides of the road

Evacuation routes:

- (1) Highway 49 north towards Mariposa
- (2) Highway 49 south towards Oakhurst

Past actions:

- (1) Roadside fuel reduction by Cal Fire, P. G. & E. and Madera County Road Department on roads within the community
- (2) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) Continued roadside fuel elimination or reduction along roads within the community
- (3) Fuel reduction on Sierra National Forest land adjacent to the community on the east side by the use of harvesting or thinning projects
- (4) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #5

Community: John West Road

Location: Section 7, 18, R22E, T7S

Population: 44 dwelling units with numerous outbuildings

Specific problems:

- (1) A two mile narrow, winding two-lane road (John West Road) with contiguous forest fuels on both sides that serve as the only road in and out of the community
- (2) A large amount of timber fuels interspersed with heavy volumes of brush within and surrounding the community
- (3) Narrow roads within the community

Evacuation routes:

South on John West Road to Road 426, then west on 426 towards Oakhurst or east towards North Fork

Past actions:

- (1) Roadside fuel reduction by Cal Fire and Madera County Road Department on roads within the community
- (2) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) Identify and construct safety zones that can be used as temporary shelter-in-place areas for residents as well as fire personnel
- (3) Continued roadside fuel elimination or reduction along roads within the community
- (4) Fuel reduction on Sierra National Forest land adjacent to the community on the east side by the use of harvesting or thinning projects
- (5) Completion of Emergency Access route from Taylor Mountain Road to Indian Springs Road, therefore providing an alternate escape route
- (6) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #6

Community: Sugar Pine

Location: Section 1, R21E, T6S

Population: 54 dwelling units with numerous outbuildings, a large private camp complex; many of the structures within the community are old with historical value.

Specific problems:

- (1) A large amount of timber fuels interspersed with heavy volumes of brush within and surrounding the community
- (2) A 1 mile narrow two-lane road (Road 630/Sugar Pine Road) with contiguous forest fuels on both sides that serves as the only road in and out of the community
- (3) Narrow roads within the community

(4) Older homes and cabins in close proximity to one another, some with wood shake roofs and combustible exterior construction

(5) A large percentage of retired and absentee homeowners

Evacuation routes:

South on Road 630 (Sugar Pine Road) to Highway 41

Past actions:

(1) Roadside fuel reduction and fuel-break construction along Road 630/Sugar Pine Road by USFS

(2) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials

(3) Fuel reduction projects including timber harvesting, prescribed burns, and mechanical and hand treatment near the community

Priority mitigation needs:

(1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability

(2) Identify and construct safety zones that can be used as temporary shelter-in-place areas for residents as well as fire personnel

(3) A 200' to 300' wide shaded fuel-break surrounding the community

(4) Continued construction and maintenance of the fuel-break along Road 630/Sugar Pine Road

(5) Continued fuel reduction on Sierra National Forest land within one mile of the community by the use of harvesting, thinning projects, and prescribed burns

(6) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #7

Community: North Fork

Location: Sections 13, 24 R22E, T8S; Sections 17, 18, 19, 20 R23E, T8S

Population: 76 dwelling units plus numerous outbuildings; commercial and light industrial buildings; governmental facilities; churches and schools

Specific problems:

- (1) Large areas of heavy concentrations of grass and brush mingled amongst structures
- (2) Many narrow roads with hazardous fuels encroaching one or both sides of the road within the community

Evacuation routes:

- (1) West on Road 225 to Road 200 then southwest on Road 200 towards Highway 41
- (2) West on Road 225 to Road 274 then north on Road 274 towards Bass Lake

Past actions:

- (1) Roadside fuel reduction by, Cal Fire and Madera County Road Department with support from the Madera County Fire Safe Council and the Coarsegold Resource Conservation District on roads within and accessing the community
- (2) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) Identify and construct safety zones that can be used as temporary shelter-in-place areas for residents as well as fire personnel
- (3) Continued roadside fuel elimination or reduction along roads within the community
- (4) Construction of a fuel-break around the community utilizing past fuels reduction programs, prescribed burns, and parts of past fuel-breaks
- (5) Implementation of a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #8

Community: Oakhurst

Location: Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, R21E, T7S

Sections 18, 19, 30, R22E, T7S

Population: 1071 dwelling units plus numerous outbuildings; commercial and light industrial buildings; governmental, utility and medical facilities; churches and schools

Specific problems:

- (1) Large areas of heavy concentrations of grass and brush mingled amongst structures
- (2) Many narrow winding roads with hazardous fuels encroaching one or both sides of the road
- (3) Inadequate water supply to support fire fighting operations in many areas of the community

Evacuation routes:

- (1) East on Road 426 (Crane Valley Road) to Road 223 towards North Fork
- (2) West on Road 426 to Highway 41
- (3) Highway 49 south towards Oakhurst or north towards Mariposa

Past actions:

- (1) Roadside fuel reduction by Cal Fire and Madera County Road Department of some roads within the community
- (2) Fuel reduction projects including fuel-breaks, prescribed burns, and mechanical and hand treatment adjacent to the community; primarily concentrated on ridge tops around the Oakhurst Basin
- (3) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials
- (4) In 2007 a Fire Safe Council fuel-break project was completed around the Oakhurst Basin along the ridge tops of Miami Mountain, Crooks Mountain, and Potter Ridge

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) Roadside fuel elimination or reduction along county roads

(3) Completion and maintenance of a fuel break system surrounding the community

(4) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #9

Community: **Bass Lake Annex**

Location: Section 35, R22E, T7S; Section 2 R22E T8S

Population: 89 dwelling units with numerous outbuildings

Specific problems:

- (1) A large amount of timber fuels interspersed with heavy volumes of brush within and surrounding the community
- (2) Narrow roads within the community
- (3) Older homes and cabins in close proximity to one another

Evacuation routes:

North on Road 222/Crane Valley Road towards Bass Lake or south on Road 222/Crane Valley Road towards North Fork

Past actions:

- (1) Proposed roadside fuel reduction and fuel-break construction along Road 222/Crane Valley Road
- (2) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) A 200' to 300' wide shaded fuel-break surrounding the community
- (3) The elimination or reduction of fuels 100' on both sides of Road 222/Crane Valley Road from Bass Lake to North Fork

(4) Continued fuel reduction on Sierra National Forest land adjacent to the community by the use of harvesting and thinning projects

(5) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #10

Community: Bass Lake

Location: Sections 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, R22E, T7S

Population: 775 dwelling units plus numerous outbuildings; commercial and light industrial buildings; governmental facilities; churches, schools and camps and other recreational facilities

Specific problems:

- (1) A large amount of timber fuels interspersed with heavy volumes of brush within and surrounding the community
- (2) Narrow, winding roads within the community
- (3) Older homes and cabins in close proximity to one another, some with wood shake roofs and combustible exterior construction
- (4) A large percentage of retired and absentee homeowners
- (5) A large number of summertime visitors, campers and recreationalists

Evacuation routes:

- (1) Northwest on Road 274 (Malum Ridge Road) or Road 432 (North Shore Road) to Road 222, then northwest on Road 222 to Highway 41
- (2) Southeast on Road 274 (Malum Ridge Road) toward North Fork

Past actions:

- (1) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire Officials

Priority mitigation needs:

- (1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability
- (2) Identify and construct safety zones that can be used as temporary shelter-in-place areas for residents as well as fire personnel
- (3) A 300' wide shaded fuel-break on the south side of Road 274 (Malum Ridge Road) from the intersection of Road 274 and Road 222 to Central Camp Road
- (4) Fuel reduction on Sierra National Forest land adjacent to the community by the use of harvesting or thinning projects
- (5) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.

PRIORITY #11

Community: Sky Acres

Location: Section 30, 31, T6S, R22E

Population: 62 dwelling units with numerous outbuildings

Specific problems:

- (1) A large amount of timber fuels interspersed with heavy volumes of brush within and surrounding the community
- (2) Narrow roads within the community
- (3) Older homes and cabins in close proximity to one another, some with wood shake roofs and combustible exterior construction

Evacuation routes:

West on Road 632 (Sky Ranch Road) to Highway 41

Past actions:

- (1) Intermittent compliance inspections for PRC 4291 regulations by fire officials

(2) Some roadside fuel reduction by Madera County Road Department on roads within the community

Priority mitigation needs:

(1) Citizen involvement to reduce fuels on their property and to utilize fire-wise construction techniques to improve structure survivability

(2) Roadside fuel elimination or reduction along county roads within the community

(3) Fuel reduction on Sierra National Forest land adjacent to the community by the use of harvesting or thinning projects

(4) Completion and maintenance of a fuel break system surrounding the community

(5) Implement a PRC 4291 compliance inspection program within the community

Education: Through homeowner association or town hall type meetings, develop and promote community specific programs designed to inform and involve the community on wildfire mitigation plans, escape routes, potential shelter-in-place locations, and activities that could reduce the risk to citizens, property and community assets.