

A: DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

BADGER BATTALION

Fuels:

The fuels within the Badger Battalion are typical of those found in the Central California San Joaquin valley and Sierra Nevada. This area is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool moist winters. The climate, topography, geology and land use patterns within this region determine the vegetation patterns. Vegetation within the Badger Battalion varies from annual grasses and forbs on the valley floor to mixed conifer forest at the higher elevations. The lower elevations manifests annual grasses, including wild oats, and loading varies from year to year based on seasonal rainfall. Between 500'-1000' elevation this changes to a Woodland Oak fuel type with brush becoming more prevalent along with pockets of gray/bull pine starting around the 2000' level. The brush component is made up of several species, including, but not limited to; manzanita, chemise, ceanothus, scrub oak, live oak and poison-oak. The brush is interspersed with black oak and live oak, buckeye trees and sycamore (in drainages) with higher densities on the north and east aspects. This vegetation type continues to about 3500' where it blends into the Conifer Belt with scattered oaks, brush and conifer trees. At about 4500' conifers become the dominant fuel with such species as; cedar, pine, fir, live oak and black oak with a mixed brush understory which includes bear clover, lotus, chinquapin and whitethorn ceanothus.

Topography:

The Badger Battalion is typical of most of the foothill areas in the Southern Sierra Nevada Range and encompasses a large portion of the Dry Creek drainage and the Cottonwood Creek drainage. The Topography ranges from gentle rolling foothills above the Central Valley floor at 400' elevation to steep river drainage along Dry Creek. Major ridges and mountains are separated by small ravines, rugged canyons, and a few gentle valleys with elevations within the State responsibility area topping out near the 5000' elevation range.

Weather:

Typical summer weather patterns consist of 90 – 105 degree days with humidity's in the upper teens to low 20's and nights in the upper 50's to near 70 degrees with humidity's in the high 30's to low 50's. Winds are generally light and diurnal, up slope, up canyon in the day time and down slope, down canyon at night.

Fire History:

The Badger Battalion averages approximately 5-10 fire starts annually, with the majority of those starts occurring in the lower grass lands. Although rare, starts in the upper elevations within the Battalion do pose a significant potential for a large extended attack fire. Large extended attack fires have occurred in the Battalion over the years with several fires in the 500 – 1000 acre range, there is no known history of major fires in the Battalion.

Battalion Priority

Updating and maintaining our fire road system is a top priority in the Badger Battalion. By ensuring these road systems are well maintained allows us to access areas within the Battalion that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Proposed fuels reduction projects in the Battalion have been identified. Some are in the process of nearing completion, while other proposed projects are still waiting for final approval. Current projects are; working in coordination with USFS and Hartland Christian Camp, a fuel break along the ridge top, west of the Hartland Christian Camp, this project is about 90 percent complete. Working with the Fire Safe Council, a fuel break along Ridge, west of Badger, has been identified and is in the works with projected completion within the next 2 years. The fuel break will start of Miramonte Fire Control Road, head south and end at Mountain House, located at Hwy 245 and Dry Creek Road. Also in preliminary stages is the Eshom Valley VMP project, which will reduce fuel loading along Shadequarter Ridge. This project will involve mechanical brushing, pile burning and a broadcast burn. This project is anticipated to be completed in the next 2 years.

Badger / Miramonte Fuel Break:

- Build a shaded fuel break along the Badger / Miramonte Fire Control Road to provide an area to stop an established wildfire spreading from the Drum Valley / Highway 245 corridor. The Badger / Miramonte FCR is located on advantageous topography to provide a suitable control point to limit a fires spread into populated areas of Tulare and Fresno counties. The fuel break should be void of any continuous chaparral for twenty feet on either side of the road. Funding for this project will be minimal and can be absorbed by the unit(s) for regular fire control road maintenance if there is no available grant funding sources.

Shadequarter to Mankin VMP:

- The object of this project is to create a series of burns along the ridgeline that connects Shadequarter Mountain to Mankin Flat. The most important aspect of this project is that it would engineer a significant age class reduction of fuels from Eshom Valley at the edge of our DPA to where the fuels transition to grass / oak woodland. These projects should be completed sequentially from north to south to minimize control difficulties and to limit the amount preparation needed. A maintenance cycle should be established to insure the effectiveness. Funding to be provided through Local, State, and Federal grants, as well as Department funds specifically allocated for this type of project.

Buzzard Roost suppression tank

- Build a 5,000 gallon suppression tank on Buzzard Rust Fire Control Road at the intersection of Dry Creek Dr. This critical piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to acquire. This tank requires development of a nearby spring to be able to maintain the tanks capacity. Once this has been accomplished, maintenance requirements should be minimal.

KAWEAH BATTALION

Fuels:

The fuels within the Kaweah Battalion are typical of those found in the Central California San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada. This area is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool moist winters. The climate, topography, geology and land use patterns within this region determine the vegetation patterns. Vegetation within the Kaweah Battalion varies from annual grasses and forbs on the valley floor to mixed conifer forest at the higher elevations. The lower elevations manifests annual grasses, including wild oats, and loading varies from year to year based on seasonal rainfall. Between 500'-1000' elevation this changes to a Woodland Oak fuel type with brush becoming more prevalent along with pockets of gray/bull pine starting around the 2000' level. The brush component is made up of several species, including, but not limited to; manzanita, chemise, ceanothus, scrub oak, live oak and poison-oak. The brush is interspersed with black oak and live oak, buckeye trees and sycamore (in drainages) with higher densities on the north and east aspects. This vegetation type continues to about 3500' where it blends into the Conifer Belt with scattered oaks, brush and conifer trees. At about 4500' conifers become the dominant fuel with such species as; cedar, pine, fir, live oak and black oak with a mixed brush understory which includes bear clover, lotus, chinquapin and whitethorn ceanothus.

Topography:

The Kaweah Battalion is typical of most of the foothill areas in the Southern Sierra Nevada Range and encompasses a large portion of the Kaweah drainage and the Cottonwood Creek drainage. The Topography ranges from gentle rolling foothills above the Central Valley floor at 400' elevation to steep river drainage along Kaweah River. Major ridges and mountains are separated by small ravines, rugged canyons, and a few gentle valleys with elevations within the State responsibility area toping out near the 5000' elevation range.

Weather:

Typical summer weather patterns consist of 90 – 105 degree days with humidity's in the upper teens to low 20's and nights in the upper 50's to near 70 degrees with humidity's in the high 30's to low 50's. Winds are generally light and diurnal, up slope, up canyon in the day time and down slope, down canyon at night.

Fire History:

The Kaweah Battalion averages approximately 8-15 fire starts annually, with the majority of those starts occurring in the lower grass lands. Although rare, starts in the upper elevations within the Battalion do pose a significant potential for a large extended attack fire.

Large extended attack fires have occurred in the Battalion over the years with several fires in the 500 – 1000 acre range.

Battalion Priority

Updating and maintaining our fire road system is a top priority in the Kaweah Battalion. By ensuring these road systems are well maintained allows us to access areas within the Battalion that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Proposed fuels reduction projects in the Battalion have been identified. Some are in the process of nearing completion, while other proposed projects are still waiting for final approval. Current projects are; updating Pre-attack plans, the Rat Trail projects on the North Fork Drainage and around Kaweah Lake, Grouse Valley FCR fuel Break, Grouse Valley VMP, Three Rivers FFS Demo project and the Sheep Creek Suppression Tank and Pond maintenance.

Pre-Attack plans:

- Develop updated maps utilizing GIS technology to capture all roads, fuel breaks, water locations, staging locations, and plot probable control lines. Possible strategies for fire suppression could be pre-determined utilizing fire history, typical fire weather and fire behavior models. Distribute the maps so equipment from other stations / areas can efficiently function within the Kaweah Battalion.

North Fork "Rat Trail":

- Construct a 4-6 foot by 4.3 mile long fuel break along the county road right-of-way along the East side of North Fork Drive. This fuel break begins ¼ mile south of the Sheep Creek Fire Control Road and proceeds north to the Cherry Falls recreation area. The fuel break is intended to stop or slow accidental or incendiary road side ignitions, which it has historically done with much success. Funding to be absorbed through normal unit operating funds due to its minimal expense.

Kaweah Lake “Rat Trail”:

- Construct a 4-6 foot by 6.7 mile long fuel break along the state highway right-of-way, on the East side of Highway 198. This fuel break begins at the bottom of “Lemon Hill” at the end of the citrus grove and proceeds east / northeast and terminates at the Slick Rock recreation area. This fuel break is intended to stop accidental or incendiary road side ignitions, which it has historically done with much success. This annual project should be completed before Memorial Day.

Grouse Valley FCR Fuel Break:

- Engineer the fuels along the Grouse Valley Fire Control Road to create a shaded fuel break, creating an advantageous control point for fire suppression. The Grouse Valley FCR is located along the east side of our unit near the SRA boundary. The topography is much more suitable than anything to the east for establishing control lines to protect the homes along South Fork Drive from wildfire established in the confluence of this drainage. The fuel break should be void of any chaparral for 100-150 feet on the downhill side of the road and 50 feet on the uphill side. Funding for this project is through acquired available grant funding via the Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Grouse Valley VMP:

- This is a 1500 acre VMP located in the upper reaches of the Grouse Creek Watershed. Grouse Creek is a tributary to the South Fork of the Kaweah River. The objectives are to reduce hazardous fuel buildup of 50 year old Chaparral, improve grazing conditions, and improve wildlife habitat. The cooperators in this project would be; California Department of Fish & Game, and two private cattle ranches. The main environmental issue is air quality to the adjacent community which lies in area considered to be smoke sensitive. Work is in progress and is scheduled to be completed as soon as Department funding, and Air Pollution Control District fee assessments are exempted for this type project.

Three Rivers FFS Demo Project

- Maintain the “Fire Safe” landscape area that is visible to all residents and visitors to the Three Rivers Forest Fire Station which will demonstrate the “ideal” fire safe landscaped home. Maintain and publicize this project annually to use as the local model.

Sheep Creek Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 5,000 gallon tank built by CAL FIRE in the 1950’s. This critical piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to acquire. The tanks maintenance costs are negligible and requires little effort. Maintain the spring box and plumbing to insure the unrestricted flow of water into the tank and stock trough.

Salt Creek Suppression Pond

- Maintain the 5,000-10,000 gallon reservoir built by CAL FIRE in the 1950's. This reservoir requires annual brush removal and opening / closing of the head gate to allow filling of water, and removal of sediment. This reservoir is adjacent to the Salt Creek Fire Control Road and provides critical water storage in an very remote area.

Blue Ridge Fuel Break

- Maintain the pre-existing shaded fuel break that runs from Blue Ridge road This break requires annual to semi annual removal of new shrubs, and dead / dying trees brush. The road serves as a wild fire defense zone that primarily follows a north-south oriented ridgeline. Fuels reduction is proposed along 9 miles of the fire control road for a maximum distance of 150 feet. Funding for this project is available grant funding via Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

TULE BATTALION

Fuels:

The fuels within the Tule Battalion are typical of those found in the Central California San Joaquin valley and Sierra Nevada. This area is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool moist winters. The climate, topography, geology and land use patterns within this region determine the vegetation patterns. Vegetation within the Tule Battalion varies from annual grasses and forbs on the valley floor to old growth sequoia redwood/mixed conifer forest at the higher elevations. The lower elevations manifests annual grasses, including wild oats, and loading varies from year to year based on seasonal rainfall. Between 500'-1000' elevation this changes to a Woodland Oak fuel type with brush becoming more prevalent. The brush component is made up of several species, including, but not limited to; manzanita, chemise, ceanothus, scrub oak, live oak and poison-oak. The brush is interspersed with black oak and live oak, buckeye trees and sycamore (in drainages) with higher densities on the north and east aspects. This vegetation type continues to about 3000' where it blends into the Conifer Belt with scattered oaks, brush and conifer trees. At about 4000' conifers become the dominant fuel with such species as; cedar, pine, fir, live oak and black oak with a mixed brush understory which includes bear clover, lotus, chinquapin and whitethorn ceanothus. This continues up to about the 5500' elevation where it transitions to a Timber fuel type dominated by fir, pine and sequoia. This type generally manifests areas of heavy down and dead fuels.

Topography:

The Tule Battalion is typical of most river drainages found in the Southern Sierra Nevada Range and encompasses a large portion of the Tule river drainage and spills over into the Deer Creek drainage on its southern border. The Topography ranges from gentle rolling foothills where it leaves the Central Valley floor at 500' elevation to sheer granite monoliths at the 8000' elevation. The Tule river drainage consists of three major forks; North, Middle, and South forks and is further made up by numerous feeder creeks and seasonal streams. Major ridges and mountains are separated by small ravines, deep rugged canyons, and a few gentle valleys. Due to Glacial activity thousands of years ago large granite boulders, rocky escarpments and sheer rock faces can be found on most ridges and mountains.

Weather:

The Tule Battalion like Tulare County is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with cool moist winters and warm dry summers. Average annual temperatures range from 49.6 to 76.6 however it is not uncommon to have temperatures in the low 20s during the winter months and highs exceeding 100 for extended periods during the summer months. The rainy season is October through April and annual rainfall average is 11.03 inches . Summers can be hot as stated earlier with extremely warm temperatures and dry relative humidity lasting for weeks. During the North American Monsoonal season thunderstorms are not uncommon over the higher elevations with some extending out over the Sierra Foothills and valley floor. Some years a Monsoonal push will work from the southwest driving northeast causing thunderstorms with associated lightning and scattered precipitation on the valley floor and foothill region.

Fire History:

The Tule Battalion includes the Hwy 190 corridor which accesses numerous recreation areas such as; Lake Success, Balch Park, Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, Sequoia National Forest, Eagle Mountain Casino and Giant Sequoia National Monument. The battalion traditionally experiences the majority of the fire activity in the Tulare Unit. Although recreationist contributes to some of the fire causes, a majority of the activity is attributable to arson caused fires. The proximity of the Tule River Indian Reservation which has a decade's long arson history contributes heavily to the battalion's fire responses. Sometimes these are a single fire to a series of fires being set on SRA lands adjacent to the reservation. Large fire history has been primarily in the grass and oak woodland fuel types. There have been a couple fires in the Brush/Timber fuels that originated in the Middle Fork of the Tule River that burned onto or threatened SRA lands; these were the "Coffee" and "Deep" fires. Both fires did pose a threat to Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.

Battalion Priority:

Fire roads and their maintenance are a high priority they provide access and fire control opportunities to many areas of the Battalion. Many of these fire roads also access ranch roads that local ranchers have put in which provide even greater access and fire control opportunities. Without the fire road maintenance many areas would be inaccessible to ground equipment and would require time consuming walk in or costly fly in access by ground resources. Another priority is the PC 4291 inspection program which provides defensible space around the numerous structures in the Battalion. This program has a successful history with improved compliance and the need for citations diminishing each year.

Fire Defense Projects:

There are currently three major projects underway in the Battalion, one is the “Mossy Rock” VMP which is a fuels modification project that when completed will complement the “Battle Mountain” VMP that was completed in 2001. The “Happy Camp” project which started in 2010 is a fuel break below the community of Happy Camp which resides in the timber belt with extremely high fuel loading, completion of this project is anticipated in 2012. The Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Evacuation Plan is currently in process with completion expected by May of 2011 this is a project that involves different cooperators from different agencies that have vested interest in the affected area.

Collaborators:

Sequoia Fire safe Council; refer to Tulare Unit Forester Dave Shy and Pre-Fire Engineer Aldo Gonzalez for further information on this subject.

Cow Mountain Fuel Break

- Maintain the pre-engineered fuels along the Cow Mountain Fire Control Road to create / maintain a shaded fuel break, creating an advantageous control point for fire suppression. The Cow Mountain Fire Control Road lies on the east side of the unit near the SRA / FRA boundary. The fuel break should be void of any chaparral for 100-150 feet on the downhill side of the road and 50 feet on the uphill side. This project to be funded through unit funds and available acquired grant funding.

Rancheria Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 5,000 gallon suppression tank built by CAL FIRE in the 1970s adjacent to the Rancheria Fire Control Road. This critical piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to acquire. This tank requires development of a nearby spring to be able to maintain the tanks capacity. Once this has been accomplished, maintenance requirements should be minimal.

Wishon Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 10,000 gallon suppression tank along Wishon Road. below the community of Doyle Springs which was built by CAL FIRE in the 1990s. This piece of infrastructure is critical in the support and protection of the Doyle Springs cabins. This tank requires minimal annual maintenance.

Success Lake Rat Trail

- Construct a 4-6 foot by 3 mile long fuel break along the state highway right-of-way, on the east side of Highway 190. This fuel break begins at the point where Highway 190 meets the hill near Success Market and proceeds east / north east and terminates at the Success Lake Bridge. This fuel break is intended to stop or slow accidental or incendiary road side ignitions, which it successfully did twice in 2003. Funding to be absorbed through normal Unit operating funds due to its minimal expense.

Rancheria Fuel Break

- Maintain the pre-existing shaded fuel break that runs from Balch Park Road., east to the Rancheria Fire Control Road. This break requires annual to semi annual removal of new shrubs, and dead / dying trees brush. Funding to be through available acquired grant funding. Funding for this project is through available grant funding via Sequoia Fire Safe Council.

Pierpoint Fuel Break

- Create a shaded fuel break that will be 100 to 300 feet wide and 1 ½ miles long forming a protective ring around the community of Pierpoint Springs and the western side of Camp Nelson. The United States Forest Service is establishing a fuel break on their jurisdictional ground to tie in with our jurisdictions. The break will utilize existing roads, natural openings, and clearance around structures to form an effective control point / belt of engineered fuels. CAL FIRE was awarded a grant to accomplish this project.

Camp Nelson Fuel Break

- Create a shaded fuel break that will be constructed 200 feet wide and 1 ½ miles long around the eastern and southern perimeter of the community of Camp Nelson. This project would be in cooperation with the United States Forest Service and multiple private landowners. This project will create a needed buffer between the community and the wildland.

Battle Mountain VMP

- Reintroduce fire to the area previously burned utilizing our Vegetation Management Program Burn. This will be phase two of the 2001 burn to treat the regeneration of chaparral and try and convert the fuel type. Scheduled for 2009 / 2012.

Cow Mountain Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 10,000 gallon suppression tank built by CAL FIRE in the 1970's. This piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to obtain. The tanks maintenance costs are negligible and require little effort.

Mossy Rock VMP

- This 580 acre VMP is located seven miles north of the town of Springville adjacent to Balch Park Road. The objectives are to reduce the fuel loading by chipping, piling, and broad casting the fifty to sixty year old chaparral, Live Oak and brush. This would establish an age class change in the fuel to be utilized as a wildfire control point, improve wildlife habitat, and improve livestock grazing conditions. This project would be in cooperation with local rancher. This project poses some challenges due to the location of the proposed site in proximity to areas within the same drainage in respect to air quality issues.

Balch Park Road Suppression Tank

- Maintain the 10,000 gallon suppression tank built by CAL FIRE in the 1970's. This piece of infrastructure lies in a remote area where suppression water is difficult to obtain. The tanks maintenance costs are negligible and require little effort.

FOUNTAIN SPRINGS BATTALION

Fuels:

The fuels within the Fountain Springs Battalion are typical of those found in the Central California San Joaquin valley and Sierra Nevada. This area is influenced by a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool moist winters. The climate, topography, geology and land use patterns within this region determine the vegetation patterns. Vegetation within the Fountain Springs Battalion varies from annual grasses and forbs on the valley floor to mixed conifer forest at the higher elevations. The lower elevations manifests annual grasses, including wild oats, and loading varies from year to year based on seasonal rainfall. Between 500'-1000' elevation this changes to a Woodland Oak fuel type with brush becoming more prevalent along with pockets of gray/bull pine starting around the 2000' level. The brush component is made up of several species, including, but not limited to; manzanita, chemise, ceanothus, scrub oak, live oak and poison-oak. The brush is interspersed with black oak and live oak, buckeye trees and sycamore (in drainages) with higher densities on the north and east aspects. This vegetation type continues to about 3500' where it blends into the Conifer Belt with scattered oaks, brush and conifer trees. At about 4500' conifers become the dominant fuel with such species as; cedar, pine, fir, live oak and black oak with a mixed brush understory which includes bear clover, lotus, chinquapin and whitethorn ceanothus.

Topography:

The Fountain Springs Battalion is typical of most of the foothill areas in the Southern Sierra Nevada Range and encompasses a large portion of the Deer creek drainage, White river drainage and the upper portions of the Poso creek drainage on its southeastern border. The Topography ranges from gentle rolling foothills above the Central Valley floor at 400' elevation to steep river drainages. Major ridges and mountains are separated by small ravines, deep rugged canyons, and a few gentle valleys with elevations within the State responsibility area toping out near the 5000' elevation range.

Weather:

Typical summer weather patterns consist of 90 – 105 degree days with humidity's in the upper teens to low 20's and nights in the upper 50's to near 70 degrees with humidity's in the high 30's to low 50's. Winds are generally light and diurnal, up slope, up canyon in the day time and down slope, down canyon at night.

Fire History:

The Fountain Springs Battalion averages approximately 7-10 fire starts annually, with the majority of those starts occurring in the lower grass lands. Each year however you can expect a least a couple of starts in the upper elevations within the Battalion where there is significant potential for a large extended attack fire.

Large extended attack fires have occurred in the Battalion over the years with several fires in the 500 – 1500 acre range, there is no known history of major fires in the Battalion.

Battalion Priority

Updating and maintaining our fire road system is a top priority in the Battalion. By ensuring these road systems are well maintained allows us to access areas within the Battalion that would otherwise be difficult to access.

Proposed fuels reduction projects in the Battalion have been identified and the proposed projects are still waiting for final approval. The number one priority is to reduce fuel loading in and around the communities of Pine Flat and California Hot Springs. In 1997 a fuel break was begun around Pine Flat using Mountain Home crews, this fuel break was never completed or maintained. Working with the Fire Safe council this project will hopefully be a reality again within the next 2 – 3 years.

My second priority is to gain approval for a mechanical VMP on King George Mountain. This project would reduce fuel loading as well as improve grazing land and wildlife habitat. It is also my desire to identify ways of reducing fuels in and around the Poso, Jack ranch areas.

Posey Fuel Break

- Create a shaded fuel break near the communities of Panorama Heights and Poso Park. The fuel break is a joint venture between the U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE Tulare Unit and the local residents requiring little cost to those involved. The project consists of limbing trees, removing excess brush, restrict mistletoe spread and disposing of the excess waste by burning or chipping. Most of the treated lands is on federal land next to the Tulare County Posey Fire Station.

Uhl Pocket Fuel Break

- Maintain the Uhl Pocket fuel break that was created in the late 1990's. This fuel break lies on USFS and CAL FIRE jurisdictions. Major treatments have been completed and require 10-20 days of cutting and burning / chipping per year to maintain it in a useable condition.

Pine Mt. Fuel Break

- Maintain the Pine Mt. fuel break that was created in the late 1990's. This fuel break protects the community of Pine Flat and lies on USFS land. Major treatments have been completed and require 10-25 days of cutting and burning / chipping per year to maintain it in a useable condition.

Pine Mt. VMP

- This proposed project is a 1600 acre VMP 2-3 miles southwest of the community of Pine Flat. This is mostly on National Forest / Monument lands that lie within CAL FIRE's DPA. The objective of this burn is to reduce fuel load, improve wildlife habitat, and improve grazing. The effects of the burn should create a protection zone for the communities of Pine Flat and California Hot Springs.

Sandy Creek Fuel Break

- Construct a shaded fuel break along the Sandy Creek Fire Control Road to the forest boundary. This will provide a control point for the protection of Poso and Panorama Heights. The fuel break is to be constructed 200' x 1 mile. The Project is still in planning stages.

Gibbons Peak VMP

- This proposed project is an 1800 acre VMP 12 miles northwest of California Hot Springs. Roughly 1400 acres on SRA, and the remaining on BIA land. Contracts and agreements still need to be obtained for all of the cooperators involved. The objective of this burn is to reduce fuel load, improve wildlife habitat, and improve grazing.

MHCC Program Information

Mountain Home Conservation Camp is currently working on a number of grant funded prefire projects. Among them are the Mossy Rock Fuel Break, Rancheria Fuel Break, Happy Camp Fuel Break, and Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest roadside fuel break and thinning projects. The camp has also done considerable work over the last two years on the Grouse Vegetation Management Project which is a prescribed burn designed to modify fuels on a large scale north of Blue Ridge. All of these projects will provide either enhanced defensible space, fuel bed modification, or fuel breaks to protect lives, property, and resources from the threat of a catastrophic wildfire.

The camp also has a sign shop which produces fire prevention signs which are intended to heighten fire safety awareness of the public. Additionally, the camp performs much community and public service work throughout the county. Examples of cooperators are the Tulare County Resource Conservation District, various Fire Safe Councils, Tulare County Road Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lakes Kaweah and Success, City of Porterville, City of Exeter, City of Visalia, City of Lindsay, CalTrans, and a number of private landowners and citizens.

At full staffing the camp has five 17 man crews which can respond to emergencies and perform public service. We perform thousands of man hours each year and support each field battalion in supporting its individual prefire projects and goals.