

Unit Strategic Fire Plan

San Benito-Monterey



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SIGNATURES

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for San Benito-Monterey:

This Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, and County agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.

Unit Chief

Richard C. Hutchinson, Jr.

Date

Pre-Fire Engineer

Catey S. Trenner

Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Fire Plan is the state's road map for reducing the risk of wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the Fire Plan seeks to reduce fire fighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and to contribute to ecosystem health. The San Benito – Monterey Unit, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, has designed a plan with the intention of meeting the goals set by both the stakeholders and the California Fire Plan. Pre-fire management projects are designed to reduce costs and losses, especially during periods of severe fire weather. With the use of fire resistant landscaping, mechanical fuels treatment, prescribed burns, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning and pre-fire safety zones and escape plans, the Unit strives to keep what would otherwise be a large, catastrophic fire, to smaller fire with less intensity, reducing suppression costs and property loss.

The San Benito-Monterey Unit management intends to support the Fire Plan and make it successful by meeting the following objectives:

- Collect, analyze and prepare data to assess communities at risk and in need of fuel reduction or other projects
- Work with grant writers and stakeholders to secure funds to implement projects.
- Utilize CAL FIRE personnel and resources in conjunction with other public and private efforts to assist with the project work on the ground.
- Educate the public on fire prevention and incorporating fire resistant landscaping and construction to their property, as well as hazardous fuel reduction to keep their lives, homes, property and natural resources safe from catastrophic wildfires.

With these goals in mind, the Unit strives to reduce fire suppression costs, property loss and damage to our environment and local ecosystems in the San Benito-Monterey Unit through our pre-fire work and by protecting life, property and the environment from destructive wildfires.

A: UNIT DESCRIPTION

The San Benito-Monterey Unit is located along the central coast between San Luis Obispo County to the south and Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties to the north. The Pacific Ocean abuts the western side of the Unit and the Diablo Mountains and the San Joaquin Valley lie to the east. The Los Padres National Forest lies along the coast south of the Carmel Highlands encompassing the Ventana Wilderness and the Silver Peak Wilderness. The community of the former Ft. Ord also lies within the Unit and has largely become Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for public recreational use. The Pinnacles National Monument is centered in the Unit in both Monterey and San Benito counties.

The Unit encompasses over 3 million acres, in which 2.1 million acres are State Responsibility Area (SRA), representing one of the largest state responsibility jurisdictions in CAL FIRE.

The topography of the unit varies from steep and rugged mountains with moderate to heavy vegetative cover to rolling hills used for livestock grazing. Plant species vary by aspect, slope, elevation, soil type, past fire history and distance from the coast. The predominant vegetation types are coastal sage, chaparral, and oak/grass woodland, with the Monterey Peninsula supporting stands of various coastal tree species.

The weather in the unit is divided into two basic patterns. The northwestern area of the unit experiences a common coastal weather pattern with low clouds and fog which by mid-day give way to temperatures in the mid 70's to 80's, recovering in the evening with the marine layer moving in. This tends to keep fires near the coast to the first burn period. The eastern and southern areas of the unit generally have less fog and temperatures commonly reach the 90 to 100 degree range with strong afternoon valley winds upwards to 10 -15 mph. Fires in the eastern and southern parts of the Unit have greater potential of going into extended attack, especially late in the fire season when heavier fuels are dry. Winters are mild with rainfall from 7 to 30+ inches. Wind speed and direction is variable, but is predominantly northwest at 7-10 MPH.

The coastal weather influence, together with periods of extreme fire weather conditions, provides a window for extreme wildland fire behavior in areas of potentially high dollar loss. These conditions combine with the expanding wildland interface and urban population to yield the potential for large, damaging and costly wildfires. These areas at risk are defined further in the "Priority Landscapes" section of the Strategic Fire Plan. The unit has an overall fire hazard rating of High (56% of Unit) in the State Responsibility Area (SRA), while 30% is rated Very High and 14% is in the Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Fire history in the San Benito-Monterey Unit is collected for every fire 10 acres and larger. The majority of the fire history is in the Los Padres National Forest on the west side of the Unit, primarily due to lightning and camp fires. Fires in the foothills of the Salinas Valley in light, flashy fuels tend to be afternoon, wind driven incidents ranging from under 100 acres to over a thousand depending on temperatures, wind speed and topography.

There have been several "Priority Landscapes" identified in the Unit, shown in Appendix D, which are further addressed in the Battalion priorities where fuel reduction projects and public education are discussed.

Primary businesses in the Unit include farming, industry, and tourism.

B: UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

The San Benito-Monterey Unit is operationally divided into three divisions and further into seven battalions offering a wide variety of programs which includes: Fire Prevention, Resource Management, Law Enforcement, Air Attack, Helitack, Conservation Camp, Emergency Command Center (communications) and Cooperative Fire Protection.

FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

Fire Stations – CAL FIRE..... 11
Fire Stations – Cooperative Fire8
Air Attack Base1
Helitack Base1
Conservation Camp1
Volunteer Fire Companies4

EQUIPMENT

Engines – CAL FIRE.....17
Engines – Cooperative Fire13
Dozers – CAL FIRE3
Water Tenders – Cooperative Fire.....3
Ladder truck 75' – Cooperative Fire.....1
Patrol – Cooperative Fire2
Rescue – Cooperative Fire2
Com van – CAL FIRE1
Airtankers – CAL FIRE.....2
Helicopter – CAL FIRE.....1
Air Attack plane – CAL FIRE.....1

PERSONNEL

Permanent – CDF160
Seasonal – CDF.....104
Volunteer FF95
Volunteers in Prevention.....10
Firefighters (inmate).....131
Inmate Crews.....6

MUTUAL THREAT ZONE RESPONSE AREAS

Fort Hunter Liggett

COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENTS

- Pebble Beach Community Services District
- Cypress Fire Protection District
- Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
- Aromas Fire Protection District
- South Monterey County Fire Protection District
- San Benito County Fire Protection District

DISPATCH AGREEMENTS

Cachagua Volunteer Fire Department
Mid Coast Volunteer Fire Brigade
Monterey Airport Fire District

AUTOMATIC / MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

CAL FIRE maintains several Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements itself and through the Cooperative Fire Protection agreements in the Unit. All agencies in Monterey County are party to a countywide mutual aid agreement. Many of our contract districts maintain automatic aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions such as:

Cypress Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:
Pebble Beach Fire Department
Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
Carmel Fire Department
Monterey Airport Fire District
Monterey Fire Department
Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District

Pebble Beach Fire Department has auto aid with:
Cypress Fire Protection District
Monterey Fire Department

Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:
Cypress Fire Protection District

Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:
North Monterey county Fire District
Pajaro Valley Fire District
Watsonville City Fire department

San Benito County Fire Department has Auto Aid with:
South Santa Clara County Fire district
Hollister City Fire Department
San Juan Bautista Volunteer Fire Department
Gilroy Fire Department

CAL FIRE has local operating agreements with:
USFS-Los Padres National Forest
Pinnacles National Monument
Clear Creek (BLM)

A: ASSETS AT RISK

Assets susceptible to fire damage are identified in the Fire Plan as air quality, rangelands, recreation, agriculture, structures, timber, water and watersheds, wildlife and habitat, and other resources (cultural, historical and scenic). The focus of this plan and relative importance of each Asset has been determined by reviewing input from local stakeholders and CAL FIRE managers. The San Benito-Monterey Unit Fire Plan has been engineered with these issues in mind.

The priority Assets at Risk in the San Benito – Monterey Unit are tourism, recreation and rangelands. The Pinnacles National Monument is split on the border of Monterey and San Benito County attracting visitors all year long. The Monterey Peninsula thrives on tourism all year long as home of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Pebble Beach's 17-Mile Drive and many world famous golf courses. The Big Sur area is another popular attraction bordering the Los Padres National Forest (LPF) that was heavily impacted during the Basin Complex Fires in 2008. Laguna Seca is a popular recreational facility playing host to several large events throughout the year.

Agriculture is a big industry in the Unit. Cattle ranches encompass hundreds of thousands of acres of rangelands in the Unit while most of the floor of the Salinas Valley is crops of various produce. Vineyards line the foothills of the valley while the wine industry brings tourists to wineries throughout the Salinas Valley as well as Carmel Valley and the Monterey Peninsula.

Communications such as repeater sites, cell towers, radio towers, FAA communications and the Big Sur VOR are among the highest priorities to protect from wildfires. The unit maintains access roads to all the repeater towers and removes vegetation buildup protecting these towers in the event of a fire.

B: COMMUNITIES AT RISK

Monterey County:

Aromas *
Big Sur *
Bryson-Hysperia
Cachagua
Carmel-by-the-Sea *
Carmel Highlands
Carmel Valley *
Carmel Valley Village *
Corral de Tierra
Del Monte Forest *
Del Rey Oaks *
Elkhorn *
Fort Ord *
Gonzales *
Greenfield *
Jamesburg
King City *
Las Lomas *
Lucia *
Marina *
Monterey *
Pacific Grove *
Pajaro *
Pinnacles National Monument *
Prunedale *
San Benancio
Soledad *
Sand City *
Salinas *
Seaside *

San Benito County:

Antelope Valley
Bitterwater
Cienega Canyon
Hollister *
Paicines
Panoche Valley
Ridgemark
San Juan Bautista *
San Juan Canyon
Tres Pinos

For more information on Communities at Risk and the California Fire Alliance go to http://www.cafirealliance.org/communities_at_risk/communities_at_risk_list

* Communities listed as Communities at Risk on the California Fire Alliance website

A: FIRE PREVENTION & LAW ENFORCEMENT- Battalion Chief Cliff Williams

The primary goal of the 2011 San Benito - Monterey Unit Strategic Fire Plan is to prevent the ignition and spread of unwanted, human-caused fires with an emphasis on reducing losses as a result of large damaging fires. Utilizing fire history, fuels data, weather data, and assets at risk, the unit has identified several "Priority Landscapes" as indicated in this document in Appendix D. Proactive pre-fire suppression activities and public information and education programs are key elements of this plan.

San Benito-Monterey Unit management addresses fire prevention through the engineering, education and law enforcement programs. Their shared objective is reduced fire hazard and risk. This is more narrowly addressed in a planning process based on ignition management and loss reduction, including biomass utilization, fire resistant landscaping, mechanical fuels treatment, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning and pre-fire, safety zone and escape plans.

Ignitions are managed by preventing fires likely to exceed the capabilities of available suppression forces that could result in large damaging fires. Loss reduction is integral to mitigating large and damaging fires. Significant improvement can be achieved by reducing hazards (fuel buildups around structures and communities) and working with private industry to implement hazard reduction plans around residential developments in the rural-urban intermix areas. Additionally, pre-designated suppression and evacuation plans are effective tools in ensuring civilian and firefighter life safety. Successful programs permit more effective utilization of CAL FIRE's initial attack forces and enhance firefighter safety and citizen safety.

- IGNITION DATA

Fire Cause	Number of fires from 2000-2009	Percentage by Cause
Arson	77	4%
Campfire	23	1%
Debris Burning	128	7%
Equipment Use	462	24%
Lightning	16	0.8%
Miscellaneous	268	14%
Playing with Fire	74	4%
Powerlines	128	7%
Railroad	7	0.3%
Smoking	66	3%
Undetermined	263	14%
Unknown	176	9%
Vehicle	233	12%

Total = 1,921

Fire Cause	Number of fires in 2010	Percentage by Cause
Arson	5	4%
Campfire	2	2%
Debris Burning	9	7%
Equipment Use	17	14%
Lightning	0	0%
Miscellaneous	35	28%
Playing with Fire	7	6%
Powerlines	4	3%
Railroad	0	0%
Smoking	1	0.8%
Undetermined	17	14%
Unknown	19	15%
Vehicle	8	6%

Total = 124

- ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

-Title 24 (addresses fire apparatus access, water requirements, building materials, and construction methods as of 2007) – These requirements are performed by the district or agency with jurisdiction. Currently, San Benito County funds a Fire Marshall position within CAL FIRE to complete all PRC 4290, Protection Planning, Code Enforcement and Building Inspections issues..

While many structures in the Unit are not built to current standards, all new construction is being held to the Chapter 7 (Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction) and Chapter 7A (SFM - Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure) building construction standards. Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) dictate what codes have to be followed in which areas. A map showing the FHSZs in the Unit is shown in the “Maps” portion of this document.

-Title 19, PRC 4290 - Addresses fire apparatus access and water requirements and is dealt with at the County level

-Protection Planning - Fire Protection planning is reviewed at the subdivision and parcel map level and typically implemented at the development stages of a project.

-Code enforcement - Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, Cypress Fire Protection District and Pebble Beach Community Services District have full time Fire Protection Planners who review all building permits. Among other codes, they enforce the current California Building Codes, which include Chapter 7 (Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction) and Chapter 7A (SFM - Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure).

-PRC 4291 - Addresses defensible space around structures. Each battalion has a predetermined amount of LE-100 inspections to complete each year. Some battalions, due to housing density, have more inspections and are on a three year cycle to alternate neighborhoods. Inspections will be done on any and all structures when requested, even if it is not within the normal rotation of inspections that year.

-Pre-Plans - Unit personnel are gathering data in each battalion to submit to Unit GIS personnel to produce updated battalion preplan maps. The San Benito-Monterey Unit is also applying for grant funding and cooperation with Monterey County for pre-plan mapping of communities for emergency response. The goal of this is to increase awareness of community hazards, evacuation routes, potential safe refuge areas, and coordinate emergency responders.

- Fuels:

Four distinct wildland fuel types dominate the San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Fuel Model 1 (annual grasses)

Although inter-mixed with fuel model 4 (brush), this fuel model dominates the foothills of the eastern portion of the Unit. Extending from the Santa Clara County line southward along the foothills east of the Salinas valley, this fuel model represents more than fifty percent of the fuel types in the Unit.



Fuel Model 2 (oak woodland)

This fuel model is typically located on the north and east facing slopes of the Unit. It is predominant in the northeast, southeast and southwest areas of both San Benito and Monterey counties and typically aligned with Fuel model 4 (brush), on the opposite facing slopes.



Fuel Model 4 (brush)

While a substantial amount of brush is located in the foothills east of the Salinas Valley, in the area of the Pinnacles National Monument, the majority of this fuel type is found in the mountains west of the Salinas Valley throughout the coastal range. Typically, it is found on south and western facing slopes in areas not used for cattle grazing. Brush can be found measuring over five feet in height, which corresponds to over 30 years of age.



Fuel Model 9 (conifers)

Conifers consisting of several species of pine and redwood are located in two distinct areas within the Unit, specifically, in the Fremont Peak area south of San Juan Bautista, and throughout the coastal mountains south of Monterey. The conifer forests extend into the Big Sur and Ventana Wilderness areas.



- INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Fire safety education is a high priority in the unit, whether it is a formal school program or advising residents on how to keep their homes safe inside and out. Unit personnel perform training at the local schools in each battalion on fire safety inside the home as well as what to do if there is a fire outside in the wildland. The crews also take advantage of their time out in the field while doing LE-100 inspections to help educate the residents on ways to cut back brush, trim trees and mow while still keeping an attractive, natural look to the landscape.

The unit purchased several large fire prevention signs in 2005 on a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, as did the San Benito Fire Safe Council and has placed them at strategic locations throughout the unit to spread the fire safety message. Several of the signs have been placed at fire stations of other agencies to gain high visibility of the dangers of wildfire.



Results of the Unit's ignition data shows that in 2010, vegetation fires caused by equipment use, smoking and vehicles have been reduced. Unit managers believe that our public education efforts are having a positive influence on the general public. Power line caused ignitions are also down for the same period, possibly due to increased communications and interaction between the Unit and utility companies over power line maintenance.

The San Benito and Monterey Fire Safe Councils are both applying for grants to work with local landowners and stakeholders as well as CAL FIRE personnel to reduce roadside fuels, increase public awareness, build fuel breaks around communities and develop updated evacuation plans in the Unit. Grant funding will enable Unit personnel to purchase newspaper ads, large roadside signs, fund a Unit website and other avenues for public outreach.

The unit has made it a priority to have a public information officer available at all times to notify media of emergencies in the unit and throughout the state during peak fire season. Since a majority of fires are human caused, we believe that public awareness is key to reducing ignitions.

The San Benito – Monterey Unit has been very proactive in gaining defensible space compliance by aggressively doing LE-100 inspections in the interface areas. Public reaction has been positive as residents are educated on the various ways they can be compliant with the law and still maintain an attractive landscape that will assist fire personnel in the event of a wildfire in their neighborhood. The Unit's ability to keep fires small with minimal damage in and around structures has proven that more residents are becoming fire safe and our education efforts are working.



B: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT – Forester Jonathan Pangburn

The San Benito-Monterey Resource Management Program strives to enhance the county's natural resources for both present and future use. The Unit has a Registered Professional Forester on staff to provide assistance and education to landowners on forestry issues.

The Unit administers an active Vegetation Management Program (VMP). The purpose of the VMP program is to reduce flammable vegetation that may contribute to large, damaging wildfires and high fire suppression costs. The flammable vegetation on public or private lands can be reduced through prescribed burning or mechanical treatment. Vegetation management also results in benefits to grazing, wildlife, plant diversity, and water quality.

Overview:

The Vegetation Management Program is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire, and mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. The use of prescribed fire mimics natural processes, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.

VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. Implementation of VMP projects is by CAL FIRE Units. The projects which fit within a unit's priority areas (e.g., those identified through the Fire Plan) and are considered to be of most value to the unit are those that will be completed. The Vegetation Management Program has been in existence since 1982 and has averaged approximately 35,000 acres per year since its inception.



History:

The Vegetation Management Program is a cost share program that allows public and private landowners to participate in wildland fuel reduction projects. The primary tool used is prescribed fire, although in more recent years CAL FIRE has used the program for mechanical treatments of vegetation as well.

Vegetation management, or VMP, was preceded by the Range Improvement Program that was used aggressively by CAL FIRE to remove undesired woody vegetation and increase forage production for domestic stock and wildlife. Early records indicate that range improvement burns were conducted by CAL FIRE as early as 1945, when CAL FIRE was known as the Division of Forestry under the Department of Natural Resources. Acres burned during the period of 1949-1953 averaged 141,400 acres per year, and totaled approximately 707,000 acres for the same period (T. F. Arvola Deputy State Forester, Inter Office Memo, April 5, 1954). These burns were carried out in cooperation with landowners primarily interested in improving forage for livestock.

In July of 1980 Senate Bill 1704 (Keene) created the Chaparral Management Program. This legislation provided CAL FIRE authorization to contract with private and public landowners for the purpose of fuel hazard reduction, vegetation management, and the improvement of wildlife, range, and forest resources. The program is currently known as the Vegetation Management Program; however, the objectives and authority for fuel reduction projects are still guided by the statutes created by Senate Bill 1704. VMP acres treated have declined significantly in recent years, averaging approximately 13,000 acres per year since 1999. Increasing rural populations, air quality issues, and new CAL FIRE programs have reduced the use of prescribed fire in many areas of the

state. However, VMP is a cost effective tool that is still used to treat vegetation where physical and social conditions are conducive to its use. The program has proven to be well suited for controlling invasive weeds and improving wildlife habitat under joint projects with organizations such as the Nature Conservancy. Its use to establish fuel breaks and eliminate heavy fuel accumulations in many areas of the state will continue.

Local Program:

Locally, the emphasis is on projects in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and the Wildland-Urban Intermix. The intention is to treat hazardous fuel accumulations near structures and infrastructure to reduce potential losses during wildfire. Other items of concern for VMP project selection are watershed protection, habitat enhancement (especially for threatened and endangered species), and property owner goals.

The unit has multiple projects in various stages of planning that are addressed in each Battalion section of this plan.

Depending upon weather conditions and resource availability, we may be able to conduct multiple prescribed burns this year on projects with an active contract. Public notification of an impending prescribed burn shall be through a press release to local media outlets and may include road signs, as well.



A: DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS**Battalion 1: Carmel Battalion - Battalion Chief Dennis King**

The Carmel Battalion is located in the North West corner of the San Benito / Monterey Unit. Encompassing more than 300 square miles it contains a diverse amount of topography and vegetation. To the west the Pacific Ocean beaches rise into the steep Santa Lucia coastal mountains transitioning from Coastal Chaparral to Redwood canyons bordered on the ridges by Oak and Grass Woodlands. Inland several north to south running valleys are bounded by the Sierra de Salinas Range to the east. The valley floors are predominantly Grass and Oak woodlands rising to thick Chaparral stands on the south facing slopes and hardwood forests on the east facing slopes. Throughout most of these valleys residential development has occurred both on the ridges and the floors creating pockets of Urban Interface. The north is comprised of an area of ancient sand dunes hosting the West Coast's largest Maritime Chaparral community in the former Fort Ord area. Most of that land remains in a wild state and is considered State Responsibility Area (SRA). To the Northwest the Monterey Pine Forests of the Monterey Peninsula intermingle with a dense population of Urban Interface. And to the south, Battalion 1 borders the northern boundary of the vast Los Padres National Forest and Ventana Wilderness.

The weather patterns in Battalion 1 during the summer may range from cool and foggy 60s near the coast to 100s in the upper reaches of the inland valleys. The normal summer northwest air flow generally carries the cool moist marine air inland by evening, somewhat moderating the fire risk at night in the valleys. A summer inversion often keeps the upper elevations warm and dry throughout the 24 hour cycle.

Fire history in Battalion 1 is varied. Many wildland fires have been started by lightning in inaccessible areas. Some of these have started on Federal lands and burned into SRA. Unattended controlled burns or campfires have historically contributed to damaging fires. Power line failures are also a common cause of fires due to the corrosive effects of the marine air on the lines.

Interspersed throughout the varied topography and vegetation one will find the Battalion 1 assets at risk. They include; large cattle ranches, exclusive gated communities, Federal, State and local forests, parks and recreation areas, commercial / industrial developments, vineyards, and many urban interface communities.

To address the threat of fire in Battalion 1 and protect the assets at risk, several approaches have been taken. Through the issuing of burning permits for campfires, agricultural and backyard burning, CAL FIRE personnel have been able to educate the public in the safe use of fire. Inspection of high voltage power lines is intended to mitigate their threats. The LE100 Defensible Space inspection program conducted by CAL FIRE and our local government cooperators has targeted more than 1000 homes each year and helped to educate residents to help themselves by properly clearing around their homes. The application of the Monterey County Fire Codes to new construction in Battalion 1 directs homeowners in the safest ways to build their homes. Fuel reduction programs involving mechanical means as well as controlled burns are being used to reduce fuel loads and create strategic fuel breaks to protect communities and maintain safe egress in case of fire. Preplans of hazardous areas have been prepared to facilitate the safest means to combat wildland fires.

Battalion 1 LE-100 inspection estimate for 2011 = 800 inspections (600 by local government in the SRA)

Battalion 1 Projects

<u>Community</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Owner/Collaborators</u>
Palo Colorado	Pre-Fire Plan	MCFB//FSC
Cachagua	Pre-Fire Plan	CFPD/FSC
Hatton Canyon	Maintain Fuel Break	St. Parks/CYP
Outlook to Outlook	Maintain Fuel Break	MoCo/Private/CYP
Cachagua Rd.	Tassajara Rd. Fuel Break	MoCo/FSC/Private
Sky Ranch	Egress/Fire Rd.	CFPD/Private Owners
Robinson Cyn. Rd.	Fuel Break	SLP/White Rock/MoCo
Carmel Highlands	Pt. Lobos VMP	Ca. State Parks
Big Sur	Molera VMP	Ca. State Parks
Palo Colorado	Fuel Reduction	BSLT/ Glen Devin
Williams Cyn.	Fuel Reduction	BSLT/ Williams Cyn.
White Rock	Fuel Break	White Rock/FSC
Hastings Preserve	VMP	Hastings/CFPD
Santa Lucia Preserve	Several VMPs	SLP/MCF/FSC
White Rock	VMP	White Rock/FSC
Cachagua	Galante VMP	Galante/CFPD
Santa Lucia Preserve	Fire Access Rd.	SLP/MPCPD
Corona Park	Fire Access Rd.	MPCPD
Joshua Creek	Fire Access Rd.	DFG
White Rock Ridge	Fire Access Rd.	White Rock/DFG
Paloma Fire Rd.	Fire Access Rd.	Private Owners/CFPD

Personnel in Battalion 1 work closely with the following organizations and agencies: Monterey County Fire Safe Council (FSC), Pebble Beach Company, Monterey County Fire Protection Authority (MCF), Cachagua Fire Protection District (CFPD), Cypress Fire Protection District (CYP), Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District (CHP), Pebble Beach Community Services District, Mid Coast Fire Brigade (MCFB), Big Sur Fire Brigade, California Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG), California State Parks, Monterey Peninsula Community Park District (MPCPD), United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Santa Lucia Preserve (SLP), Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), Monterey County (MoCo) and Hastings Preserve.

Battalion 2: Peninsula Battalion (Schedule A – Contract Districts) –

Battalion Chief Jude Acosta & Battalion Chief Charles Bloxham III

Battalion Chief Robin Hamelin – Prevention & Planning

Battalion 2 is comprised of three local government or “Schedule A” contracts made up of Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD), Cypress Fire Protection District (FPD) and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District (FPD). The Pebble Beach area is entirely State Responsibility Area. Also referred to as the Del Monte Forest, this area has a closed cone coniferous forest with areas of chaparral and coastal scrub, as well as small remnants of coastal prairie in the common areas. There are homes all throughout the forested areas as well as many homes along all of the golf courses in the forest. The forest has a lot of small fires within the common forested areas near homes that pose a major threat to many high dollar homes. The Morse Fire in 1987, started by an illegal campfire, burned 160 acres and destroyed 31 structures causing an estimated damage of approximately \$18,000,000

The Cypress FPD borders the southern end of Pebble Beach and wraps around the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the north, east and south, stretching from the beaches to approximately two miles east from the mouth of Carmel Valley and bordering Carmel Highlands FPD to the south. The lower part of the district to the east covers Hwy 68, Josselyn Canyon and the homes surrounding the Del Monte Golf Course. Cypress FPD is in both SRA and LRA with housing developments surrounded by wooded areas.

The Carmel Highlands FPD is the southern-most district in Battalion 2 with the northern border just south of the Carmel River down to Mal Paso Creek encompassing the wildland urban interface on the west facing slope. The district has many large homes under a tall canopy of closed cone coniferous forest with areas of chaparral and coastal scrub, as well as small remnants of coastal prairie in the common areas. Most of the district is rated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The three fire districts maintain good working relationships to collaborate on fuel reductions projects with several different agencies such as; Monterey County Parks, Pebble Beach Company, Cal Trans, PG&E, Homeowner associations and private homeowners.

Defensible space remains a very high priority in Battalion 2 due to the housing density within the wildland urban interface. Battalion personnel are very aggressive in the LE-100 program providing the following statistics:

Battalion 2 LE-100 inspection estimate for 2011:

Pebble Beach CSD –	2,300 of 2,550 homes
Cypress FPD –	3,300 of 5,500 homes
Carmel Highlands FPD –	560 of 560 homes

Battalion 2 Projects:

Community Cypress FPD	Project Name	Owner / Collaborators	Fuel Reduction Methods
CYP	Gentry Hill (roadside)	Private / Cypress FPD	Masticate, lop, weedeat, remove
CYP	Olmstead Road by Foothill School (pvt field)	Private	mowing
CYP	End of Loma Alta in Jack's Peak Park	Monterey Co Regional Parks / pvt	cut/remove
CYP	Along Loma Alta (roadside)	Private / Monterey Co Regional Parks	MoCo mowing, pvt owners cut/remove
CYP	Loma Alta, south of homes	Monterey Co Regional Parks / pvt	Masticate, lop, weedeat
CYP	Del Mesa Carmel (fuelbreak around complex, access road)	Del Mesa Carmel, Cypress FPD	Firecrew / masticator / mower
CYP	Pacific Meadows (fuelbreak around complex, access road)	Pacific Meadows, Monterey Co Public Works, Cypress FPD	Firecrew / masticator / mower
CYP	Roach Canyon	Monterey Co Public Works	mowing
CYP	Hatton Canyon	State Parks, Firecrews	mowing
CYP	Pine Hills (roadside)	Monterey Co Public Works	mowing
CYP	Ribera Road, by lagoon	State Parks	mowing
CYP	Quail Meadows	Private	mowing
CYP	Hwy 1 @ Carpenter	State Parks, CalTrans, Firecrews, Ranchj Cielo	weed eating, mowing, cut/remove
CYP	Powerlines	PG&E	weedeating, scraping
CYP	Roadsides	Monterey Co Public Works	mowing
CYP	Via Mar Monte @ High Meadows	State Parks	weed eating, cut/chip, masticator
CYP	North Carmel Hills Drive strip w Hwy 1	State Parks	weed eating, cut/chip branches, remove dead trees
CYP	Hwy 1 @ High Meadows Dr to N end of North Carmel Hills Drive	State Parks, CalTrans, Firecrews, Ranchj Cielo	
CYP	Jacks Peak neighborhood roadsides	Private / Cypress FPD	weed eating, cut/chip, masticator
CYP	Powerline across Jacks Peak to Pine Hills Drive	PG&E	weedeating, scraping
Carmel Highlands			
CH	San Jose Creek canyon ingress/egress	State Parks	mowing
CH	Victorine Ranch	Private and Carmel Lahaina Water Co.	mowing
CH	Roadsides	Monterey Co Public Works and Highlands Community Fire Safe Committee (HSFSC) fed grant	Mowing, weed eating, cut/chip, masticator
CH	Powerlines	PG&E	weedeating, scraping
CH	North Mentone, San Remo	Individual owners to center of private roads	Weed eating, cut/chip
CH	Hwy 1, both sides entire CHFPD boundary	CAL TRANS	mowing, remove dead trees, chipping

Pebble Beach

PB	Sunridge Pines common area	Each owner of Sunridge Pines, PBCSD	Private contractor (masticator)
PB	Huckleberry Hill - Haul Rd Fuel Break	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty)
PB	Huckleberry Hill - Ocean Pines, between Hwy 68 and Scenic Drive	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty)
PB	Huckleberry Hill - Along Hwy 68 from Los Altos FB to Haul Rd	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Masticator, Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty)
PB	Hwy 68 along old burn above Morse gate	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Masticator, Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty)
PB	1990 Hwy 68 fire between Road 4 and Hwy 68	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Masticator, Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty)
PB	Huckleberry Hill - Los Altos/Costanilla Fuel Break	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Gabilan crew, weedeaters, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty)
PB	Shepherd's Knoll - North Side of 17 Mile Drive	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Private contractor crew
PB	Shepherd's Knoll - South Side of 17 Mile Drive to Hwy 68	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Shepherd's Knoll - Condos	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Private contractor crew
PB	SFB Morse Botanical Reserve	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Private contractor crew
PB	Huckleberry Hill - East of Del Monte Park, North of SFB Morse Dr	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Gabilan crew, goats
PB	PQR - Fire Road 20 East to Fire Road 21 - PBC	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Gabilan, goats, masticator
PB	PQR - West of Fire Road 20	Pebble Beach Co, PBCSD	Lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Pescadero Canyon (multiple areas)	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Goats, Private contractor crew
PB	Navajo	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	
PB	Area B - Navajo North	DMFF	Private contractor crew
PB	Area C (Navajo south)	DMFF	Private contractor crew
PB	CAL Am land between Lopez and Forest Lake	CAL AM	Private contractor crew
PB	Forest Lake - PBCSD	PBCSD	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Indian Village	DMFF, PBCSD	Firecrew, chipping, masticator
PB	Indian Village Annex - Seal Rock Creek North to residences	Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	<i>Left natural</i>
PB	Crocker Grove and SFB Morse Memorial	DMFF	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Fire Road/Fuel Break maintenance (all)	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Masticator, mowing
PB	Carmel Way (Pescadero Canyon west)	DMFF	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping

PB	Hermann property	DMFF	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Pescadero Point and Courtland Hill Preserve	DMFF	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Fire Road 24	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Private contractor crew
PB	Area between Viscaino and Lisbon Canyon between Palmero Way and Del Ciervo Road (and others)	Pebble Beach Co, PBCSD	Firecrew, chipping, hauling
PB	Below Carmel Woods	Pebble Beach Co, PBCSD Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Foundation (DMFF), PBCSD	Goats
PB	Area Below Sunset Lane and Fire Road 23	Pebble Beach Co, PBCSD	Goats, Private contractor crew
PB	Powerlines	PG&E	Goats weedeating, scraping

Battalion 3: King City Battalion - Battalion Chief Frank Royos

The King City Battalion starts from the Chualar area and encompasses both sides of the Salinas Valley down to San Ardo, ridge top to ridge top. This area includes the west entrance to the Pinnacles National Monument, Arroyo Seco, and many vineyards and cattle ranches, to name of few assets at risk.

The weather patterns in Battalion 3 during the summer months range from the 70s and into the low 100 degree mark. The valley winds ranging from 10-25 mph, usually begin early afternoon and subside around sunset when the marine layer occasionally blows in to cool the valley temperatures.

The strong winds affect the early season fires pushing grass fires from a few hundred acres and into the thousands in the cattle grazing pastures of the eastern foothills. The steep terrain of the Arroyo Seco & southern end of Carmel Valley has driven some large wildland fires in the late summer/fall crossing borders into the LPF where access for firefighting equipment becomes very challenging.

Fire History shows that "*equipment use*" is a leading cause of ignitions and has resulted in a number of the large, damaging fires in Battalion 3. With this knowledge, the Unit has made educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions a high priority. Large billboards signs are posted in the battalion stating to "mow before 10 a.m." before the heat of the day. Statistics show that these efforts have been successful and ignitions have decreased. Debris burning and powerline caused fires are also among the frequent ignitions in Battalion 3. Prevention staff has been working with the utility company to upgrade powerline equipment to reduce the number of fires in the Unit. Battalion personnel continue to educate homeowners on laws of debris burning and how to safely burn brush piles in the non-peak fire season to reduce the amount of control burn escapes in the Unit.

Battalion 3 LE-100 inspection estimate for 2011 = 350 inspections

Battalion 3 Projects:

Priority #1

Project Name: Deer Creek Home Owners Association

Description: Public Education on Fire Awareness and preparation for Wildland Fires in their area.

Community: Deer Creek Subdivision, Pine Cyn Rd (middle Cyn) King City

Project Collaborators: Deer Creek Home Owners Ass. , CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Priority #2

Project Name: Highland Hills Home Owners Association

Description: Public Education on Fire Awareness and preparation for Wildland Fires in their area.

Community: Highland Hills Subdivision, Pine Cyn Rd (middle Cyn) King City

Project Collaborators: Highland Hills Home Owners, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Priority #3

Project Name: Via Canada Home Owners Association

Description: Public Education on Fire Awareness and preparation for Wildland Fires in their area.

Community: Via Canada Subdivision, Via Canada Rd (lower Pine Cyn) King City

Project Collaborators: Via Canada Home Owners, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Priority #4

Project Name: Arroyo Seco Home Owners Association

Description: Public Education on Fire Awareness and preparation for Wildland Fires in their area.

Community: Arroyo Seco Area

Project Collaborators: Arroyo Seco Home Owners, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Priority #5

Project Name: Dillard VMP

Description: Fuel Modification with Fire Use

Community: Pine Cyn (upper Cyn) King City

Project Collaborators: Dillard Ranch, FHL Fire, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, MPUAPCD

Priority #6

Project Name: La Macchia VMP

Description: Fuel Modification with Fire Use

Community: La Gloria Rd (Training site) Gonzales

Project Collaborators: La Macchia Ranch, CAL FIRE, MPUAPCD

Priority #7

Project Name: Reliz Cyn VMP

Description: Fuel Modification with Fire Use

Community: Reliz Cyn (upper), Greenfield

Project Collaborators: Anthony Ranch, Cotton Ranch, USFS, CAL FIRE, MPUAPCD

Priority #8

Project Name: Santa Lucia School Program

Description: Public Education on Fire Safety Awareness to 5th grade students.

Community: King City

Project Collaborators: Santa Lucia Teachers, CAL FIRE

Battalion 4: Bradley Battalion – Battalion Chief Steve Spinharney

The Bradley Battalion starts south of San Ardo and continues south to the San Luis Obispo County line. This area includes Bryson-Hysperia with many homes in the wildland ranking this Battalion 4's top asset at risk. Battalion 4 also encompasses the San Antonio Reservoir, a popular recreational area, the community of Parkfield and the Ft. Hunter Liggett Army Training Facility among many vineyards and cattle and hunting ranches.

Much like Battalion 3, the weather patterns in Battalion 4 during the summer months range from the 70s and into the low 100 degree mark. The valley winds in Bradley range from 10-25 mph and usually begin mid afternoon and subside well after dark. In the Lockwood and Parkfield areas, the temperatures are very similar but get much less wind due to the topographical features. The terrain is predominately rolling hills with some areas of brush covered, steep slopes.

Similar to Battalion 3, fire history shows that "*equipment use*" is, by far, the leading cause of ignitions and has resulted in a number of the large, damaging fires in Battalion 4. By educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions along with the large billboard signs, the Unit has seen a decrease in our ignitions.

The main Assets at Risk in Battalion 4 are recreational areas, vineyards and rangelands.

Battalion 4 LE -100 inspection estimate for 2011 = approximately 450

Battalion 4 Projects:

Priority # 1 - Bryson / Hesperia Wildland Fire Preplan.

The Bryson / Hesperia Preplan will be a preplanned wildland firefighting document that will be used for all incidents having the potential to go into extended / major attack. The document will identify predetermined evacuation areas, values at risk and control lines and objectives. Battalion 4 personnel are currently working with Unit Forester Jonathan Pangburn and the Bryson Hesperia CERT group. When the document is finished, it will be distributed to all the agencies that would be involved in an extended / major incident in that area.

Priority # 2 - CAL FIRE / Fort Hunter Liggett Southern Boundary Fuel Break

This is a proposal to establish a fuel break along the entire length of the Ft. Hunter Liggett (FHL) and CAL FIRE southern boundary in the Copper Head / Bryson Hesperia area. Currently, FHL conducts fuel modification burns in this area on the base. They only target high problem areas that they have the ability each burn season to treat. The proposal is to work together in order to establish a consistent fuel break for the entire southern boundary. FHL is interested in this project.

Priority #3 - Bryson Hesperia CERT Group

The Bryson / Hesperia (BH) community, in anticipation of being annexed into the South Monterey County Fire Protection District (SoMoCo FPD), has formed the Bryson / Hesperia Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CAL FIRE Lockwood staff, with help from Fire Captain Jennifer Valdez, has assisted them in this process. Monterey County OES is the official sponsor for the BH CERT. However, the Unit will continue to support the group in any way possible.

Battalion 5: Hollister Battalion – Battalion Chief Paul Avila

The Hollister Battalion is located at the North East corner of the Unit in San Benito County, following the county line on both the East and the West down to the end of Cienega Road and East to South of Panoche and Antelope Valley. The West side (Gabilan Mountain Range) of the battalion is comprised steep terrain and heavy fuels up in the Fremont Peak area. The east side (Diablo Mountain Range) is predominately grasslands, home to many large cattle ranches and quickly transitions into steep rugged terrain. The fuels commonly encountered in Battalion 5 are grass, oak woodland, Chemise and Gray Pine.

Hollister Hills Recreational Area is near the Fremont Peak area and is frequented by off-road vehicles on California State Parks lands and is one of the assets at risk. Other assets at risk include the wild land urban interface areas in San Juan Canyon, Cienega Road and Paicines as well as the infrastructure at Fremont Peak State Park and Mission San Juan Bautista.

The weather patterns in Battalion 5 during the summer months range from the high 70s and into the low 100 degree mark with the occasional late night, early morning marine influence bringing in the fog. The winds in the Hollister area range from 5-15 mph. The terrain is predominately rolling hills with some areas of brush covered, steep slopes.

Similar to Battalions 3 and 4, fire history shows that “*equipment use*” is the leading cause of ignitions and has resulted in a number of the large, damaging fires in Battalion 5. By educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions along with the large billboard signs, the Unit has seen a decrease in ignitions. “*Debris burning*” also ranks among the highest sources of ignition of fires in Battalion 5. Fire department personnel make a concerted effort while writing burn permits and while out in the public, to educate residents on the laws of burn piles, what materials they can burn and safe ways to conduct their burn to not let it escape their control.

The main Assets at Risk in Battalion 5 are recreational areas, vineyards, rangelands and the Solerger Solar Farm in Panoche Valley.

The main priorities in Battalion 5 are to educate the public that live in the wild land urban interface on how to be fire safe and to maintain fire roads that serve a crucial role in means of ingress and egress for both the public and fire equipment during a wild land fire.

Battalion 5 LE -100 inspection estimate for 2011 = 800

Personnel in Battalion 5 work closely with members from the following organizations or agencies; the San Benito Fire Safe Council, BLM, California State Parks, and local ranchers.

Battalion 5 Projects:

Project #1 - Limekiln VMP

VMP burn will consist of approximately 2,200 acres. The site is located in the area of Limekiln and Cieniga Road on the Battalion 5/6 border. The burn will consist of approximately 5 smaller burns to complete the project. The parties involved are the Enz Ranch, Clements Ranch and Barker Ranch. This project is in the planning phase, awaiting property owner agreements.

Project #2 - Thompson Truck Trail

This road stretches from Limekiln Road to the Fremont Peak area. At one time, this road was maintained annually by CAL FIRE and is a main access road to areas in that part of the county. The trail can also be used for evacuation of citizens from the San Juan Canyon. Collaboration with the various property owners and gaining their trust and permission to allow CAL FIRE to once again maintain the road is crucial to the success of this project. Brushing of the roads utilizing Gabilan crews and grading and installing water bars are some of the items that would need to be addressed. This project is in collaboration with the San Benito Fire Safe Council pending grant approval (San Juan Cyn Fuel Break).

Project #3 – Public Education

Increase public awareness on defensible space throughout San Benito County, with emphasis in the south county area and the Panoche Valley. Personnel will utilize public events such as the San Benito County Fair and work closely with the San Benito Fire Safe Council for high visibility and spread the fire safety message.

Project #4 – Hollister Hills VMP

Project #5 – Thompson Valley VMP

Battalion 6: Bear Valley Battalion – Battalion Chief (*Vacant*)

The Bear Valley Battalion is located on the East side of the Unit in San Benito County, following the county line on the West and bordering the Fresno County line to the East extending to Priest Valley in the south. Clear Creek Recreational Area is also in the southern portion of Battalion 6. The west side (east side of Gabilan Mountain Range) of the battalion is comprised steep terrain and heavy fuels up near the Pinnacles National Monument area. The east side (Diablo Mountain Range) is predominately grasslands, home to many large cattle ranches and quickly transitions into steep rugged terrain. The fuels commonly encountered in Battalion 6 are grass, oak woodland, Chemise and Gray Pine.

The weather patterns in Battalion 6 during the summer months range from the high 70s and into the low 100 degree mark with little recovery over night. The winds in the area range from 5-10 mph. The terrain varies from rolling hills transitioning into brush covered, steep slopes.

Similar to other battalions, fire history shows that “*equipment use*” is the leading cause of ignitions in Battalion 6. By educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions along with the large billboard signs, the Unit has seen a decrease in ignitions. “*Debris burning*” also ranks among the highest sources of ignition of fires in Battalion 6. Fire department personnel make a concerted effort while writing burn permits and while out in the public, to educate residents on the laws of burn piles, what materials they can burn and safe ways to conduct their burn to not let it escape their control.

Battalion 6 Projects:

Project #1 - Rock Springs Ranch –VMP prescribed burns – will be three separate burn projects located all on the Rock Springs Ranch. This ranch is located southeast of the Pinnacles National Monument between Highway 25 and the Fresno County line. This project is in the initial planning phase.

Project #2 - McPhail's VMP – Phase 2

Project #3 – Limekiln VMP (In conjunction with Battalion 5)

Project #4 – Thompson Valley VMP (In conjunction with Battalion 5)

The main Assets at Risk in Battalion 6 are the Pinnacles National Monument, agriculture and rangelands.

Battalion 7: Aromas Battalion - Battalion Chief Reno DiTullio

The Aromas Battalion is located at the north end of the Unit encompassing portions of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. The battalion runs from the northern unit boundary over to Fremont Peak and down the Salinas Valley to just north of Chualar. The Aromas battalion is also home to the Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District which is 60 square miles of primarily residential structures with light commercial and agricultural occupancies and areas of wildland urban interface. In addition to the local population of approximately 6,000, the District experiences a constant increase to assets at risk due to the major highways that traverse the District increasing the active population by hundreds of thousands per day. This exacerbates the issue of High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones throughout most of the District and the interface threats to local residents.

The fuels and topography defined in the battalion are gentle slopes of oak woodland varied with steep terrain and heavy fuels in other areas encompassing many housing developments throughout. The north county area has some heavily wooded areas of Eucalyptus groves posing a challenge to firefighters, as one of these areas have Hwy 101 running through the middle of it.

The weather patterns in Battalion 7 during the summer months range from the 60s and into the mid 80 degree mark with the marine layer moving in most evenings and burning off mid mornings. The winds in the area range from 5-10 mph.

Similar to other battalions, fire history shows that "*equipment use*" is the leading cause of ignitions in Battalion 7. By educating homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions along with the large billboard signs, the Unit has seen a decrease in ignitions. "*Debris burning*" also ranks among the highest sources of ignition of fires in Battalion 7. Fire department personnel make a concerted effort while writing burn permits and while out in the public, to educate residents on the laws of burn piles, what materials they can burn and safe ways to conduct their burn to not let it escape their control. Other leading causes of fires in Battalion 7 are roadside fires caused by exhaust carbon, blown tires and vehicles due to the heavy traffic on these highways.

The main Assets at Risk in Battalion 7 are residential structures, agriculture, watershed and infrastructure.

Battalion 7 LE -100 inspection estimate for 2011 = 750 (three year rotation)

Battalion 7 Projects:

Priority #1 - Battalion 7 Residential Chipping Program

The residential chipping program that occurred the past few years in Battalion 7 was successful and gaining increased popularity as an option for property owners to chip their yard waste instead of burning it. Unfortunately, the grant, which was requested by the San Benito County Fire Safe Council, is no longer being funded. Requests and inquiries for the chipping program are still being made to the firefighters in Battalion 7 by residents of the District. The project would include funding for advertising the program throughout the Battalion, funding for the use and maintenance of a chipper and funding for personnel (Gabilan Camp crews) to perform the chipping. The project is in the communities of North Monterey County, Aromas, Prunedale, Royal Oaks, and nearby county areas within Battalion 7. Project collaborators include North Monterey County FPD, CAL FIRE, Aromas Tri-County FPD, San Benito Fire Safe Council (SBFSC), Rancho Cielo

Priority #2 - Battalion 7 Hazard Assessment

This project entails gathering hazard assessment data for each residence/parcel in Battalion 7 to visually represent hazard areas in the battalion. Additionally, data can be used for pre-fire mitigation plans, as well as being used to analyze fire department service delivery in many ways. The project is primarily in the Aromas Tri-County FPD and the SRA areas within Battalion 7. Project collaborators are Battalion 7 personnel with support from the SBFSC.

Priority #3 - South Pasture VMP Prescribed Burn Project

This burn project involves two adjacent property owners: the Church Ranch and Vierra Ranch located northwest of Fremont Peak near Prunedale. This project encompasses 1,360 acres is on contract awaiting proper burn conditions.

Priority #4 - Gabilan Ranch VMP Prescribed Burn Project - This project is in the initial planning phase.

TRAINING DIVISION: Battalion Chief John Owens

The San Benito-Monterey Unit Training Division has set several goals to improve firefighting operational efficiency and safety for the Unit.

These goals are but not limited to:

1. All BEU personnel attend Department of General Service Defensive Driver safety program.
2. Upon selection and placement of fuel moisture collection sites and ovens. Those schedule B fire control personnel in each Division will be trained in collection and drying procedures of vegetation to assist the unit and region in determining potential fire behavior and wildland fire response levels.
3. All BEU personnel to attend annual Continuing Professional training to maintain firefighting skills and appropriate certifications. The intent is for personnel to meet 4032 and 4036 training requirements.
4. All BEU fire control personnel to attend "A" faller training
 - a. Selected personnel will be chosen to attend Class "B" faller training
 - b. Selected personnel will be chosen to attend Class "C" faller training
 - i. With a goal of having at least one Class "C" faller in each Division and Gabilan Camp.
5. All BEU Fire control personnel assigned to Helitack or Hollister air attack base attend the following training where applicable:
 - a. RT-372 Helicopter manager refresher training
 - b. RT 378 Air Attack Group Supervisor Training
 - c. Basic helicopter safety training
 - d. Short haul training
 - e. Air Base safety training
6. All BEU Fire Control personnel receive wildland firefighter safety and survival training
7. All BEU Battalion Chiefs and Fire Captains attend C -234 Intermediate Firing Operations class.
8. BEU personnel attend applicable training and qualify in Incident Command System (ICS) positions. The intent is to meet the unit's obligations to **Minimum ICS Qualified Personnel Matrix (7700) located in the 7000 handbook.**

GABILAN CONSERVATION CAMP – Administered by Division Chief George Haines



Gabilan Conservation Camp is centrally located in Monterey County and the only camp servicing the CALFIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit. The facility is situated in the front of Soledad State Correctional Facility and the Salinas Valley State Prison on Hwy 101 between the cities of Soledad and Gonzales. The camp houses approximately 132 low-risk inmates under the direction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and CAL FIRE. CALFIRE operates 6 Fire Crews and a Mobile Kitchen Unit (MKU) that are available to respond year round to a variety of “all risk” emergencies throughout the state such as; wildland fires, floods, rescues and other disasters.

In preparation of emergency response, Gabilan Camp has hosted the Gabilan Exercises for the past 25 years. The Gabilan Exercise evaluates each inmate fire crew’s performance through arduous evolutions for the upcoming fire season.

2010 proved to be an unusually slow fire season statewide. The reduction in fire responses provided an added benefit to the residents of San Benito and Monterey Counties by increasing the hours spent performing conservation work.

- 2010 Fire Crew Hours: 19,744
- 2010 Work Project Hours: 158,790
- 2010 Crew Training Hours: 18,080

In addition to emergency response, Gabilan Camp is heavily engaged in pre-fire management. Gabilan fire crews provide community service and hazard fuel reduction projects with the local, state and federal agencies within Santa Clara, Monterey, San Benito and San Luis Obispo counties.

Projects during the last year include; but not limited to,

- Federal Grant projects, Hollister Hills State Park, State Parks and Recreation, Monterey County Park, Laguna Seca Raceway, City of Monterey, Camp Roberts National Guard, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, Salinas Valley Fairgrounds, Salinas Airshow, San Benito County Park, San Benito County Historical Park, Monterey Peninsula College, Gonzales USD, National Park Service and CALFIRE facilities.

Since the opening in 1986, Gabilan Conservation Camp has continued to be a valuable resource for the State of California and the citizens of San Benito and Monterey counties through conservation and the protection of life, property and natural resources.



AIR ATTACK PROGRAM: Hollister Air Attack - Battalion Chief Mark Edria

The Hollister Air Attack Base, established in 1962, is located along the central coast of California, 30 miles south of San Jose in the CDF San Benito-Monterey Unit. Hollister responds to an average of 350 calls per year. Staff at the base consists of one battalion chief, two fire captains, one fire apparatus engineer, and seven firefighters. The complement of aircraft located at Hollister includes one OV-10 Bronco and two S-2T airtankers. On average, the base pumps about 300,000 gallons of retardant a year. With the base's pumps, three loading pits and equipment, Hollister has a possible peak output of 60,000 gallons of retardant each day. The base provides initial attack for 3.1 million acres encompassing 11 counties; an area spanning north to Mt. Diablo, south to King City, east to Interstate 5 and west to the Pacific Ocean. This area includes the Los Padres National Forest.



HELITACK PROGRAM: Bear Valley Helitack

The Bear Valley Helitack Base was established in 1987 and was located in the CDF San Benito-Monterey Unit on Airline Highway in Bitter Water road area. The base was originally named Bitterwater Helitack Base and kept this name until 1992 when it was moved to the Bear Valley Fire Station in Paicines, changing the name to Bear Valley Helitack. Bear Valley responds to an average of 150 calls per year ranging from fires to rescues. In addition to responding to emergencies the helicopter conducts control burns and recon flights necessary to the state mission. On a daily basis, the crew of the Helitack Base consists of one pilot, two fire captains, five to six firefighters and an engineer. In addition to the helitack crew, there are two fire engines staffed at Bear Valley station. Bear Valley Helitack operates a UH-1H Super Huey helicopter. It is one of three ships that have a fixed tank rather than a bucket. The fixed tank can hold 325 gallons of water. The state has 11 helicopters with 9 helicopter bases, 2 helicopters are used as spares when maintenance is needed.



Also operated out of Bear Valley is the helitender, which serves as a support vehicle for the copter. The helitender contains 1,000 gallons of fuel, along with foam, backup tools, out-of-county bags, Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) and many other items that are necessary to support the crew. Bear Valley provides coverage and protection from southwest Santa Clara to Interstate-5 in the CDF Fresno-Kings Unit, down to Northern San Luis Obispo and all the way to the Pacific Ocean. As a state resource Bear Valley is also able to respond anywhere in the state.

CDF helitack crews consist of highly trained and experienced firefighters who are assigned to and respond to wildland fires and rescues aboard CDF helicopters. Once arriving on a fire incident, the crew, typically 5 to 6 firefighters along with a fire captain are let off with fire fighting hand tools and initiate fire suppression actions as the helicopter supports the helitack crew with water drops. Helitack crews also perform other helicopter support operations when not assigned to direct fire line operations such as establishing and staffing helibases conducting necessary operations and support.



APPENDIX A:

HIGH PRIORITY PRE FIRE PROJECTS

Batt	Project Number	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
1	GT-152-BEU-001	White Rock Ridge Fuel Break	P	2013	Shaded fuel break	204
1	Rx-South-072-BEU	White Rock VMP	P	2013	Fuel modification / burn VMP	517
1		South Coast Fuel Hazard Reduction	G	2013	Fuel Reduction project	
1		Palo Colorado Pre Plans	A	2011	Preplanned wildland firefighting document/maps	N/A
1	GT-152-BEU-002	Palo Colorado Fuel Break	P	2012	Shaded fuel break around upper Palo Colorado Cyn	85
1	GT-152-BEU-003	Williams Cyn SOD		2012	Sudden Oak Death Tree Removal	111
1 & 2		Carmel Highlands Shaded Fuel break	P	2012	Shaded fuel break	
1 & 2		Carmel Valley Regional Shaded Fuel break	G	2013	Shaded fuel break	205
1 & 2		Carmel Highlands Chipper Program	G	2013	Residential Chipper Program	
1 & 2		Jack's Peak Fuel Break	P	2014	Shaded fuel around residential area of Jack's Peak County Park	125
1 & 2		Hatton Cyn Fuel Break	O	2011	Shaded fuel break	
1 & 2		Outlook Dr. Fuel Break	O	2011	Shaded fuel break	
1 & 2	GT-152-BEU-004	Carmel Highlands Community Fuel Break	P	2012	Shaded fuel break around the community	432
2		Pescadero Cyn Fuel Break	A	2011	Shaded fuel break	
2		Fire Road Maintenance	A/O	2011	Maintain the Pebble Beach fire roads and fuel breaks	
3		Public Education	A/O	2011	Pub Ed w/ various homeowner associations	N/A
3	Rx-South-057-BEU	Dillard VMP	A	2012	Fuel modification / burn VMP	193
3	Rx-South-060-BEU	La Macchia North VMP	A	2012	Fuel modification / burn VMP	956
4		Bryson/Hysperia Pre Plan	A	2012	Preplanned wildland firefighting document/maps	N/A
4		Hunter Liggett Fuel Break	P	2014	Fuel break along southern boundary of base	
4		Bryson/Hysperia CERT	P	2012	Formation of CERT Group	N/A
5		Thompson Truck Trail	G	2014	Road maintenance/fuel break	300
5 & 6	Rx-South-058-BEU	Limekiln VMP	P	2012	Fuel modification / burn VMP	2269
5 & 6	Rx-South-062-BEU	Thompson VMP	P	2012	Fuel modification / burn VMP	4690
7	Rx-South-059-BEU	South Pasture VMP	A	2011	Fuel modification / burn VMP	1360
7		Aromas Residential Chipping Program	G	2013	Chipping Program within communities	N/A
7		San Juan Canyon Fuel Break	G	2014	Shaded fuel break around residential area of San Juan Cyn	200
		Chipper purchase	A	2011	For fuel reduction projects	N/A

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance, G = Awaiting Grant Approval

CAL FIRE Units were asked to identify two or more priority objectives under each goal in the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan for California. The Units' priorities are identified in bold and a measurement criteria are provided for each of the identified objectives. Throughout the next year, the Units will implement the identified priorities and report on the measurement criteria by June 2012. The priority objectives are displayed under three headings:

A. SACRAMENTO PROGRAMS OR COMMITTEE ONLY

B. SACRAMENTO PROGRAMS AND STAFF OR COMMITTEE, REGIONS AND UNITS

C. UNITS ONLY

These categories are not intended to exclude Units from addressing priority objectives in any of the three categories, they are only recommendations.

A. SACRAMENTO PROGRAMS OR COMMITTEE ONLY

Goal 1: Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.

Objectives:

- a) **Identify and provide appropriate automated tools to facilitate the collection, analysis and consistent presentation of datasets.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE shall establish policy that specifies spatial databases covering all forest and rangeland to not be older than 10 years. Include minimum requirements for spatial databases. Follow the coordinated work schedule with the USDA Forest Service to maintain cost effective collection and processing of data.*

Goal 2: Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.

Objectives:

- a) **Identify the minimum key elements necessary to achieve a fire safe community, and incorporate these elements into land use planning, CWPPs and regional, county and Unit fire plans.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to create a working committee with CAL Chiefs, USDA Forest Service and other key organizations to develop, monitor and refine elements of fire safe community, including evacuation plans. The Committee shall review existing templates for FIREWISE Assessments, CWPPs, fire plans and land use plans; identify the common elements and approaches for better integration. Utilize fire protection, planning and engineering expertise to identify the key elements (from existing templates) necessary for fire safe communities. Once agreed upon, these key elements will then be used as a checklist to guide consistency in fire safe planning efforts across jurisdictions. At a minimum, annually report to the Board on results.*

Goal 3: Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, county and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.

Objectives:

- a) **Establish a working group, consisting of Board members and Departmental staff, to develop minimum standard elements for inclusion in Unit fire plans.**
- b) **Emphasize coordination of Unit fire plans with community wildfire protection plans to encourage and support one consistent approach. Develop county or regional fire plans by bringing together community-based groups, such as fire safe councils and affected fire and land management agencies.**

Measurement Criteria: *These measurement criteria meets objectives a and b. CAL FIRE to revise the template for the Unit fire plans to incorporate the goals and objectives of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan. During the revision, the template for a CWPP will be jointly reviewed in order to reduce duplication of fire planning efforts. The key elements identified through the process identified in Goal 2, Objective b will also be incorporated into the Unit fire plan/CWPP.*

- c) **Create and support venues in which individual community members can be actively involved in local fire safe councils, community emergency response teams, FIREWISE and other community-based efforts to develop readiness plans and educate landowners to mitigate the risks and effects of wildland fire.**

Measurement Criteria: *The California Fire Alliance to work with the California and local FSCs to develop venues (e.g., workshops) that assist landowners with readiness planning and education. CAL FIRE, California Fire Alliance Liaison to report to the Board annually on Alliance activities.*

Goal 4: Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.

Objectives:

- a) **Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities.**

Measurement Criteria: *In coordination with the CAL FIRE Communications Program, the USDA Forest Service and local fire agencies, University of California and county cooperative extension offices, CAL FIRE to collect information on methods and effectiveness of existing outreach. Complete the information collection within year one of adoption of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan. Develop a common set of measures to assess CAL FIRE efforts, build those into Unit fire plans and report to the Board. Report the progress of implementation at the end of year two.*

Goal 5: Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state and federal responsibility areas.

Objectives:

- b) **Work to remove regulatory barriers that limit hazardous fuels reduction activities.**

Measurement Criteria: *In conjunction with the Resource Protection Committee, CAL FIRE will develop an approach to identifying and recommending ways to address regulatory and other barriers that limit hazardous fuels reduction activities. This approach should include consultation with the Board's Interagency Forestry Working Group and with other agencies, such as the USDA Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Energy Commission, the Department of Fish and Game, regional water quality control boards, local government and the public. Finish this compilation within the first year of adoption of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan. Based on barriers identified and recommendations for change, report to the Board starting in the second year.*

Goal 6: Determine the level of fire suppression resources necessary to protect the values and assets at risk identified during planning processes.

Objectives:

- e) **Initiate and maintain cooperative fire protection agreements with local, state and federal partners that value the importance of an integrated, cooperative, regional fire protection system and deliver efficient and cost effective emergency response capabilities beneficial to all stakeholders.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to identify the number and effectiveness of agreements and partnerships. In conjunction with the Board's Resource Protection Committee, CAL FIRE will develop suggested measures of effectiveness of cooperative agreements. This should be in collaboration with its partners, completed within 18 months of adoption of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan and reported to the Board.*

- i) **Provide for succession planning and employee development at all levels within CAL FIRE to maintain emergency response leadership capabilities, administrative management skills and pre-fire planning expertise.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to revise and update the information developed in the 2005 Succession Planning meetings. This work should be completed within two years of the adoption of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan, with annual reporting to the Board based on issues raised, including identification of key training needs, funding available and expenditures on the training program, content of Academy curricula, number of students requesting and/or able to take classes at the Academy, local community college or other educational outlets.*

B. SACRAMENTO PROGRAMS AND STAFF OR COMMITTEE, REGIONS AND UNITS

Goal 1: Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.

Objectives:

- b) Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups (i.e., fire safe councils and others) to validate and prioritize the assets at risk.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE shall designate personnel as advisors/liaisons to the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) and to each county or regional FSC. The advisors will be responsible for reporting activities to the Unit and Region. The advisor to the CFSC will report to the Board. Annual reporting of time-spent working will be displayed in hours at the Unit, Region and Headquarters level. Reporting will include activities with local FSCs, communities, watershed groups or others defining hazards and risk of wildfire and documenting these in a CWPP or Unit fire plan. Emphasize the products developed in Goal 3, Objective b. Advisors will emphasize using standard guidelines and templates for consistency throughout the state.*

Goal 2: Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.

Objectives:

- b) Assist the appropriate governmental bodies in the development of a comprehensive set of wildland and wildland urban interface (WUI) protection policies for inclusion in each county general plan or other appropriate local land use planning documents.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to appoint a committee including Unit, Region, Headquarters and Contract County representatives. Develop a work plan that identifies key elements of improving WUI strategies, including planning. Reporting should be based on elements identified and priorities for addressing them.*

Under the Board's Resource Protection Committee, review existing Board policies as they relate to wildland fire and the relevance (ease of use, applicability) to incorporation in local general plans. Identify areas of possible improvement and update policies.

Track and report hours at the Unit, Region and Headquarters level spent in reviewing plans and projects; number of local Board/Council, Planning Commission meetings and/or meetings with other cooperators.

Goal 4: Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.

Objectives:

- c) **Increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations through the use of CAL FIRE staffing as available, public and private organizations, and alternative inspection methods.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE to form an advisory committee to review PRC §4291 regulations and make recommendations to the Board that will provide for consistency, streamlining and clarification of existing regulations. The Committee shall develop criteria to increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections. The Committee will develop an implementation plan for the recommendations and report on progress to the Board*

Goal 7: Address post-fire responsibilities for natural resource recovery, including watershed protection reforestation, and ecosystem restoration.

Objectives:

- a) **Encourage rapid post-fire assessment, as appropriate, and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire.**

Measurement Criteria: *Provide training for CAL FIRE personnel on suppression repair and damage assessment procedures. Develop standard formats and documentation templates for these assessments. Identify and use the findings to reduce the impacts of fire suppression on the landscape and improve resiliency of assets at risk from wildfire.*

C. UNITS ONLY

Goal 5: Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state and federal responsibility areas.

Objectives:

- h) Support the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources, as well as public and private sector resources, for fuels management activities, including ongoing maintenance.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE will report to the Board on the number of crews available each year with a description of projects, including acres treated, completed by each Unit. Report the number of agreements and/or amount of funding and acres treated that involve grants or partnerships with federal agencies, resource conservation districts, local FSCs, fire districts, watershed groups or other non-profit or community groups that support the ability to carry out fuels reduction projects.*

Goal 7: Address post-fire responsibilities for natural resource recovery, including watershed protection reforestation, and ecosystem restoration.

Objectives:

- e) Assist landowners and local government in the evaluation of the need to retain and utilize features (e.g., roads, firelines, water sources) developed during a fire suppression effort, taking into consideration those identified in previous planning efforts.**

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE (utilizing Incident Command Teams) to schedule a post-fire review of the planning documents that cover the area affected by the fire. Review the goals, objectives and projects (implemented and planned) to identify successes and failures. Review the features developed during the fire and incorporate them into the existing Unit fire plan documents. This objective will only be reported when a fire occurs in an area with an existing Unit fire plan document. Incident command teams may conduct this post fire assessment under the direction of the Unit Chief.*

D. ADDITIONAL UNIT SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

APPENDIX D

Priority Landscapes:

Several areas have been identified as “Priority Landscapes” by the San Benito – Monterey Unit management team. The identification of these specific areas was based on available data from Pre-Fire Engineering assessments and stakeholder input. Additionally, local employees provided anecdotal and historical information that was considered useful in understanding local conditions. Priority Landscapes described in this plan are not listed in order of priority but rather as elements of the overall Unit Plan and are listed below:

- **State Highway 68 Corridor between Salinas and Monterey Peninsula / Laureles Grade**
- **Carmel Valley / Carmel Valley Village**
- **Carmel Highlands / Palo Colorado Canyon**
- **San Juan Canyon (San Benito County)**
- **Cachagua (Carmel Valley)**
- **Pine Canyon (King City)**
- **North Monterey County / Aromas**
- **Jack’s Peak / Pebble Beach**

Following the assessment of each Priority Landscapes, a series of potential mitigation actions was identified and agreed upon by the Unit Management Team. The following describes each area’s geographic location, Assets At Risk (AAR), and potential mitigation actions:

State Highway 68 Corridor / Laureles Grade:

This area is located in the western portion of the unit, between Salinas and the Monterey peninsula. The area is bounded on the north and west by the former Fort Ord Army Base, on the south by Carmel Valley, and on the west by Jack's Peak.

Assets at Risk (AAR) include a large number of single and multi-family residences. Highway 68 is a major travel route between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula. Several commercial / industrial parks are located along Highway 68, including the Laguna Seca Recreation Area. Large areas of BLM wildland are located along the northern border. This area contains large plots of vegetation that have not burned in several years, resulting in a build-up of decadent mature fuels.

Priority Landscape Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Assets at Risk (AAR) and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Landscape:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within this Priority Landscape area.
- Strive to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the Priority Landscape to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Landscape.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Landscape. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Landscape that can be pre-planned and identified.

Carmel Valley / Carmel Valley Village:

This area is located in the western portion of the Unit on both sides of Carmel Valley Road from State Highway 1 west to the Sleepy Hollow subdivision. It is bordered by Jack's Peak and State Highway 68 on the north, Garland Ranch Regional Park on the south, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the west, and Cachagua Fire Protection District on the east. Assets At Risk (AAR) include a large number of single and multi-family residences and other rural structures. Carmel Valley Road is a primary travel route leading to and from the Monterey Peninsula from Hwy 101 in the Salinas Valley to Hwy 1 in Carmel. Several commercial/retail centers are located along Carmel Valley Road as well as the Rancho Canada, Quail Lodge, and Carmel Valley golf courses. Several wineries are also located in the area. Large areas of National Forest wildland / wilderness are located to the south of the target area. This area contains large plots of vegetation that has not burned in several years, resulting in a build-up of decadent mature fuel.

Priority Landscape Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Assets at Risk (AAR) and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Landscape:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Landscape.
- Strive to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the Priority Landscape to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Landscape.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the target area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

Carmel Highlands / Palo Colorado Canyon:

This area is located in the western coastal area of the Unit, and is bordered by the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the north, the Los Padres National Forest on the east, Andrew Molera State Park and Big Sur on the south and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

Assets At Risk (AAR) include single and multi-family residences and other rural structures, many located in remote areas with limited access. The Point Lobos State Reserve, Garrapata State Beach, and the California Sea Otter Refuge are also within this Priority Landscape. Highway 1 is the only access/egress route for this Priority Landscape.

Priority Landscape Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Assets at Risk (AAR) and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Landscape:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within Priority Landscape.
- Continue to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the Priority Landscape to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Landscape area.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Landscape. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Landscape that can be pre-planned and identified.

Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

San Juan Canyon:

This area is located southwest of the community of San Juan Bautista, and is bordered by State Highway 156 on the north, Fremont Peak on the west, Hollister Hills SORV Park on the east and Wildhorse Canyon on the south.

Assets At Risk (AAR) include single and multi-family residential structures, many located in remote areas with limited access, and several large ranches. Access to and egress from the entire Priority Landscape is very limited.

Priority Landscape Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Assets at Risk (AAR) and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Landscape:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Landscape.
- Continue to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the target area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the target area.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the target area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the San Benito County Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

Pine Canyon: (King City)

This area is located southwest of the community of King City in southern Monterey County. It is bordered by Hwy 101 on the north and east.

Assets At Risk (AAR) include single family and multi-unit residential structures. Access to the area is limited and the potential for entrapment of residents and emergency responders is extreme. This area continues to grow with the construction of new residential sub-division projects in the planning stages.

Priority Landscape Goals:

Ideally, this area will benefit from a combination of fuel modification, aggressive inspection, emergency planning, and public education.

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following prescriptions have been identified as potential successful methods of achieving the Unit's Fire Plan goals for this Priority Landscape:

- Annual power line inspections to insure PRC compliance
- Targeted LE-38 inspections to achieve a minimum 33% of the structures in the Priority Landscape area per year.
- Roadside fuel modification to insure egress / exit route safety and reduce the possibility of "roadside starts".
- Identify "Safety Zones" to insure that residents of the area have the ability to evacuate to a safe area during an emergency. Residents/ stakeholders will participate in the planning and placement of Safety Zones. Additionally, a "Wildland Fire / Emergency Pre-Plan" will be designed to prepare first responders and stakeholders during the initial attack of any fire. This is vital in that residents in the area are very limited when attempting to leave the area in case of an emergency
- Work closely with the Monterey County Fire Safe Council and local fire agencies to identify additional prescriptions suitable for the area.

Cachagua:

This Priority Landscape is located in the western portion of the Unit, and is situated south of Carmel Valley Road and north of the Las Padres National Forest east of Carmel Valley Village. The area is served by the Cachagua Fire Protection District.

Assets At Risk (AAR) include single and multi-family residential structures, many which are located in remote areas with limited access, and several large ranches. Fire history in the area is minimal, leading to the overgrowth of decadent brush and light flashy fuels.

Priority Landscape Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Assets at Risk (AAR) and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Landscape:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Landscape.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify “Safe Zones” within the Priority Landscape to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Landscape area.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Landscape area. Such plans will identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant elements of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Landscape that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

North Monterey County / Aromas:

This area is located in the northwestern part of the Unit, situated west of State Highway 101, south of State Highway 129, north of State Highway 156, and east of the Pacific Ocean. It includes the communities of Aromas, Pajaro, Las Lomas, Prunedale, and Moss Landing.

Assets at Risk (AAR) include the four major highways noted above. Each of these routes is vital to vehicular traffic in the region. Although considered a “rural” region, the area contains a large amount of single-family dwellings, ranchland and commercial/retail properties. Additionally, the Moss Landing power plant and Moss Landing Harbor are located on the western edge of the Priority Landscape area. Moss Landing and Zmudowski State beaches and the Elkhorn Slough provide scenic, recreation, and wildlife refuge. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is increased dramatically due to the large number of eucalyptus trees throughout the area.

Priority Landscape Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Assets at Risk (AAR) and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Landscape:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within Priority Landscape.
- Strive to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify “Safe Zones” within the priority landscape area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the priority landscape area.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the priority landscape area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.
- Implementation and completion of the Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District / North County Fire Protection District LE-38 Inspection program.

Jack's Peak / Pebble Beach:

This area is located on the Monterey Peninsula in the western portion of the Unit, and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west, the City of Monterey on the north, Carmel Valley and the Highway 68 corridor on the east, and the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the south. This area represents one of the most scenic and affluent communities in California.

Assets at Risk (AAR) for this area are varied, including single-family residences, resort areas, championship golf courses, and areas of spectacular scenic beauty. Highway 1 is the primary north-south travel route, providing access to Big Sur and other coastal areas to the south. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is high. The vegetation lends itself to "crown" type timber fires and the roads in the area can be confusing. The entire priority landscape area has limited access and egress.

Priority Landscape Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Assets at Risk (AAR) and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this priority landscape:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within target area.
- Continue to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the priority landscape area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the priority landscape.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the priority landscape area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the priority landscape area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Continue enforcement of the PBCSD Fire Defense Plan to ensure compliance and maintenance of emergency access routes, designated open space areas, and undeveloped parcels.
- Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

Figure A: Unit Map

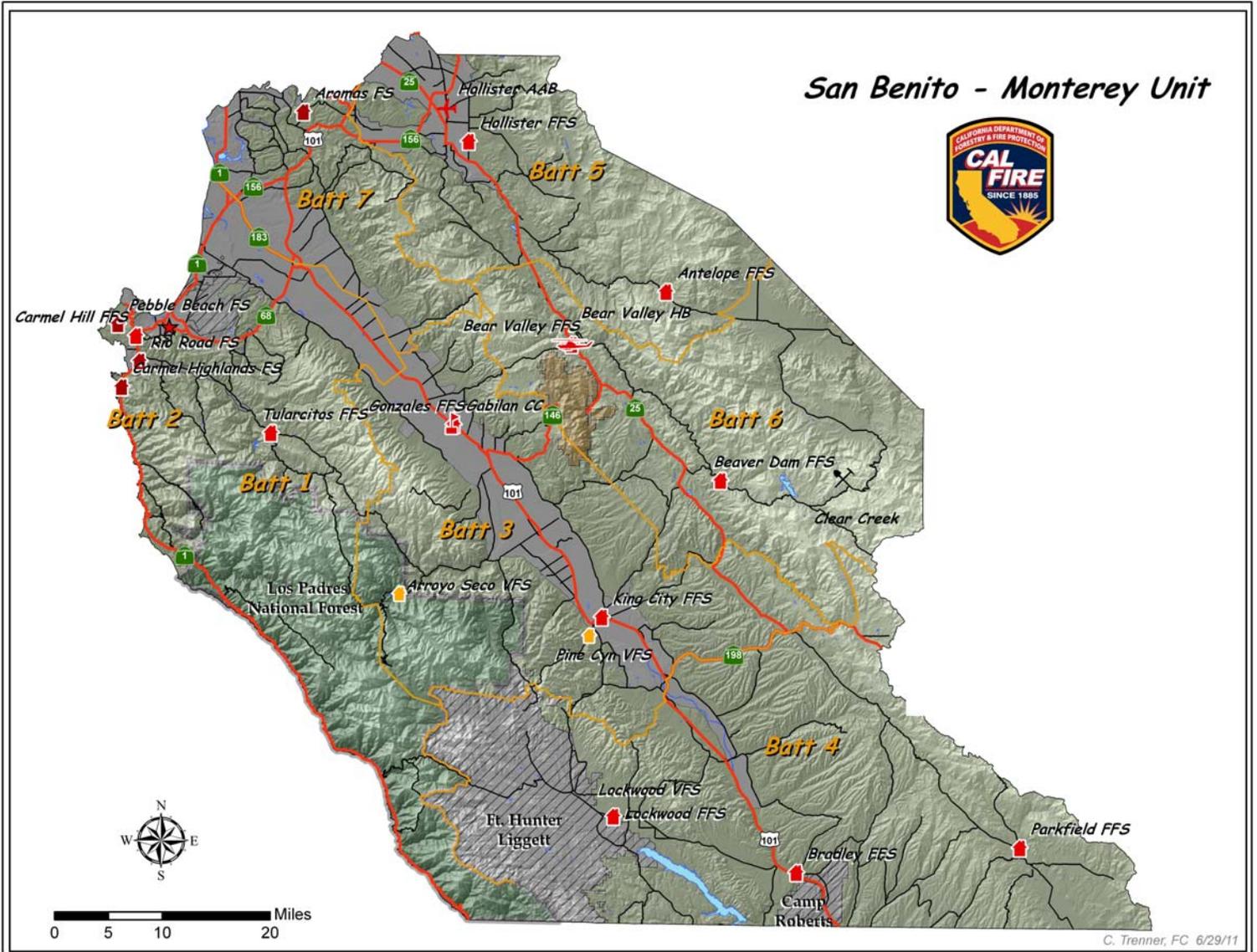
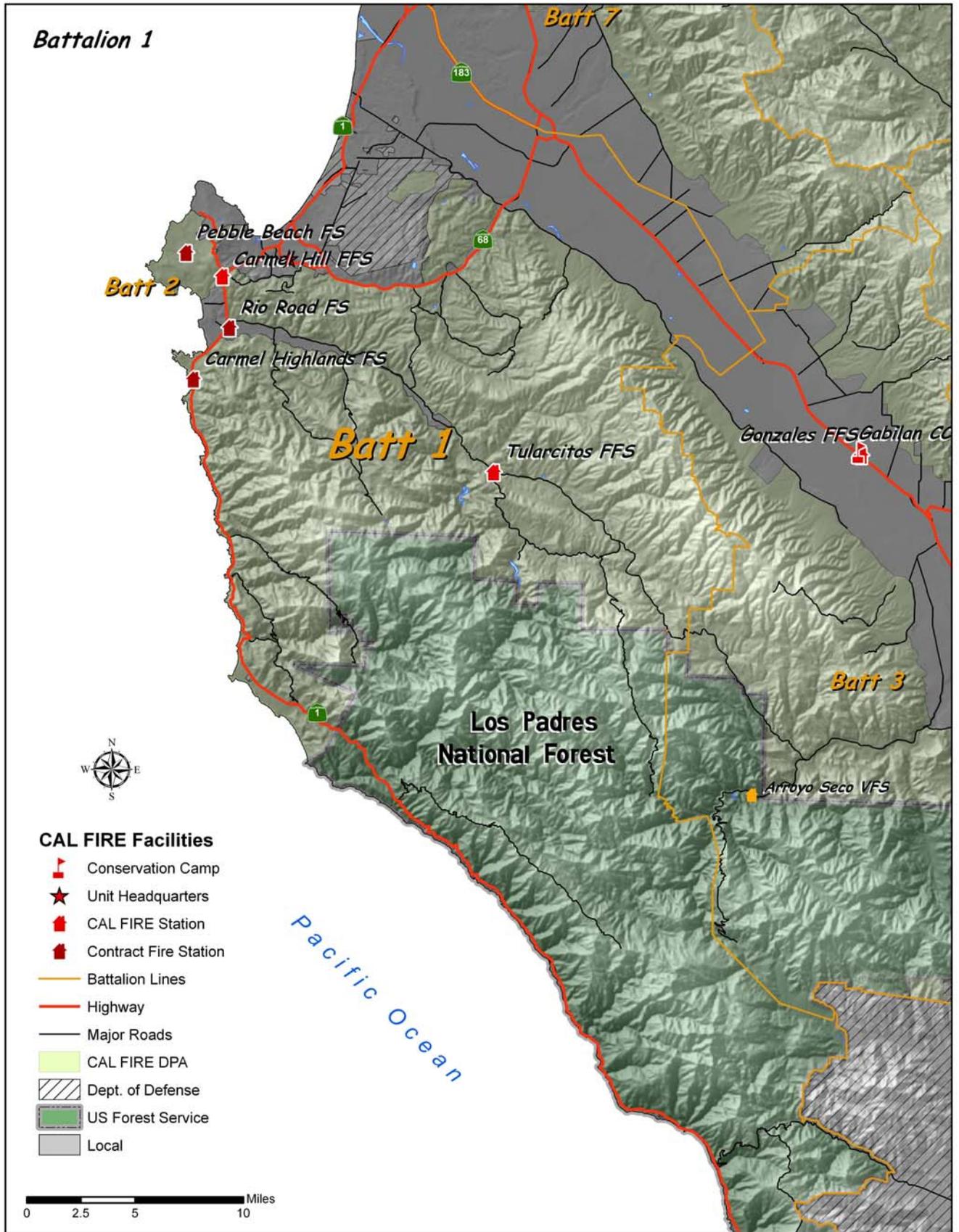
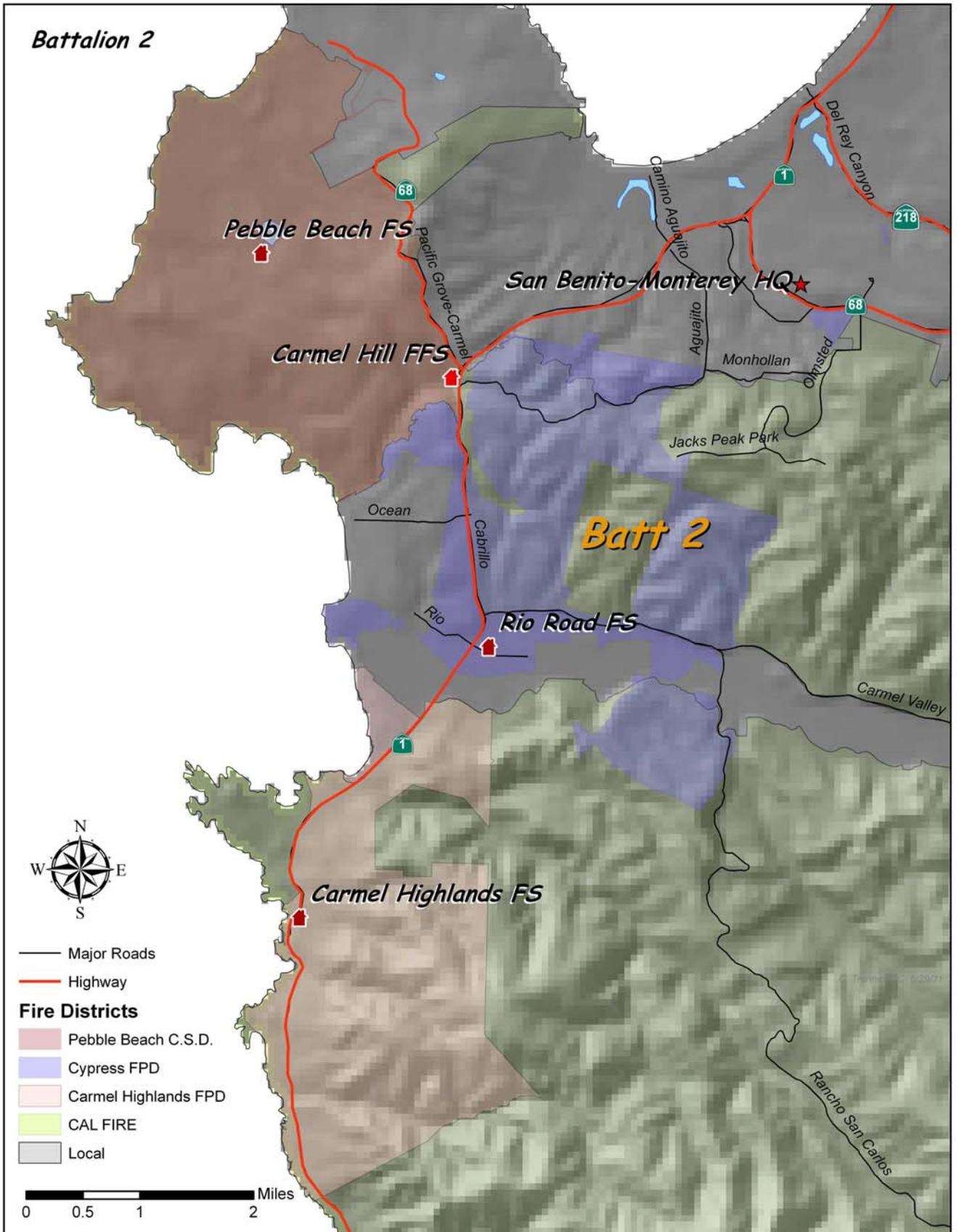
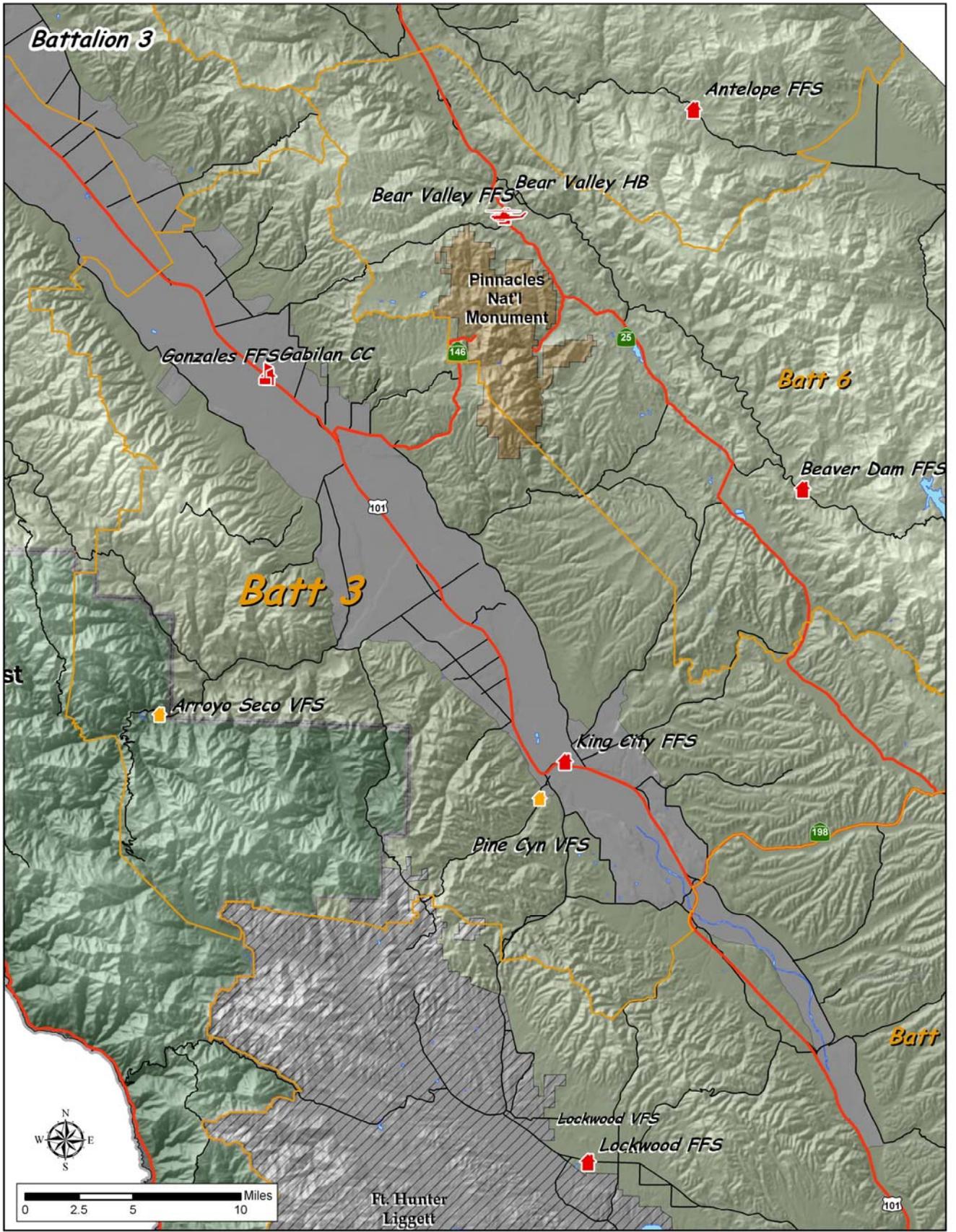


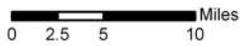
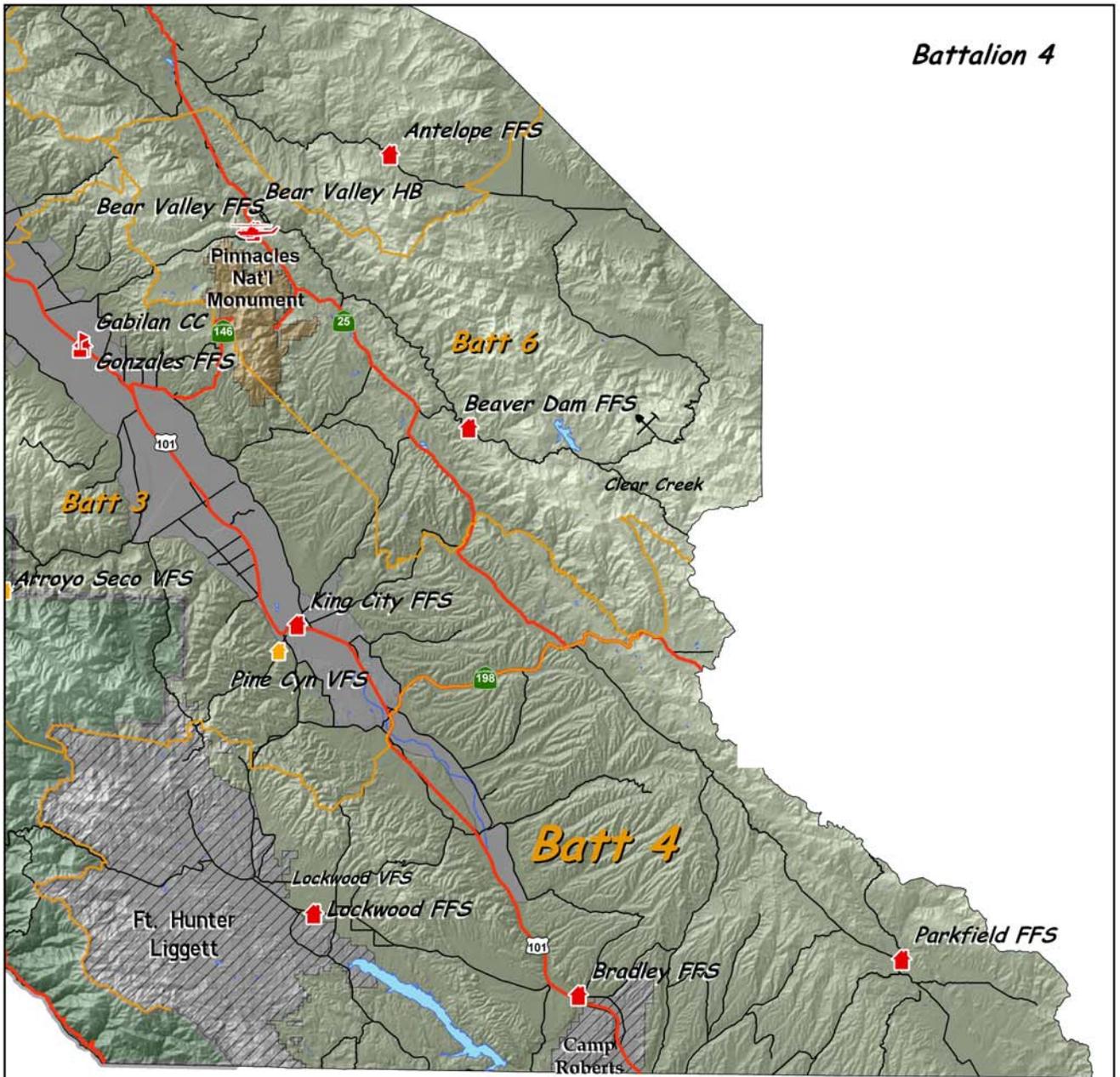
Figure B: Battalion Maps

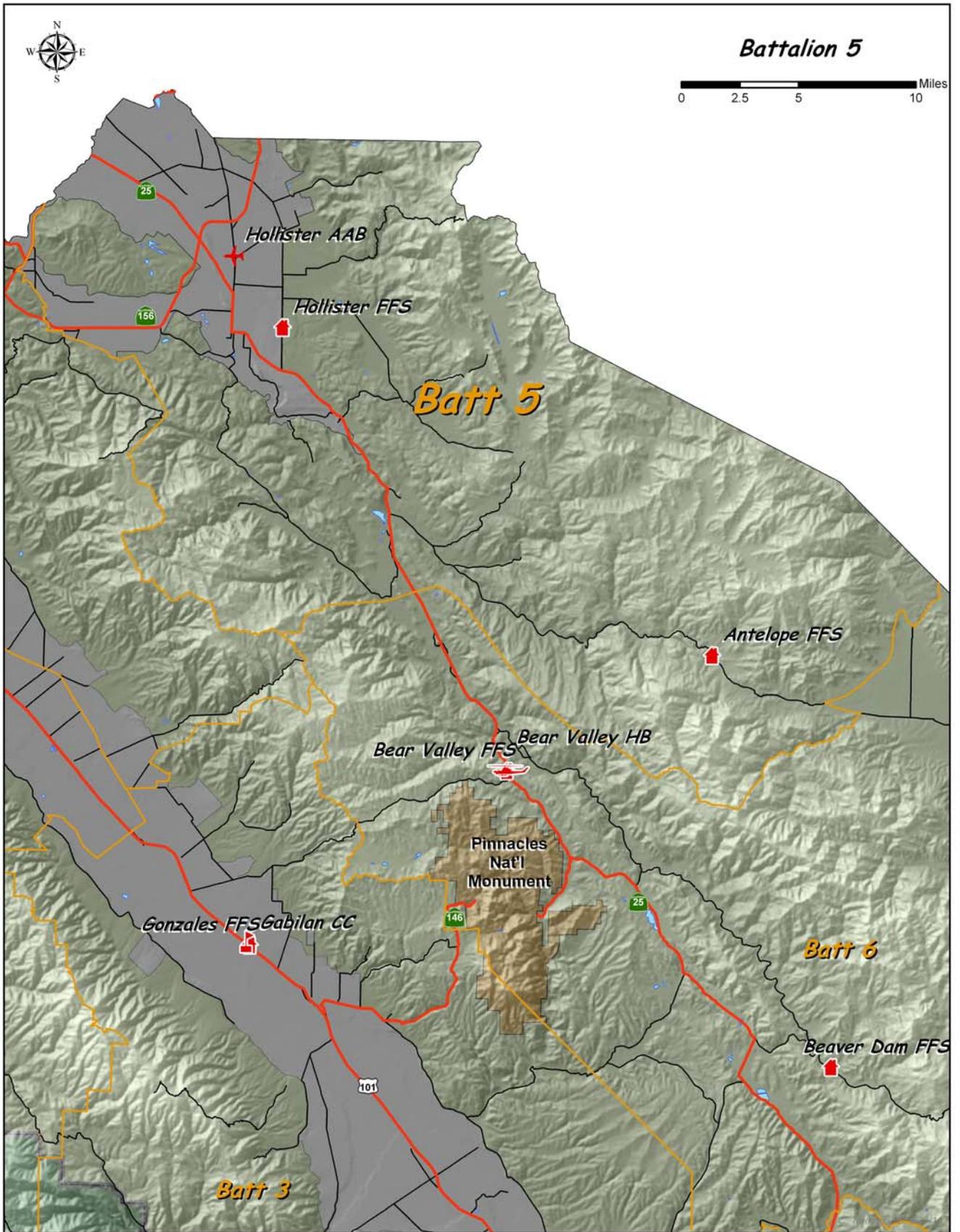






Battalion 4





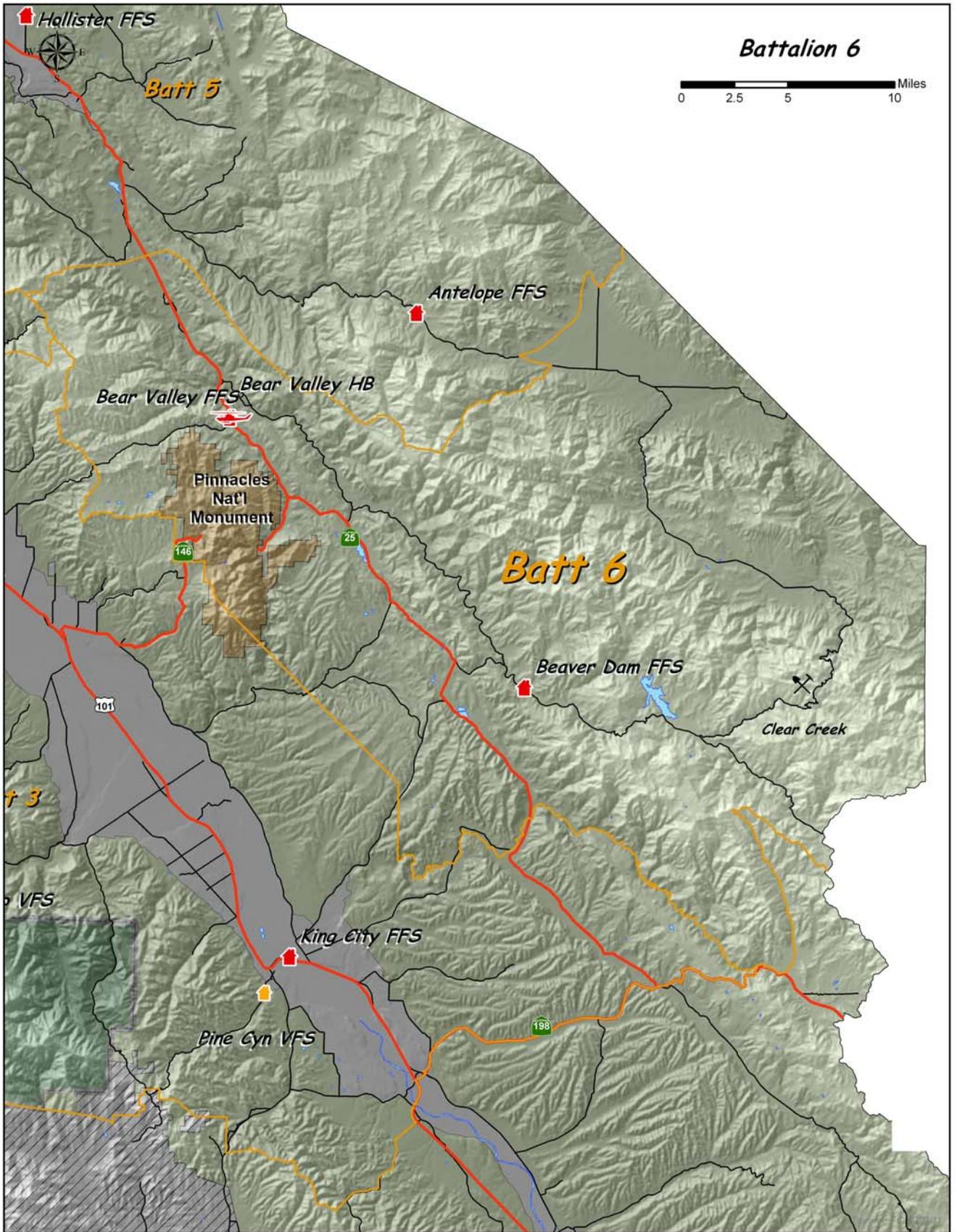


Figure C: Fire History Map

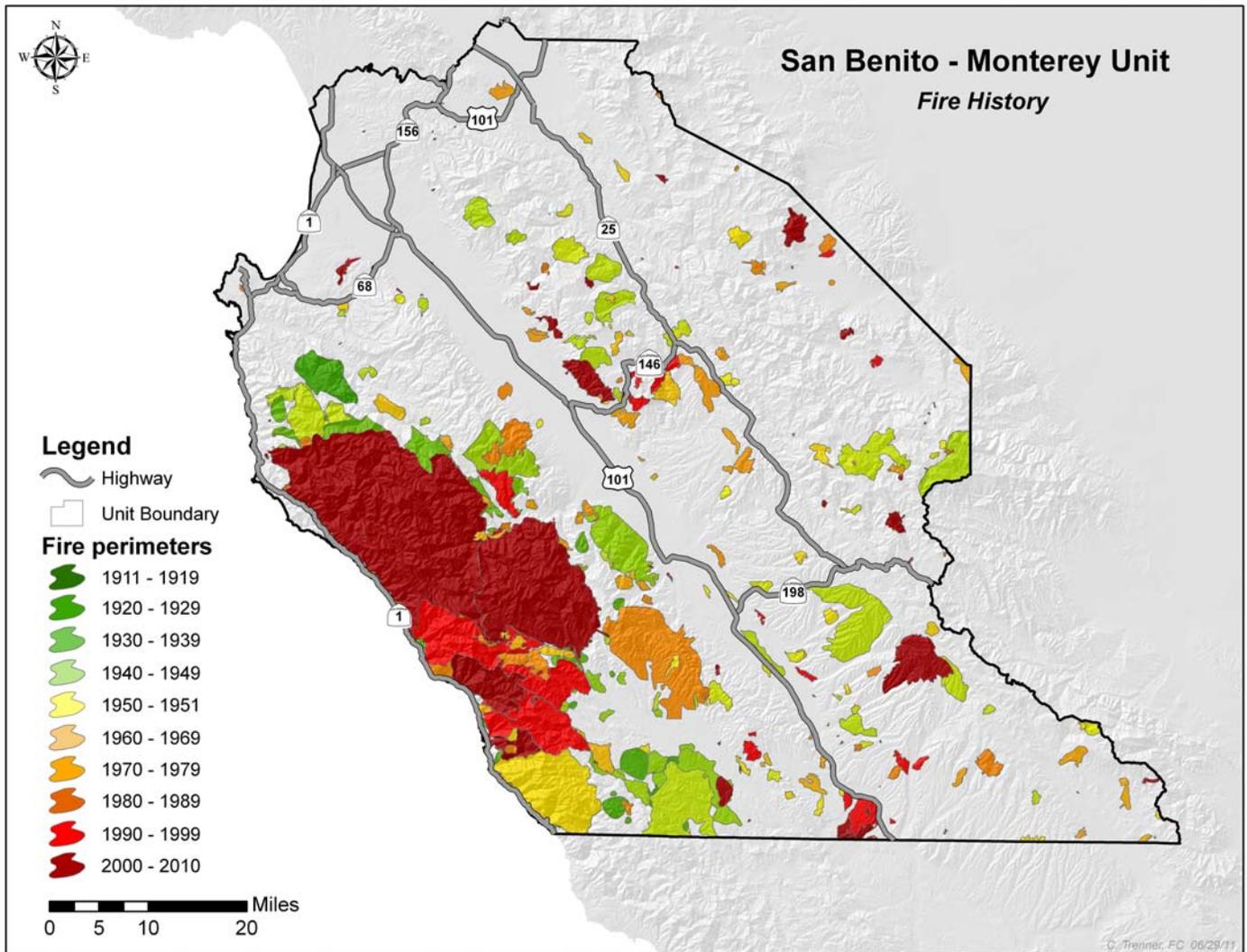
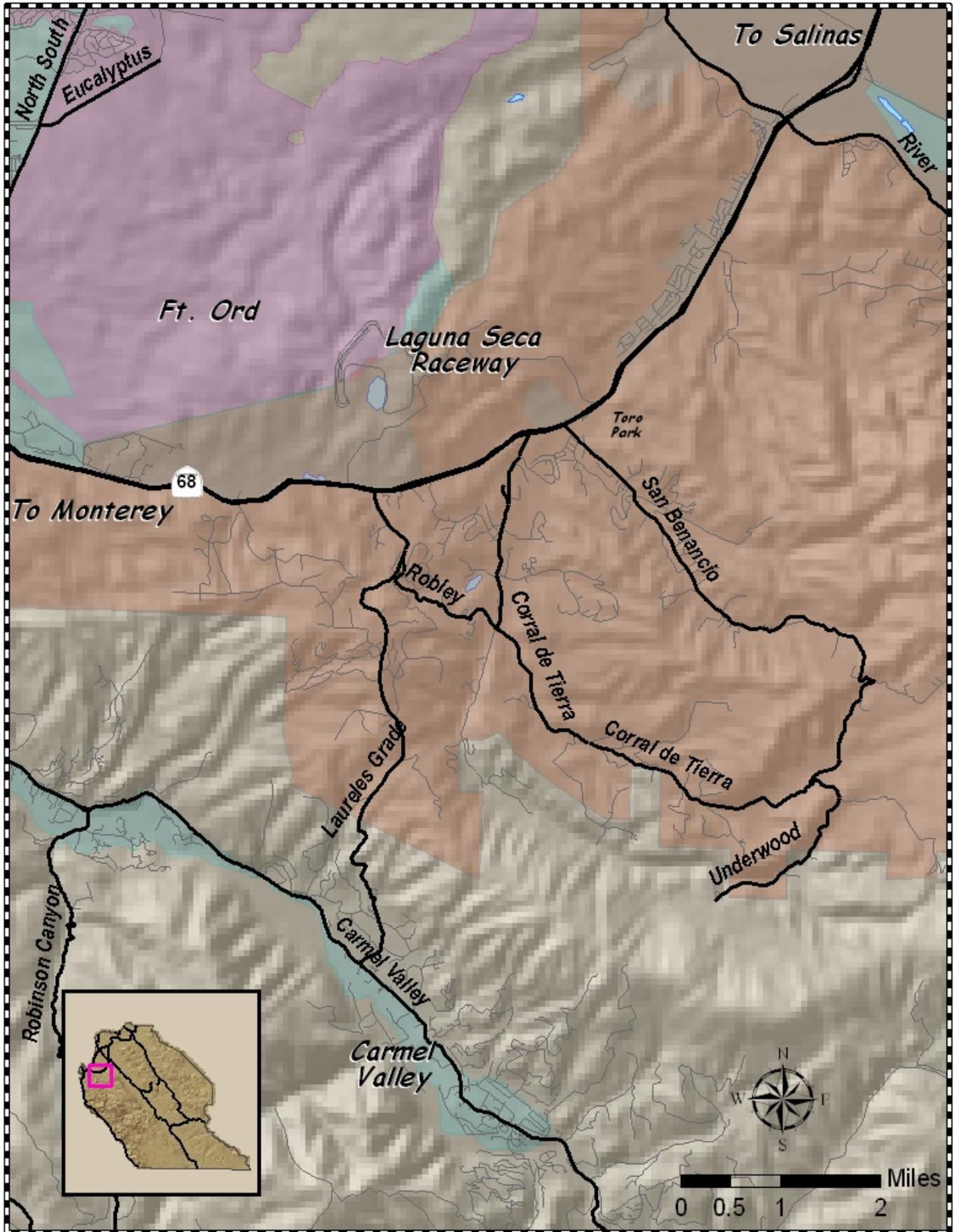
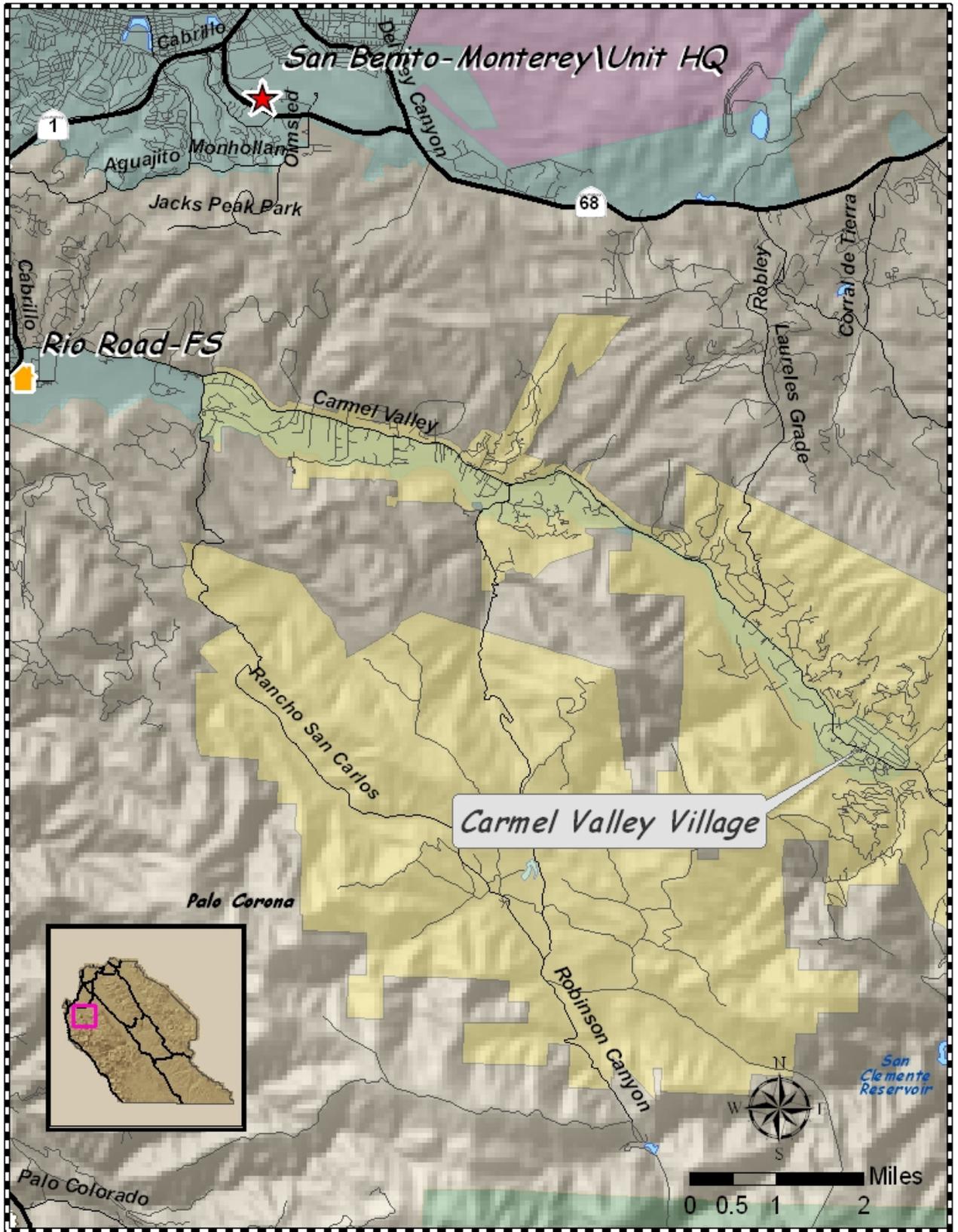


Figure D: Priority Landscape Maps

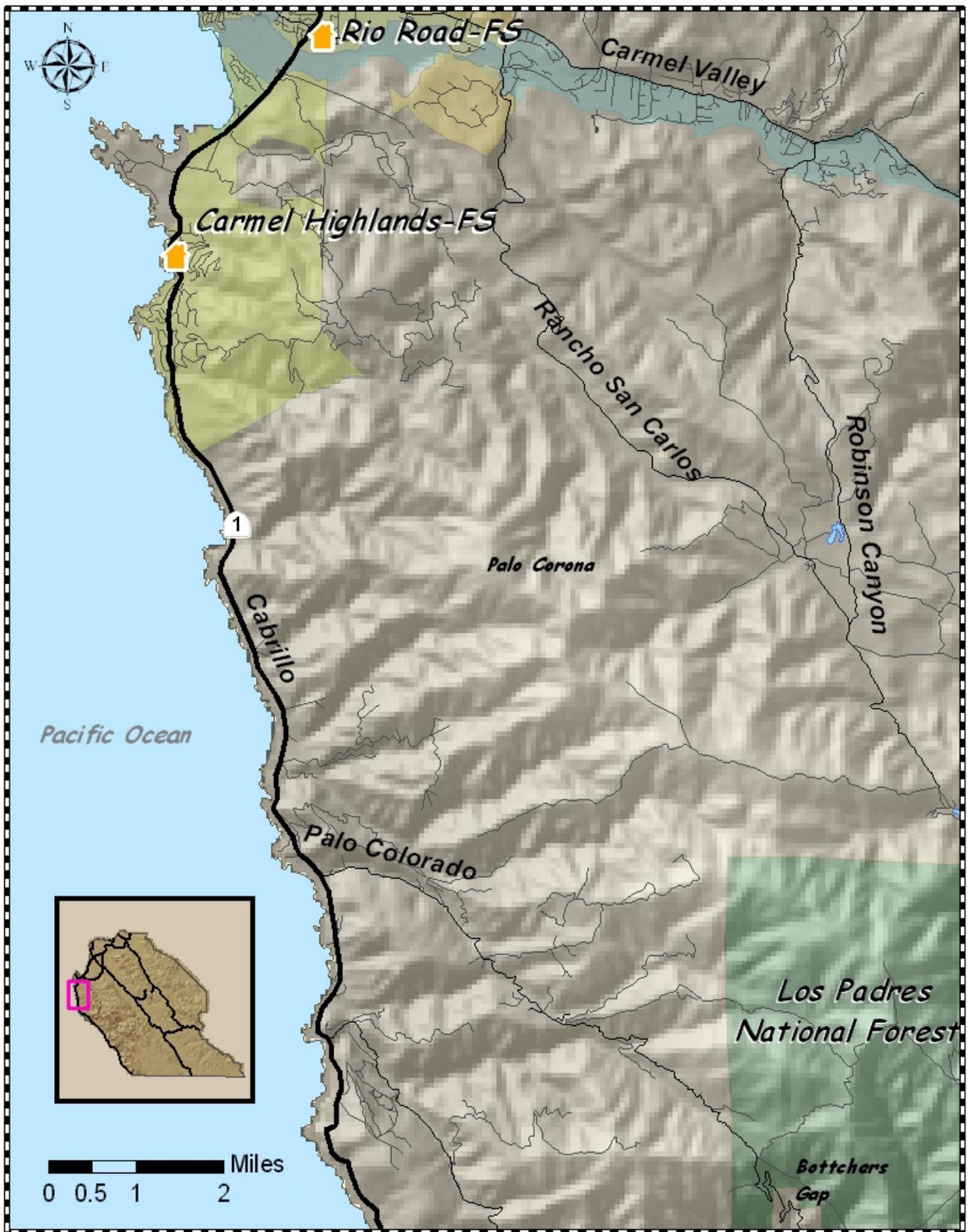
- State Highway 68 Corridor between Salinas and Monterey Peninsula / Laureles Grade



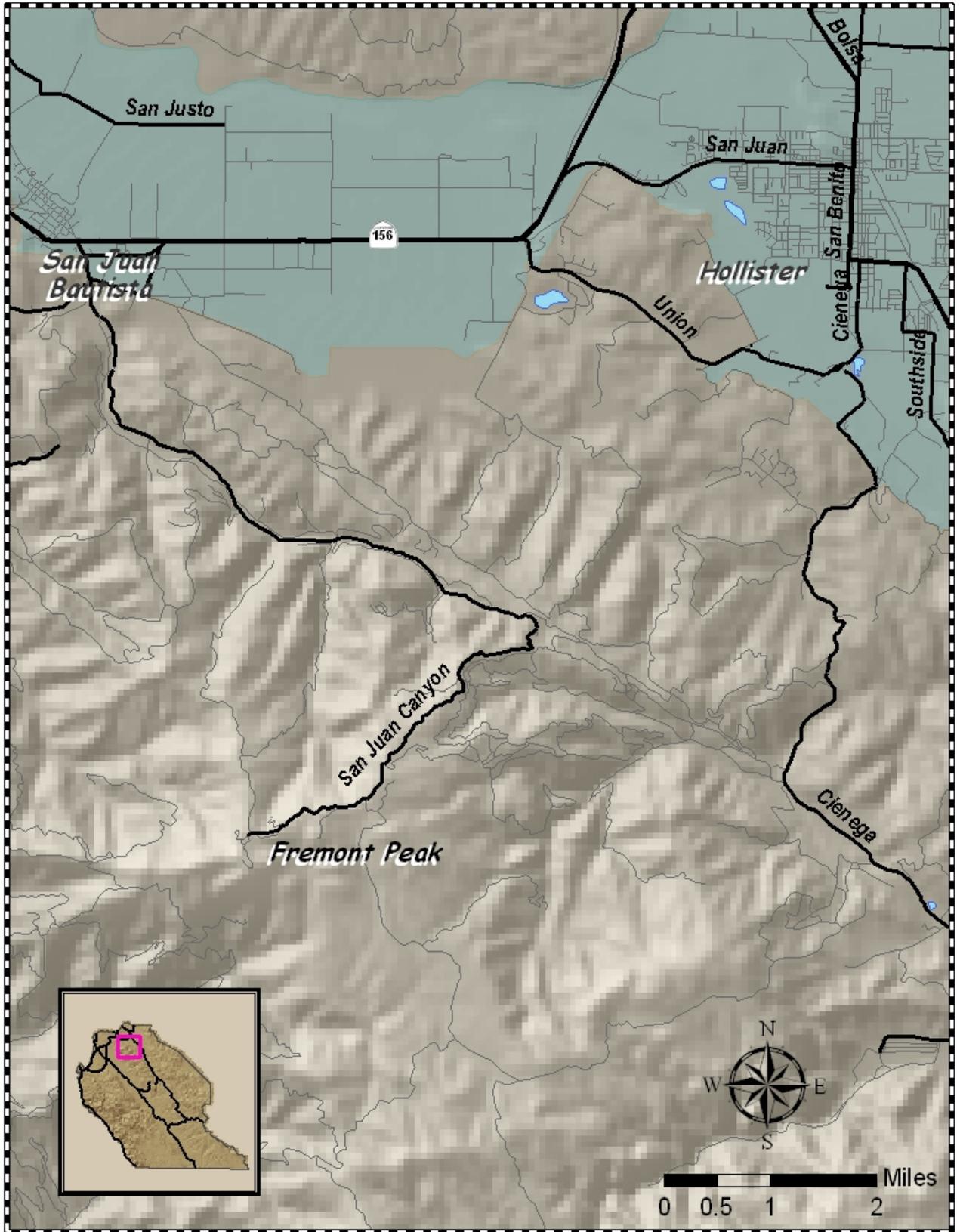
- Carmel Valley / Carmel Valley Village



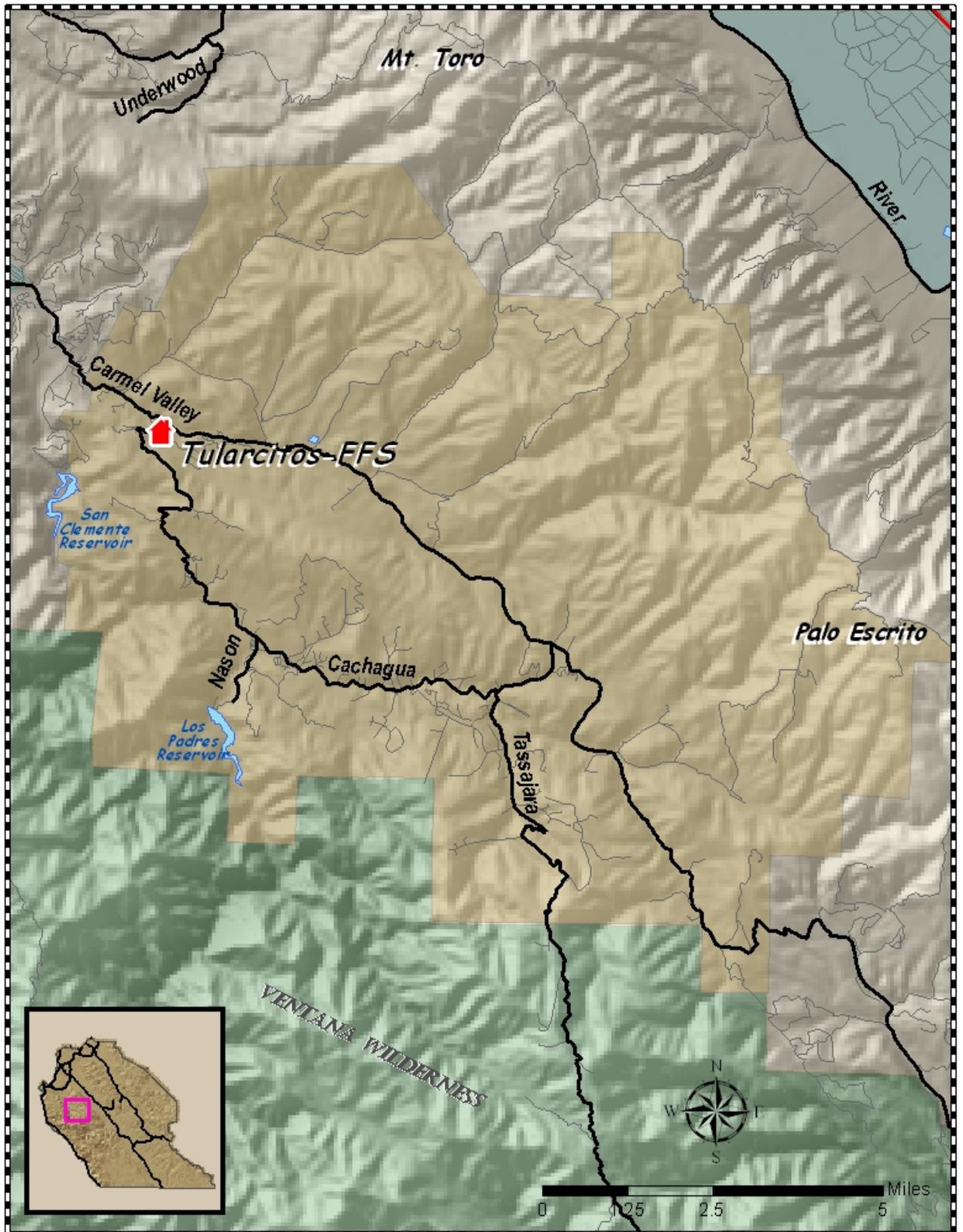
- Carmel Highlands / Palo Colorado Canyon



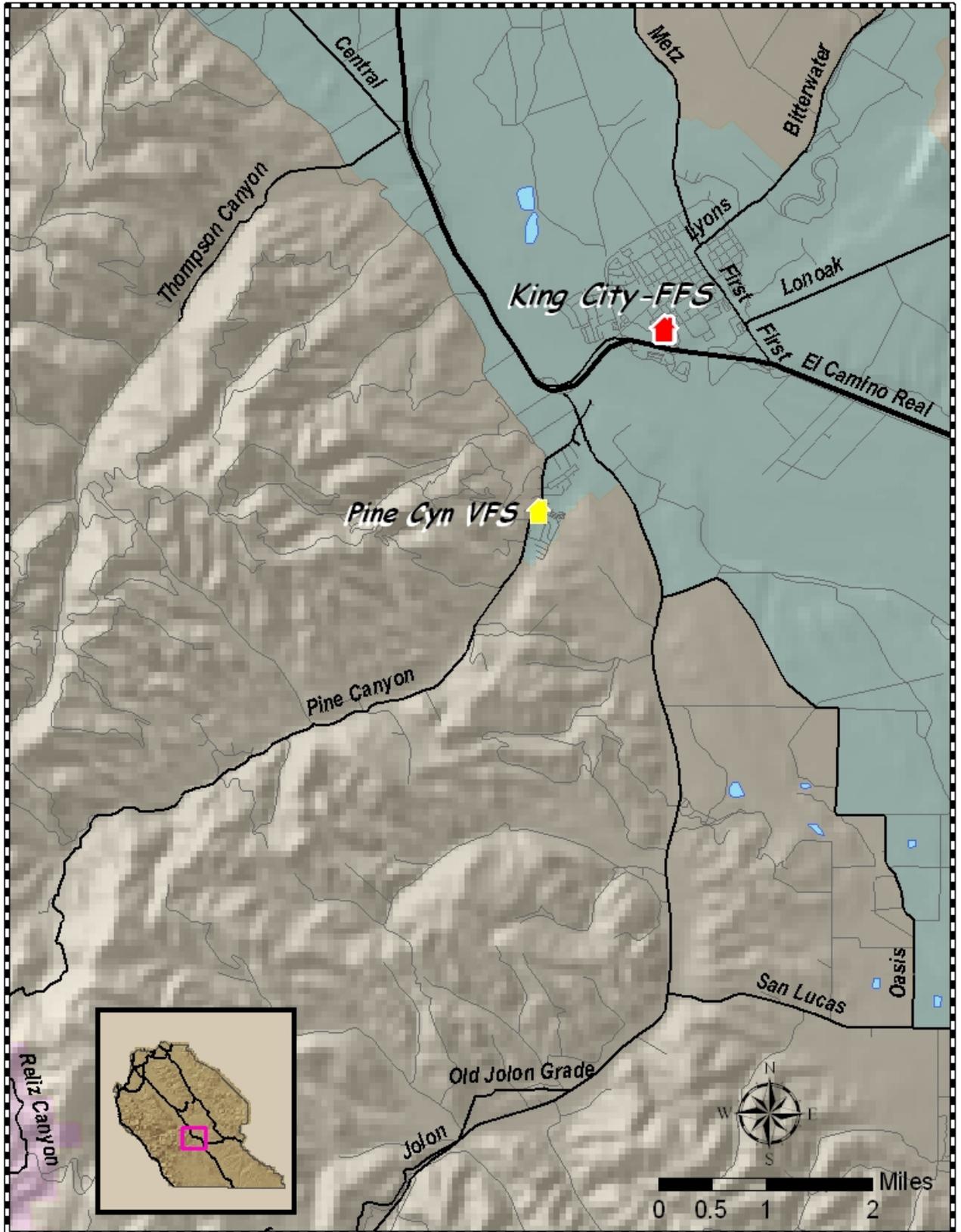
- San Juan Canyon (San Benito County)



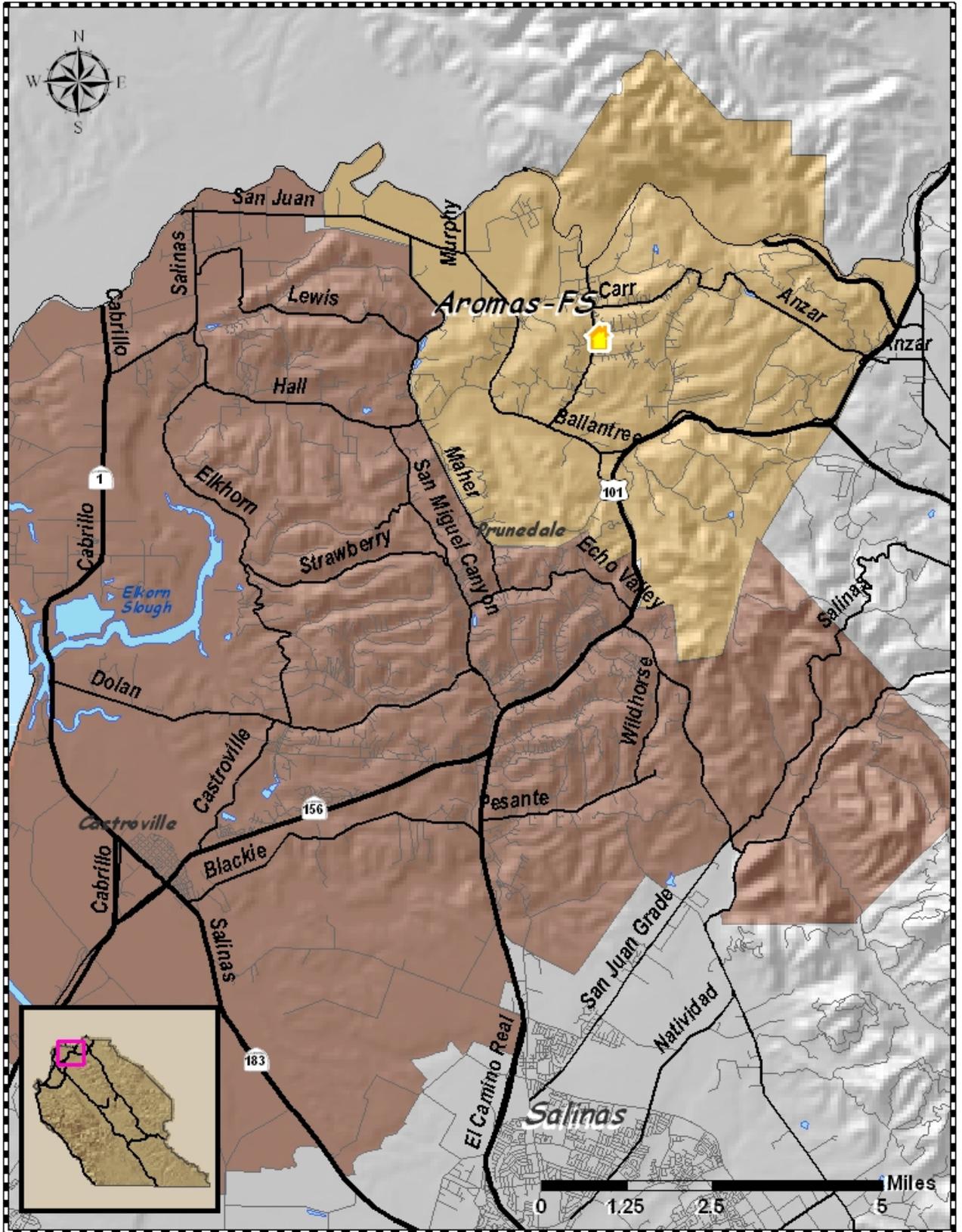
- Cachagua (Carmel Valley)



- Pine Canyon (King City)



- North Monterey County / Aromas



- Jack's Peak / Pebble Beach

