

## **Battalion Five Planning Area**

Includes the areas of Berry Creek, Brush Creek, Mountain House, Feather Falls, Forbestown, Clipper Mills and several Indian Rancherias. There are also significant land holdings of Sierra Pacific Industries and State and Federal lands.

**CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Mike Shorrock**

**Berry Creek Fire Safe Council – Dennis Nay**

### **Specific Fire Behavior Factors and Wildland Urban Interface Situation**

The following synopsis is intended to specify the fire behavior factors (fuels, topography and weather) and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) problems specific to the Fire Planning Area.

#### **Fuels:**

This planning area consists of a wide range of vegetation types. The vegetation types include, grass, chaparral brush mix, manzanita, oak – woodland and timber. The fuel rank is predominately high to very high with ladder scores present with mixed to extensively mixed classification.

This planning area is the gateway to the Plumas National Forest and extensive SPI land holdings.

#### **Topography:**

Prominent topographical features in the planning area are the numerous steep canyons dispersed throughout the area. The two main canyons form the Middle Fork and South Fork of Lake Oroville. The area contours for numerous tributaries including Oregon Gulch, Cedar Ravine, Jack Hill Ravine and Forbestown Ravine to name a few. The remote nature of the area makes access difficult along these areas.

#### **Weather: (refer to pg 9)**

There is no historic data to promote a consistent cause and effect as to weather and fire in this planning area. However the adjacent Plumas Forest does generate weather patterns that produce thunderstorms and dry lightning throughout the fire season.

#### **Wildland Urban Interface Situation:**

The Berry Creek Ridge/ Lumpkin-Forbestown Ridge planning area are spread over three ridges.

The Berry Creek community is perhaps the most compact but still qualifies as a wildland urban *intermix*. Access and the remote location create a timely response concern in the event of a fast moving fire. The highest concentrated density of homes, are within the Lake Madrone development and off of Bald Rock Road. The community also houses the summer retreat Camp Okizu.

Feather Falls within the Lumpkin Ridge is also a wildland urban intermix. Access/egress is via Lumpkin Road. There is extensive traffic by logging trucks and

summer travel. recreational travel increases seasonally. Many residents are located on remote roads that are ill maintained and address identification is often limited.

Forbestown Ridge includes the community of Forbestown. Forbestown is on the edge of Butte and Yuba County and there is an auto aid agreement with Foothill Fire Protection District. Steeper mountainous roads create a delay in response times.

The communities have an active fire safe council that is involved in evacuation planning, fuel hazard reduction and outreach and education.

During extreme fire weather danger increased funding is provided to staff the Sunset Hill Lookout aiding in early wildland fire detection.