

Battalion Seven Planning Area

Including the Cities of Biggs and Gridley

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Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (Department of Fish and Game)

Oroville Wildlife Area

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 Valley (south) Fire Planning Area.

Fuels:

The east side of the Valley (south) is a transition zone at the edge of the Sacramento Valley and is bisected by State Responsibility Area and Local Responsibility Area line. This “front” is characterized by grass fuels on the flat valley edge and oak woodland or rolling Blue Oak Savannah in the foothills. The west side is the Upper Butte Sink of Butte Creek, an important flyway, fishery and wildlife habitat characterized by seasonal marshes, riparian habitat and a heavy loading of fine fuels. The two cities are surrounded by intensely farmed land.

Bisecting north and south of the Planning Area is the Feather River. The river bottom is a ten-thousand acre hardwood forest with its own unique fire regime.

Topography:

The Valley (South) is predominately flat. The river bottom contributes the only unique feature to the area.

Weather: (refer to pg 9)

The Valley (south) does not exhibit any substantial differences to the Unit wide weather pattern.

Wildland Urban Interface Situation:

The Valley (South) encompasses the southwestern corner of Butte County and includes the cities of Biggs and Gridley, the Mooretown Rancheria and the unincorporated communities of Palermo and Honcut. Automatic aid agreement is maintained with the City of Oroville, El Medio Fire Protection District and with Sutter County Fire Department. CAL FIRE also provides wildland fire protection to the growing Mooretown Rancheria in the State Responsibility Area through our statewide agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Gray Lodge Wildlife area is an off map critical infrastructure area within the unit. The area continues to benefit from an aggressive Vegetation Management Program.

Prescription emphasis is placed on education and enforcement. Firefighters seek to establish strong ties to the community through the maintenance of pre-fire plans, smoke

detector installation, third grade education programs and other community education events.

The greatest risk of fire loss to the Valley (south) is in concentrated areas affecting agricultural processing plants, storage areas and crop acreage. Also in the opportunity of fire starts from the River bottom spreading to adjacent Fire Sheds.