

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Humboldt Del Norte Unit
Fire Management Plan

Executive Summary

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Humboldt Del Norte Unit is remotely located representing the most northern Unit along the California coastline. The Unit extends north to south approximately 180 miles and inland approximately 50 miles. This encompasses 1,941,991 acres of state responsibility lands and 1,963,581 of direct protection area. Approximately 70% of these lands are zoned for timber production and another 10% are recreation areas. Several watersheds exist within the lands including the Smith, Klamath, Mad, Trinity, Van Duzen, Mattole and Eel Rivers. Humboldt and Del Norte counties are home to not only the world's tallest living trees, but also the largest remaining stands of old growth coast redwood. Many of these stands are protected in parks and recreational areas. These include 11 State Parks, 20 County parks and beaches, Redwood National Park, United States Forest Service (USFS) Six Rivers National Forest and the newly acquired Headwaters Forest. The livelihood of these counties is dependent on the resources the land itself has to offer both in the form of timber production and recreation. In addition many of the smaller landowners manage their land for both timber production and ranching.

The Unit is culturally diverse as well. Twelve tribal agencies reside within the unit including the Hoopa, which boasts the largest Native American reservation in California. The Yurok, Wiotts, Karuk and Tolowa are some of the other tribes that are represented within the area.

Humboldt and Del Norte counties each have an urban interface dilemma. Del Norte County's main population centers are Gasquet, Crescent City and Klamath. Many of the residents live in rural areas. Humboldt County has an even greater risk of experiencing an urban interface fire. The population centers include Trinidad, McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Arcata, Eureka, Loleta, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Garberville. Additionally there exist numerous other smaller communities. Any of these communities could experience an interface fire.

Ultimately the plan will balance the needs of the many stakeholders involved. The Fire Management Plan considers the needs of timber production, recreation, ranching, wildlife enhancement, cultural needs and fire hazard reduction. The area in itself is so diverse in its existence and needs, that the management plan must be diverse and able to accommodate all facets of land management.

In light of the above the Humboldt – Del Norte Unit regards the 2005 Unit Fire Management Plan to be compliant with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 as a “Community Wildfire Protection Plan” (CWPP), as follows:

COLLABORATION

This plan is a compilation of efforts from various groups and agencies from throughout the Unit to address the mitigation of the hazardous fuel loading within the Unit and around the communities at risk within it. The plan addresses the priorities put forth by the Unit based on the key issues gathered from cooperators: 1) assets at risk, 2) level of service, 3) fuels, 4) fire weather, and 5) fire history.

PRIORITIZED FUEL REDUCTION

This plan identifies and prioritizes areas of hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the type and methods of treatments that will be used by the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit to protect one or more of the Communities at Risk and their essential infrastructure within the Unit boundaries. This includes some efforts of local cooperators and their accomplishments.

TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

This plan recommends measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the Unit. Information drawn from a variety of sources were included in this plan to help educate the public as to what they can do to help mitigate potential problems associated with living in the Wildland Urban Interface. (WUI)