

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008

Lassen-Modoc Unit

II. Collaboration

A. Stakeholders: What are they?

Stakeholders are defined as any person, agency or organizations with a particular interest “a stake” in fire management and the protection of assets from wildfires. The Lassen–Modoc Unit utilizes the Unit Chief, Division Chiefs, Battalion Chiefs, Fires Station personnel, and Fire Prevention Officers, including Volunteers in Prevention (VIP), through active participation in Fire Safe Council Meetings, and other fire prevention workshops and Public Education presentations. The Lassen–Modoc Unit Chief has made a considerable attempt at involving stakeholders and many of their interests in the planning of the Lassen–Modoc Fire Management Plan. It is the goal of the Lassen–Modoc Unit to encourage the participation of as many stakeholders as possible and to continually update planning efforts involving stakeholder input.

The Lassen and Modoc Fire Safe Councils have been instrumental in bringing a diverse group of stakeholders to the table. The Unit is able to respond and adapt activities to address many of the concerns from the different stakeholders involved with the fire safe council. Through the council’s diversity, agencies have been able to develop fire management and hazardous fuel reduction projects that otherwise may never have developed. More information about fire safe councils is available at the web site www.firesafecouncil.org.

B. Stakeholders: Who are they?



Fire Safe Councils

Battalion 1

Within Battalion 1 there are two active Fire Safe Councils: The Janesville Fire Safe Council and the Lassen County Fire Safe Council. Both of these councils are



working on fuels reduction projects and education and outreach to the community. In 1997, the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD), Janesville Fire Protection District and Cal Fire applied for a Forest Stewardship Grant for the development of a fire hazard reduction and forest health project in and around the community of Janesville, California. The grant was approved and shortly thereafter an

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advisory group made up of the HLVRCD, Janesville FPD, Cal Fire, Lassen County Sheriffs Office, Lassen National Forest, Plumas National Forest, and homeowners from the community, formed a Fire Safe Council for this project.

This Fire Safe Council has continued to work on and develop other projects within the community of Janesville. A Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant was secured to develop an evacuation plan pamphlet for the community. This project has been completed and the pamphlets handed out by the Boy Scout troop and Fire Safe Council members within the Janesville community.

The Council has taken the initiative to identify many potential projects for the Janesville area. These projects fit in to the Lassen County Fire Safe Council's project plan.

During 2001 and beginning of 2002, the Lassen County Fire Safe Council was formally developed. The council assisted the County of Lassen and their consultant, in the development of the Lassen County Fire Safe Plan. This plan is being funded by a grant from the National Fire Plan Grant and was completed in January 2004.

This fire plan identifies treatment areas in close proximity to 22 of the communities within Lassen County. The plan also suggests protective measures that could improve the survivability of one's home or business in the various fuel types located within the Lassen Modoc Unit.

The Council has taken the initiative to identify many locations for potential projects that would improve the fire safety of the communities within Lassen County. The following is an overview of current projects and list of proposed projects. The projects are listed by geographical area and the closest Cal Fire Battalion is referenced.

Battalion 2

Within Battalion 2 there is three active Fire Safe Councils: The Lassen County Fire Safe Council which was discussed above, the Almanor Fire Safe Council and the Plumas County Fire Safe Council. In November of 2000, the Almanor Basin Fire Safe Council was formed to deal with wildfire prevention and loss mitigation issues in the western portion of the Lassen-Modoc Unit Battalion 2 region. This unincorporated group is actually an adjunct to the formal Plumas County Fire Safe Council, and focuses on approximately 600 square miles of public and private lands in northern Plumas County, western Lassen County and very small segments of Tehama and Shasta Counties. Principal stakeholders participating in the group include Cal Fire, USFS, National Park Service, local fire protection districts, timber industry and the general public.

As an informal organization, the Almanor Basin Fire Safe Council has adopted a low-key approach that emphasizes voluntary cooperation between stakeholders in the Lake Almanor basin.

The Plumas Fire Safe Council originated in 1998 – Meets 2nd Thursday of each month at the Plumas County Planning & Building Services Office -555 Main Street Quincy, CA

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- 501.c.3 organization – 2002 – 11 Board members, average attendance - 20 members per meeting.
- www.plumasfiresafe.org
- County organization – Other FSC’s and focus
 - Almanor Basin FSC – Community HFR, Def Space, Education
 - Gold Mountain Fire Safe Committee- Education, Defensible Space, Community HFR
 - Valley Ranch & Mohawk Valley considering forming a local FSC
- Plumas Corporation, A County Economic Development Organization is our fiscal sponsor

- **Mission-** Protect natural & manmade resources caused by wildfire through pre-fire mitigation activities.

- **PC FSC Focus of Efforts include:**
 - A. Information, Education, and Planning
 - B. Reducing Structure Ignitability
 - C. Enhancing Suppression Capabilities and Public Safety
 - D. Hazardous Fuel Reduction

- **2008 Annual Goals:**
 - Implement and amend as necessary the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP),
 - Increase public knowledge and awareness of the wildland fire hazard and efforts they can make to reduce their threat,
 - Develop more community-based involvement,
 - Implement community hazardous fuel reduction projects,
 - Continue to pursue grant funds,
 - Develop a strategy to provide for sustainable and renewable project funding and reduce the Council's dependence on grant funding.
 - Explore green waste disposal options and community chipping options.

- **CWPP** – Approved 5/04
 - Vehicle to be eligible for State & Federal (NFP) Funds to assist with mitigation activities.
 - Complies with DEMA 2000 for FEMA assistance following a federally declared disaster.
 - Provides a comprehensive overview of the wildfire risk, hazards, and fire behavior factors in Plumas County
 - Provides Mitigation recommendations for the four focus areas.
 - http://plumasfiresafe.org/fire_plan.htm

- **Countywide Hazardous Fuel Assessment & Strategy** – The general scope of the plan provides fuel profile and fire behavior assessment, and recommended treatment strategies for thirty-six identified “at risk communities” in Plumas County
 - <http://plumasfiresafe.org/assessment.htm>

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- In *2004 PC FSC Received the National Community Leadership Award* from the US Forest Service Chief: Citation reads “PC FSC is recognized for outstanding accomplishments through their exceptional leadership, vision, and perseverance in working collaboratively to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire in Plumas County”

- *PC FSC Accomplishments* include:
 - County Evacuation Plan with 13 Community Evacuation Maps.
 - Countywide Seamless, internet accessible GIS map.
 - Approved CWPP
 - Home Ignition Zone Workshops for community’s
 - Living With Fire insert to the local paper
 - Elderly/Disabled Defensible Space Program
 - Community educational programs
 - Treating 2500 acres of Hazardous Fuels in & around 20 + communities on private & public lands
 - 35 Active Grants for \$1,330,000 + to meet our goals & accomplish projects

Battalion 3

There are three Fire Safe Councils in the operating area of Battalion 3: the Modoc County Fire Safe Council, the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, and the Day Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council. Cal Fire personnel attend these council meetings and are active in assisting in the decision processes. Projects are being developed to create “fire safe” communities within this Battalion.

The Day Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council was formed in the summer of 2001. Cal Fire, Bureau of Land Management and the Lassen National Forest developed this Council in concert with the grant application to the National Fire Plan. This council’s area consists of Day Bench and Day Road area. The Day Road Community extends through Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou Counties.

Day Road is administered by two Cal Fire administrative Units, The Shasta-Trinity Unit (SHU) and the Lassen-Modoc Unit (LMU). The east side of Day Road is in battalion 3 of LMU while the west side is Battalion 1 of SHU. The Day road area is within the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District (LMU) as well as the McArthur Fire Protection District (SHU). This plan was developed to streamline any suppression effort in the Day Road area no matter the location of the incident origin.

CAL FIRE has primary suppression responsibility and authority for all State Responsibility Area lands (SRA) located in the Day Road area as well as all other state and federal lands within Cal Fire’s Direct Protection Area (DPA) in that area. Local fire districts have statutory authority for all non-wild fire incidents and structure protection within their jurisdictions.

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OBJECTIVES:

1. Fire fighter and public safety.
2. Orderly civilian evacuations or sheltering in place until the threat is mitigated.
3. A coordinated response utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) establishing Unified Command when appropriate and establishing one central ordering point for all resources ordered for an incident.
4. For fires originating west of Day Road in SHU, keep the fire from crossing Day Road.
5. Keep the fire from spreading east to Widow Mountain and Big Valley Mountain.
6. Keep the fire south and west of the Whitehorse Mountains.
7. Keep the fire south of Modoc County Road 94.
8. Keep the fire north of State Highway 299.
9. Keep the fire east of the McArthur valley.
10. Protect structures located in the fire impact zone.
11. Establish perimeter control lines utilizing existing roadways and natural barriers where feasible and prudent.
12. Take aggressive action to stop fire spread utilizing engines, dozers, hand crews and fixed/rotary wing aircraft.

STAGING AREAS:

1. Oiler Staging: Located approximately 1 mile west of Day Road at the bottom of the Lassen Bench grade. Two turnout lanes are located off of Highway 299. Oiler staging should be used by all resources arriving from the west.
2. Old Highway Staging: Located at the intersection of State Highway 299 and Old Highway Road approximately 1 mile east of Day Road. A large turnout is adjacent to Old Highway Road. Old Highway Staging should be used by all resources arriving from the east.

Every attempt will be made to provide a qualified Staging Area Manager at both staging areas in a timely manner. It is incumbent on all resources to contact the Incident Commander **AS THEY APPROACH EITHER STAGING AREA** to determine if they should stage or continue to the incident. Resources assigned to a staging area are on a 3 minute response timetable.

CONTACTS:

1. CHP – road closure
2. Lassen County Sheriff - evacuation
3. Modoc County Sheriff - evacuation
4. Cal Trans – traffic control and advisory signs
5. USFS Agency Representative – possible unified command
6. BLM Resource Adviser – sensitive cultural and resource values
7. PG&E
8. Surprise Valley Electrification Corporation
9. Mayers Hospital

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Battalion 4

Battalion 4 has the Modoc Fire Safe Council within its operating area. The Modoc Fire Safe Council (MFSC) was formed in October, 2000, in response to an identified need by residents who live in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to be informed of the risk of potentially serious wildfires with tragic results including loss of lives and property.

The MFSC is a voluntary organization formed to enhance the effectiveness of fire prevention and protection. The cooperative nature and educational and outreach efforts of this group are critical components for wildland pre-fire planning and mitigation.

The MFSC adopted the Charter and Bylaws in July, 2001 setting forth the mission and guiding principles of the Council, establishing a grass roots problem-solving body committed to the needs of the region. In 2007, the MFSC acquired its 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status. The geographic area of the Council covers Modoc County. Also, it covers adjacent areas extending into Shasta, Siskiyou, and Lassen Counties. Included are areas within the Joint Fire Protection Districts of Adin, Tulelake, Cedarville and Eagleville.

The Modoc Fire Safe Council consists of representatives from the town of Alturas and rural communities of Modoc County, as well as non-voting representatives from County, State and Federal agencies. The Council works closely with the County Board of Supervisors both in meetings and planning sessions as well as obtaining grant funding.

The MISSION of the Modoc Fire Safe Council is to bring together the resources of private and public sector elements and organizations in the interests of wildfire prevention and loss mitigation.

In 2005, the first Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed, and was approved by the Modoc County Board of Supervisors in 2006. The CWPP was the result of the collaborative efforts of the MFSC, BLM, USFS, North Cal-Neva R.C.& D, OES and CDF representatives, who organized a series of information gathering meetings for the residents, agency representatives and the general public. A series of meetings in a period of two months were held at four locations in the county: Surprise Valley, Alturas, Adin, and Lookout. The purpose of the meetings was to identify Values at Risk and Natural Resources and adjust Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) boundaries based on local knowledge. Comments were documented and maps showing the modified WUI areas were developed. In the spring of 2008, major revisions to the CWPP were completed and presented to the Modoc County Board of Supervisors for approval.

As of 2007, the MFSC has completed the following projects: Lake City Fuel Break, CalPines Hills Fuel Breaks, Phase 1, II, & III (with Evacuation Plan), The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the Modoc Recreational Estates Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan. The current ongoing projects are the Landowner Assistance Program (assistance for the elderly/disabled residents to clear their 100-ft. defensible space) and the Residential Chipping Program. Both programs are geared towards helping the residents of Modoc County living in rural areas, to comply with the 100-foot defensible space state regulation. The California Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse recently approved the Summerland Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan project for funding.

The MFSC continues to have a strong working relationship with Modoc County Board of Supervisors, the local volunteer fire departments and chiefs, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, BLM and Modoc National Forest staff.

(Fire Safe Council locations can be found on Appendix A)

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Industrial Groups

Sierra Pacific Industries

Roseburg

W.M. Beatty and Associates

Collins Pine

Pacific Gas and Electric

Governmental Agencies

Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management

United States Forest Service

Susanville City Fire Department

Almanor Fire Department

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Appendix A

