

# SISKIYOU COUNTY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

APRIL 23, 2008



## **PREFACE**

National and State Fire Plans mandate legitimate community-based planning efforts with full stakeholder participation, coordination, project identification, prioritization, funding review, and multi-agency cooperation. Past and existing fire planning efforts and documents often experience absence of meaningful community and stakeholder initiative and engagement, data and validation gaps, and multi-jurisdictional disparities. Our intention is to acknowledge and catalyze every citizen's responsibility for fire safety while creating local grassroots' community buy in, and a sense of ownership driven by synergistic empowerment.

The Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County (FSCSC) strives to assist local communities in taking a lead in fire planning efforts. This is done by creating guidance for basic fire planning, identifying access to information and necessary tools, and providing service and support needed for a successful plan. The FSCSC is developing a county Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets the FEMA compliance criteria of Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) 2000 and State and National Fire Plans. This process will result in a list of realizable community priorities for reducing wildfire risks.

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# 1. Executive Summary

## 1.1 Problem Overview

Wildland fire is the most dangerous natural disaster threat in Siskiyou County. Annually, as winter precipitation diminishes and the seasonal snowpack melts, the possibility of fire concurrently increases. Generally, the wetter the winter, the lower the wildfire threat during the following dry summer months. Wildland fire outcomes are determined by weather, fuels availability, availability of fire suppression resources, terrain, and to a lesser degree, fire suppression efforts. All of these factors play a significant role as to the potential severity of wildland fires during the dry summer season.

Mother Nature plays a critical role as to the ignition potential for wildland fires. Lightning is an especially dangerous element during the dry summer season, and has proven to be responsible for a large number of wildland fires in Siskiyou County. Agee (1993 report) noted that the Siskiyou region exhibited the highest occurrence of lightning activity in the Pacific Northwest, with twice the number of lightning ignitions that occurs in the Cascades or Olympic Mountains. A decreased pattern of summer precipitation along with the increased occurrence of lightning is a pattern reflective of the Klamath-Siskiyou region, and this results in a high level of wildland fire risk. The human factor can play a significant role in the initial start of wildland fires throughout the area. A discarded cigarette or unattended campfire has the potential to result in a major wildland fire incident.

Wildland fires also tend to originate in lesser developed areas. These natural lands pose a difficult problem for fire suppression personnel. First, natural lands, if unmanaged, may contain a denser variety of vegetation, providing more fuels to ignite and spread a fire. Fires can grow rapidly in these denser fuel environments. Second, fire fighting personnel are usually located farther from these lesser developed areas. The extended time it takes for fire suppression personnel to reach and react to a wildland fire further complicates the effort to contain and extinguish a newly ignited wildland fire. The rugged terrain has a tendency to hinder fire suppression efforts, yet the nearly vertical mountain slopes may provide some natural obstruction and suppression as wildland fires burn virtually unchecked through this difficult topography.

There have been a number of major wildland fires in Siskiyou County over the years. During the current 2006 fire season, three major fires, i.e., Happy Camp complex (3,900 acres/\$9.5 million cost to date), Uncles Complex (16,400 acres / \$10.1 million cost to date), and the Orleans Complex (16,000 acres / \$16.8 million cost to date) have vividly demonstrated the devastating damage potential for wildland fire. Wildland fire has deadly implications. Recently, two helicopter personnel lost their lives during the Happy Camp Complex incident, and the Stanza Fire in 2002 cost three USFS firefighters their lives. Wildland fire is an extremely dangerous natural hazard.

Other significant historical fires in Siskiyou County include the 1977 Hog Fire, the 1987 Complex, the 1994 Dillon Complex, the 1999 Megram Fire, and the Pony Fires in 1996-1997 (NHMP, Siskiyou County Draft). Fires that occurred between 2000 and 2007 burned 88,769 acres. Larger fires for the period include the 21,845 acre Hancock fire, the 15,493 acre Somes Bar, the 2,954 acre Hotlum Fire, and the 1,281 acre Hoy fire.

## 1.2 Process Overview

The process for developing a Siskiyou County Wildfire Protection Plan began in 2004. A planning committee was formed by the Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County (FSCSC) and was given the assignment of coordinating with 18 local fire safe councils throughout the area to gather specific information about geographic areas and risk factors. This committee has also been responsible for bringing information to the planning process through knowledge and expertise in the field of wildland fire. The FSCSC Coordinators and a sub-contractor have worked together to compile technical information and format into this plan.

## 1.3 Overall Goals

The goals of the FSCSC are to:

1. Serve community and neighborhood fire safe needs.
2. Improve fire safety by reducing dangerous fuel loads
3. Educate the public about the threat of fire and fire prevention measures.
4. Promote healthy forests and high air and water quality.
5. Help facilitate national, state, and county fire plans.

## 1.4 Methodology

Using standard theories, knowledge of, and professional experience in fuel reduction practices to minimize the risk of catastrophic fire, we have approached the development of this CWPP with the following methodology.

The FSCSC is the lead cooperator for this plan. Starting in 2004, the FSCSC has held monthly meetings to deal with many issues, including: development of Region specific fire safe plans; water source (tanker fill sites) identification, mapping; property assessments using RedZone software including risk factors; helispot location and mapping; community outreach, and education; training; Water tanks and hydrant systems; general cooperation and sharing with stakeholders and agencies.

It was quickly realized that the development of a basin-wide Fire Safe Plan, or CWPP was necessary to help focus and generate a list of action items for Fire Safe and Fuel Reduction projects. The items below are elements needed generate stakeholder involvement and to bring this plan together.

1. Wildland Urban Interface Identification
2. Prescriptions for Structure and surroundings, Private/Public, Landscape
3. Designation of Emergency Escape and Access Routes
4. Prioritization Process
5. Identify Fire Safe Plan Elements
6. Education/Prevention
  - A) Circulate Outreach Tools (Posters, Flyers, Handouts, News articles)
  - B) Provide Presentations
  - C) Circulate Checklist to prevent Fires,
  - D) Have Annual Inspections – Outside and Inside Structures
  - E) Hold Workshops

Another planning step is to identify opportunities for returning fire to the ecosystem in appropriate areas. For the purposes of this plan, “returning fire to the ecosystem” refers to treating areas (or creating isolated areas) where it will be possible for fire to burn through with maximum benefit and minimum negative impacts. This can be accomplished with a multi-stage approach. Areas can be

treated with a shaded fuel break, pull-back, lop and scatter, mechanical treatment-mastication, pile burning, jackpot burning, controlled burning, or a combination of prescriptions. These methods will reduce the fire intensity, thus increasing benefits and minimizing negative impacts when fire returns to the area. The particular series of events will vary depending on the area and surroundings. To the extent practicable, existing roads, trails, and streams will be used as firebreaks.

A Fuel Modification Zone (FMZ) is any area being assessed for the benefit of reducing fire risk. Actions within a FMZ can include anything from no action, to shaded fuel breaks, to areas cleared to bare ground. The above list is not in order of importance – prioritization will be a component of the Plan.

## **1.5 Strategic Plan Summary**

Section 7 of this plan contains a detailed action matrix showing 1 year, 10 years, and over 10 year actions to be pursued by the FSCSC. Actions are categorized by the following topics:

- Assessment of Vegetation & Fuels
- Planning & Coordination
- Implementation
- Education
- Fire Suppression Resources
- Monitoring

## **1.6 Priority Projects Summary**

Local Fire Safe Councils have developed strategic actions and prioritized projects. See Regional information for specific project details within each region (Section 9). The table below summarizes these projects and priorities.

Because more than 60% of the County is managed by federal agencies, the FSCSC encourages land managers to maintain fire prevention plans in the general forest. The FSCSC also encourages that those plans, specifically the priority projects, be available to be included in this County-wide plan.

The FSCSC recommends the Federal Government take whatever measures are necessary to have all lands within the WUI to be no greater than a condition class II. Also recommended is that within ¼ mile of any structure or escape routes on public roads it should be condition class I. This is a matter of public safety and also will help with the safety of the firefighting crews in the case of a wildland fire.



**Table 1: Priority Projects by Region**

Region -->	<i>Butte Valley (none identified)</i>	<i>Mid-Klamath</i>	<i>Salmon River</i>	<i>Scott River</i>	<i>Shasta River (none identified)</i>	<i>Upper Sacramento</i>	<i>Siskiyou County Hazard Mitigation NHMP, 2007</i>
HIGH	BV-	MK-1a Need for a dependable water supply in Seiad Valley	SA-1a Vegetation Management/Fuel Modification Projects	SC-1a Scott River Road shaded fuel break *	SH-	US-1a Implement defensible space at least 100 feet from structures.	CO-1a Continue to promote public awareness campaigns for individual property owners living in interface areas.
		MK-1b Need for fuels reduction and formation of a safe perimeter around private property in Seiad Valley	SA-1b Community Capacity Building	SC-1b Individual access road fuel treatments		US-1b Construct or extend shaded fuelbreaks. Widths vary depending on location and are approximately 200-400 feet wide.	CO-1b Encourage property owners to follow appropriate mitigation techniques, i.e., defensible space, visible address signs, escape routes, etc., and take advantage of local Fire Safe Councils and Cal-Fire's property inspections. PRC 4290 and 4291 addresses these items.
		MK-1c Need for gathering information on existing residences and formulating a data base for use by fire fighting agencies in order to obtain data on conditions around the various homes or businesses in Seiad Valley	SA-1c Water Supply – Increase water storage	SC-1c Organize Fire Safe Council *		US-1c Reduce fuel density in high hazard vegetation types. Work will likely include both mechanical (mastication) and manual (thin and pile/burn or chip) methods.	CO-1c Encourage the use of hazard-specific information to identify wildfire hazard areas.
		MK-1d Need to identify location of residences and driveways in Seiad Valley	SA-1d Develop a communication Plan, including a phone tree and a CB tree	SC-1d Assessment map showing water supplies		US-1d Reduce density of fuels in heavy brush fields	CO-1d Seek funding and labor opportunities to staff fuel-reduction projects in the County.
		MK-1e In Happy Camp, significantly improve conditions that might be life threatening such as dead-end streets with hazardous fuel conditions or residence/facilities with hazardous fuels immediately downslope.		SC-1e Fuel Reduction around homes and other infrastructure		US-1e Greenway disposal/biomass utilization	CO-1e Continue participation and promotion of the "Green Waste Program" to assist in the disposal of green waste from fuel reduction projects, etc.
		MK-1f In Happy Camp, protect community infrastructure facilities - access, water, communication, power, emergency service facilities, and schools.		SC-1f Develop Adequate fuel breaks between properties			CO-1f Investigate potential funding opportunities for individual mitigation projects.
		MK-1g In Happy Camp, protect multiple residences, businesses, and/or infrastructure facilities.		SC-1g Road and Home signage			CO-1g Increase communication, coordination, and collaboration between wildland/urban interface property owners, city and county planners, fire response agencies and other officials to address the inherent risks in wildland/urban interface areas, existing mitigation (prevention/protection) measures, and federal mitigation assistance programs.

		MK-1h Contribute to a secure perimeter around the Happy Camp community.					CO-1h Promote improved forest health within the National Forest to reduce fuel loading, improve timber harvest production, etc.
		MK-1i Support and/or contribute to efforts in-place or planned by collaborating agencies/individuals/organizations such as HCRD's Happy Camp Fire Protection Strategy, etc.					
<b>MODERATE-HIGH</b>		MK-2a In Seiad Valley, establish a Fire Safe Corridor adjacent to the boundary between Forest Land and Private Land.	SA-2a Periodic maintenance or improvement of emergency access routes to keep them functional	SC-2a Private timber company land cleanup			
		MK-2b Demonstrate sound, effective treatment and/or management of vegetation and fuels to provide a fire safe setting in the Happy Camp area.	SA-2b Fire Safe Inspector Program – Update Residential Risk Assessments for fire suppression and emergency response use.	SC-2b Council wide Timber Harvest Plan for fuel reduction			
		MK-2c Support and/or assist property owners in the Happy Camp area in creating or maintaining fire safe conditions on their property.		SC-2c Map all escape routes and safety zones			
				SC-2d Develop Phone Tree in individual FSC areas			
				SC-2e Develop Map of all Structures			
<b>MODERATE</b>			SA-3a Senior/Disabled Assistance – Identify Senior Citizens and Disabled individuals who may need special assistance during a fire emergency	SC-3a Form Labor Pool for projects			
			SA-3b Watershed Protection – obey federal and state protection laws and follow established Ecological Restoration Principles.	SC-3b Additional Emergency Access Roads			
			SA-3c Permitting, Exemptions – Obtain all pertinent permits, permissions and exemptions needed to complete projects.	SC-3c Join Chamber of Commerce			
				SC-3d Secure funding for office space			
				SC-3e Change Laws and Regs. Re:Lop and Scatter slash			
				SC-3f Complete professional assessment of fuel load			
				Training and education on pumps, fire safety, etc.			

\*In process or completed during the development of this Plan.



## 1.7 Acknowledgements

Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County – Board of Directors:

Kelly Conner, Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council  
Richard Christie (past Coordinator and Director)  
Will Harling, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council (past Director)  
Linda Oliver, Copco Fire Safe Council (past Director)  
Mike Hood, Klamath River Fire Safe Council  
Perry Daniels, Lower Scott River Fire Safe Council  
Rhonda Muse, Independent Consultant  
Steve Fisher, Klamath River Fire Safe Council  
Jaime Tarne, USFS – Klamath National Forest  
Jim Villeponteaux, Salmon River Fire Safe Council and FSCSC Coordinator

Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County – Planning Committee:

Dale Nova, Mount Shasta Fire Safe Council and FSCSC Coordinator  
Giselle Nova, Mount Shasta Fire Safe Council and FSCSC Coordinator  
Jim Villeponteaux, Salmon River Fire Safe Council and FSCSC Coordinator  
Rhonda Muse, FSCSC Director and Independent Consultant  
Jamie Tarne, USFS – Klamath National Forest  
Marc Horney, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Randi Paris, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
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Ron Bravo, CalFIRE  
Robert Goyeneche, Siskiyou County OES  
Rob Rowley, Siskiyou County OES  
Wayne Virag, Siskiyou County Planning Department  
Patricia Matthews, Siskiyou County Planning Department  
Marcia Armstrong, Siskiyou County Supervisor  
Mike Gunter, CalTrans  
Tim Lawson, CHP  
Perry Daniels, FSCSC Director and Lower Scott River FSC  
Kelly Conner, FSCSC Director and Greater Weed Area Fire Safe Council  
Jerry Cone

Funding Sources for the CWPP:

Bureau of Land Management  
Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee  
USDA, US Forest Service, Klamath National Forest

All Local Fire Safe Councils within the boundaries of Siskiyou County and their participants

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Background, History of Accomplishments

The Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County (FSCSC) was initiated in December 2002 through a vision by one of the current Board members. Grant funds were solicited through the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District to initiate the organizational structure of a County-wide fire safe council that would provide resources to all communities within the County. In April 2004, the FSCSC obtained their own non-profit status and continued operations as an independent organization and elected it's own Board of Directors, thus removing the oversight by the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District. Because various local fire safe councils were already established, the FSCSC provided a forum for representatives of each local council to gather and discuss risk, solutions and accomplishments. This is where the idea of creating a County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was formed.

The group identified areas within the County that were not supported by a local council and determined there is a great need for local people to work with their knowledge of the area and provide the data necessary for planning. This evolved into an outreach program that assisted communities in developing a local council. The FSCSC then encouraged local councils to develop CWPP's that would tier into a County-wide CWPP. Since many local councils were already in the development phase of creating their own CWPP, the effort of the FSCSC was to act as a resource that would provide workshops to those not aware of the need for a CWPP and utilize the knowledge of those already working on their plans.

As planning efforts continued, this did not prevent the FSCSC and local councils from moving forward on project implementation. To date the following projects have been completed throughout the County to provide protection for communities, and forested lands, in the event of catastrophic fire. These projects also act as an educational resource to the communities and can be used to assist in the development of the action plan through lessons learned.

*Table 2: Fire Safe Council Projects in Siskiyou County – incomplete*

<u>Volunteer &amp; Locally Funded Projects</u>	<u>Implementing Party</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>Volunteer workday on 10/17/2003:</b> 30-50 foot brushing and limbing on Old Beaver Creek Road. Cutting back weeds, vines, removing low limbs, slash and dead wood. 13 volunteers, 4 hours each = 52 hours total.	Klamath River Fire Safe Council	
<b><u>Private Lands Fire/Fuel Projects Funded by RAC May02/June03</u></b>		
<b>Salmon River Fuel Reduction:</b>	SRRC/Salmon River FSC	9,000.00
<b>Forks Fire Hydrant:</b>	Forks of Salmon Community Club	27,600.00
<b>Sawyers Bar Fuel Plan and Reduction:</b> For fire safe planning and fuels reduction in the Sawyers Bar area.	SRRC/Salmon River FSC	27,600.00
<b>Klamath River Community Corridor:</b>	George Livingston	2,400.00
<b>Indian Creek Road Fire Reduction Project:</b>	Happy Camp Fire Safe Council	28,436.00
<b>Seiad Fire Protection Water Resources Project:</b> Project to put water tanks for fire supression in strategic locations around Seiad Valley.	Seiad Fire Safe Council	15,500.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>110,536.00</b>

**Community Protection Grants under National Fire Plan - Klamath N.F.**

<b>Happy Camp Fuel Reduction Pilot Project:</b> Funding for the Happy Camp FSC to buy two chippers and do fuel reduction in the Happy Camp area.	People for USA/Happy Camp FSC	57,356.00
<b>Fuel Modification Zone Demo Project:</b>	Siskiyou RCD/French Creek FSC	16,885.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>74,241.00</b>

**National Fire Plan EAP Grants - Klamath N.F.**

<b>Juniper Fuels Reduction and Utilization Project:</b>	REACH, Inc.	55,000.00
<b>Fuels Utilization Demonstration:</b>	City of Yreka	24,000.00
<b>Scott Valley Biomass Gassifier Demonstration:</b>	Ore-Cal RC&D	25,080.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>104,080.00</b>

**National Fire Plan EAP Grants - Shasta-Trinity N.F.**

<b>Mt. Shasta Area Fire Safe Plan:</b> Funding for the Mt. Shasta Area Fire Safe Council to create a comprehensive community fire safe plan for the Mt. Shasta area	Mt. Shasta Area FSC	42,355.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>42,355.00</b>

**National Fire Plan EAP Grants - Six Rivers N.F.**

<b>Outreach:</b>	Orleans/Somes Bar FSC 2001	5,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction:</b>	Orleans/Somes Bar FSC 2002/2003	145,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>150,000.00</b>

**Community Protection Grants Under National Fire Plan - BLM**

<b>Fuel Reduction:</b> Two year project to do fuel reduction along Highway 89 and other roads in the McCloud area.	McCloud FSC	80,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction and Planning:</b>	Orleans/Somes Bar FSC 2001	46,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction:</b>	Orleans/Somes Bar FSC 2002	32,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction and Planning:</b> Plan and conduct fuel reduction in the Orleans/Somes Bar area.	Orleans/Somes Bar FSC 2003	56,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction and Planning:</b> Plan and conduct fuel reduction on three multi-owner properties in Salmon River - 53 acres	Salmon River FSC 2001	42,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction and Planning:</b> Plan and conduct fuel reduction in the Forks of Salmon area - 28 acres	Salmon River FSC 2003	34,738.00
<b>Fuel Reduction and Planning:</b> Plan and conduct fuel reduction in the Cecilville area - 29 acres	Salmon River FSC 2004	34,738.00
<b>Fire Safe Councils Coordination:</b> Funds Coordinator to start a county-wide fire safe council for public education, help start new community councils, and assist the local fire safe councils.	Shasta Valley RCD/FSC of Siskiyou County, 2002	64,856.00

<b>Fire Safe Councils Coordination:</b> Funds Coordinator for the Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County for public education, help start new community councils, assist the local fire safe councils, publish newsletters, conduct meetings, and more.	Shasta Valley RCD/FSC of Siskiyou County, 2004.	58,850.00
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(add Lake Siskiyou project, Luke to get info)

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<b>Total</b>	<b>449,182.00</b>
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**US Fish and Wildlife Service - Jobs-in-the-Woods**

<b>Fuel Reduction:</b> Salmon River Part 1 & 2, included tree planting and erosion control - 48 acres	SRRC 1995	92,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction:</b> Salmon River, included erosion control - 53 acres	SRRC 1997	32,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction:</b> Salmon River, included erosion control - 38 acres	SRRC 1998	29,500.00
<b>Fuel Reduction:</b> Salmon River, included erosion control - 72 acres	SRRC 2001	39,000.00
<b>Fuel Reduction:</b> Salmon River, included erosion control - 40 acres	SRRC 2002	58,500.00
<b>Fuel Reduction:</b> Salmon River - 15 acres (Klamath Task Force)	SRRC 2002	47,700.00
<b>Fuel Reduction:</b>	Orleans/Somes Bar FSC	38,000.00

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<b>Total</b>	<b>336,700.00</b>
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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,267,094.00</b>
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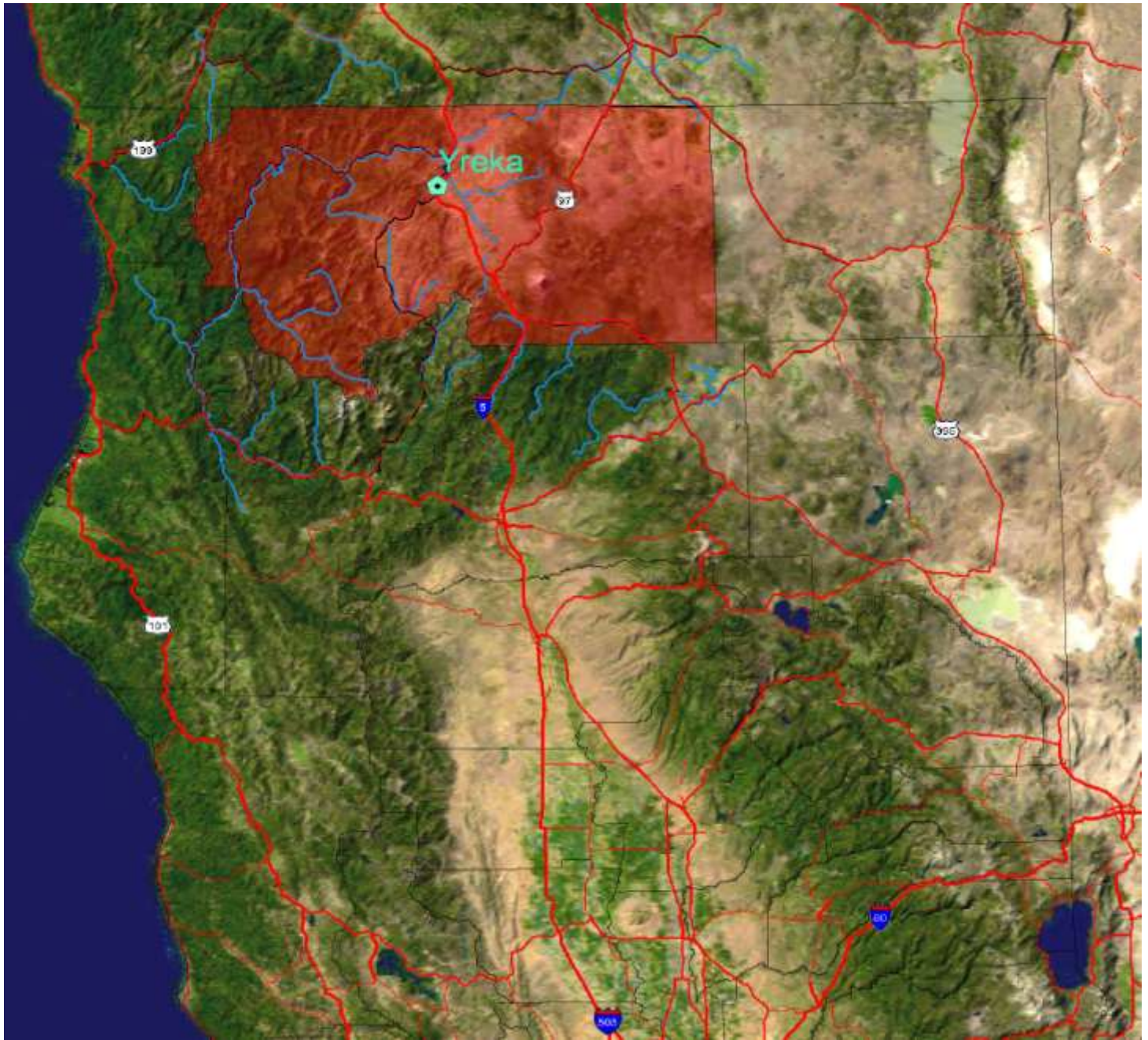
## 2.2 Mission of Your Group

The primary objectives and purposes of the Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County (FSCSC) is to provide strategy, policy, and support to a working group of local Fire Safe Councils and areas of the County not covered by a Fire Safe Council. The FSCSC promotes cooperation and communication between resource managing agencies and resident community members. The goals of the FSCSC are to:

1. Serve community and neighborhood fire safe needs.
2. Improve fire safety by reducing dangerous fuel loads
3. Educate the public about the threat of fire and fire prevention measures.
4. Promote healthy forests and high air and water quality.
5. Help facilitate national, state, and county fire plans.

## 2.3 Planning Area Boundaries

The boundary of this plan is Siskiyou County. Siskiyou County is located in the far northern region of California at the California/Oregon border and is the fifth largest County geographically in the State. The Siskiyou County Seat is the City of Yreka, located in the central region of the County.



*Figure 1: Boundary Map*

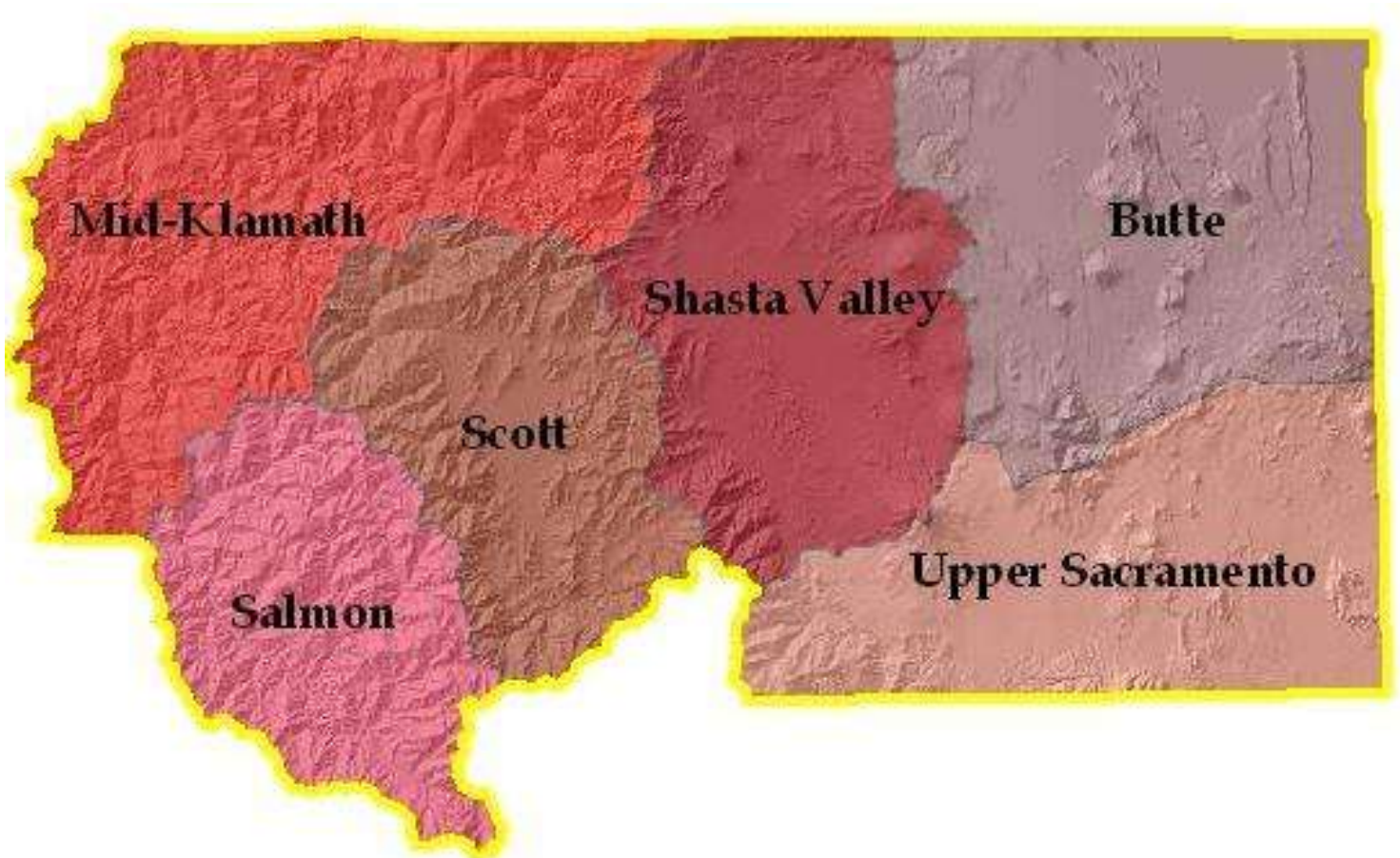
## **2.4 Current Process and Plan Development**

The Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County (FSCSC) began development of this plan in 2004. We convened representatives from 20 local fire safe councils from Siskiyou County along with representation from Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services, volunteer fire departments, US Forest Service and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Of this group, a smaller planning committee was assigned and reports to the larger group for input and share progress. Together we determined the content and format needed to provide the FSCSC the tools needed for identifying high risk communities within the County as well as map relevant features for use by fire responders and to develop projects that will reduce the risk of potential loss of life and property.



### 2.4.1 Geographic Regions

Given the geographic size and complexity of the landscape within Siskiyou County, the group identified six regions that would encompass smaller geographical areas (sub-areas) for the purpose of planning. This approach enabled us to focus on the needs of each region rather than attempt to compile data at the larger County level. Once data for each region is developed, we are able to summarize that data at the County level by identifying common problems, needs and community risk. Through the use of smaller Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) developed by local fire safe councils, we were able to compile the regional information (refer to Section 9 of this plan). Refer to Stakeholders (Section 2.5) for list and location of local fire safe councils.



*Figure 2: Map of geographic regions within Siskiyou County*

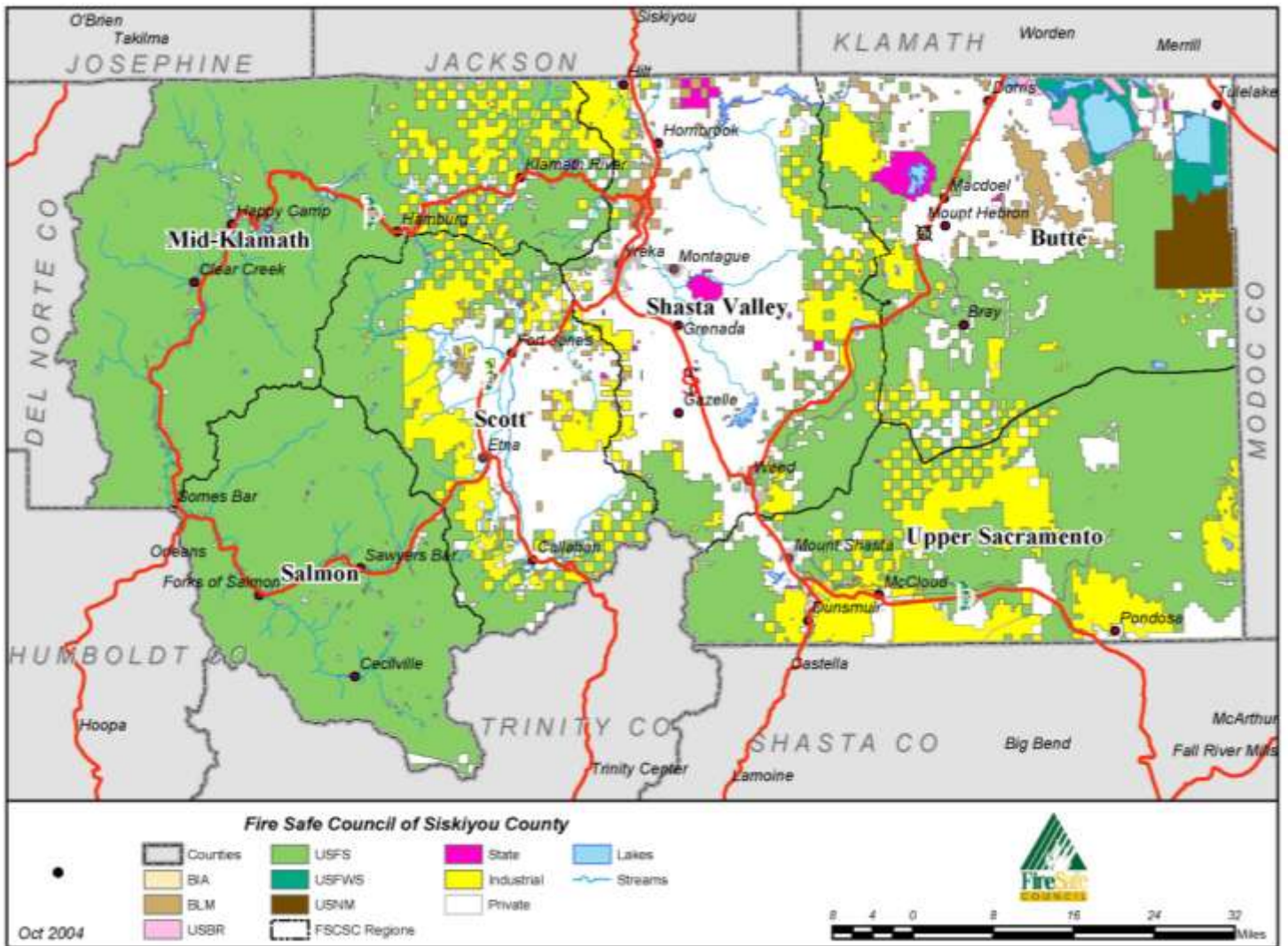


Figure 3: Map of Owner Class

**Table 3: Owner Class Statistics by Region**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>GIS_ACRES</b>	<b>Sq Miles</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Butte	City	165.76	0.26	0.0%
Butte	Federal	493,237.08	770.68	62.5%
Butte	Industrial (TPZ)	53,264.96	83.23	6.8%
Butte	Private	227,675.34	355.74	28.9%
Butte	State	14,332.92	22.40	1.8%
Mid-Klamath	Federal	736,079.58	1,150.12	87.3%
Mid-Klamath	Industrial	67,396.62	105.31	8.0%
Mid-Klamath	Private	38,921.76	60.82	4.6%
Mid-Klamath	State	924.16	1.44	0.1%
Salmon	Federal	471,174.74	736.21	98.1%
Salmon	Private	8,611.82	13.46	1.8%
Salmon	State	306.31	0.48	0.1%
Scott	City	25.26	0.04	0.0%
Scott	Federal	192,360.13	300.56	37.0%
Scott	Industrial	126,215.54	197.21	24.2%
Scott	Private	201,433.31	314.74	38.7%
Scott	State	545.92	0.85	0.1%
Shasta Valley	City	314.01	0.49	0.0%
Shasta Valley	Federal	166,695.72	260.46	23.5%
Shasta Valley	Industrial	82,057.40	128.21	11.6%
Shasta Valley	Private	447,797.38	699.68	63.0%
Shasta Valley	State	13,392.59	20.93	1.9%
Upper Sacramento	City	178.92	0.28	0.0%
Upper Sacramento	Federal	439,338.64	686.47	61.5%
Upper Sacramento	Industrial	190,259.82	297.28	26.6%
Upper Sacramento	Private	83,874.44	131.05	11.7%
Upper Sacramento	State	1,056.12	1.65	0.1%
Total		4,057,636.24	6,340.06	

### 2.4.2 Plan Elements and Priority

Through a consensus process we identified 16 plan elements that would provide the data necessary for compiling this plan. Elements were grouped into two areas of responsibility for collecting the data; 1) to be obtained by the FSCSC, and 2) to be obtained by local fire safe councils. Below is a table showing these elements, area of responsibility and priority:

**Table 4: Plan Element Priority**

Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County		Local Fire Safe Councils	
Structures/Density	High	Infrastructure	High
General Access/Transportation, Roads, Bridges, Culverts	High	Emergency Access Route, private roads, bridges, culverts, gates (sub-set of General Access/Transportation)	High
Water and Watersheds	High	Businesses/Commercial	High
Ecologically Sensitive Areas; Wildlife, Habitat, Plants, Ecosystem Health, Primitive Areas	Low	Recreation - human risk	High
Air Quality	Low	Water Sources	High
Recreation - value/economy	Low	Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams	Medium
Natural Resource Management Areas: Range, Timber, Agriculture, Other	Low	Emergency Communication	Medium
		Evacuation Plans	Medium
		Cultural Resources (including family burial plots)	Low

### 2.4.3 Workshops and Data Gathering

The FSCSC provided planning workshops to local communities and fire safe councils for the purpose of educating them on the importance of developing a local CWPP. Through these efforts, we were able to assist with mapping relevant features that would be included in this plan. Once each fire safe council or community completed their local CWPP a copy was given to the FSCSC. It was with these documents that the content of this plan began to develop.

### 2.4.4 Draft Review

The first draft plan was completed in December 2007 and distributed to members of the Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County, as well as posted on our website for the purpose of comment and review. This draft plan is limited in information due to the absence of local fire safe councils in many areas of the County. The Regional Information, Section 9, explains the limitation of data for each region. Comments were received in January 2008 and modifications were made based on that

input. The final plan is due to be completed by the end of January 2008. However, it is important to understand this is a working document that will be modified as more information becomes available.

Comments/Responses:

Comment	Response
Bill Turner submitted a memo with various comments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Majority of the comments pertaining to the main document have been incorporated into the CWPP. Mr. Turner's other comments that did not represent an actual change will be considered for future planning efforts.</li> <li>2) Butte Region – suggested adding the town of Tennant.</li> <li>3) Salmon River Region – updated condition class table. Removed statement at the bottom of page 9.3-6. Comment regarding page 9.3-7 – the CWPP is not assuming that there will be no human mechanical intervention to reduce the FRCC. Regarding page 9.3-21 – shaded fuel breaks include brush clearing.</li> <li>4) Mid-Klamath Region – typos have been corrected. All other comments are under review.</li> <li>5) Upper Sacramento Region – all comments have been addressed.</li> </ol>
Kelly Conner submitted text for the Shasta Valley region.	All text has been added to the document.
Luna Latimer submitted written comments in March 2008.	All comments have been reviewed and considered for future updates to the CWPP.

**2.4.5 Adaptive Management**

As local CWPP's are updated, or new CWPP's are developed within the County, copies will be requested for the purpose of updating this plan. Our process will provide for an annual 'check-in' by local fire safe councils and communities not represented by a fire safe council to share their accomplishments and needs.

**2.5 Stakeholders:**

Stakeholders are people, agencies and organizations having a vested interest in land resources. Each stakeholder plays a role in various aspects of resource management which includes but is not limited to planning, project development and implementation, prevention and/or suppression of fire, protection of natural resources, emergency response, education, evacuation and support. Below is a list of stakeholders throughout Siskiyou County:

***Federal Government:***

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):  
U.S. Forest Service:  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
Klamath National Forest  
Modoc National Forest  
Six Rivers National Forest  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
NOAA Fisheries

***Tribal:***

Karuk  
Klamath  
Shasta

***State Government:***

California Department of Forestry and Fire  
California Department of Transportation  
California Highway Patrol  
Office of Emergency Services

California Department of Health Services  
California Department of Fish and Game  
California Department of Water Resources  
Water Quality Control Board – State and Regional

***Local Government:***

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors  
Siskiyou County Chief Administrative Officer  
Siskiyou County Sheriffs Department  
Office of Emergency Services  
Siskiyou County Air Quality Management District

Siskiyou County Department of Health Services  
Siskiyou County Road Department  
Siskiyou County Planning Department  
Siskiyou County Office of Education  
Siskiyou County Schools

***Municipal/Emergency Services:***

Volunteer fire departments  
Ambulance services  
Red Cross

City Councils throughout the County

***Industry and Utilities:***

Fruit Growers Supply Co.  
Timbervest  
Roseburg Forest Products Co.  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
Timber Products Co.  
Union Pacific Railroad  
Grenada Irrigation District  
Montague Irrigation District  
Shasta Water Association

AT&T  
Siskiyou Telephone  
Pacific Power and Electric  
Verizon Wireless  
Edge Wireless  
Singular  
Water/Sewer districts and companies  
Farmers Ditch Irrigation District  
Scott Valley Irrigation District

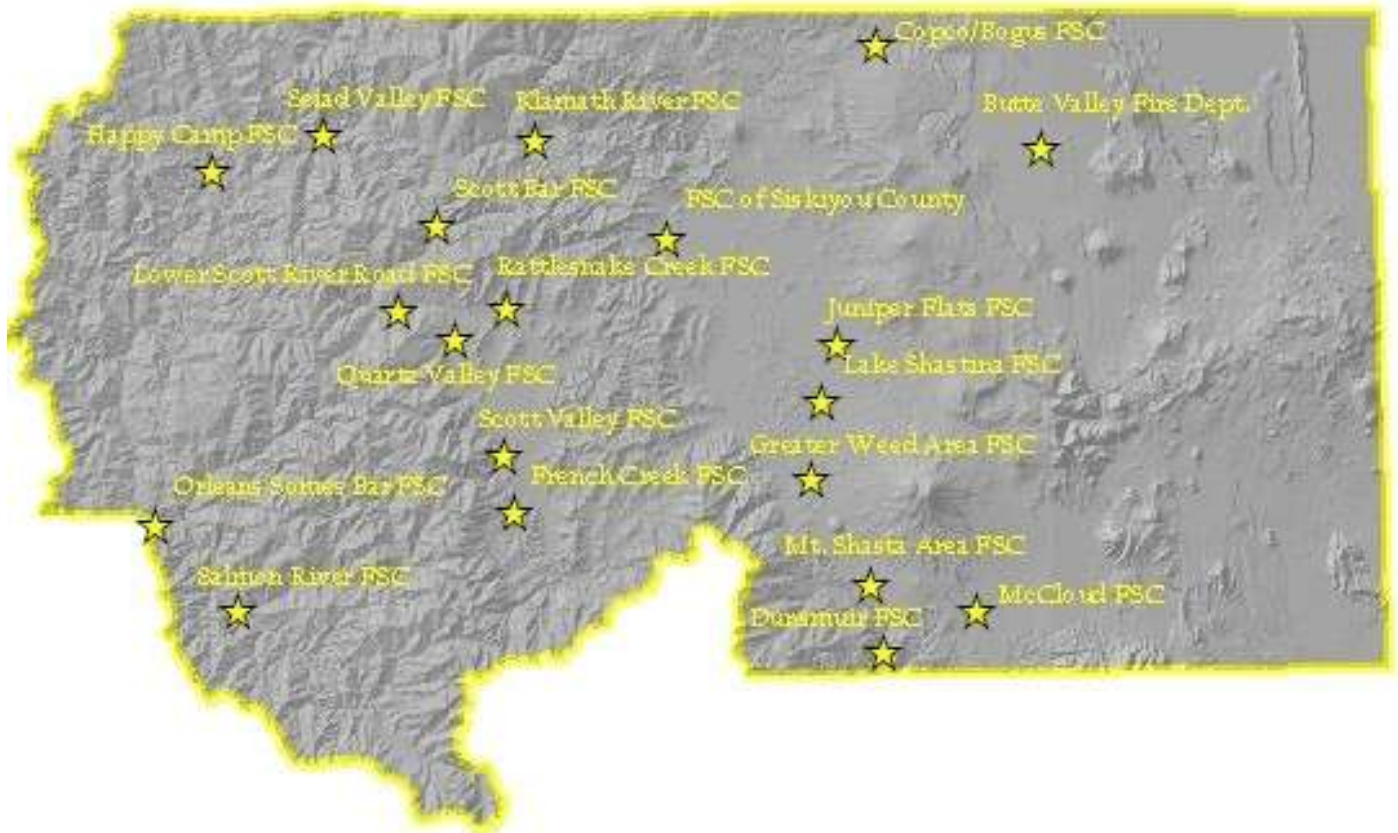
***Local Fire Safe Councils:***

Butte Valley (fire department)  
Copco/Bogus Fire Safe Council  
Dunsmuir Fire Safe Council  
Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County  
French Creek Fire Safe Council  
Greater Weed Area Fire Safe Council  
Happy Camp Fire Safe Council  
Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council

Lower Scott River Road Fire Safe Council  
McCloud Fire Safe Council  
Mt. Shasta Area Fire Safe Council  
Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council  
Quartz Valley Area Fire Safe Council  
Rattlesnake Creek Fire Safe Council  
Salmon River Fire Safe Council  
Scott Bar Fire Safe Council

Klamath River Fire Safe Council  
Lake Shastina Fire Safe Council

Scott Valley Fire Safe Council  
Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council



*Figure 4: Local Fire Safe Councils in Siskiyou County*

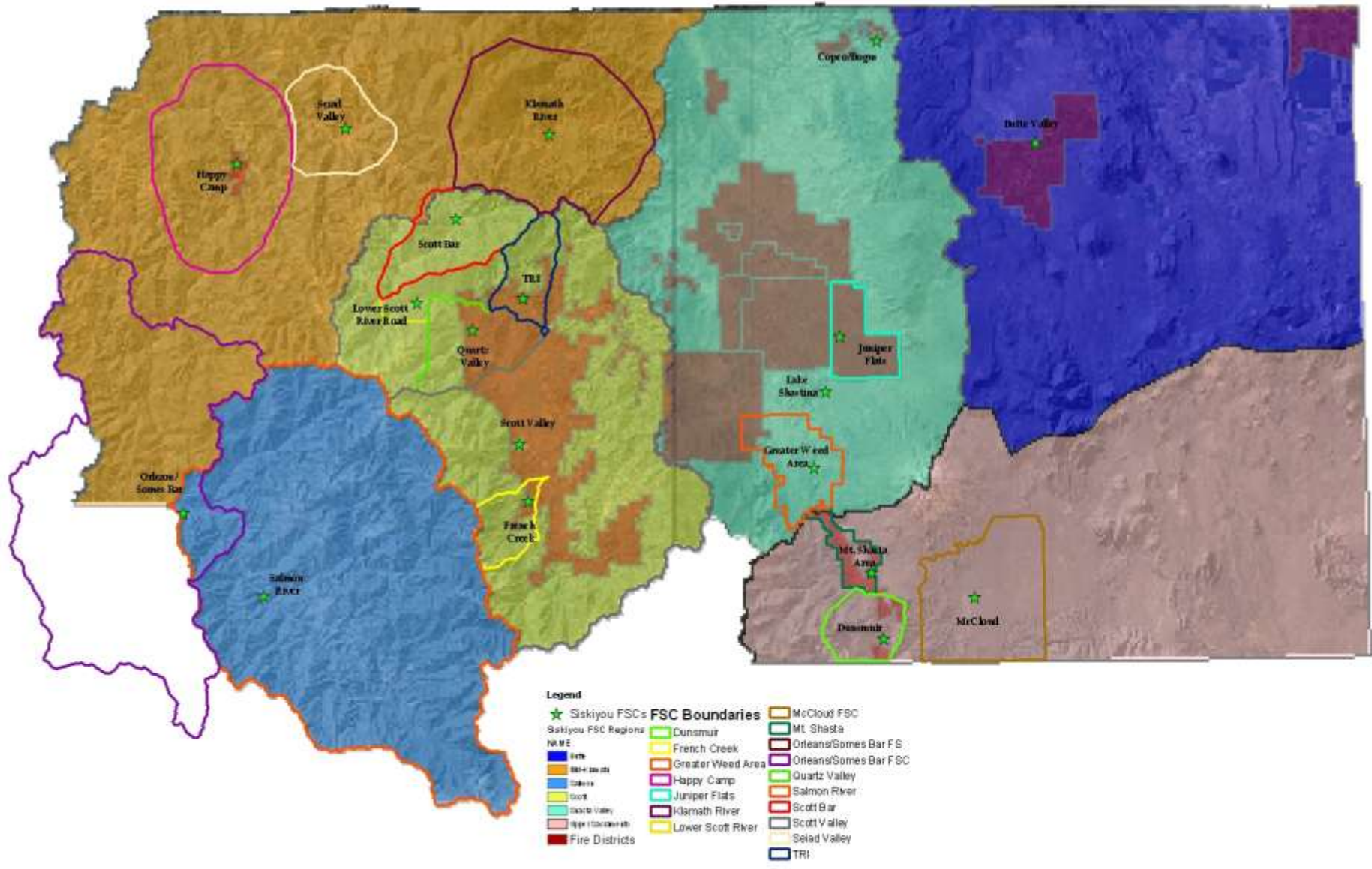


Figure 5: Map of Regions with Local FSC and Fire District Boundaries



### 3. What is Fire Safety?

#### How to be Ready When Fire Comes

*Information in this section has been provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire.*

#### 3.1 Before the Fire:

##### 3.1.1 Defensible Space

In January 2005 a new state law became effective that extended the defensible space clearance around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet. Proper clearance to 100 feet dramatically increases the chance of your house surviving a wildfire. This defensible space also provides for firefighter safety when protecting homes during a wildland fire.

##### 3.1.1.1 Legal Requirements

**Public Resource Code 4291.** A person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following – (see Defensible Space requirements above and Government Code 51182 below).

##### 4291.1

(a) Notwithstanding Section 4021, a violation of Section 4291 is an infraction punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

If a person is convicted of a second violation of Section 4291 within five years, that person shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500). If a person is convicted of a third violation of Section 4291 within five years, that person is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500). If a person is convicted of a third violation of Section 4291 within five years, the department may perform or contract for the performance of work necessary to comply with Section 4291 and may bill the person convicted for the costs incurred, in which case the person convicted, upon payment of those costs, shall not be required to pay the fine. If a person convicted of a violation of Section 4291 is granted probation, the court shall impose as a term or condition of probation, in addition to any other term or condition of probation, that the person pay at least the minimum fine prescribed in this section.

(b) If a person convicted of a violation of Section 4291 produces in court verification prior to imposition of a fine by the court, that the condition resulting in the citation no longer exists, the court may reduce the fine imposed for the violation of Section 4291 to fifty dollars (\$50).

##### **Government Code 51182.**

(a) A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains any occupied dwelling or occupied structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered land, brush-covered land, grass-covered land, or any land that is covered with flammable material, which area or land is within a very high fire hazard severity zone designated by the local agency pursuant to Section 51179, shall at all times do all of the following:

(1) Maintain around and adjacent to the occupied dwelling or occupied structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This paragraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that is well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to any dwelling or structure.

(2) Maintain around and adjacent to the occupied dwelling or occupied structure additional fire protection or firebreaks made by removing all brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth that is located within 100 feet from the occupied dwelling or occupied structure or to the property line, or at a greater distance if required by state law, or local ordinance, rule, or regulation. This section does not prevent an insurance company that insures an occupied dwelling or occupied structure from requiring the owner of the dwelling or structure to maintain a firebreak of more than 100 feet around the dwelling or structure if a hazardous condition warrants such a firebreak of a greater distance. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from the dwelling or structure and less than 18 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. This paragraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that is well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a dwelling or structure.

(3) Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.

(4) Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood.

(5) Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

(6) Prior to constructing a new dwelling or structure that will be occupied or rebuilding an occupied dwelling or occupied structure damaged by a fire in that zone, the construction or rebuilding of which requires a building permit, the owner shall obtain a certification from the local building official that the dwelling or structure, as proposed to be built, complies with all applicable state and local building standards, including those described in subdivision (b) of Section 51189, and shall provide a copy of the certification, upon request, to the insurer providing course of construction insurance coverage for the building or structure. Upon completion of the construction or rebuilding, the owner shall obtain from the local building official, a copy of the final inspection report that demonstrates that the dwelling or structure was constructed in compliance with all applicable state and local building standards, including those described in subdivision (b) of Section 51189, and shall provide a copy of the report, upon request, to the property insurance carrier that insures the dwelling or structure.

(b) A person is not required under this section to maintain any clearing on any land if that person does not have the legal right to maintain the clearing, nor is any person required to enter upon or to damage property that is owned by any other person without the consent of the owner of the property.

### **3.1.1.2 Make the Inside of Your Home Fire Safe**

#### **Kitchen**

- ✓ Keep a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen

- ✓ Maintain electric and gas stoves in good operating condition
- ✓ Keep baking soda on hand to extinguish stovetop grease fires
- ✓ Turn the handles of pots and pans away from the front of the stove
- ✓ Install curtains and towel holders away from stove burners
- ✓ Store matches and lighters out of reach of children
- ✓ Make sure that electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads

### **Living Room**

- ✓ Install a screen in front of fireplace or wood stove
- ✓ Store the ashes from your fireplace (and barbecue) in a metal container and dispose of only when cold
- ✓ Clean fireplace chimneys and flues at least once a year

### **Hallway**

- ✓ Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas
- ✓ Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year, when clocks are changed in the spring and fall
- ✓ Replace electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections, or are frayed

### **Bedroom**

- ✓ If you sleep with the door closed, install a smoke detector in the bedroom
- ✓ Turn off electric blankets and other electrical appliances when not in use
- ✓ Do not smoke in bed
- ✓ If you have security bars on your windows or doors, be sure they have an approved quick release mechanism so you and your family can get out in the event of a fire

### **Bathroom**

- ✓ Disconnect appliances such as curling irons and hair dryers when done; store in a safe location until cool
- ✓ Keep items such as towels away from wall and floor heaters

### **Garage**

- ✓ Mount a working fire extinguisher in the garage
- ✓ Have tools such as a shovel, hoe, rake and bucket available for use in a wildfire emergency
- ✓ Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage
- ✓ Dispose of oily rags in Underwriters Laboratories approved metal containers
- ✓ Store all combustibles away from ignition sources such as water heaters
- ✓ Disconnect electrical tools and appliances when not in use
- ✓ Allow hot tools such as glue guns and soldering irons to cool before storing
- ✓ Properly store flammable liquids in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights

### **Disaster Preparedness**

- ✓ Maintain at least a three-day supply of drinking water, and food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking
- ✓ Maintain a portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, lanterns and batteries
- ✓ Outdoor cooking appliances such as barbecues should never be taken indoors for use as heaters
- ✓ Maintain first aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives

- ✓ Keep a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency; if possible, store these valuables together
- ✓ For safety, securely attach all water heaters and furniture such as cabinets and bookshelves to walls
- ✓ Have a contingency plan to enable family members to contact each other. Establish a family/friend phone tree
- ✓ Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home
- ✓ Practice *emergency exit drills in the house* (EDITH) regularly
- ✓ Make sure that all family members understand how to STOP, DROP AND ROLL if their clothes should catch fire.

### **3.1.1.3 Clearing, Landscaping, Relocation of Flammable Materials**

#### **Landscape**

- ✓ Create a Defensible Space of 100 feet around your home. It is required by law.
- ✓ Create a “LEAN, CLEAN and GREEN ZONE” by removing all flammable vegetation within 30 feet immediately surrounding your home.
- ✓ Then create a “REDUCED FUEL ZONE” in the remaining 70 feet or to your property line. You have two options in this area:
  - A. Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants. The amount of space will depend on how steep your property is and the size of your plants.
  - B. Large trees do not have to be removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed.
- ✓ Remove lower tree branches at least six feet from the ground
- ✓ Landscape with fire resistant plants
- ✓ Maintain all plants with regular water, and keep dead braches, leaves and needles removed.
- ✓ When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer.

#### **Yard**

- ✓ Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and remove vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles
- ✓ Locate LPG tanks (butane and propane) at least 30 feet from any structure and maintain 10 feet of clearance
- ✓ Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard
- ✓ Contact your local fire department to see if debris burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit and follow all local air quality restrictions

### **3.1.1.4 Neighborhood Programs**

Several Fire Safe Councils in Siskiyou County are developing their own Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) which will include specific neighborhoods. These are referred to as ‘local Fire Safe Councils’ (see Stakeholders, Section 2.5). Multiple local Fire Safe Councils may be present within each region. It is our expectation that local CWPP’s will tier into the regional information prepared for Section 9 of this plan. The regional information will tier to this County-Wide plan therefore increasing the detail of information available for the entire Siskiyou County.

### 3.1.1.5 Recommended Building Materials /Fire Wise Construction

#### Home Design/Construction

- ✓ Use fire resistant materials
- ✓ Build your home at least 30-100 feet from your property line
- ✓ Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge
- ✓ Consider installing residential sprinklers
- ✓ Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and above ground decks with fire resistant materials
- ✓ Try to limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation
- ✓ Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows
- ✓ Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code
- ✓ Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs

#### Roof

- ✓ Install a fire resistant roof. Contact your local fire department for current roofing requirements
- ✓ Remove dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
- ✓ Remove dead branches overhanging your roof and keep branches 10 feet from your chimney
- ✓ Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh

#### Access

- ✓ Make sure that your street name sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
- ✓ Post your house address so it is easily visible from the street, especially at night
- ✓ Address numbers should be at least 3 inches tall and on a contrasting background
- ✓ Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
- ✓ Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways
- ✓ Cut back overhanging tree branches above access roads
- ✓ Construct roads that allow two-way traffic
- ✓ Make sure dead-end roads, and long drive ways have turn-around areas wide enough for emergency vehicles
- ✓ Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles
- ✓ Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations

### 3.1.2 Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams

*Information regarding neighborhood emergency response teams has been provided by [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community\\_Emergency\\_Response\\_Team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_Emergency_Response_Team)*

In the United States a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), sometimes known as a Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT), or Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET), is a group of volunteer emergency workers who have received basic training in disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, and team operations. They are designed to act as an auxiliary to existing emergency responders in the event of a major disaster. Siskiyou County is in the process of implementing such a program.

## ***CERT ORGANIZATION***

A local government, usually a city, attempts to recruit a CERT in each neighborhood. Most governments with CERTs maintain a full-time community-service person as liaison to the volunteers who form the rest of the organization.

CERTs provide their own personnel, supplies, tools, organization and equipment, but they are activated by, trained by, promoted by and liaise with the government. They are temporary volunteer government workers, usually organized as auxiliaries to the fire department. In some areas, (such as California) during declared disasters, registered, activated CERT members are eligible for worker's compensation for on-the-job injuries.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that the standard, ten-person team be comprised as follows:

- Team Leader. (1 person)
- Fire Suppression Team (2 people)
- Search and Rescue Team (2 people)
- Medical Triage Team (2 people)
- Medical Treatment Team (2 people)

The city directly liaises with the neighborhood CERT team leader through the CERT's organic communication team. In wealthy areas the communications may be by amateur radio, or dedicated telephone or fire-alarm networks. In poor areas, relays of bicycle-equipped runners can effectively carry mail between the teams and the city's emergency operations center.

## ***CERT TEAM MEMBER ROLES***

- CERT Team Leader. If there is only one CERT team on-scene, is also the Incident Commander until the arrival of competent authority. Makes initial assessment of the scene and determines appropriate course of action for team members; checks team members prior to deployment to ensure they are safe and equipped for the operation; determines safe or unsafe working environment; assigns team member roles if not already assigned; designates triage area, treatment area, morgue, and vehicle traffic routes; coordinates and directs team operations; determines logistical needs (water, food, medical supplies, transportation, equipment, etc.) and determines ways to meet those needs through team members or citizen volunteers on the scene; collects and writes reports on the operation and victims; ensures team accountability; communicates and coordinates with the Incident Commander.
- Fire Suppression Team (2). Work under the supervision of the Team Leader to suppress small fires in designated work areas or as needed; when not accomplishing their primary mission, assist the search and rescue team or triage team; assist in evacuation and transport as needed; assist in the triage or treatment area as needed, other duties as assigned; communicate with Team Leader.
- Search and Rescue Team (2). Work under the supervision of the Team Leader, searching for and providing rescue of victims as is prudent under the conditions; when not accomplishing their primary mission, assist the Fire Suppression Team, assist in the triage or treatment area as needed; other duties as assigned; communicate with Team Leader.
- Medical Triage Team (2). Work under the supervision of the Team Leader, providing START triage for victims found at the scene; marking victims with category of injury per the standard operating procedures; when not accomplishing their primary mission, assist the Fire Suppression Team if needed, assist the Search and Rescue Team if needed, assist in the

Medical Triage Area if needed, assist in the Treatment Area if needed, other duties as assigned; communicate with Team Leader.

- Medical Treatment Team (2). Work under the supervision of the Team Leader, providing medical treatment to victims within the scope of their training. This task is normally accomplished in the Treatment Area, however, it may take place in the affected area as well. When not accomplishing their primary mission, assist the Fire Suppression Team as needed, assist the Medical Triage Team as needed; other duties as assigned; communicate with the Team Leader.

In the short term, CERTs perform data gathering, especially to locate mass-casualties requiring professional response, or situations requiring professional rescues, simple fire-fighting tasks (e.g. small fires, turning off gas), light search and rescue, damage evaluation of structures, triage and first aid. In the longer term, CERTs may assist in evacuation residents, or assist with setting up a neighborhood shelter.

## ***THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE***

### ***STEP 1: SELF RESCUE***

Each individual reaches into their grab-and-go bag, gets a flashlight, and puts on their shoes. It's very tempting to check the family first, but glass on the floor can instantly create a casualty if one is bare-foot.

To prevent their injury, children should be trained to wait for a parent unless they see fire or feel heat. The family should establish an outside meeting place, and evacuation methods from every room.

California's experience with earthquakes suggests that every family member should have a "grab and go" bag, attached to their bed. It has to be attached to the bed, because in earthquakes (and perhaps other emergencies), bags in closets or under beds were lost when furniture moved and structures failed.

The bag has to include shoes and a flashlight. The most common injury in surprise emergencies is a foot injury, when people try to run on broken glass. The most common problem is a power or lighting failure, and a flashlight is an immense help to self-rescue at night.

Many people pack an entire personal emergency kit in the grab and go bag, but a shopping bag with shoes and a flashlight is enough to start.

Make sure you have kennels, or other means, to evacuate your pets from your home. During an emergency animals are likely to panic. It is important to place them in a controlled environment before they leave the house. Make sure family members know who is responsible for bringing the pets to the meeting place.

### ***STEP 2: FAMILY RESCUE***

Turn off gas only if you suspect a leak (the dials on the meter may be turning rapidly or you may smell the telltale odor of gas). Only your utility company can turn the gas back on once it has been turned off. If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the electricity also to prevent a fire or explosion. Then rescue other family members. Do not re-enter a burning building.

FEMA advises that families prepare a kit of essential items that they will need to survive for up to 72 hours after an emergency or disaster. The following items are recommended for your kit:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation

- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- Moist towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Unique family needs, such as daily prescription medications, infant formula or diapers, and important family documents
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or a print out of this information
- Rain gear
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Paper towels
- Fire Extinguisher
- Tent
- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Signal flare
- Paper, pencil
- Medicine dropper
- Feminine supplies
- Personal hygiene items
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach

You should learn where to turn off your home's gas, electric and water service. If this requires tools, attach them to the service box, or place them in your kit.

### STEP 3: NEIGHBORHOOD RESCUE

After self-rescue, the neighborhood goes to their team's neighborhood "command post," established at earlier meetings. The object is to centralize and prioritize resources. This one step is the single most powerful act of a CERT. The CERT command post is always marked by a flag, sign or tabard to help people locate it.

The neighborhood is usually informed about the command post at a neighborhood block party or picnic.

If the teams lack trained staff (likely, as most people are likely to be unorganized volunteers), the leader rips out sections of the notebook acquired during his training, and the teams self-train on-the-spot. The notebooks include check-lists and procedures. Literacy is both assumed and essential.

The leader (selected at an earlier meeting) assigns street teams to systematically assess every building in the neighborhood and report back. Meanwhile, the neighborhood leader assigns



people to specialist teams. Generally, a trained and untrained person, or a fit and unfit person are paired.

When the leader takes charge and a communications person is present, the team reports that it started-up to the city's emergency operations center.

In a good team, various families have agreed to lend supplies, tools and equipment to the team in an emergency. They bring these to the logistic team, who issues them. Logistics people also canvass new people for needed tools, food, water, tents, paper, field commodes and other needs listed by the planners.

When the street and block assessments come back, the planners try to track current problems and anticipate future needs so the leader can assign teams well. Usually the critical planning aid is a couple of greaseboards (which work in rain).

The assessments include details like addresses of: destroyed buildings, unrescued persons, and hazards, as well as people who need immediate professional care or professional rescues.

#### *STEP 4: COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL AUTHORITIES*

The CERT team's communicators send a digested summary of damage and critical injuries to the city's (or regional) emergency operations center. The 5% of rescues that require professional training and equipment are also reported in the summary. The reports include exact addresses, and damage assessments.

Soon, the CERT begins light rescues, and brings injured people to the first-aid station. Planners track the injuries, especially triaged injuries requiring immediate professional care. The communicators inform the city when local rescues are complete, and give an updated summary of severe injuries and damaged buildings.

At some point, a fire or police team may appear at the command post. The planners and leader can brief them from the summaries. This saves professional responders huge amounts of time, and directs them to important problems.

Eventually, the city's emergency operations center tells the CERT where the injured people who need immediate care can be taken. Note that the regional center can coordinate to balance loading of local hospitals. The logistics people recruit vehicles, the leader assigns drivers and first-aid people, and the severe injuries are evacuated. Later, less immediate injuries will be evacuated.

#### *STEP 5: LOCAL SHELTERING*

Throughout, the CERT's shelter workers register people and children so family members can find them, and feed and house people and (if possible) pets (in tents, eventually). As time passes, the communicator passes lists of registrees as designated by the emergency operations center. In most situations, Red Cross or Red Crescent helps family members locate each other. The CERT team should prepare the shelter area in advance, getting permission to locate an emergency tent city on a school grounds, park, parking lot or other open space. If most families have tents, a small managed tent community has better access to regional services and security than individual campers.

After some time, the regional EOC may choose to relocate people to a larger, more professionally-managed shelter. Even in this situation, local CERT shelters can still provide services to people with property, livestock or pets, because these are not usually permitted in large shelters. Neighborhood churches are in a unique position in the community to be utilized as designated relief sites, as they provide an established service structure and personal knowledge base of its members and the community they serve.

The result is not professional, but it's much better than an un-organized mob.

### ***TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION***

CERT training is easy for government. The training can be organized as mass-classes using pre-existing training facilities. Training usually combines expert lecturers, take-home emergency manuals and self-study materials with hands-on classes in small groups with previously-trained CERT volunteers. The result is a very good value for the cost.

Most effective programs run a program on a very predictable schedule so civilians can locate the training. For example, one effective format has a four-hour training program on the first Saturday morning of each month.

About 1% of adults will train simply because the training is available. More will train if the area is prone to periodic disasters, or the government effectively recruits public-service groups and schools. Civilians are recruited with advertising in schools, businesses, parks, recreation programs, libraries, and open-houses for fire and police departments.

CERT participation becomes much wider if the recruiting and training is made into a social occasion. One of the best social recruiting methods is to ask trainees to go door-to-door in their neighborhoods. This mobilizes CERT trainees to establish neighborhood teams. Typically, the volunteer distributes flyers that offer a "yard party" on a patriotic holiday, and then hosts it.

The classic way to recruit a neighborhood team is to offer food. Most people will come for the food. After that, the neighborhood at least knows where to go. The flyers or pamphlets usually also give the schedules of training sessions. The social occasion gives people a place to meet and lets interested persons find each other and organize.

The first step of each training meeting is always to register attendees. A notice and newsletter is mailed or e-mailed to previous attendees to arrive just before the next training session. The city also uses attendance to certify people, giving the city a database of trained volunteers.

As a last step, before graduating and certifying volunteers that complete the training, the city can run a criminal check on them. This means that even criminals can train (they need disaster preparation, too!), but the city can avoid depending on them.

During registration, the trainee gets a name tag, with a colored dot, or group number.

As part of registration, the trainee collates a self-training booklet for the class, and adds it to the notebook binder he was requested to bring to each session. This notebook forms an important resource to help remember procedures in a real disaster. It also assures that a trainee has an exact record of the areas in which he was trained - many trainees make up missed classes to fill their notebook.

The CERT organization may run a lottery to encourage attendance. The tickets are given at registration. The premiums are given after the training, and may include items purchased by the government (tools or supplies) as well as commercial promotional offerings from local businesses, such as free lunches or sample products.

After this, the group splits into parts (assigned by the colored dots on their badges) and trains. Having several groups permits smaller facilities to be used in rotation with lectures and demonstrations.

Topics for a week-end training session usually include: "need for disaster preparedness", "fire safety and fire extinguisher use", "first aid and triage", "cardiopulmonary resuscitation", "logistics and communication", "sheltering", "search and rescue", and "team organization".

In some areas, auxiliary classes are offered to train communicators, radiological safety officers, shelter cooking and organization, staffing of the emergency operations center, and advanced CPR and first-aid.

After the training, the lots are drawn and the premiums are distributed.

After a trainee graduates and passes the background check, they may get a service uniform, possibly a protective helmet or emergency-colored windbreaker with organizational logos.

### **3.1.3 Personal Tools, Equipment, Fire Protection Clothing**

Having personal tools and equipment ready for when a wildland fire is near is a must. The following is a list of items to have on hand in order to be prepared:

Clothing –

- ✓ 100% cotton clothing is preferred
- ✓ Long pants
- ✓ Long sleeve shirt
- ✓ Heavy shoes/boots
- ✓ Cap
- ✓ Dry bandanna for face cover
- ✓ Goggles or glasses

Fire fighting tools –

- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ Rake
- ✓ Hoe
- ✓ Clippers

Other equipment –

- ✓ Connected hoses
- ✓ Water buckets
- ✓ Ladder

### 3.1.4 Water Sources

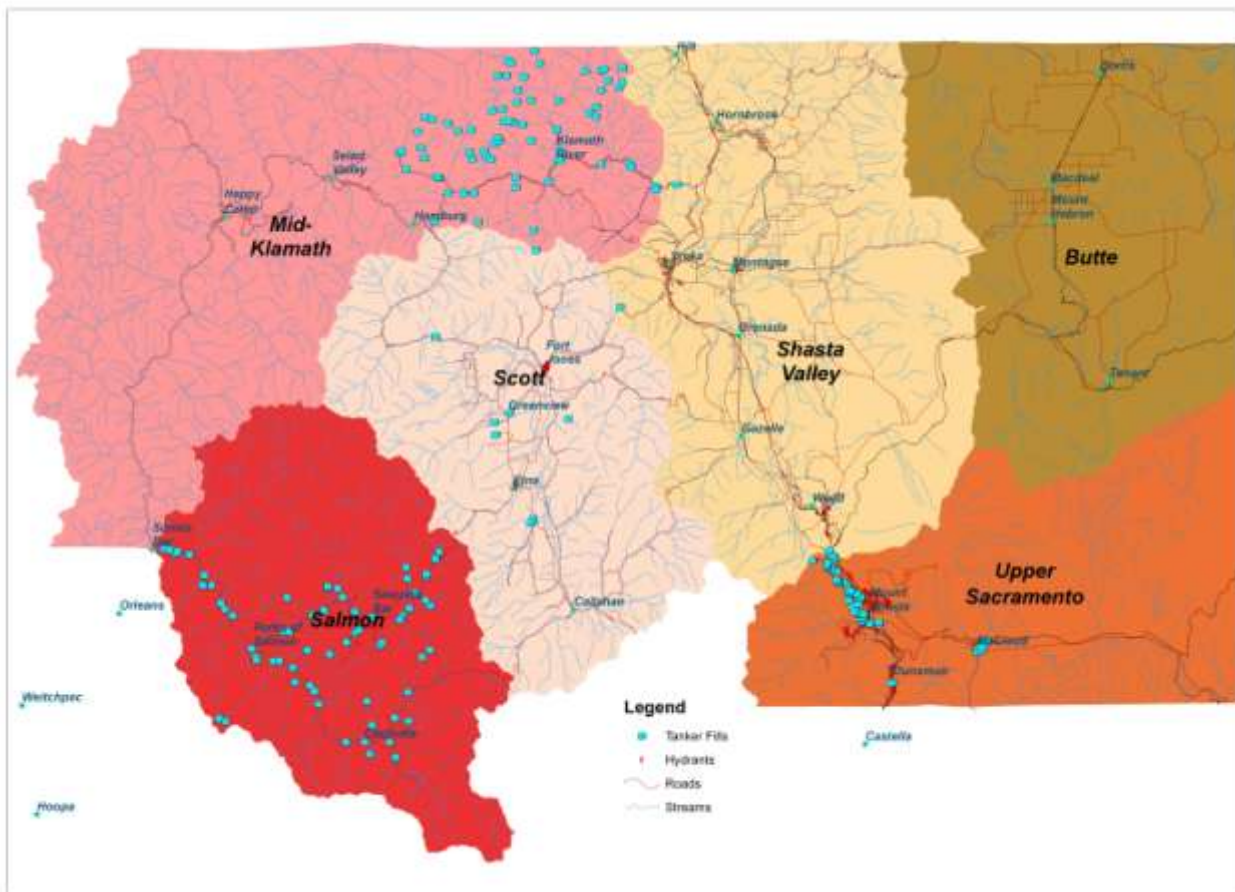
**PRC 4290 requires water supply at a minimum of 2500 gallons for new construction.**

#### Emergency Water Supply

- ✓ Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards through one of the following:
  - a community water/hydrant system
  - a cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors
  - a minimum storage supply of 2,500 gallons on your property (like a pond or pool)
- ✓ Clearly mark all emergency water sources
- ✓ Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source
- ✓ If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure

#### Location of water filling sites

Various sites are present throughout Siskiyou County in the event they are needed to fight fire. Figure 6 shows the location of each water filling site within each region. The Regional Information in Section 9 also includes maps to specify the location of all known water sources for each region. Add other areas, see Jim.



*Figure 6: Siskiyou County Water Filling Sites*

### **3.1.5 Agency Fire Response Plan**

The agencies participate in yearly drills and training and work with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) for planning possible evacuation needs. The four agencies responsible for fire protection have created a Wildland Fire Emergency Operations Plan, which defines initial attack, operational needs, and training on an ongoing basis. Also, the OES is currently creating an Evacuation Plan. This Plan should tie together all of the agencies with responsibility in an emergency situation, including the fire departments, OES, California Highway Patrol, the County Sheriff's office, the City Police Department, American Red Cross, City services and others. Evacuation would be the responsibility of the police departments. Fire suppression would be a cooperative response through the four fire agencies, the agency with jurisdiction will lead.

#### What would happen in an actual evacuation

- Emergency agencies will decide what areas need to be evacuated and when. They will notify occupants.
- Law enforcement agencies are responsible for carrying out the evacuation. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for security in evacuated areas.
- Representatives of local communities will work closely with emergency service agencies to ensure that local needs are communicated.
- The Red Cross and/or Siskiyou County Human Services will establish shelters where people can go during the evacuation.
- Law enforcement will control traffic flow and maintain access for emergency equipment. They may utilize workers from CalTrans, local public works departments, the Sheriff's Posse, or mutual aid Law Enforcement Officers from other jurisdictions.

## **3.2 During the Fire:**

### **3.2.1 Emergency Communication**

All the fire and medical agencies respond to emergency calls through the Yreka Interagency Command Center. Responses are made based on a closest resource concept and each agency plans for and adjusts equipment based on time of year and anticipated needs. Additional communications are implemented within neighborhoods. Refer to Section 3.1.2 for information about setting up Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams.

#### Emergency contact list:

- Call 911 for emergency.
- Alternative emergency number (sheriff's dispatch) for fire, medical, or law enforcement – 841-2900 or 1-800-404-2911
- Sheriff's Office non-emergency – 842-8301

### Where to Learn More

- ❑ Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County – or to learn about your local Fire Safe Council, call Dale or Giselle Nova at (530) 926-5071 or Jim Villeponteaux at (530) 462-4665
- ❑ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 1809 Fairlane Rd, CA 96097 (530) 842-3516 – lots of information on defensible space and fire prevention PRC 4290 and 4291
- ❑ Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services, 311 Lane St, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 842-8379– information on emergency preparedness and kinds of disasters that might affect our area; also information on physical addresses
- ❑ KNF, Shasta Trinity and Six Rivers – Supervisor’s offices

Nearest office of the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management – both have information on fire prevention

### How will Citizens be notified and what to do then

- ❑ Emergency personnel will notify people:
  - By Law Enforcement or their volunteers going home-to-home or
  - Telephonic Emergency Notification System (to be implemented prior to 2008 fire season)
  - By the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on radio
    - NOAA Weather Radio 162.5
    - KYRE FM 98
    - KSYC FM 103.9
    - KNTK FM 102.3, 99.7, and 101.7
- ❑ Do not hesitate to ask someone for identification to assure it is official notification.

See Appendices 10.1.3 for an expanded Emergency Contact List by area.

### **3.2.2 Evacuation Plans**

Whenever a menace to the public health or safety is created by a calamity such as fire or other disaster, officers of the law may close the area where the menace exists [Penal Code 409.5 (a)]. Any unauthorized person who willfully and knowingly enters an area after receiving notice to evacuate or leave shall be guilty of a misdemeanor [Penal Code 409.5 (c)].

You will often hear the terms Voluntary and Mandatory to describe evacuation orders, however, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as Precautionary and Immediate Threat. These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger and ALL evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.

Specific evacuation routes are listed for each region in Section 9 of this plan.

### ***How you should identify your Evacuation Route***

Draw or paste a map of the area around your home on the next page. Mark your house on the map. Your goal is to exit your neighborhood to a safe location. You are already familiar with the usual way of reaching your house. Remember that, during an evacuation, your neighbors will also be leaving and emergency vehicles will be using the same roads. Identify the main roads out of the area and decide how you would get to them? Identify at least two possible routes from your house if possible. What route you will need to use will depend on the situation at the time. Take time now to drive around the neighborhood and investigate other routes in case one becomes blocked.

### ***Prepare an Evacuation Checklist and Organize:***

Items to include in your checklist are –

- ✓ Critical medications
- ✓ Important personal papers, photos, etc.
- ✓ Essential valuables
- ✓ Pet and livestock transport, limited amount of pet food
- ✓ Change of clothing, toiletries, etc.
- ✓ Cell phone
- ✓ Critical papers and effects in a fire proof safe
- ✓ An Evacuation Rout Map with at least two routes\*
- ✓ Drive your planned route of escape before an actual emergency\*

\*During an evacuation law enforcement/emergency personnel may determine your route

### ***What to do DURING a wildland fire:***

Take the following steps to ensure you are prepared –

- ✓ Turn on a battery operated radio to get latest emergency information
- ✓ Locate your *Evacuation Checklist* and assemble the items on it. **PLACE THEM IN YOUR VEHICLE**
- ✓ Park your vehicle facing outward and leave keys in the ignition, detach electrical garage doors
- ✓ Remove combustible materials from the area surrounding your house (lawn chairs, tables, fire wood etc.)
- ✓ Close all doors and windows, but do not lock them
- ✓ Open or take down flammable drape and curtains
- ✓ Close all Venetian blinds and non-flammable window coverings
- ✓ Move upholstered furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors
- ✓ Turn off air conditioning/air circulation systems
- ✓ Locate your pets and keep nearby
- ✓ Prepare farm animals for transport
- ✓ Prop a ladder against your house so you and firefighters have access to the roof
- ✓ Place connected garden hoses and buckets full of water around the house
- ✓ Assemble fire fighting tools near an outside door (shovel, rake, hoe, etc.)
- ✓ Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures
- ✓ Cover up. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton clothing preferable.
- ✓ Leave lights on in the house – door unlocked

#### **3.2.2.1 People**

Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, wind, terrain, etc.

Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly!

You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. *You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV and for announcements from law enforcement/emergency personnel.*

You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location. *See section 3.2.2.3 for Safety Zones/Evacuation Sites.*

When heavy smoke reduces visibility, movement may be restricted only to escorted convoys.

See Shelter In Place Plan (Section 3.2.3) for instructions on what to do in the event you become trapped.

#### **Voluntary Registration Request For Medically Fragile Individuals**

The Siskiyou County Public Health Department has implemented a registry for medically fragile citizens that will be used in the event of an emergency. Emergency Response teams, primarily through the Sheriffs Department, will assist those included in the registry in the event of an evacuation or hazardous situation.

Using a form to provide information to the Public Health Department, data is input into the registry. Citizens can obtain a form online at [www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/phs](http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/phs) and click on the Download Forms link. Locate the Medically Fragile Individuals form and click to access the form. Print and complete the form, then send or fax to:

Siskiyou County Health Department  
806 South Main Street  
Yreka, CA 96097  
Fax: 841-4076

If you need assistance completing this form or have any questions, call Information and Assistance at 1-800-510-2020.

A sample form is available in Appendix 10.1.3.1.

#### **3.2.2.2 Pets and Livestock**

You've taken steps to keep your family and home fire safe. Don't forget your pets and livestock. With some advanced planning you can increase their chances of surviving a wildland fire as well.

##### ***Pets:***

Plan ahead. Know where you will take or leave your pets. In case you are not home when disaster strikes, arrange in advance for a neighbor to check on or transport your pets. Make sure your neighbors have your contact numbers (cell phone, work, home, etc.). In



the event of evacuation pets may not be allowed inside human emergency shelters – have an alternate prearranged location to take your animals.

Make sure your pets are always wearing properly fitted collars with personal identification, rabies and license tags.

Each animal should have their own pet carrier. Birds, rodents and reptiles should be transported in cages. Cover cages with a light sheet or cloth to minimize their fear.

Store vaccination/medical records, veterinary contact information, proof of ownership, a current photo, and a *Disaster Preparedness Kit* in one location.

If you must leave your pets, bring them indoors NEVER LEAVE PETS CHAINED OUTDOORS! Use a room with no windows and adequate ventilation, such as a utility room, garage, bathroom, or other area that can be easily cleaned. DO NOT TIE THEM UP! Leave only dry foods and fresh water in non-spill containers. If possible fill a bathtub with water.

*Disaster Preparedness Kit:*

- ✓ Pet carrier for each pet
- ✓ Two week supply of food and water
- ✓ Non-spill food and water bowls
- ✓ Pet first-aid kit
- ✓ Medications and closing instructions
- ✓ Cat litter box and litter
- ✓ Plastic bags for waste disposal
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Disinfectants
- ✓ Leashes/collars/harnesses
- ✓ Blankets
- ✓ Toys and treats
- ✓ Newspaper

***Livestock:***

During a wildland fire, local animal rescue organizations work with law enforcement and fire departments to rescue as many animals as they can. In battling a wildfire, firefighters will do what they can but they are not responsible for evacuating your livestock. Firefighters may cut fences or open gates to free trapped animals.

Clear defensible space around your barns, pastures and property just as you do your home. *PRC 4291 requires clearance around ALL structures on your property.* Plan ahead – if your livestock has to be evacuated know where you would take the animals. Contact your local fairgrounds, stockyards, equestrian centers, friends etc. about their policies and ability to take livestock temporarily in an emergency. Have several evacuation routes in mind. If you don't have your own truck and trailer make arrangements with local companies or neighbors before disaster strikes. Make sure your neighbors have your contact numbers (cell phone, work, home, etc.).

Have vaccination and medical records, registration papers and photographs of your animals (proof of ownership), and your *Disaster Preparedness Kit*.

If you must leave your animals, leave them in a pre-selected, cleared area. Leave enough hay for 48 to 72 hours. Do not rely on automatic watering systems. Power may be lost. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO START EVACUATING!**

*Disaster Preparedness Kit:*

- ✓ Hay, feed and water for three days
- ✓ Non-nylon leads and halters
- ✓ First aid items
- ✓ Wire cutters and a sharp knife
- ✓ Hoof picks
- ✓ Leg wraps
- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ Water buckets
- ✓ Plastic trash barrel with a lid
- ✓ Portable radio and extra batteries
- ✓ Flashlights

**3.2.2.3 Safety Zones/Evacuation Sites**

Safety Zones are areas that are large enough for people to gather and is not at risk for catching fire or filling with smoke from a fire. Because safety zones vary by region, more detailed information is provided in Section 9 under each of the six geographic regions.

Siskiyou County has many locations that are considered ‘evacuation sites’, these are shelters that are available to families, elderly, invalid adults, and animals. Overall there are 56 locations throughout the County. The County-wide breakdown by type of service is:

- Families = 46 locations
- Adult/Elderly & Invalid = 5 locations
- Animals = 5 locations

Location listings and details for each geographic region can be found in Section 9.

In addition to shelter locations, transportation information is also identified in Section 9 for each geographic region.

**3.2.3 Shelter in Place Plans**

***If You Become Trapped:***

While in your vehicle –

- ✓ Stay calm
- ✓ Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation
- ✓ Close all vehicle windows and vents
- ✓ Cover yourself with wool blanket or jacket
- ✓ Lie on vehicle floor
- ✓ Use your cell phone to advise officials – 911

While on foot –

- ✓ Stay calm

- ✓ Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression if possible
- ✓ Lie face down, cover up
- ✓ Use your cell phone to advise officials – 911

While in your home –

- ✓ Stay calm, keep your family together
- ✓ Call 911 and inform authorities of your location
- ✓ Fill sinks and tubs with cold water
- ✓ Keep doors and windows closed, but UNLOCKED
- ✓ Stay inside your house
- ✓ Stay away from outside walls and windows
- ✓ Note – it will get hot in the house, but it is much hotter, and more dangerous outside

After the fire passes, and if it is safe, check the following areas for fire –

- ✓ The roof and house exterior
- ✓ Under decks and inside your attic
- ✓ Your yard for burning trees, woodpiles, etc.
- ✓ Extinguish embers and sparks

### **3.3 After the Fire:**

Fire officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home in the event of evacuation. This will be done as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility. Be sure to check with fire officials before attempting to return to your home. Use caution when re-entering a burned area... flare-ups can occur.

When you do return home –

- ✓ Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards
- ✓ Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on
- ✓ Check grounds for ‘hot spots’ – smoldering stumps and vegetation. Use your buckets of water.
- ✓ Check the roof and exterior areas for sparks and embers
- ✓ Check the attic and throughout the house for hidden burning sparks and embers
- ✓ Continue to check for problem areas for several days
- ✓ Contact 911 if any danger is perceived
- ✓ If burning outside your home was extensive, watch for soil erosion. Consult local experts on the best way to restore and re-plant your land with fire safe landscaping.

#### **3.3.1 Assess Your Success, Evaluate and Plan for How to Be Better Prepared Next Time**

The purpose of assessment is to facilitate communication between Incident Management Teams/Command Teams, the local Fire Safe Councils (FSC’s) and local community members during a large wildfire event.

When a single wildfire event or a fire complex (several wildfires) becomes more than the local fire crews can handle, an Incident Management Team/Command Team (Team) is brought in to manage the fire suppression operation, the Team needs to be brought up to date on many aspects including location of private properties and structures, Tanker Fill Sites, and other infrastructure and community information. Many of the current community members have lived here through

many wildfire events and know about fire behavior, fuel conditions, topography, and the community residents. Many FSC's have completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The FSC also have extensive GIS capabilities and information that would be very useful to an Incident Management Team in their wildfire management role. The community members are always concerned and want to know everything about the fire(s).

The FSC's should develop a team of FSC/Community Liaisons (Liaisons) that will be prepared with all the important information that will be valuable to the Team, attend briefings and report back to the community. This will not negate the need for formal community meeting which gives the Team and community members to have periodic face to face information sharing, but will build cooperation and information exchange that will increase the Team's effectiveness in protecting residents and residences and provide the maximum amount of information to the communities affected.

The Liaisons will be selected to participate in the program by their willingness and knowledge of the community and fire history and behavior. The FSC's should supply them with a cache of maps and other information that can be provided in the case of a wildfire emergency. Liaisons should be expected to attend the annual Fire Safety Refresher in order to be able to work in a fire camp. On an annual basis, in spring, the Liaisons should be re-evaluated and data will be updated by the FSC's.

The local agency with jurisdiction will make the Team aware of the existence of the Liaison program and encourage the Team to cooperate with the liaison.

## 4. Community Description

**Siskiyou County** is located in inland northern California, adjacent to the Oregon border. Greater than 60% of the land within the County is currently managed by agencies of the Federal and State governments. These include: The U.S.D.A. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and California Department of Fish and Game. These lands are maintained in various National Forests; Parks; Wilderness Areas; National Grasslands; National Wildlife Refuges; and State Wildlife Areas.

Today, the population of Siskiyou County remains relatively stable, with approximately 45,000 residents. These residents reside in a land mass area of around 6,300 square miles, and the unique diversity of the geographic and ecological attributes makes it complex when addressing issues associated with local natural hazard mitigation. Currently, the southern portion of Siskiyou County is experiencing growth, and that growth translates into an increase in the potential impacts associated with natural hazards. Regardless, the terrain that one encounters in Siskiyou County provides a certain threshold of risk when one deals with natural disasters. (NHMP Siskiyou County, Draft)

Siskiyou County is subject to flooding, wildfire, earthquake, landslide, avalanche, severe weather, drought, dam failure, and volcanic eruption. It is virtually impossible to predict exactly when any of these disasters might occur. It is also impossible to gauge the extent of damage, the extended cost of that damage, or the degree to which the County will be affected. What is certain is that these natural hazards will occur. Natural disasters highlight the County's past, and they will continue to lurk in the County's future. Nonetheless, with prudent and thorough planning, cooperation among County, state, and federal agencies, partnership with private-sector organizations, and an informed citizenry, losses from natural disasters can be minimized. (NHMP Siskiyou County, Draft)

Because of the ecologically diverse region, this plan has divided the County into six geographic regions to address the differences in landscape and fire risk. Even within each region you may find ecological differences which are explained in Section 9 of this plan. Refer to section 2.4.1 for a map of regions.

## 5. Current Fire Environment

### 5.1 Wildfire Problem Definition

Recent history shows wildfires occur on an annual or semi-annual basis within the Wildland Urban Interface throughout Siskiyou County. Prior to European settlement, wildfire occurrence interval was between 10-25 years. While suppression forces have kept wildfires from significantly impacting residential areas in the past 20 years, increasing fuel loads are making this task more difficult in many areas.

### 5.2 Local Fire Ecology

Fire ecology is the study of fire and its relationship to the physical, chemical, and biological components of an ecosystem. A basic premise in the field of fire ecology is that most terrestrial ecosystems have experienced recurrent fire, and that organisms associated with these ecosystems have developed adaptations in order to respond favorably to fire (Pyne et al. 1996:180). The typically dry summers, localized human fire activity, steep topography, and existing vegetation types and seral stages within the Planning Area indicate that wildfires have been a major component of the local ecosystems. In various areas of the County, many ecosystem types have evolved with fire, including mixed hardwood/coniferous forests, coniferous forests, oak woodlands, grasslands, and riparian plant communities. Fire is a natural process in these ecosystems.

Aggressive fire suppression and prevention has allowed fuel to accumulate and forest types that are less fire resistant to become more widely distributed. For example, Douglas fir, which is a shade-tolerant tree, is quite abundant throughout Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties but would not have proliferated had fire been continuously used to manage the landscape. The stand structure now includes more down/dead material and ladder fuels of shrubs and shade-tolerant, understory tree species. Due to aggressive fire suppression and prevention forests are more crowded, trees are unable to retain their vigor, and they are more vulnerable to insects, disease, and stand-destroying fires.

In contrast frequent, low-intensity surface fires (such as occurred historically) cleanse the forest floor and maintain open stands of trees, thus allowing sunlight and moisture to reach the understory. When fire maintains a mosaic of vegetation and fuel to “natural” conditions, shade-tolerant trees such as Douglas-fir are not able to form the dense understories that are present in the forests around Orleans and Somes Bar today. In addition, aggressive fire suppression has led to a buildup of dead fuel because they are accumulating faster than they are being recycled through harvesting, fire, and/or decomposition. Our challenge is how to economically remove the unnaturally high level of fuel, while maintaining ecosystem functions, processes, and health.

#### *Cultural Perspective*

Siskiyou County is within Native American Ancestral Territory. Fire has been utilized by tribal people since time immemorial for protecting and enhancing resources valued by individuals, as well as family groups. Bringing the use of fire back to a level in which humans are once again an integral part of this natural ecological process, is a high priority for tribal and community members alike.

Before fire suppression, the landscape was extensively managed as a part of everyday life. As with everything in nature, there was no taking without giving. One could not kill a deer for food without allowing ample time for it to reproduce and ensure it had a healthy environment in which to live. Low intensity fire was a critical component of this process. In burning for the management of any resource, there would be an abundance of healthy forage materials for all creatures to share.

Some Tribal Members would dedicate a good portion of their lives to picking up the ground fuels and breaking down the ladder fuels just to pack them home for heating and cooking. This kept lightning fires burning at such low intensities that these fires would creep around until the rains came and the fire would go out. With these two “natural” processes combined at regular intervals, there was a constant cycle of low-intensity fire maintaining a natural ecological balance to a preexisting healthy environment.

Burning by individuals would take place in many forms for many reasons. People would burn piles in tanoak groves after the acorn harvest. The accumulated fuels and bug-infested acorns would be piled as gathering occurred, and set on fire as they traveled home. As these piles burned the smoke would settle at tree level and the bugs remaining in the branches would drop to the ground. Many of these bugs would burn up as the fires slowly burned together and went out over night. This process also ensured that these areas did not become overcrowded with brush because most of the acorns would be picked up and the smaller seedlings would be scorched.

Eighty percent of the plants utilized by Tribal people are fire dependent species. These plants depend on fire for germination, as well as the use quality and quantity of the plant materials. Basketry materials are required to be specific sizes for various types of baskets. Specific fire use intervals are required to properly manage these resources, and these intervals vary between different cultural use plant species.

After 90 years of effective fire suppression and the halting of large-scale traditional treatments, the levels of forest fuels have risen dramatically. The current fuel loading and preceding fire intensities are considered to be in an unnatural state. Areas around homes and communities are a logical place to begin the reinstatement of these large-scale treatments, while protecting the public from the inevitable onslaught of extremely intense catastrophic wildland fires.

### **5.3 Fire History**

Fire has always been a major force molding the development, structure and function of forests in the Planning Area. Despite concerted efforts at fire suppression since passage of the 1911 Weeks Act, fire has continued to be the dominant form of forest disturbance. Looking at how fire relates to various forest types and conditions, and how our relationship to fire has changed in the post-Settlement era, we can better understand the current situation and the need for a stepwise approach to restoring the historic fire regimes. Fire history tables are provided for each geographic region in Section 9. Table 5 summarizes the historical number of acres burned since 1900 and is listed by region:

*Table 5: Fire History since 1900 by Region*

<b>Region</b>	<b>Total Fire Acres</b>
Butte Valley Region	363,888.59
Mid-Klamath Region	440,605.59
Salmon River Region	571,036.63
Scott River Region	116,848.41
Shasta Valley Region	267,792.54
Upper Sacramento Region	380,375.87
<b>Total For Siskiyou County</b>	<b>2,140,547.62</b>

#### *Fire Occurrence – Reference and Current*

A historic fire regime is a general classification of the role fire would play across a landscape in the absence of modern human mechanical intervention, but including the influence of aboriginal burning (Agee 1993, Brown 1995). There are five historical fire regimes. These are based on the average number of years between fires (fire frequency) combined with the severity of the fire on the dominant overstory vegetation (the amount of replacement). According to the Fire Regime Condition Class website<sup>1</sup> the five regimes are:

- I – 0-35 year frequency and low (surface fires most common) to mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced);
- II – 0-35 year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity (greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced);
- III – 35-100+ year frequency and mixed severity (less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced);
- IV – 35-100+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity (greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced);
- V – 200+ year frequency and high (stand replacement) severity.

The typically dry summers, localized human fire activity, steep topography, and existing vegetation types and seral stages within the Planning Area indicate that wildfires have been a major component of the local ecosystems (LMKWA). Early fires showed a dominance of human causes, with many references to “probably incendiary to burn brush.” The implementation of siviculture treatments can influence the restoration of historic fire regime.

#### **5.4 Fire Weather**

Fire weather predictions and Fire Danger Ratings are made on fire weather information obtained from observation stations. Fire weather predictions are made that coincide with Redding Fire Weather Service forecast zones.

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<sup>1</sup> Fire Regime Condition Class website, <http://www.frcc.gov>.



The seasonal weather patterns within the both the North and Central Zone FMU are typically a Mediterranean weather climate within a temperate zone. The general climate of the Central Zone is for cool to mild and wet winters, with much drier and hotter summers. The average rainfall for the central zone ranges from 45-54 inches with most rain coming from November through April. Relative humidity generally reaches the lowest (5-15% range) in August through early October. In general, winds in the river drainages are associated with daily diurnal winds and sea breezes that are channeled inland by the topography and add to the local up canyon winds. The winds are the strongest in mid summer to fall and along the Klamath and Trinity Rivers and can range from 12 – 20 miles per hour during the afternoon and into the early evening. Foehn winds develop intermittently resulting in high potential for very high to extreme fire conditions. Lightning is common in the spring, but it is usually associated with rainfall, so wildfire potential is lessened. Summer and fall lightning storms track toward the NW, N, or NE through the Central Zone FMU and usually do not have significant rainfall, so there is a much higher potential for wildfires.

The seasonal weather patterns of the North Zone are defined by the offshore flow of the Japanese current and the moisture carried in the air above it; the moisture is generally generated and carried aloft from the Gulf of Alaska or the central Pacific. The North FMU receives an average rainfall of approximately 90- 110 inches a year with pronounced precipitation between the months of November to April. In the North Zone, slopes average 65 to 70 percent but slopes of 90 percent are not uncommon. This combined with local weather factors and overt weather systems can result in very complex fire dynamics. The coastal fire regimen is a temperate rain forest with fire occurring intermittently. Conditions for severe or extreme fire are uncommon as the conditions for very high and extreme activity are generally softened by coastal fog, which is common in the summer. The eastern half of the FMU will normally measure fuel moistures three to four per cent less than the western areas outside the coastal influence. Fires will reflect classic diurnal fire patterns and conditions for slope and fuels but may be influenced by the coastal/inland influence if conditions allow. The passage of cold cells with associated lightning appears to be capable of igniting more quickly in the eastern half but will holdover for days or weeks anywhere on the FMU. Foehn winds develop intermittently and create extreme fire conditions. Historically foehn winds, combined with holdover lightning strikes, have created the most extreme fires on the unit. Because of the external dynamics of weather systems fire danger prediction can be erratic as changes can be dramatic from day to day. Other than related to foehn winds, fires which can do the greatest sustained resource damage will normally occur in the late summer and early fall, due to the cured condition of the fuel.

#### *What is a Burn Index?*

The burn index (BI) represents a combination of fire spread and intensity, which is an indicator of the difficulty to contain and control a wildfire. The BI incorporates seasonal trends calculated from precipitation, temperature, relative humidity, and wind. The BI is scaled so that a value of 55 indicates a predicted flame length of 5.5 feet.

The burn index is one indicator used by wildland fire managers to help determine personnel levels each day. It is also used by some structure fire departments for the same reason.

**Fuel reduction:** Design fuel reduction projects in conifer forest types (including 3x plantation types) to achieve the following standards within a treatment area that is site specific and dependent on the stand density index:

- An average of 4-foot flame length under 90<sup>th</sup> percentile fire weather conditions.

- Surface and ladder fuels removed as needed to meet design criteria of less than 20 percent mortality in dominant and co-dominant trees under 90<sup>th</sup> percentile weather and fire behavior conditions.
- Tree crowns thinned to meet design criteria of less than 20 percent probability of initiation of crown fire under 90<sup>th</sup> percentile weather conditions.

## 6. Risk Assessment: Identifying and Evaluating Assets at Risk

One of the core elements of a community fire plan is developing an understanding of the risk of potential losses to life, property and natural resources during a wildfire. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the National Fire Plan, FEMA's Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the National Association of State Foresters all provide guidance on conducting a hazard and risk assessment for wildfire.

### *Risk Assessment Objectives*

- Identify Communities-at-Risk and the Wildland-Urban Interface
- Develop and conduct a wildfire risk assessment of the Planning Area
- Identify and prioritize hazardous fuels treatment projects within the Planning Area

### *What is a Wildfire Risk Assessment?*

The wildfire risk assessment is an analysis of the potential losses to life, property and natural resources. The analysis takes into consideration a combination of factors defined below:

**Risk:** the potential and frequency for wildfire ignitions (based on past occurrences)

**Hazard:** the conditions that may contribute to wildfire (fuels, slope, aspect, elevation and weather)

**Values:** the people, property, natural resources and other resources that could suffer losses in a wildfire event.

**Protection Capability:** the ability to mitigate losses, prepare for, respond to and suppress wildland and structural fires.

**Access:** the roads and driveways used by residents to escape a fire area, and by emergency responders to access properties.

**Structural Vulnerability:** the elements that affect the level of exposure of the hazard to the structure (roof type and building materials, access to the structure, and whether or not there is defensible space or fuels reduction around the structure.)

## 7. Mitigation Strategy, The Action Plan

**Table 6: CWPP Action Matrix**

<b>Siskiyou County CWPP Action Matrix</b>			
<b>Action</b>	YEAR		
	< 1 year	10 years	> 10 years
<b>Assessment of Vegetation &amp; Fuels</b>			
	Investigate Funding Possibilities for Comprehensive Vegetation & Fuels Assessment Proposal	Seek and Secure Funding for Vegetation & Fuels Assessment	Update Vegetation & Fuels Assessment
<b>Planning &amp; Coordination</b>			
	Continue Fire Safe Council Meetings	Continue Fire Safe Council Meetings	Continue Fire Safe Council Meetings
	Develop Description and Map of Firebreaks	Update Description and Map of Firebreaks	Update Description and Map of Firebreaks
	Coordinate Fuels projects with Roads, Etc Projects	Coordinate Fuels projects with Roads, Etc Projects	Coordinate Fuels projects with Roads, Etc Projects
	Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan
	Assist local FSC's with detailed Community Wildfire Protection Plans for communities and Neighborhoods	Assist local FSC's with detailed Community Wildfire Protection Plans for communities and Neighborhoods	Assist local FSC's with detailed Community Wildfire Protection Plans for communities and Neighborhoods
	Assist with Large Fire Suppression Coordination Plans involving Forest Service and FSC/Community	Assist with Large Fire Suppression Coordination Plans involving Forest Service and FSC/Community	Assist with Large Fire Suppression Coordination Plans involving Forest Service and FSC/Community
	Encourage the development of Fire Suppression "Fire Camp" Plans	Encourage the updating of Fire Suppression "Fire Camp" Plans	Encourage the updating of Fire Suppression "Fire Camp" Plans
	Encourage the development of Fire/Fuels Communication and Coordination Plans	Encourage the updating of Fire/Fuels Communication and Coordination Plans	Encourage the updating of Fire/Fuels Communication and Coordination Plans
	Assist with the development of Alternative Forest Products and Biomass Utilization Plan	Assist in updating Alternative Forest Products and Biomass Utilization Plan	Assist in updating Alternative Forest Products and Biomass Utilization Plan
	Assist local FSC's with evacuation plans	Assist local FSC's with evacuation plans	Assist local FSC's with evacuation plans
<b>Implementation</b>			
	Encourage the implementation of projects on public property WUI areas	Encourage the implementation of projects on public property WUI areas	Encourage the implementation of projects on public property WUI areas
	Encourage the development and implementation of Alternative Forest Products and Biomass	Encourage the development and implementation of Alternative Forest Products and	Encourage the development and implementation of Alternative Forest Products and

	Utilization Plan	Biomass Utilization Plan	Biomass Utilization Plan
	Encourage proper signing and keeping E Access roads in drivable shape where possible	Encourage proper signing and keeping E Access roads in drivable shape where possible	Encourage proper signing and keeping E Access roads in drivable shape where possible
	Encourage proper identification of potential safety zones; include signing where appropriate	Encourage proper identification of potential safety zones; include signing where appropriate	Encourage proper identification of potential safety zones; include signing where appropriate
	Encourage the treatment of fuels on prioritized firebreaks	Encourage the treatment of fuels on prioritized firebreaks	Encourage the treatment of fuels on prioritized firebreaks
	Encourage the updating and expanding Communication systems	Encourage the updating and expanding Communication systems	Encourage the updating and expanding Communication systems
<b>Education</b>			
	Distribution of GIS software and its training and use by local FSC as requested	Distribution of GIS software and its training and use by local FSC as requested	Distribution of GIS software and its training and use by local FSC as requested
	Disseminate Fire Safe Information to Communities	Disseminate Fire Safe Information to Communities	Disseminate Fire Safe Information to Communities
	Hold general Fire/Fuels workshops, educational forums and trainings	Hold general Fire/Fuels workshops and trainings	Hold general Fire/Fuels workshops and trainings
	Hold 100' Defensible Space workshops and trainings	Hold 100' Defensible Space workshops and trainings	Hold 100' Defensible Space workshops and trainings
<b>Fire Suppression Resources</b>			
	Assist in maintaining and supporting the Local Fire & Rescue Organizations to meet community needs	Assist in maintaining and supporting the Local Fire & Rescue Organizations to meet community needs	Assist in maintaining and supporting the Local Fire & Rescue Organizations to meet community needs
<b>Monitoring</b>			
	Develop Implementation Monitoring Plan which includes periodic updates from local FSC's	Continue Implementation Monitoring Plan	Continue Implementation Monitoring Plan
	Develop CWPP Monitoring Plan	Continue CWPP Monitoring Plan	Continue CWPP Monitoring Plan

*Note: Actions represent the intentions of the FSCSC as funding and circumstances allow.*

## 7.1 Desired Future Conditions

At the end of the first decade, there will be changes in the forests. In some cases, random ecological processes, independent of forest management actions, will have shaped the landscape. In other cases, management actions implemented to meet resource objectives will have influenced the outcome.

The forests will remain a place of high geologic diversity. The natural processes of landslides and hillside erosion will continue to shape and influence forest ecosystems. Productive forest soils will continue to provide the basic medium for the ecosystem. High quality water in all streams and rivers will continue to provide the medium for healthy riparian and aquatic habitats. The air quality will be of high quality. Natural and prescribed fires will produce smoke over a longer period of the year than at present. During the summer months, there will be fewer periods of time when high levels of smoke emissions from wildfires fill the air. Smoke emissions will vary on an annual basis depending on how much ground is burned and existing weather conditions. It is important that emissions be managed to be less than under a catastrophic wildfire.

The forests will continue to be biologically diverse. Biological diversity, although variable within natural limits at the stand and landscape levels, will be essentially the same as it is today at the forest level. There will be a mosaic of vegetative patterns across the region. The composition and structure of forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems will be within the natural range of variability. These ecosystems will function in a healthy manner and be resilient to changes, including repeated fires. Quality habitat will be present for aquatic and terrestrial species. Habitat will be conducive to the movement and interaction of species and to movement across landscape and forest boundaries. The distribution of species will help insure perpetuation of healthy populations.

Ecological processes will be the primary influence evident in late-successional and “old growth” habitats, specifically in locations where wildfires are no longer suppressed. Over time, a larger portion of terrestrial habitat will favor species dependent on older forest habitats instead of those that thrive in younger, more open forests. However, overall species richness will remain essentially as it is today. Habitat components, such as snags and down logs, will be distributed across forested areas at levels that support species and organisms that depend on these forest attributes for existence. The forests will be capable of supporting a growing population of Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TE&S) species due to the increase in late-successional habitat, river and stream habitat, and other habitat conditions essential to these species.

High quality aquatic habitat will be capable of supporting abundant populations of anadromous and resident fish and other aquatic species. Pool frequency and depth as well as key rearing habitats will be increased. These ecosystems will be healthy and resilient to change.

The mixture of seral stages for forest and rangeland cover types will be capable of providing for a diversity of species. Wildfires and vegetative management activities will provide patches of early seral stages in a variety of patch shapes and sizes throughout the landscape.

## 7.2 Mitigation Goals

In 1996 Siskiyou County released its “Siskiyou County Emergency Operations Plan.” Within it are guidelines for appropriate response to emergencies and the effective utilization of County resources in emergency situations with the hope of effectively managing emergency and/or disaster events. It is anticipated that this Emergency Operations Plan will also be updated during 2006. In 2006, this **Siskiyou County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP)** is being developed as a tool for realizing three intertwined goals:

- Identifying natural hazards that potentially threaten the County;
- Minimizing or eliminating the effects of these identified natural hazards; and
- Reducing the prospective costs of reparations before any natural disaster takes place.

What are the benefits of hazard mitigation?

There are many benefits to be realized in the creation and implementation of a natural hazards mitigation plan.

- *Save lives and protect property* – The County can save lives and reduce the amount of property damage by mitigating the effects of natural hazards. For example, the County can identify areas with high threat potentials to natural hazards, use zoning ordinances to guide the development of these properties, and subsequently facilitate a safer County for its citizens and their possessions.
- *Reduce impact of future disaster events* – By identifying natural hazards before they happen, the County can effectively plan for natural hazards and mitigate the damaging influences of natural hazards. Natural disasters are going to occur. This plan’s goal is to reduce their effects. In essence, this plan is the modern day equivalent to the old saying that, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Applicable words for the original settlers of the area; words that are still applicable today.
- *Enable post-disaster funding* – In the past, federal legislation has provided funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning. The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 stresses the importance of natural hazards mitigation as a primary tool in local and state natural disaster response preparedness. As such, this Act requires that an approved mitigation plan be in place prior to receiving any post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds. Siskiyou County’s NHMP will fulfill this requirement.
- *Hasten recovery from disasters* – In the development of a hazard mitigation strategy, Siskiyou County will be better prepared to react, respond, and recover from a future natural disaster by knowing in advance particular mitigation measures appropriate in post-disaster response scenarios.
- *Demonstrate a dedication to improving the County’s safety and well being* – By having a natural hazards mitigation plan in place, the citizens of Siskiyou County can rest assured that the County is committed to safeguarding the people and their possessions from unforeseen future natural disasters.

### 7.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring will consist of tracking project locations, methods and completion date by project leaders, which may include implementation by local fire safe councils.

Photo-monitoring will be collected from each project leader and archived for future reference.

Educational events will be evaluated by level of participation and participant feedback.





## 8. Summary and Conclusions

### 8.1 Analysis and Findings

Fire has been a significant evolutionary factor in Siskiyou County. Past fire suppression has helped to create extreme fuels conditions that increase the probability of stand replacing wildfires. If the land managing agencies and landowners use this Plan and the included project priorities within each region there is an opportunity to make the area able to withstand future wildfires while minimizing large scale stand-replacing events. Since the recommended projects in this Plan are immediately adjacent to communities, and 60% of the County is owned by federal land managers, the FSCSC encourages the U.S. Forest Service and other federal land managers to set up fire protection plans in the general forest. If 60% of the County goes untreated, “stand replacing events” will not be eliminated. The FSCSC encourages all landowners, private and public, to treat all of their lands within the identified borders of the WUI to reduce the condition class to no higher than II. In addition, this should be further lowered to condition class I within ¼ mile of all structures and escape routes as have been identified in this Plan.

Siskiyou County’s dry summer climate enables an annual seasonal threat to wildland fire, a threat that is periodically realized in potentially devastating fashion. The Wildland Urban Interface is the County’s greatest area of risk, and any wildland fire incident will have major impacts to the County. Citizens have an opportunity to minimize the threat of wildland fire by creating defensible space around structures, which includes appropriate landscaping. Because of residents ability to be prepared for the possibility of wildland fire, damage to property and the threat to human life is decreased.

Regional information provides several ecosystem factors, emergency resources and historical data that should assist firefighting personnel in the event of a wildfire. It is our desire to make the regional information more complete in the highest risk areas of the County. Having complete information will be critical to future planning.

### 8.2 Plan Update Process

This Plan will be updated every 5 years unless significant events occur or significant information is brought forward by local Fire Safe Councils.

Regional information may be updated every 2 years for incomplete segments where data is provided through continuing assistance by the FSCSC in working with Local Fire Safe Councils.

### 8.3 Next Steps

- The FSCSC will work with Local Fire Safe Councils in order to develop regional information and prioritized projects.
- Obtain more RedZone data that will identify structures with the highest risk of burning during a wildfire.
- Continue public workshops, outreach events and community forums that will provide educational information to the citizens of Siskiyou County
- Seek additional funds for continuing coordination by the FSCSC.



## 9. Regional Information

This section provides detailed information about each region (See map in Section 2.4.1). The following data is provided:

- A. Boundaries – includes description and map
- B. Key Stakeholders
- C. Landscape/Land Use
- D. Topography, slope, aspect, elevation
- E. Meteorology
- F. Hydrology
- G. Ecosystem types
- H. Threatened and endangered habitat types
- I. Infrastructure
- J. Emergency Services
- K. Community legal structure, jurisdictional boundaries
- L. Hazardous fuels
- M. Fire History
- N. Evacuation Plan
- O. Community information – some regions specify community names, other use geographic areas
- P. Community risk assessment
- Q. Overall community priority
- R. Community hazard reduction priorities
- S. Action plan
- T. Cal Fire Ignition Management Plan
- U. Maps
- V. Safety Zones
- W. Evacuation Sites
- X. Transportation

Since much of the information provided in this section is dependent on the local fire safe councils, some regions may have limited data in regards to geographic scope and/or information. As each local council develops their own CWPP, the regional information will be expanded to include those areas.