SECTION III: Priority Landscapes

A: PRIORITY LANDSCAPES: ASSETS AT RISK in CONTEXT OF POTENTIAL THREATS

In the previous fire plan, Assets at Risk were generally presented as a list of categories. These categories usually included topics such as: infrastructure and community areas; water and air quality; habitat and biological resources; recreation, forest and forest products, etc., and each category would describe the specific or local Asset at Risk. Since the previous fire plan, the 2010 Forest and Range Assessment was released to the public. One of the products from this assessment provided a new web-based tool, the Priority Landscape Mapper. This Geographical Information Systems (GIS) tool displays geographically – rather than listing - *Assets at Risk in context of Potential Threats* **–** and identifies this combined assessment as **Priorities Landscapes.** Moreover, like the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map, Priority Landscapes provides a way to communicate to the public, in a consistent and like-way across all of California, the various components of the 2010 Forest and Range Assessment, including components related to wildland fire.

Priority Landscape Mapper is a comprehensive mapping system that provides spatial analysis for twenty-two themes. To create these maps, it is best to utilize the website for viewing and toggling the options; plus the mapping software allows the selection of one of four different base maps (satellite imagery, topographic, road and highway, or shade relief) to enhance the viewers understanding of the themes. To access the Priority Mapper, go to the website: http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/priorityls/default.html. Each theme relates to one of the 11 core themes found in 2010 Forest and Range Assessment. To review the full document, go to the website: http://frap.fire.ca.gov/assessment2010.html.

The San Diego Unit staff has identified 3 priority landscapes that have little to no recorded fire history in the last 30 years. Within these priority landscapes there has also been an increase in residential and community development during this same 30-year period. In these areas identified the landscape has continuous vegetation, high impact to watershed value and an increase to the infrastructure that support the growing population density. The San Diego Unit staff utilized the Priority Landscape Mapper web-based mapping program and identified three areas that are ranked as 'high threat' from catastrophic wildfire. The primary risk factors are 25-30 year growth of continuous vegetation, topography alignment with high wind events and wildland urban interface development.

One identified priority landscape at risk is located south of the Interstate 8, west of Buckman Springs Road, north of Highway 94 and east of Harbison Canyon and Lawson Valley through a portion of the Cleveland National Forest. This area is referred to as the Laguna fire foot print that burned in 1970 at estimated 175,000 acres. This landscape area watershed value supports Lake Morena, Barrett Reservoir and the Loveland Reservoir. Throughout this identified priority landscape are public recreational trails, camp grounds, and scenic overviews. The western edge of this priority landscape transitions from open wildland to an urban interface with a high population density. Project activities can be found in Section V, under Monte Vista, Dulzura, and Campo Battalion Plans.

The next priority landscape area at risk is located along Highway 79 and Highway 76, near the communities of Sunshine Summit, Warner Springs and Mesa Grande. This priority landscape has a rich cultural value due to the numerous Indian Reservation and historical sites. This priority landscape area watershed value supports Vail Lake and Lake Henshaw. Project activities can be found in Section V, Julian Battalion plan.

The third priority landscape area at risk is located in the north central area of San Diego County that starts in near the community of Rainbow and follows the Highway 15 corridor south to the community of Bonsall. Ninety thousand cars traverse this priority landscape daily. The southern portion of this priority landscape has changed over the past 25-30 years from agriculture land value to residential communities with a high wildland urban interface population density. Project activities can be found in Section V, Red Mountain Battalion.

All three priority landscapes have their own unique values at risk with a "high threat" ranking from catastrophic wildfire. Project activities in these priority landscapes areas are as diverse as the values at risk, see the list of projects and activities in Appendix A: San Diego Unit – Projects and Activities.

B: COMMUNITIES AT RISK (Fire Safe Councils and CWPPs)

The listing of Communities at Risk (CAR) is derived from the National Fire Plan. The intent of listing is to help people protect their communities and property from catastrophic wildfire by providing funding, when available, to reduce the risk from wildfires. The California Fire Alliance assists the federal agencies charged with implementing the National Fire Plan, by providing a list of these communities on the website: http://www.cafirealliance.org/communities_at_risk.

The list below identifies Communities at Risk within the State Responsibility Areas by CAL FIRE Division and Battalion representatives. Additionally, if there is a Firesafe Council (FSC) and/or Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) associated with the community, then there is an "X" for that category.

Battalion	CAR	FSC	CWPP
Red Mountain Battalion	Du Luz Canyon		
	Deer Springs	X	X
	Hidden Meadows	X	X
	Pala Mesa Village		
	Rainbow		
	Twin Oaks		
	San Luis Rey Heights		
	Fallbrook	X	X
Monte Vista Battalion	Alpines Heights	X	X
	Carveacre	X	X
	Crest	X	X
	Flinn Springs		
	Harbison Canyon		
	Sycuan Summit		
Dulzura Battalion	Barrett	X	In Progress
	Dulzura	X	In Progress
	Jamul	X	X
	Lawson Valley		
	Lyons Valley		
	Potrero	X	In Progress
	Tecate		
Campo Battalion	Boulevard	X	In Progress
	Campo	X	In Progress
	Descanso	X	In Progress
	Guatay		
	Jacumba	X	In Progress
	La Posta		
	Lake Morena	X	In Progress
	Pine Valley	X	X

Battalion	CAR	FSC	CWPP
Julian Battalion	Mesa Grande		
	Harrison Park		
	Julian	X	X
	Stone Ridge (Holcomb Village)	X	X
	Sunshine Summit		
	Warner Springs		
	Whispering Pines (Wynola)	X	X
Valley Center Battalion	Harmony Grove		
	Palomar Mountain Communities:		
	Bailey Meadow	X	X
	Crestline	X	X
	Birch Hill	X	X
	Conifer Road Residential areas	X	X
	Rancho Santa Fe	X	In Progress
	Mystery Mountain and Wilkes area	X	X
	Valley Center Communities:		
	Lilac and Keys Creek	X	X
	Couser Canyon	X	X
	Woods Valley	X	X
	Pauma Heights	X	X
	Lake Wolford and Canal area	X	X
Ramona Battalion	Barona		
	Ramona Communities		
	Mount Woodson	X	X
	Mussey Grade / Fernbrook	X	X
	Rosemont	X	X
	San Diego Country Estates	X	X