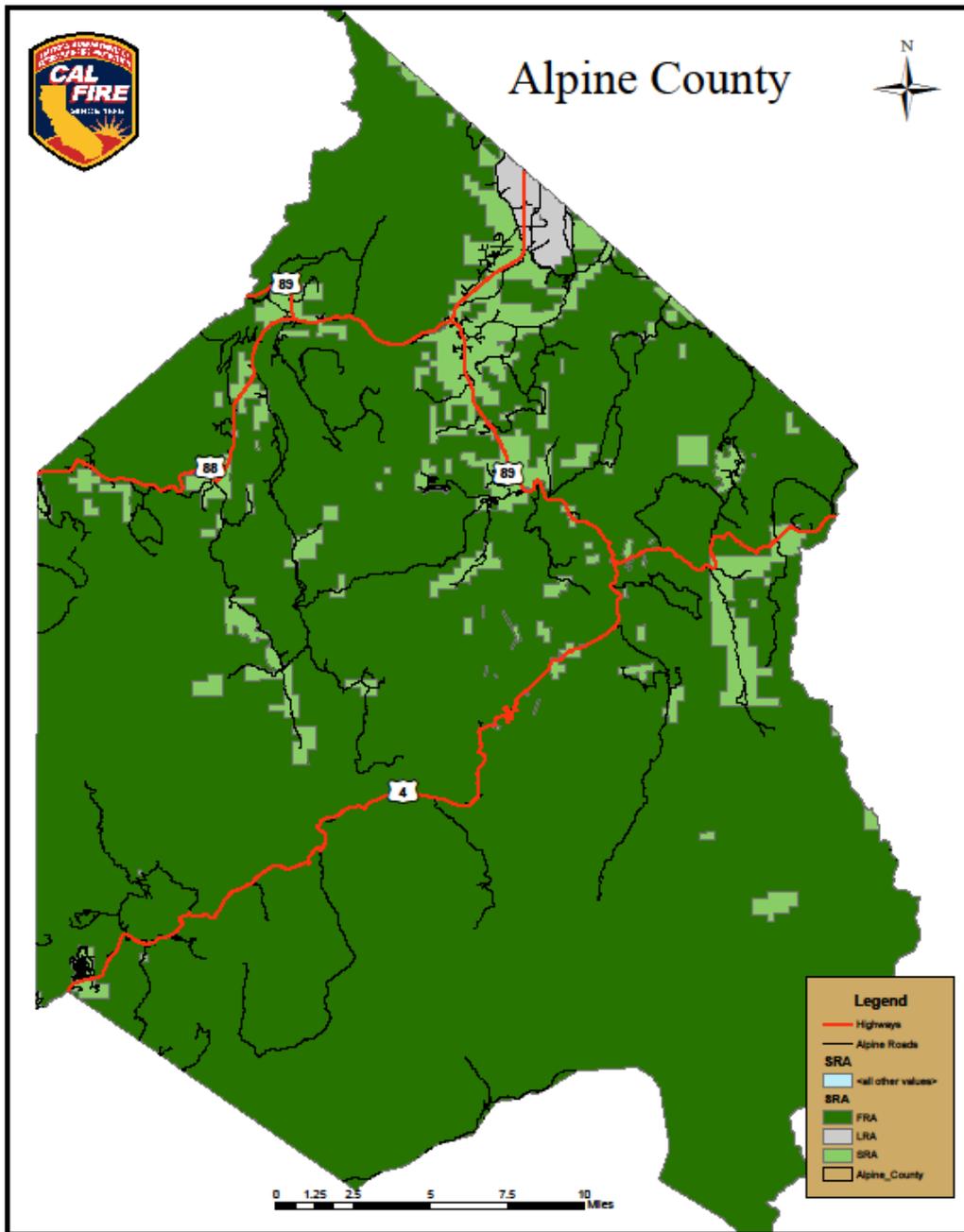


ALPINE COUNTY



Alpine County is located primarily within the CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine (AEU) Unit and has approximately four percent of its lands designated as State Responsibility Area. The AEU portion of Alpine County extends from the Sierra Crest near Bear valley eastward to the Nevada state border. The remaining western portion of Alpine County lies within the CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit. The remaining ninety-six percent of Alpine County is

United States Forest Service. The Region-4 Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest manages most of the eastern portion of Alpine County from the crest of the Sierra Nevada near Bear Valley eastward to the Nevada state border. The western portion of Alpine County is located within Region-5 and the Stanislaus National Forest. The Bureau of Land Management also manages some lands within Alpine County.

Through the statewide Cooperative Fire Management Agreement, the USFS has been given the authority to act on CAL FIRE's behalf as the wildland fire response entity for State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands within Alpine County. Locally driven, specific terms of this agreement are addressed in an Annual Operating Agreement between the USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the CAL FIRE Amador-EI Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit. This agreement includes, but is not limited to, information such as tactical frequencies, wildland fire response notification procedures, apparatus and their staffing levels, facilities, prescribed burning procedures, and inspection and enforcement of PRC 4291. Therefore, due to this agreement, CAL FIRE does not have engine stations within Alpine County where the USFS has SRA lands within its Direct Protection Area (DPA).

Alpine County is generally split into two distinct geographic areas: Eastern Alpine County and Western Alpine County. Eastern Alpine County is the area located east of the crest of the Sierra, known as the Sierra Front, and is characterized by high elevation eastside pine stands with sage brush and Manzanita understory, as well as open, rangeland areas of sagebrush and mountain mahogany areas adjacent to the Nevada border. Communities include Markleeville and Woodsford. The Western Alpine County area is high elevation mixed conifer forest type. Communities include Bear Valley and Kirkwood.

Fire History, Fuel Hazards, and Ignition Information

Eastern Alpine County has been affected by large fires within the past 25 years. Such fires include the Indian Creek Fire which burned 6,000 acres in 1981; the Fredericksburg Fire which burned 2,000 acres in 1986, and the Acorn Fire, which burned nearly 6,000 acres and twenty-six homes in 1987. Lightning causes the most wildland fire ignitions in this area, with summer thunderstorms bringing erratic winds and lightning to the area. It is common to have a strong southwesterly wind coming over the Sierras in the afternoon during the summer, which helps to drive fires. Most catastrophic fires have occurred during these conditions along the Sierra Front.

Western Alpine County has generally had low intensity fires and a low frequency of fires due to the high elevation and cool, moist summer temperatures. The Mesa Vista and Woodsford/Alpine Village neighborhoods have had few frequent fires in the last 20 years. Since 1980, at least three fires have burned in the area, some over the same ground multiple times. Fuels are flashy, making fire difficult to contain on initial attack.

2007 EASTERN ALPINE COUNTY IGNITION DATA

Humboldt-Toiyabe 2007 Fires Carson South

Date	Name	Acres	Class	Land status	Statistical Cause
3/9/2007	Ranch	9	B	2 - Private, CA	2 equipment use
4/13/2007	Diamond Valley	0.5	B	2 - Private, CA	4 Campfire
5/31/2007	190	0.5	B	1 - HTF, CA	1 Lightning
5/31/2007	Wolf	0.1	A	1 - HTF, CA	1 Lightning
6/1/2007	Centerville	0.25	B	1 - HTF, CA	1 Lightning
6/1/2007	Drew	0.25	B	1 - HTF, CA	1 Lightning
6/23/2007	Hwy 89	45	C	2 - Private, CA	9 Misc. (Power line)
6/27/2007	China Springs	0.1	A	1 - HTF, NV	9 Misc. Undetermined
7/1/2007	Arcadia	1	B	1 - HTF, NV	3 Burning Vehicle
7/5/2007	Turtle	0.5	B	2 - Private, CA	9 Misc. (Power line)
7/7/2007	Carson River	5	B	2 - Private, CA	9 Misc. (Power line)
7/11/2007	Faith	0.1	A	1 - HTF, CA	1 Lightning
7/23/2007	Poor	1	B	1 - HTF, CA	1 Lightning
7/30/2007	Jakes	0.1	A	1 - HTF, NV	9 Misc. Undetermined
8/1/2007	Blue Lakes	0.1	A	1 - HTF, CA	9 Misc. Undetermined
8/10/2007	Hidden	0.1	A	3 - Private, CA	9 Misc. Undetermined
8/14/2007	Power Dam	70	C	1 - HTF, NV	9 Misc. Undetermined
8/29/2007	Raymond	0.1	A	1 - HTF, CA	1 Lightning
10/30/2007	Dutch	0.1	A	1 - HTF, CA	1 Lightning
10/30/2007	Genoa	0.25	B	1 - HTF, NV	1 Lightning
11/4/2007	China Springs 2	335	D	1 - HTF, NV	9 Misc. Undetermined

6 Fires total
on SRA
totaling 60
acres. All
SRA fires
human

TOTAL 21 FIRES for ACRES 470 caused

2008 EASTERN ALPINE COUNTY IGNITION DATA

Humboldt-Toiyabe 2008 Fires Carson South

DATE	SIZE	CAUSE	LAT	LONG	LAND STATUS
03/25/08	.1 ac	H	38 48 50	119 46 08	CA - Private
03/31/08	.1 ac	H	38 47 47	119 47 33	CA - Private
05/30/08	1.0 ac	H	39 09 47	119 46 10	FS - Nevada
07/14/08	1.25 ac	L	38 35 45	119 42 41	FS - California
07/14/08	.25 ac	L	38 33 24	119 42 02	FS - California
07/14/08	.25 ac	L	38 34 06	119 43 18	FS - California
07/14/08	3.0 ac	L	38 31 16	119 42 19	FS - California
08/17/08	.1 ac	L	38 32 36	119 35 36	FS - California
08/31/08	216.0 ac	H	38 45 55	119 56 00	FS - California
09/09/08	.1ac	H	38 30 14	119 46 07	FS - California

08/25/08	.1ac	H	38 45 40	119 47 00	FS – California
10/15/08	.1ac	H	38 47 35	119 48 13	CA – Private

* Burnside 176 ac FS; 40 ac Private

2009 EASTERN ALPINE COUNTY IGNITION DATA

Humboldt-Toiyabe 2009 Fires Carson South

NAME	DATE	SIZE	CAUSE	LAT	LONG	LAND STATUS
Cottonwood	05/26/09	.3 ac	L	38 43 12	119 41 44	FS – Nevada
Jakes	05/30/09	.1 ac	L	38 51 33	119 40 30	FS – Nevada
Zaca	06/21/09	.1 ac	L	38 40 14	119 42 31	FS – California
Spooner	07/11/09	.1 ac	H	39 06 45	119 51 46	FS – Nevada
Burnside	07/28/09	.25 ac	L	38 45 35	119 55 44	FS – California
Crater Wash	07/28/09	.1 ac	L	38 44 11	119 56 58	Private
Vaquero	07/29/09	.25 ac	L	38 33 25	119 35 40	FS – California
Centerville	07/30/09	8 ac	L	38 37 53	119 44 12	FS – California
Campground	08/15/09	.1 ac	H	38 41 50	119 46 25	FS – California
Walley	08/30/09	.1 ac	H	38 59 24	119 50 14	FS – Nevada
Larame	09/12/09	.1 ac	L	38 41 06	119 47 00	FS – California
Meadow	09/12/09	.1 ac	L	38 39 46	119 48 29	Private
Indians	09/12/09	.1 ac	L	38 38 16	119 47 44	FS – California
Leviathan	09/12/09	.1 ac	L	38 40 53	119 39 14	FS - California
Poor	09/12/09	.1 ac	L	38 37 42	119 46 28	FS - California
Pleasant	09/12/09	.1ac	L	38 38 39	119 47 40	FS - California
Pleasant 2	09/12/09	.1 ac	L	38 38 36	119 47 26	FS - California
Pit	09/13/09	.1 ac	L	38 52 38	119 42 56	FS - Nevada
Monitor	10/02/09	.1 ac	H	38 39 56	119 43 59	FS - California

Emergency Evacuation Routes

The emergency evacuation routes in Alpine County consist of primary travel routes which are generally state highways that generally move traffic in an east-west direction between Nevada and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys of California. These routes include Highway 89, 88, 4, and the Emigrant Trail (old Highway 88).

Alpine County Proposition 40 Fuels Reduction Projects

In 2004, the legislature authorized a new CAL FIRE fuels reduction program of approximately 40 million dollars of Proposition 40 funds over 5 years. The fuels reduction projects are to result in improvement and protection of watersheds and

water quality at risk throughout the Sierra Nevada. During the first grant cycle held in spring 2005, the Alpine Fire Safe Council applied for its first CAL FIRE fuels reduction grant.

2005 PROPOSITION 40 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS:

- Alpine County Fire Safe Council Hot Springs Road Fuels Reduction:
Within 100 feet of centerline of Hot Springs Road, create a roadway defense zone and emergency ingress/egress improvement covering 30 acres by removing tree under 8 inches DBH and all brush within 20 feet of the road bed edge of Hot Springs Road. Unfortunately, due to lack of participating landowners, the county was forced to forfeit the grant funds I November 2006.

2006 PROPOSITION 40 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

- Alpine County Public Works Bear Valley Fuel Reduction Program
Approximately 30 acres was treated using a masticator in order to create a community fuel break adjacent to the Bear Valley subdivision in western Alpine County. The project has been completed.

2007 PROPOSITION 40 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

- None Submitted for 2007

Alpine County Fire Safe Council

The Alpine County Fire Safe Council was formed in 2001 when Alpine County was awarded a grant through the Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grant Program to support the development of an Alpine County Fire Safe Council. In 2003, the Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) allocated funds to the Fire Safe Council in the form of Title II funds to further assist in development of a Fire Safe Council. As a result, in 2003 the Alpine Fire Safe Council was formally established through these two aforementioned cooperative efforts between the County Board of Supervisors and the Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee. The Amador-El Dorado unit has provided technical assistance through the development of the Alpine Fire Safe Council.

The Alpine FSC is now currently in place and pursuing and obtaining grants, and is very active in county-wide fire protection issues, such as pre-fire development and Public Resource Code 4291 compliance and enforcement. CAL FIRE Tahoe personnel performed informational PRC 4291 inspections beginning in 2007 through to the present, with enforcement beginning in 2009. Specific accomplishments of the Alpine Fire Safe Council include creation of educational kiosks located at key county government locations; courtesy fire safe ordinance review of proposed developments; completion of the Manzanita Lane Fuel

reduction project in 2004, and facilitation of the creation of the Fire Services Ad-Hoc Committee, which is a collaborative effort with the County Board of Supervisors, public, and fire and EMS personnel to address the issues surrounding county volunteer fire suppression resources.

In addition, a major accomplishment of the Alpine County Fire Safe Council is the completion of the draft Alpine County Community Fire Plan. The Alpine County Fire Safe Council received a grant from Region 4 of the USFS in 2004 to provide grant funding for completion of a Community Fire Plan. The Alpine Fire Safe Council prepared their Community Wildfire plan in 2004 and distributed the draft for public review in December 2004, to which Unit staff provided response. The Alpine County Fire Safe Council is seeking to finalize the plan during summer 2005. The Community Fire Plan is an important document with which to augment county planning efforts regarding fire protection planning, especially as Alpine County is experiencing a significant increase in large-scale development as nearby Lake Tahoe becomes increasingly populated, difficult and expensive within which to develop. Therefore, the Alpine County Fire Safe Council, in conjunction with the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, established an Ad-Hoc Committee in 2004 to address fire protection issues within Alpine County. The Ad-Hoc Committee has identified a lack of implementation and enforcement of the State Responsibility Fire Safe Regulation regarding new development. The 2005 Proposition 40-funded AEU Division Chief stationed in South Lake Tahoe is addressing responses to new development regarding the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and is attending Alpine County Board meetings, Alpine County Fire Safe Council meetings, and is on the County Technical Advisory Committee for new development.

The Alpine County Community Fire Plan identifies and prioritizes areas within Alpine County which are at risk of catastrophic fire. The Shay Creek Subdivision located adjacent to Hot Springs Road near Markleeville is rated "High". Consequently, the Alpine County Community Fire Plan identifies the Hot Springs Road Roadway and Utility Access Fuel Reduction Project as Project #1 for treatment. The Alpine County Fire Safe Council submitted to the FireWise Grants Clearinghouse in January 2005 its proposal to request grant funding to reduce the fuels within the Hot Springs Road Roadway and Public Utility Access Fuels Reduction Project. The Amador-El Dorado Unit chose in March 2005 to award the Alpine Fire Safe Council with Proposition 40 funding in the amount of \$45,500 for the proposed Hot Springs Roadway and Utility Access Fuels Reduction Project for FY 04-05 and 05-06. The Alpine County Fire Safe Council was unable to begin the project due to landowners that subsequently chose not to participate.

Alpine County Fire Departments

Alpine County is composed of four Planning Areas: Woodsford, Markleeville, Bear Valley, and Kirkwood. These four Planning Areas correspond not only to watersheds, but to the four local fire protection jurisdictions. All four fire protection entities are volunteer based and are dispatched by the Alpine County Sheriffs Department. Woodsford and Markleeville Volunteer Fire Departments

are not within a taxed district and are struggling financially. In May 2005, the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and the Fire Safe Council recommended to the County Board the consolidation of the Woodsford and Markleeville Fire Departments into the Eastern Alpine County Fire Department. The consolidated fire departments would have one full-time paid chief and would be under the direction of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors. However, each department would retain their unique geographic identities and history through retention of each department's station name and volunteers. The two areas would be referred to as the Markleeville Division and the Woodsford Division. This proposed consolidation, not yet approved by the County Board, would result in the two fire departments becoming stronger financially and therefore more successful in obtaining grants, training, equipment, etc. In addition, the consolidation would result in the fire departments having a stronger, more unified voice in county fire protection and Emergency Medical Services issues.

WOODSFORD

Fire protection is provided by the Woodsford Volunteer Fire Department and has an Insurance Services office (ISO) Rating 10. The Woodsford Volunteer Fire department is not within a district. Currently, volunteer staffing levels are at a critical low. Hydrants do not exist within the response area and the nearest drafting source is the Carson River.

MARKLEEVILLE

Fire protection is provided by the Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department and is not within a district. Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department has one station and has an ISO Rating 6 where hydrants exist and an ISO Rating 8 in areas without hydrants but is located within 5 miles of the Markleeville Fire Station.

BEAR VALLEY

Fire protection for Bear Valley is provided by the Bear Valley Volunteer Fire Protection District, and is funded through assessment fees. The Bear Valley Fire Protection District has an ISO Rating 5.

KIRKWOOD

Fire protection for Kirkwood is provided by the Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Protection District, and is funded through assessment fees. The Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Protection District has an ISO Rating 4.

V. PERSONNEL NEEDS FOR CAL FIRE IN ALPINE COUNTY

The following five listed items (positions, emergency response vehicles, training, and equipment), and their associated expenditures are needed to perform forestry and fire prevention duties in Alpine County. All of these duties are currently provided by two permanent positions (Forester II and Battalion Chief), both of which are grant funded only through 2012.

1. **One (1) CAL FIRE Prevention Fire Captains:** This permanent, full-time position would be assigned to provide defensible space (California Public Resource Code 4291) education, inspection and enforcement to the public, as well as training to the local government fire departments of Lake Tahoe and Alpine County. This is a completely new position to the Lake Tahoe Basin and Alpine County Division for CAL FIRE. No prior or current funding exists for these two positions. **Total First Year Start-Up Cost: 175,000 Total Cost Per Year: \$150,000**
2. **Two (2) CAL FIRE Forestry Aides** (all seasonal, 9-month maximum positions each): These four seasonal, maximum 9-month positions would be assigned to work for the two Fire Captains referenced above in Item #1. The Forestry Aides would work as a pair to perform California Public Resource Code 4291 inspections from Spring through Fall under the supervision of the two Fire Captains listed above. **Total First Year Start-Up Cost: \$110,000 Total Cost Per Year Thereafter: \$77,500**
3. **One (1) CAL FIRE Office Technician:** This permanent, full-time position is needed to handle all incoming and outgoing telephone, fax, and written correspondence, as well as mailing of the defensible space (Public resource Code 4291) certified inspection notices. This is a completely new position to the Lake Tahoe Basin and Alpine County Division for CAL FIRE. No prior or current funding exists for this position. **Total First Year Start-Up Cost: \$86,500 Total Cost Per Year Thereafter: \$96,500**
4. **One (1) permanent CAL FIRE Forester I:** This position would assist in the inspection and especially enforcement program of the California Public Resource Code 4291 inspection, training, education, and enforcement program, as well as the prescribed burning, fuel reduction, and forestry services needs for CAL FIRE in El Dorado and Alpine County. **Total First Year Start-Up Cost: \$120,000 Total Cost Per Year Thereafter: \$100,000**
5. **One (1) permanent-funded CAL FIRE Battalion Chief for the El Dorado portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin:** A permanent but grant-funded Battalion Chief currently exists for El Dorado County at Lake Tahoe. This position leads the California Public Resource Code 4291 inspection, training, education, and enforcement program, as well as the prescribed burning, fuel reduction, and operational fire needs for CAL FIRE in El Dorado County. The position was originally funded by California Proposition 40 funding from FY 07/08 through Fiscal Year 08/09. In December 2008, the Proposition 40 funds were frozen by the California State Controller's Office due to the economic downturn, State budget shortfall, and inability of the State to sell bonds. This Battalion Chief position is currently funded by the United States Forest Service Region 5 through their State and Private Forestry Program monies. This federal State and Private Forestry Program funding is slated to last for 3 years, ending September 31, 2012. Requesting federal grant funding for 5 years beginning October 1, 2012 through September 31, 2017. **Total**

First Year Start-Up Cost: \$195,000 Total Cost Per Year Thereafter: \$155,000

- 6. One (1) permanent-funded CAL FIRE Forester II (Division Chief) for the El Dorado portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin:** A permanent, grant-funded Forester II currently exists for El Dorado County at Lake Tahoe. This position leads the California Public Resource Code 4291 inspection, training, education, and enforcement program, as well as the prescribed burning, fuel reduction, and operational fire and forestry program oversight needs for CAL FIRE in El Dorado County. The position was originally funded by California Proposition 40 funding FY 04/05 through Fiscal Year 08/09. In December 2008, the Proposition 40 funds were frozen by the California State Controller's Office due to the economic downturn, State budget shortfall, and inability of the State to sell bonds. This Forester II position is slated to be funded by United States Forest Service funding through their State and Private Forestry Program monies beginning July 1, 2010. This federal State and Private Forestry Program funding is slated to last for 3 years, ending September 31, 2012. Requesting federal grant funding for 5 years beginning October 1, 2012 through September 31, 2017. **Total First Year Start-Up Cost: \$202,000 Total Cost Per Year Thereafter: \$175,000**
- 7. CAL FIRE Emergency Dispatch Repeater for the Amador El Dorado Unit serving the Lake Tahoe Basin portion of El Dorado County.** A repeater does not exist within the southern portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin for the Camino CAL FIRE Emergency Command Center for CAL FIRE resources staffed in the Lake Tahoe Basin (existing full staffing in El Dorado County portion of Lake Tahoe includes eleven personnel and a fire engine; proposed full staffing stated herein includes fourteen (14) personnel and a fire engine). Therefore, CAL FIRE resources have no direct communication with their CAL FIRE Emergency Command Center, a significant safety issue, without requesting permission of the Forest Service to use the Forest Service repeater in the Tahoe Basin. Cost includes FCC licensing, hardware, equipment, installation, and maintenance. **One time cost: \$200,000**