

Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan



2021 – 2025

BUTTE COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN AMENDMENTS

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5/3/2021	All	All	1 Year CWPP/Unit Fire Plan Update	J. Baker
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SIGNATURE PAGE

Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan developed for Butte County:

This Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, Town, and County agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Fire Plan establishes a framework for reducing the risks associated with wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the fire plan strives to reduce firefighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and enhance ecosystem health.

The Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been developed upon the priority goals and objectives identified by the Department and by local collaborators. This plan addresses the pre-fire strategies and tactics that will be implemented in cooperation with the fire agencies in Butte County, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, local community groups, and landowners. Local stakeholder collaboration is a key element in identifying and addressing local issues. Many projects are initiated at the grass roots level. The successful implementation of this plan requires the cooperation and coordination of various agencies, community groups and individual landowners to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth.

https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/5590/2018-strategic-fire-plan-approved-08_22_18.pdf

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/about/cal-fire-strategic-plan-2024>

The Butte County Cooperative Fire Protection Agencies (BCCFPA) intends to implement this plan and place emphasis on the following goals and objectives based on the 2018 Strategic Fire Plan:

- Improve the availability and use of consistent and shared information on hazard and risk assessment;
- Promote the role of local planning processes, including general plans, new development, and existing developments, and recognize individual landowner/homeowner responsibilities;
- Increase awareness and actions to improve fire resistance of human-made assets at risk and fire resilience of wildland environments through natural resource management;
- Integrate implementation of fire and vegetative fuels management practices consistent with the priorities of landowners or managers;
- Determine and seek the needed level of resources for fire prevention, natural resource management, fire suppression, and related services;

- Implement needed assessments and actions for post-fire protection and recovery.

By implementing a multi-faceted plan, using a combination of pre-fire treatments, including fuels reduction, prescribed burning, defensible space inspections, fire-resistant building construction standards enforcement, land use planning, and fire safety education, the BCCFPA strives to increase life safety and to reduce property destruction, environmental impacts, and fire suppression costs.

SECTION I: BUTTE COUNTY OVERVIEW

COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Butte County is located on the eastern side of the northern Sacramento Valley and encompasses over 1.1 million acres. Approximately 229,000 people reside in the County. The bordering counties include: Plumas County on the northeast, Yuba County on the southeast, Sutter and Colusa Counties on the southwest, Glenn County on the west, and Tehama County on the northwest. Approximately 52% of the County is designated State Responsibility Area (SRA), and approximately 14% is designated Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). Much of the public lands include parts of the Lassen National Forest and the Plumas National Forest. The remaining 34% of the county is comprised of Local Responsibility Area (LRA). The LRA contains densely populated areas as well as lower density rural areas. The LRA experiences a large occurrence of wildfires and poses a significant threat to the adjacent SRA.

The County ranges in elevation from 60 feet to 7,000 feet above sea level and is divided in half with two topographical features. The Sacramento Valley section in the western portion of the county is relatively flat and is predominantly grassland and farmland. The foothills and mountainous region of the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade Mountains comprise the eastern portion of the county. This area is scattered with homes and communities intermixed amongst woodland fuels creating a serious Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) problem. These are areas where wildland fire once burned only vegetation but now burns homes as well.

Butte County's foothills and mountains are carved up by several river drainages, the largest being the Feather River watershed which culminates in Lake Oroville. The Feather River watersheds include the West Branch of the North Fork east of Paradise, the North Fork separating Yankee Hill from Berry Creek, the Middle Fork separating Berry Creek and Feather Falls, and the South Fork separating Feather Falls from Forbestown and the La Porte Road communities. The northern part of Butte County is bisected by Butte Creek to the west of Paradise and by Big Chico Creek which separates the Forest Ranch and Cohasset ridges. The topography in these drainages differs significantly from the deep and very steep, heavily timbered drainages of the Feather River watershed to the moderately steep wide and generally brush filled Butte Creek and Chico Creek drainages. The drainages are oriented toward south and west aspects which lead to prolonged sun exposure and diminished fuel moisture in the wildland fuels.

Vegetation is grouped into three general fuel types: grass, brush, and timber. There are several factors such as fuel type and size, loading (tons/acre), arrangement (vertical &

horizontal), chemical composition, and dead and live fuel moisture that contribute to the flammability characteristics of vegetation.

The valley and lower foothills, up to approximately 1000' elevation, are covered by the grass fuel type. This fuel type is comprised of fine dead grasses and leaf litter which is the main carrier of fire. Fires in this fuel type react dramatically to changes in weather, particularly low relative humidity and high wind speed. Grassland fires can be very difficult to control during gusty wind conditions and often spread over a large area quickly, threatening life and property.

The mid-foothill and lower mountain areas, generally between 1000' and 2000' elevation, are dominated by brush. Fire in this fuel type can burn readily, especially later in the summer as live fuel moistures drop to critical levels. Brush fuel, unlike grass fuel, does not react readily to changes in relative humidity. Brush fires can be difficult to control under normal summer burning conditions when their fuel moistures reach critical levels and become very difficult to control on steep topography and when subjected to strong winds.

The mountainous areas above 2000' elevation are generally covered by the timber fuel type. Timber fires burn readily, especially if they occur in overstocked stands, in stands with down dead material, and/or later in the summer as live fuel moistures drop. Timber fires can be difficult to control under normal summer burning conditions, but they become very difficult to control on steep topography and when subjected to strong winds.

Butte County has a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Precipitation is normally in the form of rain, ranging from approximately 20 to 80 inches per year, with snow in the higher elevations. The average high temperature for January is 55 degrees and for July is 96 degrees, with many days in which temperatures reach over 100 degrees.

The predominant summer weather pattern includes high to very high temperatures, low humidity and light to moderate south winds associated with high pressure weather gradients. Occasionally during the summer, dry weather fronts will approach northern California bringing increased wind speeds from the south on approach, then changing direction to northwest winds after passing the area.

Each year, especially in the autumn months, north wind events bring high temperatures, very low humidity, and strong winds. These north wind events usually produce *red flag warning* conditions and provide the highest potential for extreme fire behavior. With the fuels, already at their driest moisture content, north winds can create a severe fire weather situation.

Lightning is cyclic and is generally a minor occurrence. However, there have been lightning storms that have started numerous, damaging fires. The 1999 Butte Lightning Complex burned 33,000 acres. The 2008 Butte Lightning Complex destroyed or damaged over 100 structures and 59,000 acres. August 17, 2020: A thunderstorm moved through Butte County with dozens of lightning strikes hitting the ground. There were 3 separate Lightning Coordination Areas (LCA) established to dispatch resources and manage the multiple fires. At the end of the day there were 32 separate fires and at the end of 3 weeks burned 2,070 acres.

Butte County has a significant history of large fire occurrences. Over 832,000 acres have burned during the past fifty-five years. In 1990, the Campbell fire scorched 131,000 acres. The Poe fire burned 8,333 acres and destroyed 50 homes in Concow/Yankee Hill in 2001, 2008 Humboldt fire burned over 23,000 acres and 351 structures near Paradise. In 2017 the Ponderosa, Wall, Cherokee and Wind Complex fires burned over 27,000. In the past few years, the county has experienced two of the most significant fires in the history of Butte County the Camp Fire in 2018, which burned over 153,000 acres and destroyed over 18,800 structures (14,000 were homes), which ultimately led to 30,000 people losing their residences. In addition to the property and environmental losses during the Camp Fire, there were 85 fatalities. In 2020 there was the North Complex which burned which burned over approximately 152,000 acres in Butte County with 1,515 structures destroyed and 16 lives lost¹.

In 2021, the Dixie Fire started in Butte County near the same area where the 2018 Camp fire started and burned 963,309 acres, destroying 1,329 structures across Butte, Plumas, Lassen, Shasta, and Tehama counties. The Dixie Fire became the largest single fire in California history. In terms of the largest of all fires in California history, the Dixie Fire is second only to the 2020 August Complex, which actually consisted of 38 separate fires in Glenn, Lake Mendocino, Tehama, Trinity, and Shasta counties.

Wildfire history is a significant factor of the pre-fire management planning process. Identifying where fires have occurred can help managers determine the most beneficial locations for pre-fire management projects.

Further information can be found in the 2017 Forest and Range Assessment document relating to priority landscapes in Butte County and throughout the State of California at:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/Home/What-We-Do/Fire-Resource-Assessment-Program/Assessment>

¹ Lives lost in the North Complex are total numbers in the entire fire, not just Butte County.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

CAL FIRE

The Butte Unit is geographically divided into eight battalions. Cooperative fire protection “Schedule A” agreements are maintained with the Butte County Fire Department, City of Biggs Fire Department, City of Gridley Fire Department, City of Oroville Fire Department, and the Town of Paradise Fire Department. During peak season preparedness, CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department resources include:

CAL FIRE Resources

- 390 Personnel
- 16 Engines
- 2 Transport/bulldozers
- 1 Air tactical plane
- 1 Air tanker
- 11 Fire stations
- 1 CAL FIRE Fuels Reduction Hand Crew
- 4 CAL FIRE/California Conservation Corps Hand Crews
- 1 CAL FIRE Firefighter 1 Hand Crew-to be added early summer 2023

County/City Resources (Staffed by CAL FIRE personnel)

- 12 Fire Stations
- 13 Engines
- 1 Type II Technical Rescue
- 1 Type I Water Rescue Team
- 2 Aerial (100'+) Ladder Trucks

A typical State engine company is staffed with a minimum of one Company Officer and two Firefighters. A typical County/City engine company is staffed with a minimum of one Company Officer and one Firefighter.

During periods of extreme fire danger, the lookouts on Bald Mountain (in northern Butte County) and Bloomer Hill (in southern Butte County) may be staffed, aiding in early fire detection. In addition to the augmented staffing of the lookouts, CAL FIRE also can utilize an extensive network of internet-accessible fire cameras installed in cooperation with the ALERTCalifornia (formerly AlertWildfire) consortium.

The Butte County Fire Department is a combination fire department. The delivery of fire department services is accomplished using both career and volunteer firefighters. Butte County has a strong and active volunteer firefighter program.

Butte County Volunteer Resources

- 16 Fire Stations
- 23 Engines
- 13 Tactical Water Tenders
- 7 Squads
- 1 Breathing Support Unit

Mutual/Automatic Aid Agreements

The Butte Unit maintains automatic aid agreements with all fire agencies within Butte County and with many adjacent to the county. The Butte Unit also protects Federal Property under the California Fire Management Agreement (CFMA). These agencies include:

Within Butte County:

- Chico Fire Department
- Lassen National Forest
- Plumas National Forest
- United States Fish and Wildlife
- Bureau of Land Management (CFMA)

Adjacent to Butte County:

- Foothill Volunteer Fire Department
- Hallwood Community Services District
- Hamilton City Fire Department
- Loma Rica/Browns Valley Community Services District
- Marysville Fire Department
- Sutter County Fire Department
- Tehama County Fire Department

Dispatch Agreements

The Butte Unit Emergency Command Center maintains agreements to provide dispatch, communication, command and control, and “pre-arrival” emergency medical services to the following agencies:

- Butte County Fire Department
- Biggs Fire Department
- Gridley Fire Department
- Oroville Fire Department
- Town of Paradise Fire Department

City of Chico Fire Department

CFD Personnel

- 54 Floor Personnel (sworn)
- 5 Chief Officers (sworn)
- 4 Prevention Personnel
- 2.5 Administrative Support Staff
- 7 Volunteer Firefighters

CFD Resources

- 4 Engines
- 1 Truck
- 2 Type 3s (one department owned and one OES)
- 1 Squad
- 1 Type II Medium Rescue
- 1 Rescue Support Trailer
- 1 Hazmat
- 1 Air/Light Truck
- 2 Crash Rescue Apparatus
- 1 Foam Trailer

Chico is located at the northeast edge of the Sacramento Valley, one of the richest agricultural areas in the world. The Sierra Nevada Mountains lie to the east, with Chico's city limits venturing several miles into the foothills. To the west, the Sacramento River lies five miles from the city limit.

Chico sits on the Sacramento Valley floor close to the foothills of the Cascade Range and the Sierra Nevada range with Big Chico Creek being the demarcation line between the Cascade Range (to the north) and the Sierra Nevada range (to the south). The city terrain is overall very flat with increasingly hilly terrain beginning at the eastern city limits.

Per the City's database, the City of Chico has a total area of 34.4 square miles. The city is bifurcated by Bidwell Park, which runs five miles from the city center to the foothills of the Cascade Range.

Two creeks and a flood channel, which feeds into the Sacramento River, run through the heart of the city and are comprised of: Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, and Lindo Channel (also known as Sandy Gulch, locally). The city is also traversed by Mud Creek, Sycamore Creek, Comanche Creek, Dead Horse Slough, and Butte Creek.

As of January 1, 2022, the State Department of Finance estimated the City's population at approximately 102,892.

The City of Chico Fire Department has a daily staff of floor personnel of 17 firefighters per day, to include 16 on apparatus plus one Battalion Chief.

Chico staffs five apparatus plus a command vehicle with three firefighters per engine that consist of one Captain, a Fire Apparatus Engineer and Firefighter. The ladder truck is staffed with four personnel: one Captain, a Fire Apparatus Engineer, and two Firefighters. The command vehicle is staffed with a Battalion Chief. The airport fire station is not currently staffed.

City of Oroville Fire Department

OFD Resources

- 17 Personnel
- 1 Station
- 4 Engines
- 1 Aerial (100') Ladder Truck
- 1 Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Vehicle

The City of Oroville has a population nearing 25,000 residents with the population in the greater Oroville area near 55,000. The County Seat is in Oroville. As part of a contract for fire protection services with CAL FIRE that was established July 1, 2022, the Oroville Fire Department has boundary-drop style aid agreements in place with all neighboring jurisdictions and is dispatched by the CAL FIRE Butte Unit's Emergency Command Center.

Typical daily staffing includes two apparatus-one engine and one truck. A Company Officer, Fire Engineer, and Firefighter compliment the first apparatus. The second apparatus is staffed with a Company Officer and Fire Engineer. The truck staffing is dynamic based on needs and time of year.

Staffing is augmented frequently throughout the year based on weather, holidays, and any other unusual circumstances.

SECTION II: COLLABORATION**COMMUNITY/AGENCIES/FIRE SAFE COUNCILS**

Representatives involved in the development of the Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan are included in the following table. Their organization and title are indicated below:

Plan Development Team

Butte County Fire Safe Council	Executive Director
Berry Creek Fire Safe Council	Chairperson
Feather Falls Fire Safe Council	Chairperson
Forbestown Fire Safe Council	Chairperson
Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council	Chairperson
Paradise Fire Safe Council	Chairperson
Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council	Managing Director
CAL FIRE	Chief
Butte County Fire Department	Chief
City of Biggs Fire Department	Chief
City of Chico Fire Department	Chief
City of Gridley Fire Department	Chief
City of Oroville Fire Department	Chief
Town of Paradise Fire Department	Chief
Bureau of Land Management	District Supervisor
Lassen National Forest/Almanor District	District Ranger
Plumas National Forest/Feather River District	District Ranger
Other Federal, State, Local and Private Agencies	Varies

SECTION III: VALUES

A: VALUES

One primary goal of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to identify, prioritize and protect the wide range of assets found throughout the wildlands of Butte County.

The wildland urban interface (WUI) in Butte County consists of communities at risk as well as the area around the communities that pose a fire threat. There are two types of WUI environments. The first is the true urban interface where development abruptly meets wildland. Within Butte County, the community of Paradise Pines is an example of high-density housing meeting wildland. The second WUI environment is referred to as the wildland urban intermix. Wildland urban intermix communities are rural, low-density communities where homes are intermixed in wildland areas. In Butte County, the communities of Cohasset, Forest Ranch, Concow, Yankee Hill, and Forbestown are examples. Wildland urban intermix communities are difficult to defend because they are sprawling communities over a large geographical area with mixed vegetation types throughout. This profile makes access, structure defense, and fire control difficult as fire can freely run through the community. There are over 30,000 structures spread throughout the SRA in Butte County. This home construction has created a new fuel load within the wildland and has caused a shift in firefighting tactics to life safety and structure defense. Human impact on wildland areas has made it much more difficult to protect life and property during a wildland fire.

In addition to structures, many other assets are at risk in the wildland environment. These include but are not limited to:

- Public Infrastructure
- Hydroelectric Power Facilities
- Historic Buildings
- Ecosystem Health
- Wildlife Habitat
- 200+ miles of Lake Shorelines
- Air Quality
- Soil Erosion
- Water Quality
- Rangeland
- More than \$2.5 Billion in Timberland
- Recreation Areas including parks, camp sites, and intricate trail systems
- 25 miles of Scenic Highway

Many of these assets are dependent upon each other, and their values will be considered when prioritizing pre-fire projects. Implementing a combination of pre-fire treatments will enhance the protection of these values.

B: COMMUNITIES

Thirty-one communities within Butte County have been recognized as communities at risk. More information regarding communities at risk can be found at:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/pre-fire-planning>

1	Bangor	Butte	2001
2	Berry Creek	Butte	2001
3	Butte Creek	Butte	2001
4	Butte Meadows	Butte	2001
5	Butte Valley	Butte	2013
6	Cherokee	Butte	2013
7	Chico	Butte	2001
8	Clipper Mills	Butte	2013
9	Cohasset	Butte	2001
10	Concow	Butte	2001
11	Durham	Butte	2001
12	Feather Falls	Butte	2001
13	Forbestown	Butte	2010
14	Forest Ranch	Butte	2001
15	Honcut	Butte	2013
16	Hurleton	Butte	2001
17	Inskip	Butte	2001

18	Jonesville	Butte	2001
19	Kelly Ridge	Butte	2013
20	Magalia	Butte	2001
21	Oroville	Butte	2001
22	Oroville East	Butte	2001
23	Palermo	Butte	2001
24	Paradise	Butte	2001
25	Paradise Pines - De Sabla	Butte	2013
26	Pentz	Butte	2001
27	Robinson Mills	Butte	2001
28	South Oroville	Butte	2001
29	Stirling City	Butte	2001
30	Thermalito	Butte	2001
31	Yankee Hill	Butte	2013

FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A: FIRE PREVENTION

The Butte Unit Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for fire origin and cause investigations, public education, public information, fire hazard abatement, fire planning, burn permits, life safety inspections, and fire law enforcement. Each of these programs is an important facet of a well-balanced fire prevention program.

The Fire Prevention Bureau supports the fire investigation needs of the Unit, assisting with complex fire investigations such as those involving fire fatalities, commercial structures, arson, or detailed follow-up investigative work. Through the fire investigation process, specific fire cause trends can be identified and addressed utilizing focused prevention efforts such as education and enforcement programs. For example, over the past few years, many wildland fires have been caused by escape debris burning. In response, the Fire Prevention Bureau has initiated an education campaign utilizing newspaper articles, Twitter and Facebook regarding safe debris burning procedures.



The Fire Prevention Bureau staff has implemented an enforcement policy for citizens who allow their fire to escape control. Responsible individuals are handled administratively with an LE 38, civilly with letter of demand for the cost of fire suppression, or criminally with a citation to the court.

Additionally, with the enhancements of Butte County's Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance Chapter 38A, unincorporated real properties in Butte County will be inspected for fire hazards along travel ways, in the 5-foot noncombustible zone, and 100 feet around a structure regardless of the property line. The goal is to reduce the risk of uncontrolled fires, minimize the spread of any fire to other properties, reduce obstructions to fire suppression efforts, increase the opportunity for firefighters to successfully protect lives, protect populated areas, and reduce the spread of residential and other building fires into the wildland. Properties not meeting the fire break requirements outlined in Public

Resources Code (PRC) 4291 and Butte County Chapter 38A will have a follow up inspection no sooner than 30 days. Follow-up inspections will be documented, tracked, and prioritized based on the greatest number of violations for any single resident, community impact, the availability of inspectors, and requests from residents for follow-up inspection or information/clarification. All portions of PRC 4291 and Chapter 38A are intended to work together to prevent future large devastating fires from impacting entire communities, as we have seen all too often over the last several years.

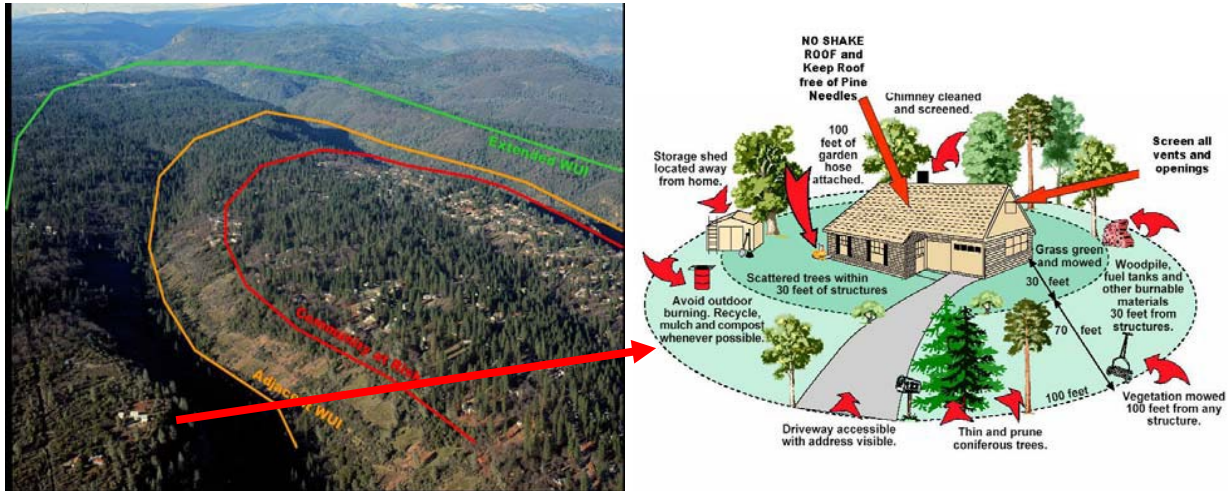
ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

One key component of the fire plan is the protection of structures during the event of a wildfire. This critical asset is one of the most difficult and costly to defend during a wildfire. Compliance with PRC 4291 and Butte County Chapter 38A regulations gives the best opportunity for structural survivability during a large wildfire. However, it is not enough to have defensible space without giving careful thought and effort toward improving the home's resistance to structural ignitability. Structural ignitability is a term that describes a structure's susceptibility to catch fire during a wildland fire. Aiding a fire in this capacity would be any item allowing an ember to readily start a new fire. The zone within 5 feet of any structure is termed the Ember Ignition Zone. Many structures can be destroyed well in advance of the main fire. The Butte County Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance Chapter 38A requires all structures in unincorporated areas of Butte County to maintain the area 5 feet immediately around the structure free of combustible material. The use of low growing, high moisture plants, flowers, ground covers and green lawns will help defend a home from flying embers.

During the Camp Fire, the majority of the homes destroyed were ignited by embers well ahead of the main fire front. Embers ignited receptive fuels surrounding the homes such as pine needles and leaves that had accumulated in rain gutters and on the roof, under decks, and in corners on the exterior of the home, on yard furniture, within landscaping attached to the home such as vines, woodpiles, and any debris stacked near to the home.

The illustration below displays the importance of maintaining PRC 4291 clearance as it relates to location in relevance to the community at risk and a home's place in the wildland urban interface (WUI). In this illustration, the identified home falls within the Extended WUI. The location at the top of a ridge would only increase the danger of a structure succumbing to a wildland fire. A structure such as this would benefit greatly by adhering to PRC 4291 and Chapter 38A compliance.

Detailed Illustration of the Home Ignition Zone



HOME IGNITION ZONE

- Fire resistant building construction.
- Defensible space around the home 100 feet.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Information and Education programs in Butte County are coordinated efforts, supported by the commitment of the Fire Prevention Bureau, Volunteers in Prevention (VIP's), fire station personnel, Butte County Fire Chief's Association, North Valley Fire Prevention Officers, and the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

Information

The public information function is covered 24 hours per day by Incident Command System (ICS) qualified Public Information Officers (PIO's) and by the Emergency Command Center personnel. The overall goal of this function is to keep our customers, the citizens of Butte County, informed by providing timely and accurate information to the varied media market in the northern Sacramento Valley.

Information Call Center and Joint Information Center training is conducted in cooperation with multiple agencies to foster inter-agency relations and to maintain the base of qualified call-taker personnel. The Butte Unit utilizes VIP's that are trained and experienced call-takers. These VIPs are vital to the information function during a significant incident.

In addition to CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department specific public information, the Butte County Fire Chief's Association PIO's, with representatives from CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department, Chico Fire Department, Oroville Fire Department, Paradise Fire Department, and the U.S. Forest Service meet bi-monthly to plan joint information releases that cover message topics including: Summer Safety and Heightened Fire Danger, Changing Smoke Detector Batteries, Holiday Home Safety, and Fall Home Heating Safety.

Education

Annually, thousands of Butte County residents, both children and adults, attend dozens of events including school programs, fair exhibits, and community events. Presentations that cover many topics, including Stop, Drop and Roll, Home Safety, Fire Safety, and Defensible Space, are provided.

Contributing factors to the success of public education in Butte County are the commitment and cooperation of multiple agencies, community involvement and by fire station personnel. The Butte County Fire Chief's Association, Butte County Fire Safe Council, and the Butte County Sheriff's Office have all partnered with CAL FIRE to coordinate and deliver consistent safety programs and messages. Approximately 90 percent of the hours dedicated to education each year are provided by fire station personnel. At community events, station personnel bring a very important "personal" touch to the messages that are taught, which underscores our department's commitment to customer service.

Additionally, Fire Hazard inspectors will be going throughout the community educating citizens on developing knowledge and problem-solving skills to meet the standards in PRC 4291 and Chapter 38A. 16,000 improved structures have been identified to be in the high and very high fire zones within Butte County. The defensible space inspectors will be going door to door throughout this area talking with homeowners and providing educational material and guidelines on creating the defensible space needed to protect their home. Every homeowner that needs guidance will be reached in person or through the mail.

B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The Butte Unit Resource Management staff administers numerous programs which support the Strategic Fire Plan.

Fuels Modification

Forest Practice—CAL FIRE Resource Management staff is responsible for enforcing the California Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules for timber operations on private timberlands. This enforcement process starts with the initial project review and continues through the harvesting of timber to completion. The treatment of logging slash to reduce the overall fuel hazard within timberland areas must comply with the rules and regulations, which generally apply around structures and along roads. During the review of commercial timber harvesting plans, CAL FIRE staff has opportunities to provide written recommendations to project proponents designed to facilitate a positive change in the methods in which timber operations are conducted. Our foresters continually look for ways to improve fire safety, hazard reduction, public safety, vehicular access, water sources, timing of operations, wildlife benefits, and other site-specific mitigation measures necessary to support the Strategic Plan.

The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) is a program that utilizes prescribed fire, and mechanical means for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on chaparral-dominated State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. The use of prescribed fire models natural processes to restore fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.

Like the Vegetation Management Program, the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) is a new program that streamlines environmental planning and adds additional management tools for vegetation treatment on all SRA lands, including timberland.

The VMP and CalVTP both allow private landowners to enter a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire and other vegetation treatment methods to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. The projects which fit within Butte's priority areas (e.g., those identified through the Fire Plan) and are of most value to the unit are those that have been completed initially and continue to be active over the years.

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is a state cost share program to assist private timberland owners in the management of their forest lands. Eligible practices include reforestation projects (funding up to 90% on lands damaged by

wildfire) and fuel treatments accomplished through thinning, pruning, and follow-up fuel reduction.

Other grant-funded fuel reduction projects generally involve the construction or maintenance of fuel breaks in the Wildland Urban Interface. Proposition 40 funding and SRA fee funding were used extensively within Butte County to construct fuel breaks and accomplish other fuels reduction projects. Proposition 40 funding expired June 1, 2014. The SRA fees were discontinued June 30, 2017. The Unit continues to work with Sacramento and local grant applicants to obtain funding from the California Climate Investments (CCI) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to continue with these projects in the SRA. CAL FIRE currently offers CCI Forest Health grants that target landscape level projects and CCI Fire Prevention grants that target smaller projects and those focusing on fire prevention.

Environmental Review

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires public agencies to consider actions on projects that may directly or indirectly result in a physical change in the environment. When CAL FIRE funds, approves, permits, facilitates, or carries out a project as lead agency, it is obligated to ensure that the appropriate steps are taken in complying with CEQA by preparing an environmental review. The review, conducted by the Unit Forester/Environmental Coordinator, ensures that CAL FIRE's statutory responsibilities within the Butte Unit are addressed in the project planning phase. Examples of CAL FIRE projects in Butte include facility construction, repairs, maintenance, and fire hazard clearance. Fuel reduction projects include shaded fuel breaks, prescribed burns, and live fire training burns.

Fire Suppression Repair

CAL FIRE has authority to conduct fire suppression repair operations during emergency incidents on State Responsibility Areas (SRA) under the Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 4675 & 4676. Fire suppression damage includes impacts to resources and property caused by firefighting efforts, including but not limited to potential soil erosion from dozer & hand lines, road opening and watercourse crossings. The primary objective is to mitigate fire suppression-caused damage to as close to pre-fire conditions as is reasonably possible. This is done by minimizing sediment delivery to watercourses, mitigating slope conditions to pre-fire drainage patterns, removing fire suppression-related debris, restoring or removing berms and barriers as necessary, repairing gates and fence lines removed for fire control access, and implementing appropriate mitigation measures (in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist) to protect cultural and/or historic resource sites.

The Resource Management staff provides suppression repair duties in the Unit. Their natural resource background, training and knowledge of both fire control issues, and methods of addressing complex environmental issues greatly support the Department's Strategic Plan. They work with the landowners and other stakeholders to provide a rapid post-fire assessment of burned areas. They have many private and agency contacts, and effectively utilize available resources, including CAL FIRE hand crews, to accomplish the restoration and protection activities.

Butte Unit Fuels Crew

The Butte Unit Fuels Crew is one of 10 CAL FIRE dedicated fuels reduction crews. It is staffed with a Fire Captain, an Engineer, an Equipment Operator, and up to eight Forestry Technicians. Equipment for the crew includes a skid steer masticator, an excavator with a masticator head, and both tow and track chippers. While this crew is fire-line qualified and available for emergency response, its primary responsibility is to reduce wildland fuels using broadcast burning, pile burning, mastication, and chipping.

Forest and Range Health

The CAL FIRE mission emphasizes management and protection of California's natural resources. Management of overstocked timber stands is necessary to achieve the goals of restoring, enhancing, and protecting California's natural resources. Healthy forests are more productive, are more resistant to diseases that weaken trees or cause mortality, and generally are at lower risk to catastrophic wildfire. Restoring rangeland through prescribed burning of non-native noxious weeds, forbs and grasses promotes increased range health, which has environmental and socio-economic benefits.

SECTION V: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

CAL FIRE/BUTTE COUNTY FIRE DIVISION/BATTALION/PROGRAM PLANS

Battalion One – Paradise, Magalia, Stirling City, Yankee Hill

Collaborators

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department; Town of Paradise Fire Department; Butte County, Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians; Paradise Ridge Fire Safe Council; Plumas National Forest/Lassen National Forest; Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI); Paradise Pines Property Owners Association (PPOA); Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E); Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council.

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

Battalion One surrounds the Town of Paradise, and encompasses three communities: Stirling City, Paradise Pines (Magalia), and Yankee Hill-Concow. The Town of Paradise (which is covered in the Battalion 8 section of this plan) and the community of Paradise Pines are more characteristic of an urban interface environment where wildland abruptly adjoins higher density housing. Paradise Pines is relatively large and densely populated. Other areas within the battalion can be characterized as intermix areas, where houses are scattered amongst the wildland, such as those south of the Town of Paradise and north and east of the community of Paradise Pines.

The Yankee Hill-Concow area is comprised of lands owned by the U.S. Government, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Sierra Pacific Industries, and local landowners. There is an extensive system of hydroelectric power facilities and transmission lines, a Union Pacific railroad, and a State scenic route (Highway 70) in the Feather River Canyon. The Thermalito Irrigation District owns Concow Lake and much of the land surrounding it. The greatest concentration of population is on developed parcels along Highway 70, Concow Lake and the Big Bend area. Many areas have narrow access routes and inadequate defensible space. Another significant problem is the lack of water supply for fire protection with no pressurized community fire hydrants and very few large storage tanks. An evacuation plan and community information radio station have been created in cooperation with the Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council. An extensive network of internet-accessible fire cameras has also been installed in cooperation with the AlertWildfire consortium.

Emergency access in to and out of these communities is a real concern, due to limited, narrow roads and the expectation of large numbers of citizens trying to evacuate simultaneously. This is especially true in Magalia where the population density is very

high and there is only one arterial road, the Skyway, leading in to and out of the community. This is further complicated by a stretch of the roadway that crosses the dam at Magalia Reservoir. To mitigate the traffic issues during an evacuation, several miles of the Skyway were reconstructed and paved from Stirling City to Butte Meadows as an additional evacuation route. Evacuation plans for these communities have been updated and distributed to the public and service providers in cooperation with the Butte County Fire Safe Council, Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council, Town of Paradise, and Butte County Office of Emergency Management.

Fuels

There is a wide range of vegetation types found within the Paradise Ridge. The vegetation types range from grass, chaparral brush mix, oak woodland, and mixed-conifer timber. The lower elevations of Paradise have an overstory of ponderosa pine/California black oak mix, with an understory chaparral brush component consisting primarily of manzanita, ceanothus, scotch broom, and poison oak. The upper elevations of Magalia and Stirling City have a mixed-conifer timber overstory including Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir, and incense-cedar. Hardwood trees in the understory include California black oak, tanoak, canyon live oak, bigleaf maple and California laurel. There is also an understory chaparral brush component consisting primarily of manzanita, deer brush, ceanothus, scotch broom and poison oak. Some areas of undeveloped lots or greenbelt areas have very dense brush which can affect fire behavior.

In the Yankee Hill-Concow area, Highway 70 runs through the community and along the north fork of the Feather River Canyon. At lower elevations, the fuel type transitions from oak woodland to brush, including manzanita, toyon and white thorn, which grow especially thick in the drainages. At approximately 2000' to 2500', the fuel transitions to a mixed-conifer timber type. Expansive areas have been converted to brush with scattered conifers after the 2018 Camp Fire.

These vegetation types provide fire control problems complicated by overstocked and overgrown conditions due to years of successful fire suppression. Furthermore, severe intensity fires have converted expansive areas to a brush fuel type. The potential for a large, fuel driven fire is very real when fuel moisture conditions are conducive to burning. Fire control will be very difficult due to high burning intensities, leading to fire behavior problems such as long-range spotting, high rates of spread and long flame lengths. Direct attack may be impossible under these burning conditions for safety reasons. An indirect attack with a defensive approach is a likely scenario for fire control.

Fuel reduction along the primary evacuation routes of Magalia/Paradise Pines continue to move forward as funding becomes available. Many projects have been completed, which provided some protection during the large-scale evacuation in 2018.

Topography

The most prominent topographic features within the battalion are the numerous steep canyons dispersed throughout the area. The three largest of these canyons, and most influential on fire behavior, are Butte Creek Canyon, the West Branch Feather River Canyon, and the North Fork of the Feather River Canyon. Butte Creek Canyon borders Paradise and Magalia to the west. The West Branch Feather River Canyon divides the battalion with Paradise, Magalia and Stirling City to the west and Concow/Yankee Hill to the east. North Fork of the Feather River Canyon is located along the east border of the battalion. Less prominent canyons, but still very influential on fire behavior, are located along the south border of Paradise. The smaller canyons run north-south into town limits, but substantially decrease in size by the time they enter Paradise. These canyons include Nance, Hamlin, Berry, Clear Creek, and Dry Creek.

Gently sloping, broad ridges make up most of the Paradise, Magalia and Stirling City residential areas with several smaller canyons entering the communities. Little Butte Creek and Middle Butte Creek canyons are relatively small where they enter Magalia, however a well-established fire starting in either canyon would provide a substantial resistance to control. There are also numerous tributary drainages to all of the canyons entering each community, which can substantially influence fire behavior.

The communities of Yankee Hill and Concow lie within the North Fork Feather River drainage. This large watershed and its tributaries, lend towards steep slopes and chimneys which contribute to strong and erratic winds.

Weather and Fire History

Seasonal weather patterns do not vary significantly from the Unit-wide averages. The predominant summer weather pattern includes high to very high temperatures, low humidity and light to moderate south winds associated with high pressure weather gradients. North wind events usually produce *red flag warning* conditions and provide the highest potential for rapid fire behavior. Historically, extreme weather conditions (primarily wind) have been the primary factor in large fires within the Paradise and Magalia area. Yankee Hill-Concow contains the steep drainages of the Feather River that exist from Butte Valley to the Plumas National Forest. These drainages contribute to strong and erratic diurnal up-canyon and down-canyon wind patterns. There is a

significant potential for weather to be a strong influence on fire behavior and should not be discounted.

There has been a substantial amount of large fire history within Battalion 1. In July 2021, the Dixie Fire started on the eastern side of the battalion within the North Fork Feather River drainage. The Dixie Fire burned 963,309 acres and is designated as the largest single source wildfire in State history. In November 2018, the wind-driven Camp Fire burned throughout Yankee Hill, Concow, Paradise and Magalia; destroyed approximately 153,000 acres and 18,000 structures; and killed 85 people. The 2018 Camp Fire is designated as the deadliest and most destructive fire in State history. In June 2008, the wind-driven Humboldt fire burned over 23,000 acres and destroyed numerous structures. The 2008 Butte Lightning Complex consumed 59,000 acres. One of the fires in the complex, the 2008 Camp Fire (same name as the 2018 fire noted above), destroyed or damaged over 100 homes and accounted for a large portion of the total acres burned during the siege. The Poe fire (2001) burned 8,333 acres and destroyed 50 homes. The Seventy fire (2001) burned 1,711 acres. The Concow fire (2000) burned 1,845 acres, killed one civilian, injured several firefighters, and destroyed 16 homes. A lightning event in 1999 burned tens of thousands of acres on the east side of Highway 70 north of Pulga.

Battalion Priorities

- PRC4291 and Butte County Code 38A defensible space compliance inspections
- Cooperatively assist activities of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
- Fire Prevention Education and Community Outreach-school and community events, burn permit issuance, emphasizing Hardening Your Home, Ready Set Go, defensible space requirements and recommendations, and the “One Less Spark” campaign, the “Help Us Find You” visible address sign campaign, ingress/egress routes, and access to water supplies
- Maintain Fire Danger warning sign to public
- Assist with planning and implementation of Concow VTP project
- Fire prevention education presentations
- Support the Chipper Program sponsored by Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Community outreach/education at multiple community events
- Fuel reduction projects along primary community escape routes
- Fuel reduction-projects adjacent to Magalia/Paradise Pines/Yankee Hill
- Visible Address Signs

Battalion Two – Cohasset, Forest Ranch, Butte Meadows/Jonesville**Collaborators**

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department; Cohasset Community Association; Buzztail Community Services District; Crown Point Road Association; Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve; Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council; Loafer Creek LLC; Butte Meadows/Jonesville Community Association; Sierra Pacific Industries; Lassen National Forest; Cal Trans; Butte County Fire Safe Council; Resource Conservation District of Butte County.

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

Battalion Two encompasses the Chico foothills, Lower Butte Creek Canyon, the communities of Cohasset, Forest Ranch, Butte Meadows/Jonesville, and the Hwy 32 corridor from the Chico city limits to the Tehama County line and beyond. Except for the core area of these communities which are like an urban interface environment, much of the battalion can be characterized as intermix areas in which residences are scattered amongst the wildlands. This makes having the 100-ft defensible space requirement around structures vital. Protecting these structures from a wildfire threat is challenging, as they are not as densely located. This can require many more resources to accomplish as compared to a more urban interface environment where a single resource can potentially protect more than one structure when they are in a denser configuration. Additionally, the Cohasset area is faced with a 'one way in/one way out' evacuation concern.

Steep inaccessible terrain combined with light, flashy fuels at lower elevations and heavy fuel loading at higher elevations dominate the fire planning area. Fires that start in this area immediately threaten high value/high risk exposures and are often complicated by the challenges of wildland urban interface firefighting.

Fuels

There is a wide range of vegetation types found within the Battalion Two planning area. The vegetation types range from grass, chaparral brush mix, oak woodland, and timber.

Vegetation found within the communities of Cohasset and Forest Ranch is predominantly timber and associated brush. The timber type is primarily ponderosa pine/California black oak mix, with an understory chaparral brush component consisting primarily of manzanita, white-thorn, ceanothus, scotch broom, and poison oak. Some

areas of undeveloped lots or greenbelt areas have very dense brush which can affect fire behavior.

The community of Butte Meadows/Jonesville has a mixed-conifer timber type. Species of conifer trees in the overstory include Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir, and incense-cedar. Hardwood trees in the understory include California black oak, tanoak, canyon live oak, bigleaf maple and California laurel. There is also an understory chaparral brush component consisting primarily of manzanita, ceanothus, scotch broom, and poison oak.

Vegetation found in the Chico foothills and in the canyons of lower Butte Creek, Little Chico Creek and Big Chico Creek range from grass and brush to oak woodland. Some species of trees in this area include gray pine, blue oak, California black oak and California laurel. Brush species include toyon, western redbud, poison oak and ceanothus.

These vegetation types provide fire control problems because of overstocked and overgrown conditions due to years of successful fire suppression. The potential for a large, fuel driven fire is very real when fuel moisture conditions are conducive to burning. Fire control will be very difficult due to high fire intensities leading to fire behavior problems such as long-range spotting, high rates of spread and long flame lengths. Direct attack may be impossible under these burning conditions for safety reasons. An indirect attack with a defensive approach is the most likely scenario for fire control.

Topography

Steep canyons and drainages are the dominant topographic features in the Cohasset/Forest Ranch Ridge Fire Planning Area. Typically, these canyons/drainages have limited access for fire apparatus and have few options for control line placement which may allow fires to become well-established and very resistive to control efforts.

Weather and Fire History

Seasonal weather patterns do not vary significantly from the Unit-wide averages. The predominant summer weather pattern includes high to very high temperatures, low humidity and light to moderate south winds associated with high pressure weather gradients. North wind events usually produce red flag warning conditions and provide the highest potential for extreme fire behavior.

Lightning is cyclic in this area and is generally a minor occurrence. However, there have been lightning storms in the past that have started numerous, damaging fires. An example of this occurred in August of 1999 when 47 fires started by lightning burned over 33,000 acres across Butte County, most which burned in the battalion.

Battalion Priorities

- PRC4291 and Butte County Code 38A defensible space compliance inspections performed in risk areas and heavily populated areas-the number of structures spread out throughout the communities make this of vital importance
- Cooperatively assist activities of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
- Fire Prevention Education and Community Outreach-school and community events, burn permit issuance, emphasizing Hardening Your Home, Ready Set Go, defensible space requirements and recommendations, and the “One Less Spark” campaign, the “Help Us Find You” visible address sign campaign, ingress/egress routes, and access to water supplies
- Maintain Fire Danger warning sign to public
- Visible address signs-“Help Us Find You”
- Fuels reduction work on the Doe Mill Ridge project
- Fuels reduction in the Big Chico Creek Ecological Preserve
- Fuels reduction project (Turkel) in Forest Ranch
- Fuels reduction project on Loafer Creek LLC (Cohasset ridge area)
- Fuels reduction project on Mud Creek VMP in the Cohasset area
- Butte County Roads Department/Public Works is continuing work on fuel reduction along Cohasset Road
- Support the Chipper Program sponsored by Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Continue working with Butte County Fire Safe Council on fuels reduction work in the Cohasset and Forest Ranch communities
- Working with Butte County RCD and public burn associations on prescribed burns
- Sierra Pacific Industries H-line VMP/Shaded Fuel Break

Battalion Four – Chico Urban Area, Communities of Durham, Nord, Butte Creek Canyon, Butte Valley, and surrounding valley and foothills

Collaborators

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department; City of Chico Fire Department, Hamilton City Fire Department, Tehama County Fire Department, Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, Mendocino National Forest, National Park Service, California State Parks.

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

Battalion Four encompasses an area in the northwestern corner of Butte County, including the greater unincorporated area surrounding the City of Chico; the communities of Durham, Nord, and Butte Creek Canyon; and portions of Butte Valley including the Butte Community College Campus. CAL FIRE personnel staff three Butte County Fire Department fire stations that make up “Battalion Four” which maintains automatic aid agreements with the City of Chico, Tehama County, and Hamilton City Fire Department in Glenn County. Critical infrastructure includes a Union Pacific Railroad main line, an underground petroleum pipeline, Butte Community College Main Campus, various large agriculture processing and canning facilities, State Highways 99 and 32, as well as the Sacramento River. The Chico Foothills have seen a substantial increase in home development. Prevention emphasis is placed on public education and enforcement.

Fuels

The State Responsibility Area (SRA), which is east of Highway 99, is covered primarily by oak woodland and grass with some brush below 1000’ elevation. The foothills immediately surrounding the City of Chico mainly consist of light to medium fuels such as annual grasses, oak woodland, and chaparral brush mix. Combined with the topography and recent structural development, these fuels create a fire suppression concern due to their ability to readily support ignition and fire spread, especially under windy conditions. The Butte Valley area in the south-eastern portion of the battalion mainly consists of annual grasses with light brush. The Local Responsibility Area (LRA) which is west of Highway 99 is primarily agricultural with orchards, rice, and field crops. There is a diminishing amount of grass and valley oak, especially near the Sacramento River and the major creeks and sloughs. One exception to this is the Llano Seco Ranch where various government and private agencies are restoring parts of the ranch to its native habitat.

Topography

The valley area is predominantly flat. The Chico foothills rise at approximately a 15% slope with a generally western aspect. Butte Creek, Little Chico Creek, Big Chico Creek, Mud Creek, and Keefer Slough watercourses/drainages traverse the battalion. The Butte Valley area consists of mainly rolling foothills.

Weather and Fire History

The valley (north), Chico foothills, and Butte Valley area do not exhibit any substantial differences to the Unit-wide weather pattern. Since the battalion lies in the lower elevations, annual rainfall is approximately 28" per year. The predominant summer weather pattern includes very high temperatures (above 100 degrees F), low humidity and light to moderate south winds associated with high pressure weather gradients.

North wind events usually produce red flag warning conditions and provide the highest potential for extreme fire behavior. Wind is the primary factor in large fire spread in the battalion. Large fires in Battalion Four include the 2006 Skyway fire which burned 425 acres, the 2008 Humboldt fire which burned over 23,000 acres and the 2018 Camp Fire, which burned a large portion of the Centerville and Honey Run Canyons.

Battalion Priorities

- Expand the relationship with local native Tribes, including projects such as the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria's Camelot Equestrian Center VMP
- PRC4291 and Butte County Code 38A defensible space compliance inspections
- Cooperatively assist activities of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
- Fire Prevention Education and Community Outreach-school and community events, burn permit issuance, emphasizing Hardening Your Home, Ready Set Go, defensible space requirements and recommendations, and the "One Less Spark" campaign, the "Help Us Find You" visible address sign campaign, ingress/egress routes, and access to water supplies
- Maintain Fire Danger warning sign to public
- School fire prevention and education presentations
- Maintain and expand current Vegetation Management Projects in the adjacent Cohasset and Forest Ranch areas in conjunction with the adjacent Battalion
- Continue to explore future Vegetation Management Program opportunities
- Collaborate with formation of new Fire Safe Council(s) in the lower Butte Creek Canyon/Stilson Canyon/Eastern Chico area
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with the City of Chico and Big Chico Creek Ecological Preserve (BCCER) vegetation management projects

Battalion Five – Bangor, Berry Creek, Forbestown, Feather Falls

Collaborators

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department; Enterprise Rancheria Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe, Berry Creek Fire Safe Council; Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council; Plumas National Forest; Sierra Pacific Industries; Soper Wheeler Company; CHY Logging, Lake Wyandotte Firewise Community

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

Battalion Five spans three prominent ridges and covers the communities of Berry Creek, Brush Creek, Mountain House, Feather Falls, Forbestown, Clipper Mills and several Native American Rancherias. There are also significant land holdings of Sierra Pacific Industries other timber companies, as well as State and Federal lands.

The community of Berry Creek is the most compact but is still considered a wildland urban *intermix*. Access and the remote location create a timely response concern in the event of a fast-moving fire. The devastation of such an event was seen during the 2020 North Complex fire, which destroyed most of the community's homes. However, this now creates a new dynamic for WUI structure defense strategies, with homes more sparsely spaced and with new homes being built. The WUI challenges will continue to evolve with much depending on the rate of the rebuild.

The community of Feather Falls, on Lumpkin Ridge, is also a wildland urban intermix. Access/egress is via Lumpkin Road. As in Berry Creek, many of the homes in this area were destroyed in the North Complex fire, which creates the same changes and challenges to the WUI dynamic. Traffic from logging trucks and summer recreational vehicles increase seasonally during the spring and summer months. Because of the North Complex Fire, some of the recreational traffic has diminished, however, new traffic challenges exist with rebuilding, fire hazard abatement, and tree removal. Many of the existing residents are located on remote roads that are poorly maintained, and address identification is often limited. An evacuation plan has been created for the community.

Forbestown Ridge includes the community of Forbestown, near the border with Yuba County. Steep mountainous roads increase emergency response times. The South Feather Water and Power (SFWP) has critical infrastructure in the Forbestown area including the main office of their Power Division. The Power Division includes several hydroelectric plants, miles of canals and conduits, as well as many dams and tunnels. Major reservoirs in the area include Little Grass Valley, Lost Creek, Sly Creek, and

Ponderosa. The North Yuba Water District (NYWD) has critical infrastructure as well in Forbestown which includes a water treatment plant that serves residents in both Butte and Yuba Counties. The Butte County Fire Department maintains automatic aid agreements with the Foothill Fire Protection District and Loma Rica/Brownsville Community Services District, both in Yuba County.

The communities of Berry Creek, Forbestown, and Merry Mountain Village have active fire safe councils that are involved in evacuation planning, fuel hazard reduction and public outreach and education.

Fuels

Battalion Five consists of a wide range of vegetation types. Below 1000' elevation, annual grasses and oak woodland with blue and valley oak cover the lower foothills. At the 1000' elevation, the fuel type transitions to brush with species including manzanita, chaparral, toyon, and white thorn, growing especially thick in the drainages. At approximately 2000' to 2500', the fuel transitions to a mixed-conifer timber type with associated brush in the understory. Expansive areas have been converted to brush with scattered conifers after the 2020 North Complex fire due to the consumption of fuel and rate of regrowth.

Topography

Elevation ranges from 400 feet to over 4,000 feet. Prominent topographical features in the planning area are the numerous steep canyons dispersed throughout the area. The two main canyons form the Middle and South Forks of Lake Oroville. The canyons contain numerous tributaries including Oregon Gulch, Cedar Ravine, Jack Hill Ravine, and Forbestown Ravine to name a few. The remote nature of the area makes access to these areas difficult.

Weather and Fire History

The predominant summer weather pattern includes high to very high temperatures, low humidity, and light to moderate south winds associated with high pressure weather gradients. Occasionally during the summer, dry weather fronts will approach northern California bringing increased wind speeds from the south on approach, then changing direction to north winds after passing the area. North wind events usually produce *red flag warning* conditions and provide the highest potential for extreme fire behavior. To the east, areas of the adjacent Plumas Forest generate weather patterns that produce thunderstorms and dry lightning throughout the fire season.

Battalion Five has had several large fires in recent history. The South and Union fires were part of the 1999 Butte Lightning Complex, the 2008 Frey fire burned 4,000 acres of SRA, the 2008 Craig fire burned 2,001 acres, and the 2013 Swedes fire burned 2,500 acres. In 2017 there were multiple fires, including the Wall (6,000 acres), Ponderosa (4,000 acres), and the Lumpkin (1,000 acres). The 2020 Lightning Complex ignited several smaller fires within the Battalion. Many of those smaller fires were within the burn perimeter of the 2020 North Complex which burned later in the summer and consumed a total of over 152,000 acres in Butte County-much of which was in Battalion Five.

Battalion Priorities

- Support the Phoenix VMP and Swedes Flat VMP projects in the Forbestown/Swedes Flat area
- Support the CA Department of Water Resources/CA State Parks fuel reduction project in the area of Craig Access Road
- PRC4291 and Butte County Code 38A defensible space compliance inspections performed in risk areas and heavily populated areas-the number of structures spread out throughout the communities make this of vital importance
- Cooperatively assist activities of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
- Fire Prevention Education and Community Outreach-school and community events, burn permit issuance, emphasizing Hardening Your Home, Ready Set Go, defensible space requirements and recommendations, and the “One Less Spark” campaign, the “Help Us Find You” visible address sign campaign, ingress/egress routes, and access to water supplies
- Maintain Fire Danger warning sign to public
- Support planning efforts and projects that encourage the development and/or maintenance of safe ingress and egress routes for residents and fire personnel during emergency incidents. Additional planning efforts included post fire hazard tree removal as well as maintain Fuel Breaks that were created during the North Complex fire suppression efforts
- Continue working on fuels reduction projects in and around the community of Forbestown
- Visible address signs – “Help Us Find You”
- Support the Chipper Program sponsored by Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Development and implementation of Emergency Notification Systems
- Collaborate with agencies in Butte and Yuba County to develop and implement a cross-boundary vegetation management project

Battalion Six – Oroville, Palermo, Kelly Ridge

Collaborators

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department, City of Oroville Fire Department, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, Department of Fish & Wildlife - Oroville Wildlife Area; Department of Parks & Recreation; Department of Water Resources

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

Battalion Six includes the communities of, Cherokee, Copley Acres, Kelly Ridge, Oregon City, Palermo, Thermalito, South Oroville, WP Addition, and Wyandotte as well as the Mooretown and Berry Creek Rancherias and the unincorporated areas surrounding the City of Oroville, which lies entirely within the battalion boundary. Fire protection for the City of Oroville is through a Schedule A contract with CAL FIRE and is detailed in its own section of this CWPP. There is an extensive amount of State Parks and Department of Water Resources owned land throughout the area. There are two Native American Rancherias within the planning area, both with gaming casinos and tribal communities (Mooretown and Berry Creek). CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection to the Native American Rancherias in the State Responsibility Area through our statewide agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The primary influencing factor for vegetation fires is light flashy fuels mixed in with numerous structures.

The City of Oroville and the area within the former El Medio Fire Protection District² both have unique fire safety planning areas within their jurisdictions. The City of Oroville has large areas of wildland urban interface. The city has a weed abatement program to help alleviate the risk of wildfire to some of these occupancies. The area within the former El Medio Fire District and the communities of South Oroville and Palermo have large areas of light flashy fuels, which have a yearly tendency to become ignited and spread rapidly into surrounding homes and businesses. In the past, there has been an attempt to mitigate this by conducting fuel hazard reduction burns in typically fire prone areas.

Critical infrastructure within this planning area includes the Department of Water Resources State Water Project (Oroville Dam/ Hyatt powerhouse, Diversion Dam/ power plant, Thermalito Powerhouse), Pacific Gas and Electric Company's high-voltage

² The El Medio Fire Protection District closed on December 24, 2020 and was dissolved on December 1, 2022, All calls for service within the former El Medio Fire District's boundaries, which totaled approximately 1,500 acres, are now handled by Oroville City Fire or Butte County Fire.

transmission infrastructure (major power grid), Union Pacific railroad's all-weather transcontinental route, and South Feather Water and Power's hydro-generating and water distribution infrastructure.

Pre-fire prevention emphasis is in education and enforcement (hazard reduction). The battalion, in cooperation with the Butte Fire Safe Council, was a participant in "Fire in the Foothills" – a fire safe community outreach program to reach fire prone residents in the Eastern foothills of Oroville. CAL FIRE supports the Butte County Fire Safe Council's efforts in establishing Firewise communities. Firefighters maintain strong community ties, enhancing fire safety and prevention by actively attending community meetings and events as well as participating in school education programs.

Fuels

The southern portion of the fire planning area is predominantly grassland. As the area extends north and east, the fuel types change with the increased slope in topography. Fuel types increase in size and type to include grass, oak woodland, and manzanita, chaparral, toyon, and white thorn. The 11,869-acre Oroville Wildlife Area is primarily a riparian woodland habitat along the Feather River and grasslands around the Thermalito Afterbay.

Topography

The southern area is predominantly flat. As the area extends eastward into the adjoining planning area, the slope increases. The steepest slopes can be found leading up the Cherokee Ravine and the Oregon Gulch drainage. As the topography extends northeast, the slope is not as severe, but the area is scattered with multi-directional drainages. Access is problematic due to sporadic road placement.

Weather

The battalion does not exhibit any substantial differences to the Unit-wide weather patterns. Nightly downhill/down canyon winds develop on a regular basis in the eastern foothills, primarily below the Oroville Dam.

Fire History

Significant fire history (since 1990) includes wind driven grass/riparian fires and topographic driven brush/WUI fires (WUI listed if structures destroyed).

Brush Fires:

· Swedes Fire:	2019	496 acres
· Camp Fire:	2018	153,000 acres WUI, (2,600+/- acres Batt. 6)
· Cherokee Fire:	2017	8,415 acres, WUI, N. Oroville/Table Mountain
· Wall Fire:	2017	6,033 acres
· Oregon Fire:	2004	1,955 acres, WUI, Oregon Gulch Rd
· Canal Fire:	1989	595 acres, WUI, East Oroville/Mt Ida Rd
· Table Fire:	1994	1,132 acres, Schirmer Ravine/Table Mountain

Grass Fires:

· Ophir Fire:	2008	959 acres, WUI, Hwy 70/Palermo
· Seventy Fire:	2003	608 acres, WUI, Hwy 70/Palermo
· Larkin Fire:	2001	627 acres, Oroville Wildlife Area
· Larkin Fire:	2000	487 acres, Oroville Wildlife Area
· 149 Fire:	1995	2,140 acres, Hwy 149/Cottonwood
· Nelson Fire:	1993	744 acres, Nelson Rd/Campbell Hills
· Wild Fire:	1990	257 acres, WUI, Oroville Wildlife Area

Battalion Priorities

- PRC4291 and Butte County Code 38A defensible space compliance inspections
- Cooperatively assist activities of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
- Fire Prevention Education and Community Outreach-school and community events, burn permit issuance, emphasizing Hardening Your Home, Ready Set Go, defensible space requirements and recommendations, and the “One Less Spark” campaign, the “Help Us Find You” visible address sign campaign, ingress/egress routes, and access to water supplies
- Maintain Fire Danger warning sign to public
- Conduct Vegetation Management Program activities in the Oroville Wildlife Area and the Lake Oroville State Park System including Kelly Ridge Point, Loafer Creek, Diversion Pool, and the Forebay
- Conduct vegetation management on private lands in the Long Bar area adjacent to the Feather River Diversion Pool
- Reduce debris burning caused vegetation fires by education and enforcement

- Continue working with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and other agencies on constructing and maintaining fuel breaks in and around the Kelly Ridge community and the “Western Pacific Addition” (WP Addition) area of northern Oroville in the general area of Long Bar Rd/Lakeland Blvd/Canyon Highlands Rd
- Work with property owners in the Wall and Swedes fire scars to reduce dead fuels by conducting VMP projects.
- Construct community billboard signs for Defensible Space education in partnership with local Fire Safe Councils
- Support the Chipper Program sponsored by Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Work with various neighborhood watch groups on Defensible Space education and what to do when wildfire strikes
- Work with community and cooperators in providing fuels work along evacuation routes and identifying community assembly areas

Battalion Seven – Biggs, Gridley, Richvale**Collaborators**

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department; City of Biggs; City of Gridley

Department of Fish & Wildlife-Gray Lodge Wildlife Area; Sutter County Fire Department; Live Oak Fire Department; Loma Rica/Browns Valley Fire Department; Marysville Fire Department; Hallwood Community Services District

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

Battalion Seven encompasses the southwestern corner of Butte County including the cities of Biggs and Gridley, and the unincorporated communities of Honcut, Manzanita and Richvale. Automatic aid agreements are maintained with Sutter County Fire Department/Live Oak, Marysville Fire Department/District 10-Hallwood Community Services District, and Loma Rica/Browns Valley Fire Department. The community of Honcut occasionally experiences a threat from a rapidly moving grass fire. Lack of volunteerism in the community caused the closure of the local Butte County Fire Department fire station in Honcut in the late 1990s. Where residents are diligent about proper weed abatement, the risk from wildland fire is considerably reduced.

The Gray Lodge Wildlife Area is a 9,100-acre crucial wetland wildlife habitat infrastructure within the battalion. The area has benefited from an aggressive Vegetation Management Program. A portion of the Oroville Wildlife Area extends into the battalion, encompassing most of the river bottom riparian area in East Biggs. This area may benefit from a future Vegetation Management Program agreement for controlled burning for habitat improvement.

Pre-fire prescription emphasis is placed on education and enforcement, especially municipal weed abatement. Firefighters seek to establish strong ties to the community through the maintenance of pre-fire plans, smoke detector installation, second and third grade education programs, Spanish language fire prevention programs, and other community education events.

The greatest risk of fire loss to the battalion is within the cities of Biggs and Gridley and the concentrated areas affecting agricultural processing plants, storage areas, and crop acreage. Also, fires that start near the Feather River bottom may spread to adjacent fire sheds.

Fuels

The east side of the battalion is a transition zone at the edge of the Sacramento Valley characterized by grass fuels on the flat valley edge and blue oak woodland in the rolling foothills. The west side is the Upper Butte Sink of Butte Creek, an important flyway, fishery, and wildlife habitat characterized by seasonal marshes, riparian habitat, and a heavy loading of fine fuels. The cities of Biggs and Gridley are surrounded by farmland. The Feather River bisects the battalion, flowing from north to south. The river bottom contains a ten thousand acre hardwood forest with its own unique fire regime.

Topography

Battalion Seven is predominantly flat. Elevation ranges from 50' to 110'. The river bottom contributes the only unique feature to the area.

Weather

Battalion Seven does not exhibit any substantial differences to the unit-wide weather pattern. The predominant summer weather pattern includes high to very high temperatures, low humidity and light to moderate southerly winds associated with high pressure weather gradients. North wind events usually produce red flag warning conditions and provide the highest potential for extreme fire behavior.

Battalion Priorities

- PRC4291 and Butte County Code 38A defensible space compliance inspections with a focus on the Honcut area
- Cooperatively assist activities of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
- Fire Prevention Education and Community Outreach-school and community events, burn permit issuance, emphasizing Hardening Your Home, Ready Set Go, defensible space requirements and recommendations, the "One Less Spark" campaign, the "Help Us Find You" visible address sign campaign, "Sparky's Corner" weekly fire prevention and safety article, ingress/egress routes, and access to water supplies
- Maintain Fire Danger warning sign to public
- Municipal weed abatement
- Maintenance and testing of fire hydrants
- Fire Code enforcement-City of Gridley
- School fire prevention education presentations
- Red Suspenders Day – community outreach event
- Butte County Fair – Fire Resistant Landscaping and Building Materials Demo

Battalion Eight – Town of Paradise

Collaborators

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department; Town of Paradise Fire Department; Paradise Fire Safe Council.

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

Battalion Eight is delineated by the incorporated area of the Town of Paradise which encompasses approximately 18 square miles. Battalion Eight is surrounded by SRA within Battalion One. The town is more characteristic of an urban interface environment where wildland abruptly adjoins housing. Prior to the 2018 Camp Fire, 27,000 people resided in the town. As of 2023, approximately 6,500 people reside in Paradise and the post-Camp Fire rebuilding is in process.

Emergency access in to and out of the town is a real concern, due to limited, narrow roads and the expectation of large numbers of citizens trying to evacuate simultaneously. This is further complicated by a stretch of the roadway that crosses Magalia Reservoir. To mitigate the traffic issues during an evacuation, several miles of the Skyway has been reconstructed and paved from Stirling City to Butte Meadows as a possible additional evacuation route. Evacuation plans have been developed and distributed to the public and service providers in cooperation with the Butte County Fire Safe Council, Town of Paradise, and Butte County Office of Emergency Management.

Fuels

Due to the Camp Fire, the fuel loading in the Town of Paradise has been significantly reduced however not having any fuel reduction projects in place will allow regrowth of the native and non-native species. There is a wide range of vegetation types found within the Paradise Ridge. The vegetation types range from chaparral brush mix and oak woodland to mixed-conifer timber. The lower elevations of Paradise have an overstory of ponderosa pine/California black oak mix, with an understory chaparral brush component consisting primarily of manzanita, ceanothus, scotch broom, and poison oak. Some areas of undeveloped lots or greenbelt areas have regrowth brush which can affect fire behavior.

These vegetation types could provide fire control problems, if not maintained and kept in check. The potential for regrowth of brush and invasive species is high, fuel driven fire will become a concern in the near future.

Topography

Paradise is located on a broad, gently sloping ridge. The elevation ranges approximately from 1,000' to 2,300'. The most prominent topographic features within the battalion are the numerous steep canyons near the borders of the town. The two largest of these canyons, and most influential on fire behavior, are Butte Creek Canyon to the west and the West Branch Feather River Canyon to the east. Butte Creek Canyon borders to the west, while West Branch Feather River Canyon borders the battalion on the east. Less prominent canyons, but still very influential on fire behavior, are located along the southern border. These smaller canyons run north-south into the town limits, but substantially decrease in size by the time they enter Paradise. These canyons include Nance, Hamlin, Berry, Clear Creek, and Dry Creek.

Weather and Fire History

Seasonal weather patterns do not vary significantly from the Unit-wide averages. Historically, extreme weather conditions have not been the primary factor in large fires within the Paradise area. However, there is a huge potential for weather to be a strong influence on fire behavior outside of the Town limits, driving the fire into the town. In June 2008, the wind-driven, 23,000-acre Humboldt fire burned 57 acres with the Town and several structures within the southwest corner of the battalion. The Historic "Camp Fire" burned approx. 153,000 acres, over 18,000 buildings and 85 fatalities occurred. This fire started near Pulga and was pushed by extreme wind conditions through the communities of Concow, Magalia, Butte Creek Canyon, and The Town of Paradise, eventually being stopped near Highway 99 to the west of Paradise.

Battalion Priorities

- PRC4291 and Butte County Code 38A defensible space compliance inspections
- Cooperatively assist activities of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
- Fire Prevention Education and Community Outreach-school and community events, burn permit issuance, emphasizing Hardening Your Home, Ready Set Go, defensible space requirements and recommendations, and the "One Less Spark" campaign, the "Help Us Find You" visible address sign campaign, ingress/egress routes, and access to water supplies
- Maintain Fire Danger warning sign to public
- Maintain completed and develop new fuel reduction projects around the perimeter of the Town of Paradise using multiple types of methods, mechanical, hand crews, and using goats as grazers to keep the vegetation maintained
- Community outreach/education at community events
- Shaded fuel break projects along primary community escape routes

- Assist the Town of Paradise, Paradise Fire Safe Council, Cal OES, and all other cooperators in rebuilding a safer Paradise.
- Visible Address Signs
- Continued Testing and Enhancement of Recently Installed Early Warning System
- Complete CEQA for the entire town for fuel reduction projects
- Support the South Paradise VMP

Training and Safety Bureau

The Butte Unit Training, Safety, and EMS Bureau is responsible for the delivery and documentation of training for all career and volunteer personnel. The Bureau is also responsible for coordinating and facilitating the unit-wide training plan, matching training courses with approved personnel training requests, and maintaining a central location for updated training records for all employees.

The Bureau will ensure that all federal, state, and local training mandates, laws, and regulations are followed as they pertain to training. The Bureau will operate within and enforce the policies, procedures and protocols of CAL FIRE, Butte County Fire Department, and the Butte County Fire Chiefs Association.

Annually, the Training and Safety Bureau provides and/or coordinates approximately 100,000 student instructional hours to over 420 career and 140 volunteer firefighters from CAL FIRE Butte Unit, Butte County Fire Department, and personnel from other Butte County Training Officer Association agencies. A significant amount of staff time is required to coordinate students, courses, instructors, recording and tracking training, and ensuring personnel ICS qualifications are accurately listed in the national Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC).

Mission

The Butte Unit Training, Safety and EMS Bureau's program goal is to assure quality service to the public by developing the skills and abilities of all CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department's career and volunteer personnel. This is accomplished through training that is economical, effective, and consistent with the needs of the public, the State of California, the County of Butte, the Department, and the employee.

Objectives

- Enforce state/federal law, and CAL FIRE-Butte County Fire Department training policies, procedures, and protocols as they apply to career and volunteer personnel
- Ensure that all personnel receive the opportunity for training that is required for their specific positions
- Document and track certification currency of all employees training in a common database (Vector Solutions)
- Work with the CAL FIRE Region Office and the CAL FIRE Training Center regarding the allocation of training for CAL FIRE personnel and the presentation of training at regional training locations

- Work with cooperators at the Butte Community College to ensure communications, cooperation, and coordination of all public safety training
- Work with cooperators as a member of the Butte County Training Officers Association
- Meet or exceed those training standards identified in the CAL-FIRE Training handbook
- Implement the training priorities set by the Butte Unit's executive staff
- Identify the needs of each employee to help achieve career development goals
- Seek alternative funding sources in the form of grants, participation with universities, and sharing courses with other agencies

Emergency Command Center

The Butte Unit Emergency Command Center (BTU ECC) provides command and control services as well as "pre-arrival" emergency medical services for all the unincorporated areas of Butte County, City of Biggs, City of Gridley, Town of Paradise, City of Oroville, and the Mooretown Rancheria.

The BTU ECC is also the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Fire Operational Area Mutual Aid Coordination Center for Butte County. As the Operational Area Coordinator, the BTU ECC has the responsibility to coordinate all fire mutual aid requests for all jurisdictions within Butte County. This responsibility gives the BTU ECC the authority to directly obtain resources from all neighboring counties including Yuba, Sutter, Plumas, Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, and Lassen. The BTU ECC is the air ambulance coordination center for Butte, Tehama, Glenn, and Shasta counties. This involved processing calls for an air ambulance and dispatching the closest available air ambulance to the emergency.

The BTU ECC processed 24,922 emergency incidents in 2023.

Mission

The mission of the Oroville Emergency Command Center is to provide a consistent, accurate, timely, and coordinated command and control system. "We will provide support, direction, and communications with our goal being the best service possible to all who depend on our team."

Objectives

- Continue to provide quality command and control services, as well as excellent customer service, to all our customers
- Pursue cooperative agreements with other departments and agencies to enhance efficiency of resource command and control within Butte County
- Pursue available technology to more efficiently conduct command and control operations
- Cooperate fully and effectively with allied agencies

Magalia Fire Center

The Magalia Fire Center started in 1949 as the Magalia Camp under the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and California Department of Corrections (CDC). CAL FIRE and CDC continued to jointly manage the camp until approximately 1973 when CDC withdrew inmates from the camp. In about 1974, the camp again opened as the Butte Ecology Center this time jointly operated by CAL FIRE and the California Ecology Corps. The Ecology Corps continued to exist until 1978 when the camp became Butte Fire Center under the joint direction of CAL FIRE and the California Conservation Corps (CCC), this remained so until 2003 when the CCC withdrew.

From 2003 until 2016 the Butte Fire Center (owned by CAL FIRE) was utilized as a northern region training facility for firefighters throughout California. In 2016, CAL FIRE and CCC rejoined operations as a fire crew facility. In about 2020, the Butte Fire Center changed its name to the Magalia Fire Center and continues to be a joint effort between CAL FIRE and the CCC.

CCC crew members go through a rigorous two-week CAL FIRE Fire Crew training program before being assigned to a fire crew. As a CAL FIRE/CCC Type 1 fire crew, they respond to wildland fires, search and rescue, and flood fighting incidents. While not fighting fires, the fire crews work on fire hazard reduction and other community projects. The Butte Fire Center facilitates approximately 85 CCC Corps Members and 17 CCC Staff.

CAL FIRE staff train and supervise the fire crews, provide forest practice operations, and operate a full auto repair shop, numbering approximately 31 personnel.



Magalia Fire Center 2023 Annual Report

Byron Vance CAL FIRE Division Chief

Jeff Edson CAL FIRE Battalion Chief

Meike Starr CCC District Director



FIRE HOURS
MAG 1 - 6,729
MAG 2 - 3,921
MAG 3 - 4,556
MAG 4 - 6,229
Total Fire Hours - 21,439

Fuel Reduction/ Work Project Hours
65,555

Fire Crew Training
8 Academies were conducted (16 weeks)
120 Crewmembers Graduated



Table Mountain Fire Center

The Table Mountain Fire Center started in July of 2023 under the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). CAL FIRE augmented hand crew resources in both the Northern and Southern Regions of the state. With the augmentation of hand crew resources, CAL FIRE Butte Unit was directed to establish a Fire Center in the south end of Butte County.

Table Mountain Fire Center is currently funded for:

- 1 Battalion Chief
- 4 Fire Captains
- 3 Fire Apparatus Engineers
- 40 Firefighter 1
- 1 Staff Services Analyst
- 2 Supervising Cooks
- 2 Food Service Technicians

The current staffing model provides 24 hour coverage 7 days per week from March to December with Type 1 Fire Crews. Table Mountain Fire Crews provide statewide emergency response as well as fuel reduction work to reduce the overstocked wildland urban interface surrounding the communities in Butte County.



Table Mountain Fire Center 2023 Annual Report

Fire Hours

TAB 1 - 611.50

TAB 2 - 1488.00

TAB 3 - 2225.50

Total Fire Hours - 4325.00



Fuel Reduction/Work Project Hours 4065.50



BUTTE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

The Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) is the County's largest ally in educating and assisting the public with wildfire preparedness. The BCFSC's mission is to provide safety in Butte County through Wildfire hazard education, mitigation, and wildfire recovery. The BCFSC is a non-profit community organization funded by grants and community donations. The organization operates in cooperation with local, state, and federal fire agencies throughout Butte County.

The BCFSC Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from the local fire safe councils and representatives of many public and private stakeholders throughout Butte County, including CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department.

The BCFSC is a "boots on the ground" organization and has taken the lead implementing fuel reduction, forest health, watershed improvement, evacuation route clearance, and community wildfire safety projects in both pre- and post-fire areas of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

The BCFSC is the "parent" organization to several active local fire safe councils. The organization also assists with the development and maintenance of several nationally recognized FIREWISE USA Communities throughout the County.

FIREWISE communities and fire safe councils are present in the Wildland Urban Interface areas of: Concow, Yankee Hill, Berry Creek, Merry Mountain, Forbestown, Town of Paradise, Feather Falls, Cohasset, Little Chico Creek, Lake Wyandotte, and Forest Ranch.

The BCFSC provides community education on a wide array of topics for both adults and students including: wildfire safety, evacuation planning and preparedness, forest health, defensible space, home hardening, and fuel reduction maintenance. The mascot Wildfire Ready Raccoon is a key character in sharing wildfire safety messages.

Several defensible space assistance programs are provided by the BCFSC. The Fire Safe Home Visit Program allows residents to receive free expert advice to improve their home's chances of surviving a wildfire. The Chipping Program is available to chip brush and tree trimming slash for community members. The Residents Assistance Program assists Butte County residents who are physically and financially unable to maintain defensible space around their home and have no other person to assist in the clearance.

The BCFSC has taken the lead to implement many fuel reduction projects in the pre-fire areas and assisting with tree removal in post fire areas. Pre-fire area projects typically

involve shaded fuel breaks, reducing ground and ladder fuels along community escape routes. Many projects are implemented in cooperation with Butte County Public Works, Butte County Sheriff Office, and CAL FIRE hand crews. Most projects are conceived, planned, and implemented by the initiative and dedication of community volunteers with support from the BCFSC staff, local agencies, and various grant funding sources.

The organization has been working with partners to locate a biomass facility in Butte County to assist in the challenges of lacking markets for forest slash, dead trees, and other fuels reduction vegetative material. Additional information regarding the BCFSC and the programs and resources it provides can be obtained at their website buttefiresafe.net or by calling 530-877-0984.

Fire Safe Council Priorities

- Defensible Space Chipper and Residence Assistance Program
- FIREWISE USA Communities/Fire Safe Council Program
- FIREWISE USA and Forest Health Stewardship Education for youth and adults
- Roadside Shaded Fuel Break Project Maintenance
- Forest Health Thinning and Watershed Enhancement Projects
- Grazing for Fuels Reduction
- Landscape Level Planning
- Biomass Utilization
- CEQA compliance/completion in all Butte County Wildland Urban Interface Communities for assets at risk, roads, and forested areas

CITY OF CHICO

Collaborators

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

The City of Chico area is located in the northwestern corner of Butte County. Critical infrastructure includes a Union Pacific Railroad main line, an underground petroleum pipeline, state highways, high voltage power lines, and Bidwell Park (3,670 acres), which bifurcates the city from east to west. The eastern section of the park, called Upper Park, has a great potential for an urban/wildland interface situation. Chico has seen a substantial increase in home development with a large area being characterized as urban interface environment where the wildland abruptly adjoins high density housing. This is especially true in the eastern part of the city where most of the new residential construction is taking place.

Fuels

Chico is covered primarily by grass, brush, and a variety of deciduous trees along with a smaller inventory of coniferous trees. The flat land surrounding Chico and the eastern part of the city that extends to the foothills mainly consists of light to medium fuels such as annual grasses, oak woodland, and chaparral brush mix. Numerous creek channels and drainage areas are filled with *Arundo*, a non-native weed. Combined with the topography and recent structural development, these fuels create a fire suppression concern due to their ability to readily support ignition and fire spread, especially under windy conditions.

Topography

The Chico area is predominantly flat. The Chico foothills rise at a slope of approximately 15% with a generally western aspect. Little Chico Creek and Big Chico Creek watercourses traverse the city and its major drainage for flood control is Lindo Channel. Additionally, Mud Creek, Sycamore Creek, Comanche Creek, Dead Horse Slough, and Butte Creek traverse the city.

Weather and Fire History

The Chico foothills do not exhibit any substantial differences to the countywide weather pattern. Since Chico is in the lower elevations, annual rainfall is approximately 26" per year. The predominant summer weather pattern includes high to very high temperatures (above 100-degrees F), low humidity, and light to moderate south winds associated with high pressure weather gradients.

North wind events usually produce red flag warning conditions and provide the highest potential for extreme fire behavior. Wind is the primary factor for large fire spread in the Chico area.

The significant wildfires that affected the City in the last 50 years include the 1999 Musty fire (18,000 acres, smoke and ecological impacts), the 1999 Doe Mill fire (11,000 acres, evacuation and smoke impacts), the 2008 Humboldt Fire (23,000 acres, 250+ structures destroyed just outside Town of Paradise; evacuation and smoke impacts, 10 injuries), the 2018 Stoney Fire (950 acres, evacuation, road and trail closure, and smoke impacts), and the 2018 Camp Fire (154,000 acres including 203 inside Chico city limits, 18,000 structures destroyed - none within the City limits).

Department Priorities

1. Explore opportunities to complete the projects outlined in the City of Chico's Vegetation Fuels Management Plan (VFMP) and Chico's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). These two projects are complimentary and support several broad goals or actionable actions:
 - VFMP (*City of Chico Vegetation Management Plan*)
 - Goal #1: Minimize fire risk while protecting ecological values
 - Goal #2: Restore and maintain appropriate fire return intervals in Chico's parklands.
 - CWPP (*City of Chico Community Wildfire Protection Plan*)
 - **A-1, A-2, A-5, B-8:** Fund public education to conduct targeted outreach & education in high-priority areas and residents
 - **A-3:** Expand awareness of wildfire issues related to land use planning and building (Fire Code)
 - **A-4:** Evacuation planning
 - **A7:** Provide education and resources to expand use of prescribed fire on private lands
 - **B-1:** Strengthen building standards for existing & new structures & attachments
 - **C-3d:** Build a bridge or low-water crossing over Big Chico Creek at the end of the park road
 - **C-5:** Enhance access to water supplies in high-risk areas
 - **E-1:** Pre-fire operational plans for Upper and Middle Bidwell Park
 - E1a: Prescribed Burns
 - E1b: Enhancing, maintaining, or creating fire breaks
 - E1c: Tactical wildfire management plans
2. To view the plans, go to the following link on the City of Chico's webpage:
 - *City of Chico Vegetation Management Plan*
 - *City of Chico Community Wildfire Protection Plan*
3. Community outreach/education at community events.

CITY OF OROVILLE (CAL FIRE Butte Unit Battalion 9³)

Collaborators

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Wildlife; Mooretown Rancheria; Tyme Maidu Tribe

Wildland Urban Interface Situation

The City of Oroville has a diverse and challenging fire safety planning area. The city has large industrial parks to the west which slowly transition to residential and eventually to substantial amounts of wildland urban interface in the East foothills.

The city conducts an extensive Weed Abatement Program where each year properties throughout the City are notified to comply with the City Ordinance by June 15th. Failure to comply may result in administrative fees and fines. Traditionally, this program has kept the fires to a minimum within the city limits.

Critical infrastructure within the City of Oroville includes the Feather River, Union Pacific Railroad, two major highways, and two major telecommunications transfer stations.

The City of Oroville has recently begun to re-emphasize education and enforcement by participation in the Butte Fire Safe Council as well as investigating new technology to increase efficiency in the Weed Abatement Program.

Fuels

The fuel types vary greatly throughout the area. The flat areas are mostly annual grass which transitions to oaks, manzanita, and varied pine trees at the eastern city limits.

Topography

Much of the city is flat. As the area extends eastward into the adjoining planning area, the slope becomes more significant especially around the Feather River Drainage.

Weather

The City of Oroville enjoys the Mediterranean climate concordant to greater Butte County.

³ With the initiation of Oroville City Fire Department's contract with CAL FIRE on July 1, 2022, Oroville City Fire's jurisdictional boundaries became known as the CAL FIRE Butte Unit's "Battalion 9". The intent is to transition references to Oroville City Fire Department's jurisdiction as "Battalion 9" in future updates just as Paradise Fire Department (a CAL FIRE contract since 2012) is now referred to as "Battalion 8".

Department Priorities

The City of Oroville's priorities are to develop a 5 Year Plan addressing the following:

- PRC4291 and Butte County Code 38A defensible space compliance inspections performed in risk areas and heavily populated areas-the number of structures spread out throughout the communities make this of vital importance
- Cooperatively assist activities of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
- Fire Prevention Education and Community Outreach-school and community events, burn permit issuance, emphasizing Hardening Your Home, Ready Set Go, defensible space requirements and recommendations, and the "One Less Spark" campaign, the "Help Us Find You" visible address sign campaign, ingress/egress routes, and access to water supplies
- Maintain Fire Danger warning sign to public
- Increase participation in Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Increase community awareness of WUI fire via association with Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Increase effectiveness and efficiency of Weed Abatement Program via investment in automation and technology
- Continue working with CAL FIRE crews to assist with vegetation removal of selected areas within City Limits
- Work with insurance companies to develop a home inspection program with hopes to increase the number of homes insurance companies are willing to insure within the city.
- Increase staffing on fire apparatus to meet the needs of the city and effectively mitigate wildland emergencies.
- Improve response by working with Butte County/CAL FIRE to update the mutual threat zones and associated agreements to provide the most effective response possible to areas with the most potential.
- Restore and improve the volunteer program to provide support during wildfire emergencies and increase community involvement.
- Increase capabilities by investing in the training and preparation of fire personnel specific to wildland firefighting, command, and control.
- Increase capabilities by investing in wildland specific apparatus (Type 6)

APPENDIX A: ACTIVE PROJECTS

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
BTU		Countywide	Camp Fire Hazard Tree Removal - Fuels Reduction	A	2023	Fuel Reduction	100
BTU		Countywide	Forest Health Restoration Planning Tool – Data Portal	A	2024	Fuel Reduction - Education	
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Defensible Space Residents Assistance Program	A	2023	Fuel Reduction	190
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Fuels Reduction Grazing	A	2026	Fuel Reduction	400
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Tree Planting and Wildlife Recovery	A	2026	Planting	30,000
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Chipper Program	A		Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC/USFS Protect and Camp Fire Restoration	A	2028	Fuel Reduction	4,000
BTU		Countywide	Paradise Alliance Church RAP Program	A		Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	Butte County Public Works Roadside Fuels Reduction	A		Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	Butte County Public Works WUI Greenwaste	A		Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	BCRCD Countywide Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring Program	A		Planning	

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
BTU		Countywide	BCRCD Butte County Collaborative Group	A		Planning	
1		Butte Valley	DWR – Lime Saddle HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	85
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Concow/Yankee Hill Staging Areas - Phase II	A	2025	Fuel Reduction/Staging Area	223
1	2100-2011-FPL-017	Concow	YHFSC Concow Hazardous Fuels and Reforestation	A		Fuel Reduction	246
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Crain Ridge Rd SFB	A	2022	Fuel Reduction	250
1		Yankee Hill Concow	SPI – Flea Valley SFB	A		Fuel Reduction	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Granite Ridge SFB	A	2022	Fuel Reduction	250
1		Magalia	Doe Mill Road HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	
1		Magalia	BLM-Compton Drive HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	12
1	2100-2017-FPL-001	Magalia	Butte Fire Center HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	18
1		Magalia	Paradise Pines POA HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	200
1	2100-2014-FPL-029	Paradise	BTU Lower Skyway Crossroads Fuels Reduction	A		Fuel Reduction	12
1		Concow	Concow Basin Rx VMP	A	2030	Prescribed Fire	3000
1		Paradise	Hamlin Canyon HFR	A	2030	Fuel Reduction	
1		Magalia	BCFSC Sky Dog HFR	A	2022	Fuel Reduction	65
1		Magalia	BCFSC Forest Health-CCI Funded	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	1330

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
1		Upper Ridge	Upper Ridge Skylock	A	2024	Fuel Reduction	500
1		Concow	Concow Pyrodiversity Project	A		Fuel Reduction	
1		Paradise	BTU South Paradise VMP	A		Fuel Reduction	
2		Butte Meadows	SPI Lomo-Jonesville Upper Humboldt Rd SFB	A		Fuel Reduction	
2	2100-2019-FPL-009	Cohasset	Cohasset Roadside HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	160
2		Chico	CSUC Ecological Reserves HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	451
2		Chico	CSUC Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Fuel Management	A		Fuel Reduction	2500
2	2100-2010-FPL-001	Forest Ranch	Highway 32 SFB	A		Fuel Reduction	193
2		Cohasset	BTU Loafer Creek LLC Rx VMP	A		Prescribed Fire	3400
2		Cohasset	BTU Mud Creek VMP	A		Fuel Reduction	
2		Forest Ranch	Big Chico Creek LMP	A		Management Plan	
2		Cohasset	Cohasset LMP	A		Management Plan	
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Forest Health-CCI Funded	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	196
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Forest Health-Musty Buck CCI Funded	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	150
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Forest Health	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	1000
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Cohasset Loop Forest Health Project	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	350

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Mannoita Forest Health Restoration Project	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	192
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Cohasset Roadside Fuel Reduction Project	A	2026	Fuel Reduction	400
2		Forest Ranch	BCFSC Forest Health- CCI Funded	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	100
2		Forest Ranch	BCFSC Big Chico Creek Restoration	A	2026	Fuel Reduction	691
2		Forest Ranch	BCFSC Doe Mill Ridge Fuel Reduction Project	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	600
2		Butte Meadows	BCRCD Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project	A		Fuel Reduction	
4	2100-2019-VMP-001	Butte Valley	Camelot Rx VMP	A	2027	Prescribed Fire	800
5		Berry Creek	Berry Creek Fuels Reduction-CCI Funded	A	2023	Fuel Reduction	300
5		Berry Creek	USFS – Berry Creek HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	USFS – Slap Jack HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	200
5		Forbestown	BCFSC Forbestown 35/45 Forest Health	A	2024	Fuel Reduction	200
5		Clipper Mills	BCFSC Clipper Mills Forest Health	A	2024	Fuel Reduction	2,000
5	2100-2011-FPL-001	Berry Creek	BCFSC Lake Madrone SFB	A	2025	Fuel Reduction	800
5		Brush Creek	BCFSC Brush Creek Forest Health	A	2024	Fuel Reduction	300

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
5		Brush Creek	USFS - Brush Creek DFPZ	A		Fuel Reduction	
5		Berry Creek	Community Park HFR	A	2022	Fuel Reduction	30
5		Robinson Mill	Phoenix Rx VMP	A	2032	Prescribed Fire	3200
5		Hurleton	Swedes Flat SFB	A	2032	Fuel Reduction	75
5		Forbestown	Binet Road Rx Burn	A	2023	Prescribed Fire	
5		Berry Creek	BCFSC Fuels Reduction and Hazard Tree Removal	A	2023	Fuel Reduction	80
5		Forbestown	BCFSC Forest Health and Watershed Resilience	A	2023	Fuel Reduction	100
5		Berry Creek	BCFSC Bald Madrone	A		Fuel Reduction	250
5		Forbestown	DWR/State Parks Craig Saddle Fuel Reduction and Restoration	A		Fuel Reduction	
5		Bangor	South Feather Water & Power Irrigation Fuels Reduction	A		Fuel Reduction	
5		Feather Falls	BCRCD/BLM Lumpkin Rd	A		Fuel Reduction	
5		Brush Creek	SPI Hwy 162 Hazard Tree Removal	A		Fuel Reduction	
6	2100-2011-VMP-001	East Oroville	DWR - Loafer Creek Rx VMP	A	2031	Prescribed Fire/Fuel Reduction	936
6		Mount Ida	BCFSC Mt Ida HFR-CCI Funded	A	2023	Fuel Reduction	85
6		Kelly Ridge	DWR Bidwell Canyon/Kelly Ridge/Saddle Dam	A		Fuel Reduction	

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
			(Formerly Kelly Ridge Point Fuel Reduction)				
6		East Oroville	Ishi School	A		Fuel Reduction	
6		Oroville	DWR – Hyatt HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	169
6		Oroville	DWR – Feather River Fish Hatchery HFR	A		Fuel Reduction	26
6		Oroville	DWR – Diversion Dam/Power Canal (Formerly “North Oroville”)	A		Fuel Reduction	64
6	2100-2011-VMP-015	Oroville	DWR - Oroville Wildlife Area VMP	A		Fuel Reduction/Prescribed Fire	1546
6		Oroville	DWR FEMA HMGP Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	A		Fuel Reduction	305
6		Oroville	DWR Fuel Load Management Plan (FLMP)	A		Fuel Reduction/Prescribed Fire	2925
8		Paradise	Paradise Forest Health LMP	A		Management Plan	
8		Paradise	PRA Siren, Voice, and Web Cam Early Detection System	A	2022	Hazard Mitigation	
8		Paradise	BCFSC CCI Dry Creek FRP	A	2022	Fuel Reduction	
8		Paradise	BCFSC CCI Town of Paradise CEQA	A	2022	CEQA	
8		Paradise	BCFSC CCI Rotational Grazing	A		Fuel Reduction	
8		Paradise	PRA “All At Once” Evacuation Plan	A	2022	Evacuation Plan	

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
8		Paradise	PRA Nature Based Resiliency Land Acquisition	A		Hazard Mitigation	
8		Paradise	BCFSC Dry Creek HFR	A	2022	Fuel Reduction	75
8		Paradise	BCFSC West Branch Forest Health HFR	A	2024	Fuel Reduction	65

APPENDIX B: COMPLETED PROJECTS

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Development of Fuel Model Brochures	C	2019	Education	
BTU	2100-2012-PRE-005-001	Countywide	Butte County North Valley Fire PALS	C	2019	Education	
1		Magalia	Humbug Rd Shaded Fuel Break	C	2010	Fuel Reduction	
1	2100-2012-FPL-031	Magalia	Magalia Reservoir SFB Phase II	C	2014	Fuel Reduction	16
1		Paradise	Pentz Rd HFR	C	2017	Fuel Reduction	
1		Magalia	New Skyway Shaded Fuel Break	C	2010	Fuel Reduction	12
1		Magalia	Old Dogtown Rd	C	2010	Fuel Reduction	10
1		Magalia	Powellton Rd SFB	C	2011	Fuel Reduction	25
1		Magalia	BCFSC South Fir Haven Neighborhood Fuels Reduction	C	2014	Fuel Reduction	
1		Paradise	Trail Ways Fuel Reduction	C	2010	Fuel Reduction	5
1	2100-2016-FRP-001	Yankee Hill Concow	Canyon Lake Staging Area HFR	C	2018	Fuel Reduction	48
1	2100-2011-FPL-018	Yankee Hill Concow	Concow FIREWISE Home Design and Landscaping Events	C	2012	Education	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Residence Assistance - Post Fire	C	2020	Fuel Reduction	38
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Concow/Yankee Hill HFR-Tree Mortality and Biomass Reuse	C	2020	Fuel Reduction	27.5
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Deadwood SFB and Biomass Removal	C	2014	Fuel Reduction	272

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
1	2100-2011-CFP-020	Yankee Hill Concow	Heffernan CFIP	C		Reforestation	73
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Yankee Hill County Roads Fuels Reduction	C	2011	Fuel reduction	153
1	2100-2012-CFP-024	Yankee Hill Concow	Pekarek CFIP	C	2014	Fuel Reduction	60
1		Magalia	BLM - Skyway Fuels Reduction – Toadtown	C	2014	Fuel Reduction	
1		Magalia	CCC Pine Ridge School HFR	C	2019	Fuel Reduction	
2	2100-2015-FRP-003	Cohasset	BCSO Inmate Roads Maintenance	C	2017	Fuel Reduction	31
2	2100-2010-FPL-003	Forest Ranch	Buzztail Shaded Fuel Break	C	2013	Fuel reduction	21
2	2100-2011-FPL-019	Forest Ranch	Crown Point Road Shaded Fuel Break	C	2013	Fuel reduction	48
2	2100-2010-HFT-001	Forest Ranch	HWY 32 Roadside Fuel Reduction	C	2013	Fuel reduction	49
2		Forest Ranch	BCFSC Forest Ranch Fuels Reduction – CCI Funded	C	2021	Fuel Reduction	177
2	2100-2014-FPL-027	Forest Ranch	BTU Highway 32 Lomo	C	2020	Fuel Reduction	
2	2100-2014-FPL-028	Forest Ranch	BTU Highway 32 Wilder	C	2020	Fuel Reduction	3
5	2100-2019-FPL-006	Forbestown	Forbestown Ridge SFB (Emergency Proclamation)	C	2019	Fuel Reduction	315
5	2100-2012-FPL-030	Berry Creek	Berry Creek Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1	C	2014	Fuel Reduction	10
5		Forbestown	Forbestown Fuel Reduction Project	C	2011	Fuel Reduction	145
5		Forbestown	Forbestown Road Shaded Fuel Break	C	2014	Fuel Reduction	17

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
5		Forbestown	BCFSC Merry Mountain Community SFB	C	2021	Fuel Reduction	69
5	2100-2007-FAS-002	Feather Falls	Feather Falls SFB	C	2014	Fuel Reduction	25
8		Paradise	Herbicide Application CCI	C		Forest Management Plan	

APPENDIX C: MAINTAINED PROJECTS**Status Guide:** A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
1	3100-2017-FPL-003	Butte Creek Canyon	Centerville RD SFB	M	2013	Fuel Reduction	90
1	2100-2015-FRP-01	Magalia	Coutolenc SFB	M	2014	Fuel Reduction	40
1		Magalia	PID Paradise Lake Healthy Forest	M	2017	Fuel Reduction	
1		Magalia	SPI – Stirling City SFB	M		Fuel Reduction	
1		Magalia	Upper Ridge Radio	M	2005	Education	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Jordan Hill Fuel Reduction Project	M		Fuel Reduction	
1		Magalia	Magalia PUSD	M	2022	Fuel Reduction	47
1		Magalia	Coutolenc-Hupp Coutolenc Road HFR	M	2021	Fuel Reduction	71
1	2100-2020-VMP-001	Concow	Sta. 36 HFR	M	2021	Fuel Reduction	26
1		Magalia	My Sierra Woods Biomass Chipping	M	2022	Fuel Reduction	700
2	2100-2019-FPL-009	Cohasset	Cohasset Public Assembly Point	M	2021	Fuel Reduction	10
2		Butte Meadows	LNF Smokey Under Burn	M	2020	Prescribed Fire	60
2		Forest Ranch	Doe Mill Road SFB	M	2021	Fuel Reduction	50
2		Forest Ranch	Garland Road SFB	M	2021	Fuel Reduction	40
2		Forest Ranch	Schott Road SFB	M	2021	Fuel Reduction	30

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
2		Forest Ranch	BTU Turkel Rx VMP	M		Prescribed Fire/HFR	100
2		Forest Ranch	BCFSC Musty Buck Fuel Reduction	M	2025	300	
5		Feather Falls	BCFSC SPI- Fields Ridge HFR	M		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Forbestown Fuel Reduction – CCI Funded	M	2022	Fuel Reduction	206
5		Forbestown	BTU Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break	M	2020	Fuel Reduction	215
5		Forbestown	Binet Road HFR	M	2021	Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Fire Camp Road SFB	M	2020	Fuel Reduction	
5		Berry Creek	BCFSC Ratchel Mountain Roadside Fuel Reduction Project	M	2025	Fuel Reduction	70
5		Feather Falls	BCFSC Feather Falls Fuels Reduction Maintenance Project	M	2025	Fuel Reduction	5,000
5		Clipper Mills	BCFSC Clipper Mills Forest Health Maintenance	M	2025	Fuel Reduction	2,000
6	2100-2012-FPL-022	Kelly Ridge	DWR - Canyon Drive Fuel Reduction	M	2015	Fuel Reduction	26
6	2100-2016-FPL-004	Cherokee/ Lower Paradise	BCPW–Cherokee/Pentz HFR	M	2018	Fuel Reduction	17
6		WP Addition	DWR Lakeland Blvd	M		Fuel Reduction	

APPENDIX D: ONGOING PROJECTS**Status Guide:** A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC 6th Grade Education	O		Education	
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Community Evacuation Plans	O		Evacuation Planning	
BTU	2100-2011-PRE-001	Countywide	BTU Targeted 4291 Inspections	O		Inspections	
BTU	2100-2012-FPL-023	Countywide	BCFSC Education Programs	O		Education	
BTU	2100-2012-FPL-032	Countywide	BCFSC Community Chipping	O		Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Scotch Broom Eradication	O		Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	(ALL) BLM-Butte Forest Thin	O		Fuel Reduction	
BTU	2100-2017-FPL-002	Countywide	Butte Stations HFR	O		Fuel Reduction	44
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Forest Stewardship Education Workshops	O		Education	
BTU		Countywide	Butte County Residents Assistance Program	O		Defensible Space Assistance	
BTU		Countywide	Butte County Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP)	O		Evacuation Planning	
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Wildfire Safety Education Workshops	O		Education	
BTU		Countywide	BTU Defensible Space Media Campaign	O		Education	
BTU		Countywide	Butte County Community Address Identification	O		Address Signs	
BTU	2100-2012-PRE-005	Countywide	Butte County Fire-Resistant Building Material and Landscaping Fair Exhibit	O		Education	

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
BTU		Countywide	CWPP Planning for Butte Co.	O		Planning	
BTU		Countywide	BCRCD Butte Prescribed Burn Association	O		Education	100
1		Paradise	PRA Town Radio – AM 1500	O		Evacuation Planning	
1		Butte County	BCFSC Dooryard Education Visit Program	O		Education	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	YHFSC Water Source Identification and Mapping	O		Mapping	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	YHFSC Yankee Hill Emergency Communication System	O		Information	
1		Magalia	Magalia Forest Health Improvement	O		Management Plan	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Detlow Rd Demonstration Site	O		Fuel Reduction	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	YHFSC Yankee Hill Evacuation Plan	O		Evacuation Planning	
2	2100-2010-VMP-004	Butte Meadows	SPI H-Line VMP	O	2015	Prescribed Fire	400
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Cohasset Public Assembly Point	O		Fuel Reduction	25
5		Butte County	Community Education Events	O		Education	
6		Oroville	DFW Rabe Rd Shooting Range Rx	O		Prescribed Fire	3
6		Oroville	DWR Forebay HFR Rx	O		Prescribed Fire	260
7	2100-2013-FAS-026	Honcut	Highest Training Burn	O		Education	28
8		Paradise	PRA Paradise Defensible Space Program	O		Inspections	
8		Paradise	BCFSC Cat 4 Tree Removal	O		Hazard Reduction	

APPENDIX E: PLANNED PROJECTS**Status Guide:** A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
BTU		Countywide	Biomass Utilization	P		Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	Butte County Collaborative-Facilitation	P	2022	Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	Butte County WUI Programmatic Environmental Impact Report	P	2024	Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	Forest Health Management Plan	P	2024	Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	Bio Char Community Education and Fuels Reduction Project	P	2023	Education and Fuel Reduction	50
BTU		Countywide	Eave/Vent Replacement and Education Project	P	2023	Education	
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC PNF Protect Restor Project	P	2026	Fuel Reduction	
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC School District Lands Fuel Reduction	P	2026	Fuel Reduction	12,000
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Grazing Program	P	2026	Fuel Reduction	30,000
BTU		Countywide	BCFSC Fire Recovery Hazard Tree Removal	P	2026	Fuel Reduction	1,500
1		Magalia	BCFSC Upper Ridge Fuels Reduction Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	28,000
1		Magalia	BCFSC Upper Ridge Fuels Reduction Maintenance	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	28,000
1		Magalia	BCFSC Powellton Rd SFB	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	350
1		Concow/Yankee Hill	BCFSC Concow/Yankee Hill Fuels Reduction Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	7,000
1		Concow/Yankee Hill	BCFSC Concow/Yankee Hill Fuels Reduction Maintenance Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	7,000

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
1		Concow/Yankee Hill	YHFSC Concow/Yankee Hill Staging Area Fuel Reduction	P	2023	Fuel Reduction	120
1		Concow/Yankee Hill	YHFSC FIREWISE USA – Community Assessment/Outreach	P	2022	Fuel Reduction Education	27
1		Concow/Yankee Hill	YHFSC Concow/Yankee Hill Dead Tree Removal and Slash Solutions	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	400
1		Cherokee	DWR – Goat Ranch/Spring Valley SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
1		Butte Valley	Paradise South HFR	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	8000
1		Magalia	PG&E Canal – De Sabla SFB	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	
1		Magalia	SPI – Lovelock SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Andy Mountain Ingress/Egress HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Concow Rd Ingress/Egress HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	DWR – Dark Canyon SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	10
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Jordan Hill Rd Firebreak/Access	P		Fire Plan	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Yankee Hill HFR and Chipper Service	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Concow/Yankee Hill - Staging Areas Enhancement	P		Fuel Reduction	300
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Concow/Yankee Hill - Evacuation Routes	P		Fuel Reduction	485
1		Yankee Hill Concow	Concow/Yankee Hill HFR - Tree Mortality and Biomass Reuse	P		Fuel Reduction	800

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
1		Yankee Hill Concow	BCFSC Rim Rd Restoration Project	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	350
1		Stirling City	Stirling City Volunteer Fire Auxiliary-Stirling City Ladder Fuel Reduction	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Butte Meadows	BCFSC Butte Meadows Fuels Reduction Project	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	500
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Cohasset Fuels Reduction Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	6,000
2		Cohasset	BCFSC Cohasset Fuels Reduction Maintenance Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	6,000
2		Forest Ranch	BCFSC Forest Ranch Fuels Reduction Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	17,000
2		Forest Ranch	BCFSC Forest Ranch Fuels Reduction Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	17,000
2		Cohasset	Cohasset Fuels Reduction – CCI Funded	P	2022	Fuel Reduction	205
2		Forest Ranch	Forest Ranch Fuels Reduction – CCI Funded	P	2022	Fuel Reduction	205
2		Cohasset	Musty Buck Rx VMP	P	2032	Prescribed Fire	10,000
2		Butte Meadows	Butte Meadows Community Demonstration/ Communication Site	P		Evacuation Planning	
2		Forest Ranch	Doe Mill Rd Wilder Rd HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	1200
2		Butte Meadows	Butte Meadows Evacuation Shelter	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Butte Meadows	SPI – Bottle Hill SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Butte Meadows	SPI – H-Line SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Butte Meadows	SPI – Humboldt Road SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Butte Meadows	SPI – HWY 32 SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Butte Meadows	SPI – K-Line/J-Line SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
2		Butte Meadows	SPI – L-Line SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Cohasset	Mann Nolta SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Forest Ranch	BCFSC Forest Ranch Headwaters Rd SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
2		Forest Ranch	Higgins Ridge LLC-Turtle Beach Vegetation Management and Hazard Tree Removal	P		Fuel Reduction	500+
5		Berry Creek	BCFSC Berry Creek Fuels Reduction Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	42,000
5		Berry Creek	BCFSC Berry Creek Fuels Reduction Maintenance Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	42,000
5		Feather Falls	BCFSC Feather Falls Fuels Reduction Project	P	2024	Fuel Reduction	5,000
5		Feather Falls	BCFSC Feather Falls Fuels Reduction Maintenance Project	P	2024	Fuel Reduction	5,000
5		Forbestown	BCFSC Forbestown Falls Fuels Reduction Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	25,000
5		Forbestown	BCFSC Forbestown Fuels Reduction Maintenance Project	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	25,000
5		Bangor	Bangor Ingress/Egress HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Berry Creek	DWR – Sycamore Creek/HWY 162 SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	84
5		Berry Creek	Little Ridge SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Feather Falls	BLM – Enterprise Rancheria SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Feather Falls	BLM – Lumpkin Rd FRP	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Feather Falls	DWR – Enterprise SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	12
5		Feather Falls	SPI – Fields Ridge SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
5		Feather Falls	SPI – Lumpkin Road SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Feather Falls	SPI – Swain Ridge B-Line SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Feather Falls	SPI – Watson Ridge SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Abernathy Rd SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Additional Roadside Clearing	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Black Bart Ridge SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Black Bart Rd HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Diversion Dam SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Forbestown Community Park HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Forbestown Mastication	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Grizzly Creek HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	New York Flat Rd Clearing	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Ponderosa SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Forbestown	Weiss Hill-Mt Hope SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Hurleton	Hurleton Ingress/Egress HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Hurleton	Hurleton SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Berry Creek	Bald Rock Road Ingress/Egress HFR	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Berry Creek	Big Ridge SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
5		Feather Falls	Fuels Reduction, Forest Health, and Watershed Resilience	P	2024	Fuel Reduction	100
5		Stringtown	DWR – Stringtown SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	22
6		North Oroville	BTU Potters	P	2030	Fuel Reduction	243

Battalion Planning Area	Project Number	Community	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
6		South Oroville	BTU Mooretown Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	P	2027	Fuel Reduction	98
6		East Oroville	DWR Diversion Pool Fuel Reduction	P		Fuel Reduction	
6		East Oroville	DWR/PG&E/BCFSC East Oroville VMP	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	600
7		Gridley	DFW Howards Slough VMP	P		Prescribed Fire	
7		Gridley	DFW Little Dry Creek VMP	P		Prescribed Fire	
8		Paradise	Lower Paradise Fuel Reduction and Structure Ignitability	P		Fuel Reduction	
8		Paradise	Paradise Clear Creek Shaded Fuel Break	P		Fuel Reduction	
8		Paradise	Paradise SFB	P		Fuel Reduction	
8		Paradise	BCFSC Paradise Shaded Fuel Break Buffers	P	2026	Fuel Reduction	14,000
8		Paradise	Paradise Fuel Reduction – CCI Funded	P	2023	Fuel Reduction	200
8		Paradise	Vegetation Management Plan Town of Paradise	P	2024	Fuel Reduction	
8		Paradise	PRA Cat 4 Tree Removal	P		Hazard Reduction	
8		Paradise	PRA Structure Retrofit	P		Hazard Mitigation	

APPENDIX F: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

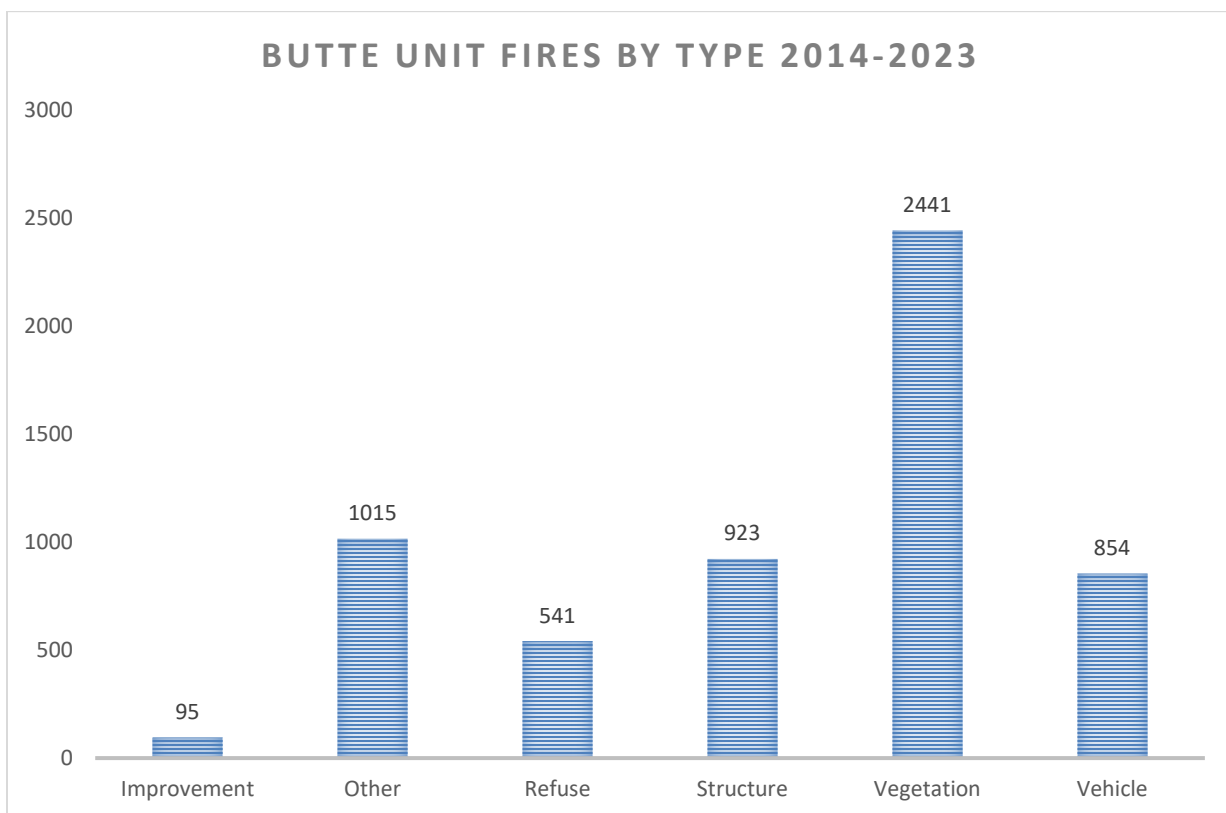
Continue with the CAL FIRE identified goals in the 2019 Strategic Plan for California. The goals, when implemented with the collaboration of local communities and groups, will enhance the protection of lives, property, and natural resources from wildland fire, as well as improve environmental resilience to wildland fire. Community protection includes promoting the safety of the public and emergency responders, as well as protection of property and other improvements.

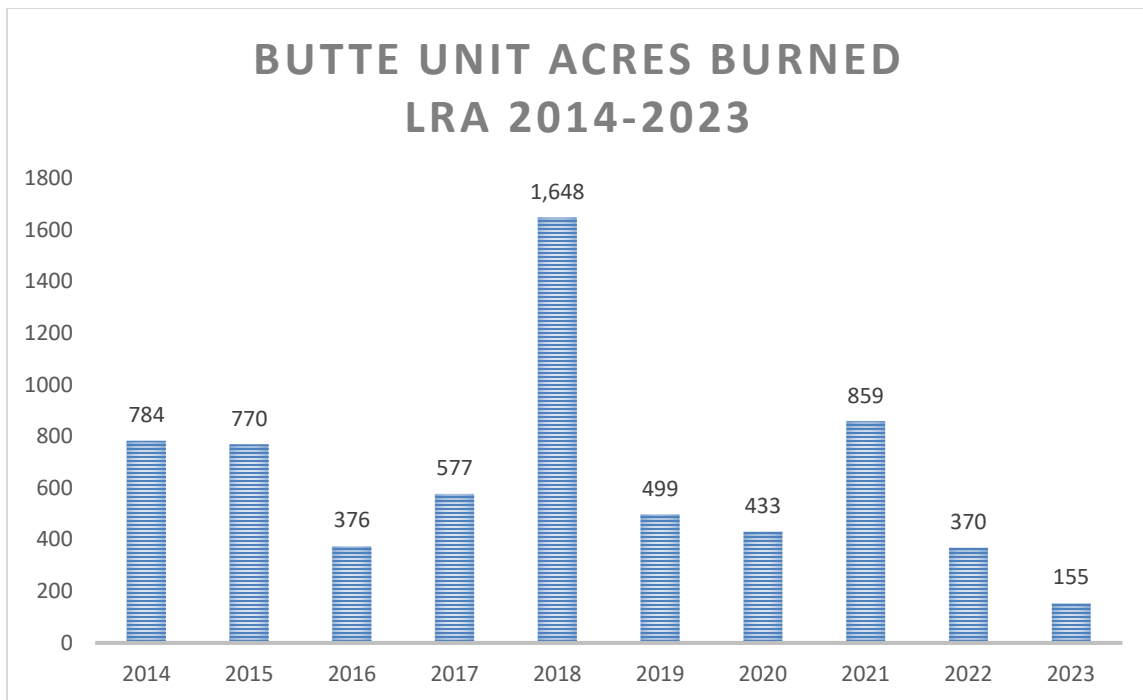
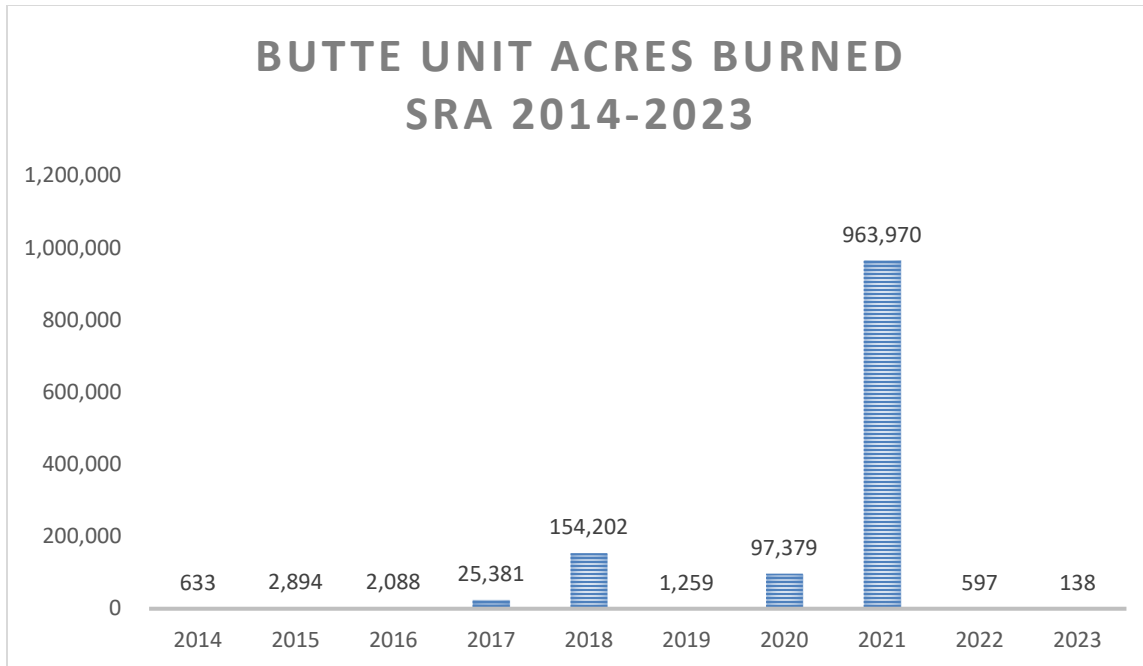
The Butte Unit may work on any of the Fire Plan goals at any given time based on available funding and other opportunities. The Butte Unit intends to place emphasis on the following goals and objectives:

- Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups to validate and prioritize the assets at risk and identify, prioritize, and implement pre-fire projects
- Conduct defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations
- Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities
- Integrate fire protection, natural resource management, and fire prevention under a single mission on behalf of the State and local communities
- Strive to ensure the highest level of environmental protection in all our programs and operations

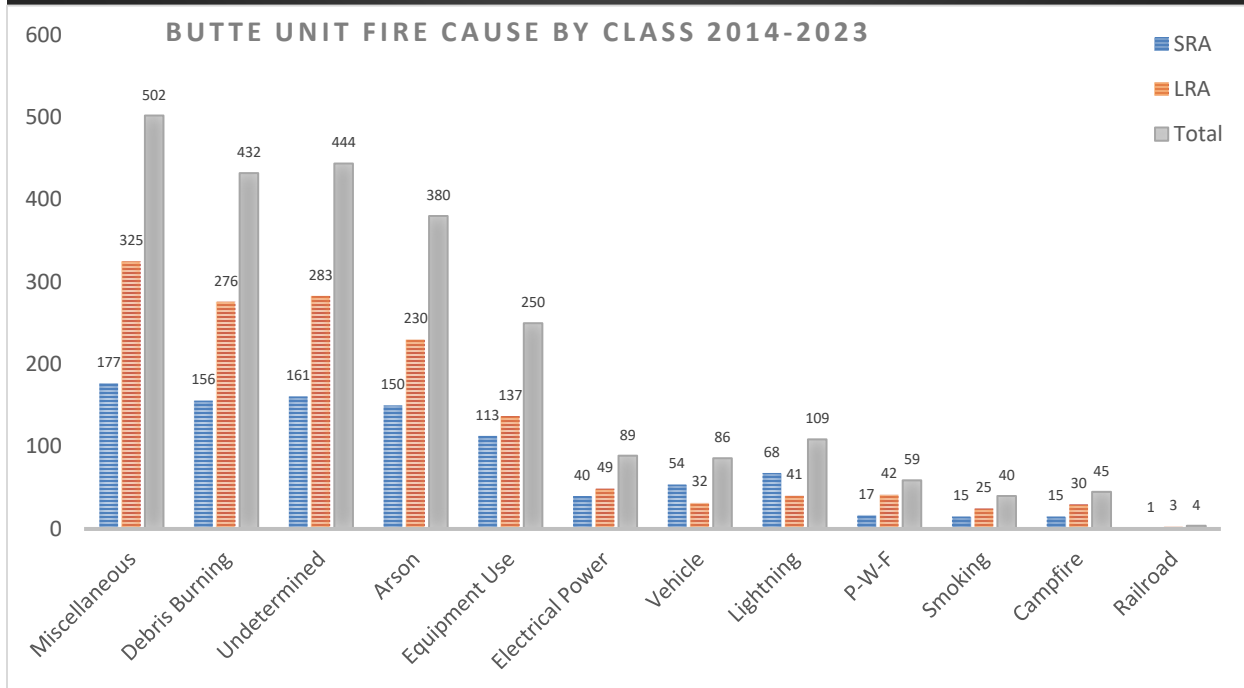
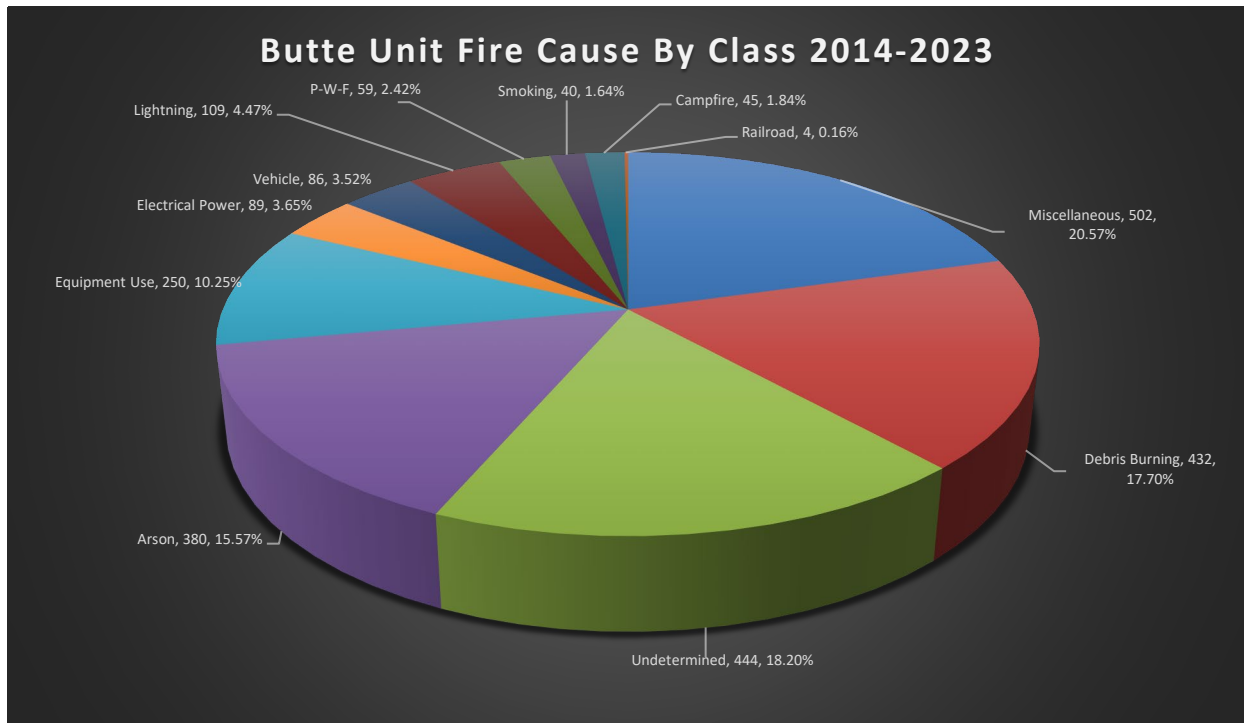
APPENDIX G: IGNITION ANALYSIS

All fires within CAL FIRE Butte Unit are included in this analysis. The most common ignition cause in the Butte Unit during the past ten years has been from debris burns, accounting for 17.7% of all ignitions. The second most common cause has been arson, totaling 15.57%. Most ignitions are associated with roads and areas of higher population density. Determining the cause of each ignition is an ongoing challenge. The causes of many fires can only be narrowed down to a few possibilities; therefore, they are classified as 'undetermined', which was the case in 18.2% of ignitions. Company officers attend training to hone their fire origin and cause investigation skills. The following charts illustrate the occurrence and cause of fires for the previous ten years.





*The acres burned in 2018 includes the acres consumed by Fire within the Town limits of Paradise during the Camp Fire. Acres burned in 2021 include the Dixie Fire, which started in Butte County and grew to include portions of Plumas, Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen counties.



APPENDIX H: IGNITION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The top three fire cause classes for the Butte Unit have remained constant for the last several years. CAL FIRE has introduced a more robust education program in an effort to reduce future ignitions, such as the “One Less Spark” campaign. This campaign is a multi-faceted approach to education and outreach to reduce the cause and risks associated with wildfire within California. Here in Butte County, multiple roadside signs have been placed promoting fire prevention messages regarding the “One Less Spark” and other media campaigns.

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire’s Fire Prevention Bureau and field personnel continue to actively conduct thorough and complete fire origin and cause investigations. As the investigations continue, the information collected will provide reliable data, allowing Prevention staff to help pinpoint trends and identify areas sensitive to wildland fires. As these trends and sensitive areas are identified, the staff will diligently work to minimize or prevent these fire starts through education, engineering, and/or enforcement.

To enhance the safety of homes during a wildfire event, BTU has revised the Unit Defensible Space Inspection Program. Defensible Space Inspectors and fire station personnel are conducting Residential Fire Hazard Inspections (LE-100 Inspections) within the identified communities at risk. In 2019 these inspectors conducted 4,250 inspections of inhabited homes. In 2020 Butte Unit fire station personnel completed 1,038 defensible space inspections and Forestry Aids completed 3,310 for a total of 4,348 inspections. In 2021, 7,296 inspections were performed with 3,414 parcels identified as non-compliant with either Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291, Butte County Chapter 38A, or both. In 2022, 8,711 inspections were performed, with PRC4291 and/or Butte County Chapter 38A violations found during 4,386 inspections. This represents a doubling of inspection capacity since 2020.

Butte Unit personnel completed 5,741 defensible space inspections in 2023. PRC 4291 violations were found during 928 inspections and Butte County Chapter 38A violations were found during 1,285 inspections.

After working cooperatively with the property owner and providing referrals to organizations such as the Butte County Fire Safe Council for assistance in addressing identified violations, citations may be issued to residents who fail to provide the required defensible space around their homes and property. Parcels that remain non-complaint are referred to Code Enforcement for further action up to and including forced abatement. In 2021, 61 parcels were referred to Code Enforcement. Of those, 22 parcels self-abated, 6 parcels were taken to administrative hearing (with 3 additional pending), and 1 parcel was abated with 2 additional parcels currently out to bid for

abatement. In 2022, 131 cases were referred to Code Enforcement, with 82 of those self-abating. Hearings were completed for 15 cases with all 15 hearings finding in the county's favor. In 2023, 107 Butte County Chapter 38A cases out of 358 were referred to Butte County Code Enforcement. Of those, 47 cases achieved compliance, while 60 cases remain active. Hearings have been completed on 2 cases, while an additional 13 cases are pending a nuisance abatement hearing. Additionally, Butte County Code Enforcement completed 2 court-ordered abatements, with 5 additional court-ordered abatements pending. This focused inspection and abatement program has been in effect since 2015 and continues in 2024.

APPENDIX I: PROJECT APPROVAL PROCESS

Projects are listed in APPENDIX A – E. The process to add a new project to the project list requires collaboration with the local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief by submitting a project proposal on the Butte Unit Pre-Fire Project Evaluation form. The Battalion Chief then reviews and scores the project. If the proposed project is approved by the Battalion Chief, the proposed project will then be added to the planned project list in APPENDIX-E.

Butte Unit Battalion Chief Pre-Fire Project Evaluation						
Project Title						
Project Description (include if available: Summary, Goals, Measures, Treatment type)						
Project Location (include if available: Physical Location, Latitude/Longitude coordinates, Map)						
Community Support (include if available: Cost, Maintenance, Buy-in)						
Project Evaluation/Scoring For each each criteria, please provide a score 0 (lowest) to 5 (best)						
Benefit to Community						▶
Level of Area Benefit						▶
Community Support						▶
Implementation						▶
Fiscal Viability						▶
Maintenance						▶
Intangibles						▶
Does this project REDUCE the IGNITION PROBABILITY for the area it is being proposed to affect?						
During an established wildland fire would there be a REDUCED SPREAD PROBABILITY for the area the project is being proposed?						
During an established wildland fire does this project have the potential to INCREASE SUPPRESSION CAPABILITY?						
Project Score						0
Notes:						

APPENDIX J: FUEL TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS REPORTS



VICTORIA FIRE

Fuel Break Utilization

Fire Year 2023



THE VICTORIA FIRE

Just before 4 PM on September 8, 2023, the CAL FIRE Butte Unit Emergency Command Center dispatched resources to a fire around Victoria Court in the unincorporated community of Magalia. The fire became known as the Victoria Fire. Upon arrival, the first company officer found a ground fire burning on the south side of a small drainage

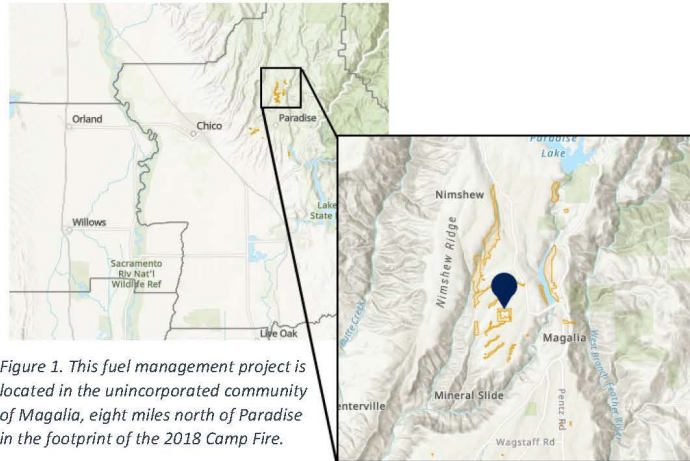


Figure 1. This fuel management project is located in the unincorporated community of Magalia, eight miles north of Paradise in the footprint of the 2018 Camp Fire.

across from the end of Victoria Court. Within 100 yards of the fire's origin were at least three permanent residential structures as well as two RVs and trailers being used as long-term residences on parcels where the original residence was destroyed by the 2018 Camp Fire. Thanks to the Victoria Fire running into the Camp Fire Fuels Reduction Project, the fire was kept to ground-level with a slow rate of spread. With suppression action, the fire was contained to 0.23 acres and did not impact any structures or vehicles.



Figure 2. Pre-fire fuels in treated area shown in the foreground. Fire area shown in the background left. Untreated area shown in the background right.

CAL FIRE Fuel Reduction Projects



EFFECTIVENESS OF THE **CAMP FIRE FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT**



Figure 3. Victoria Incident facing south. Pre-fire fuels in treated area shown in the foreground. Untreated area shown in the

background. Without the treatments having been completed, the drainage in which fire occurred would likely have contained tall, dry grass as well as a dense brush. Fire would have spread rapidly through these flashy fuels. Thanks to the Camp Fire Fuels Reduction Project, the rate of spread of the fire was slowed significantly during the Victoria Incident and the potential threat to nearby residences and structures was abated.

This project was a collaborative effort through CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. Butte County Fire Safe Council received a CAL FIRE grant and had treated 1,128 acres from 2020 through the end of 2022. Fuels reduction activities performed as part of this project include, chipping, grazing, piling, and mechanical and manual thinning.

This area experienced significant structure loss during the 2018 Camp Fire, with less than 10 percent of the structures surviving the fire. Very few of the destroyed structures in this area have since been permanently rebuilt and only a few of the remaining property owners have reoccupied their parcels, with many living in RVs or trailers. This has left areas of overgrown vegetation adjacent to parcels that are occupied.

Without the treatments having been completed, the drainage in which fire occurred would likely have contained tall, dry grass as well as a dense brush. Fire would have spread rapidly through these flashy fuels. Thanks to the Camp Fire Fuels Reduction Project, the rate of spread of the fire was slowed significantly during the Victoria Incident and the potential threat to nearby residences and structures was abated.



LESSONS LEARNED

Quick and effective containment of the Victoria Fire demonstrates the effectiveness and importance of Wildfire Prevention Grants funding and Fire Safe Councils managing fuels treatment projects in residential areas. Illustrating the importance of reducing ladder fuels; keeping the Victoria Fire to a ground-level made it significantly easier for firefighters to contain. Ladder fuels, such as brush and tall grasses, could have ignited the canopy of trees within the drainage. This would have led to a considerably larger and more dangerous fire that would have required significantly more resources to effectively contain. Not only did the fuels treatment stem the spread of both radiant heat and embers from the fire, it also provided crucial access to firefighting personnel and equipment.

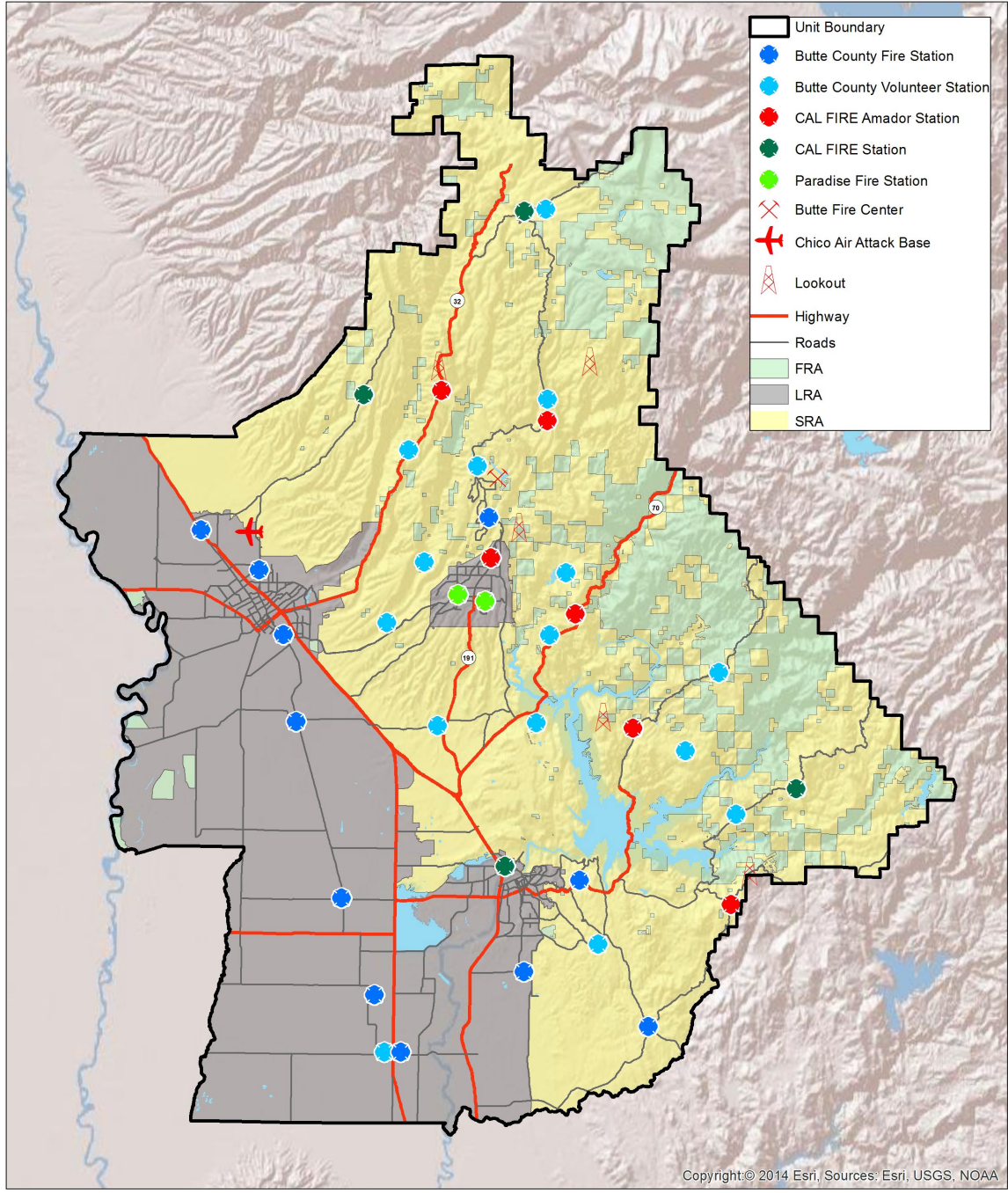


CAL FIRE Fuel Reduction Projects

EXHIBITS:

MAPS

Figure A: Unit Map



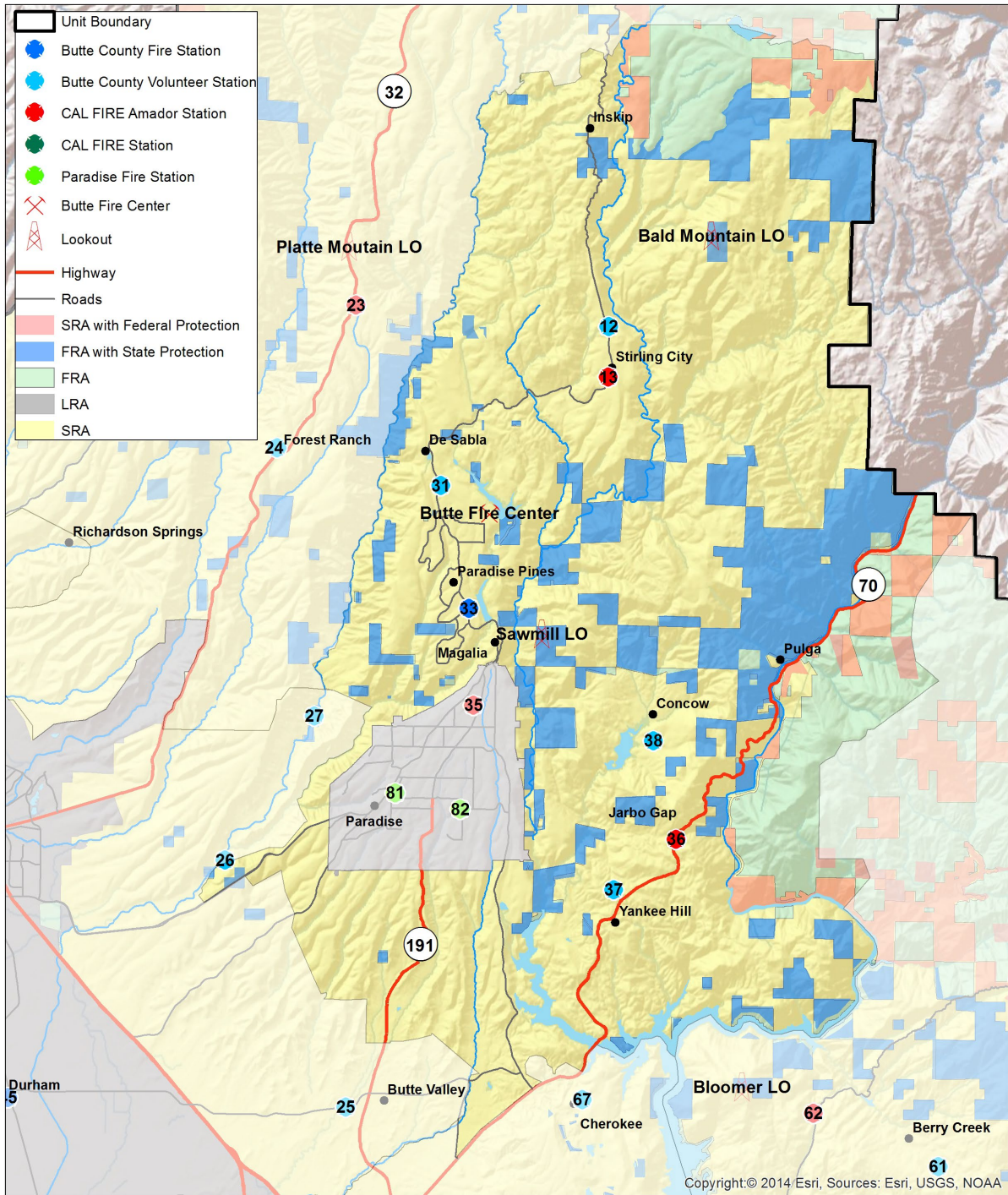
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Butte Unit

0 5 10 Miles

By Chip Fowler
10/15/2015

Figure C: Battalion 1

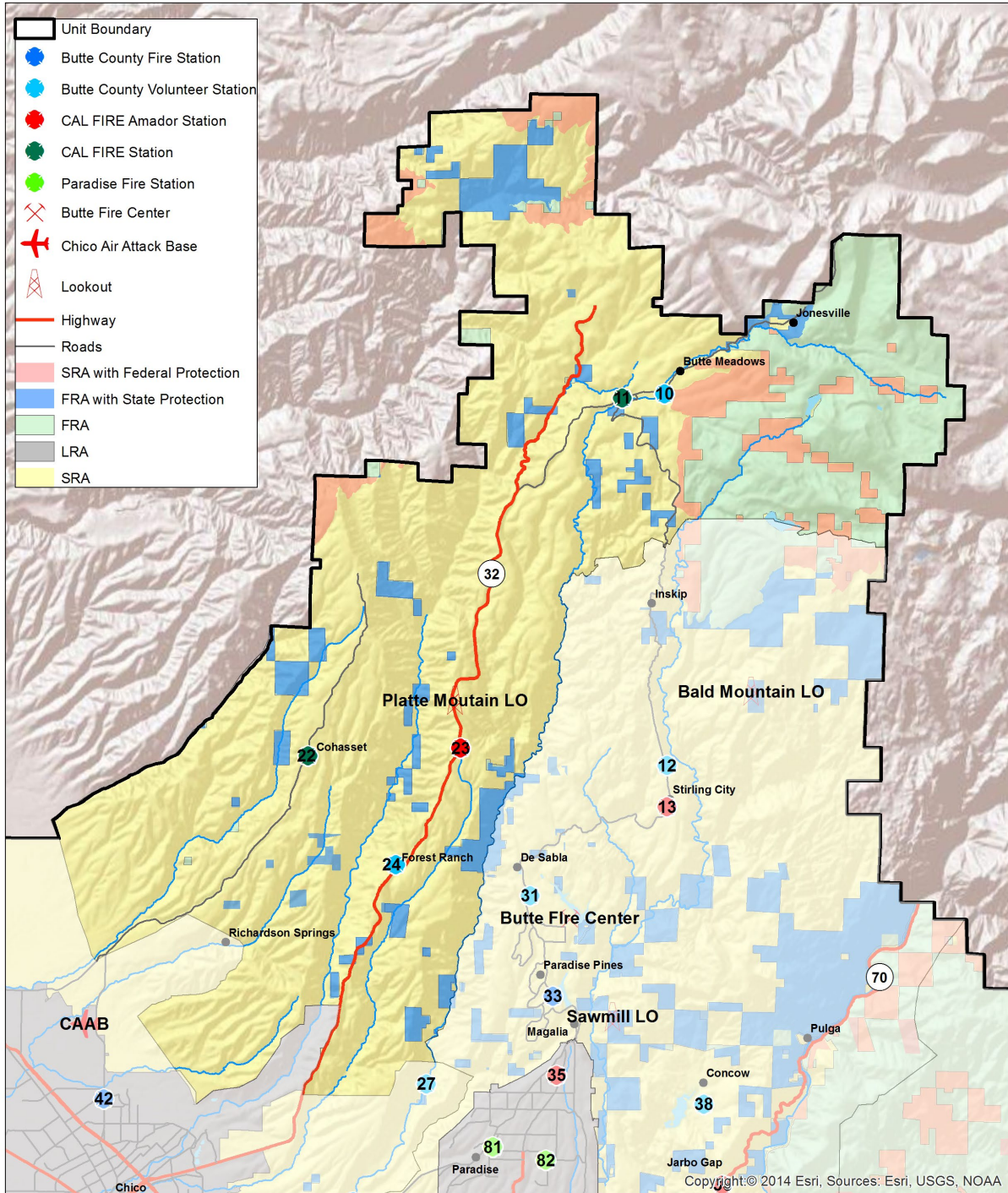


Butte Unit - Battalion 1

0 2.5 5 Miles

By Chip Fowler
10/15/2015

Figure D: Battalion 2 Map

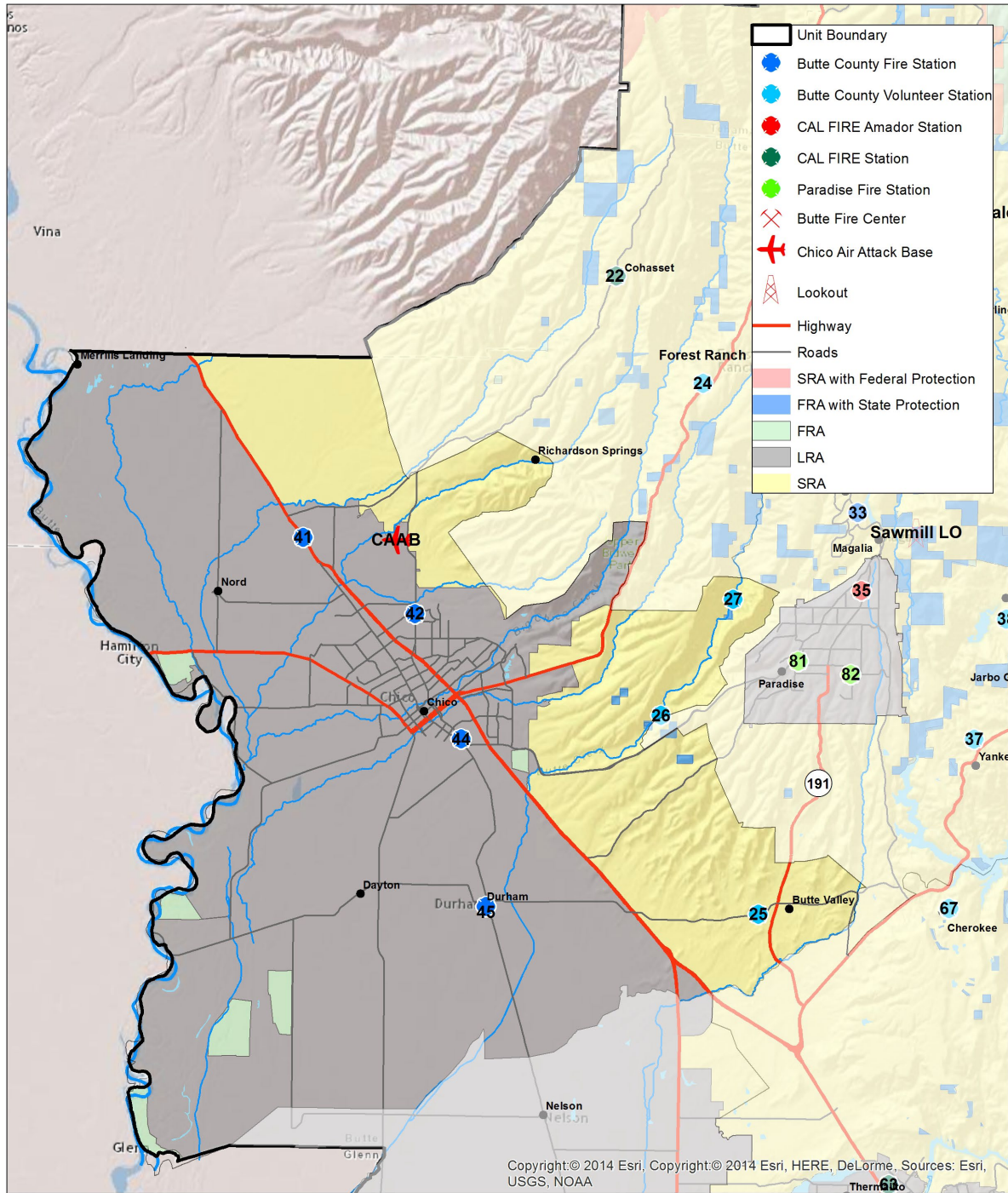


Butte Unit - Battalion 2

0 2.5 5 Miles

By Chip Fowler
10/15/2015

Figure E: Battalion 4 Map



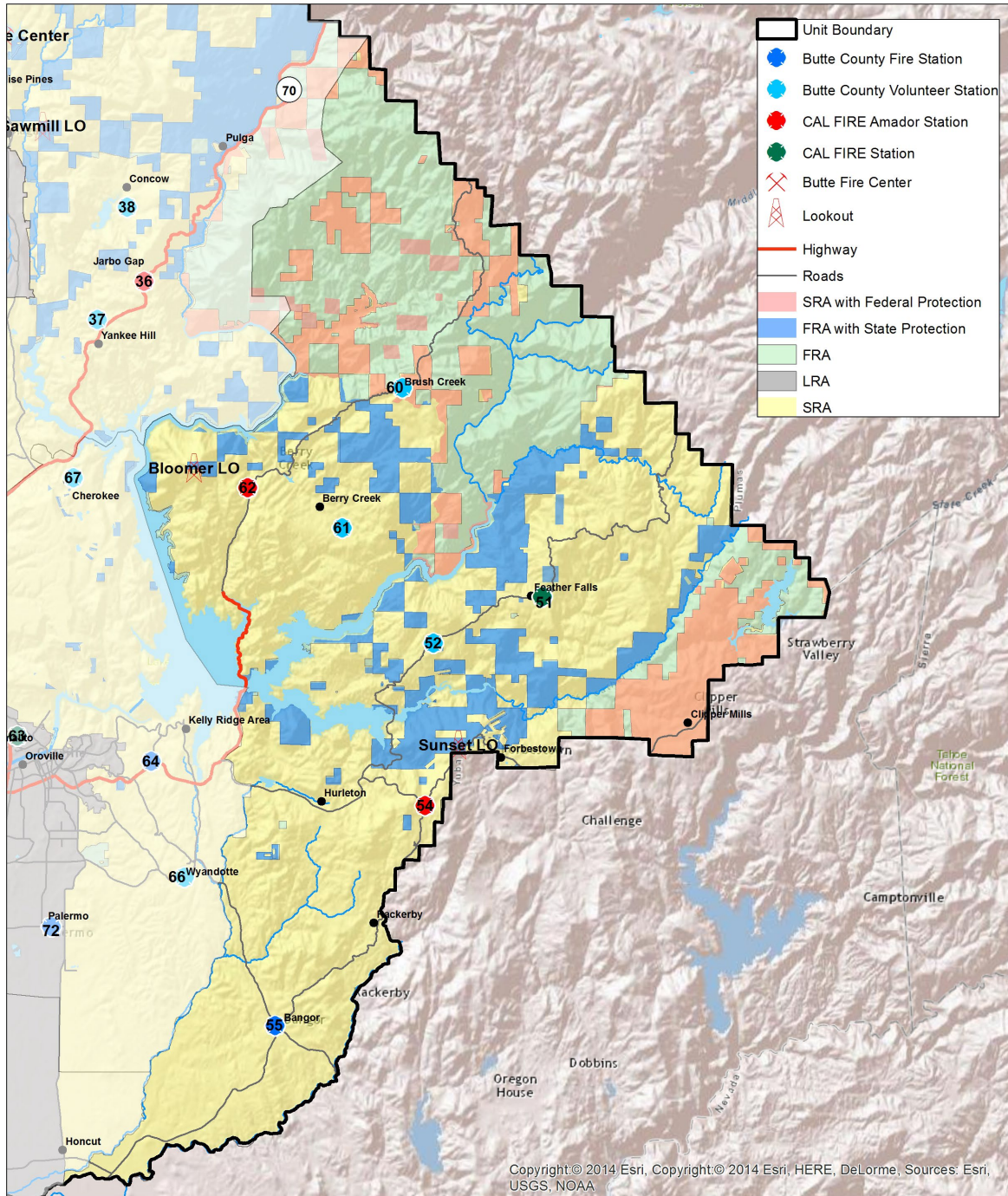
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Butte Unit - Battalion 4

0 2.5 5 Miles

By Chip Fowler
10/15/2015

Figure F: Battalion 5 Map



Butte Unit - Battalion 5

0 2.5 5 Miles

By Chip Fowler
10/15/2015

Figure G: Battalion 6 Map

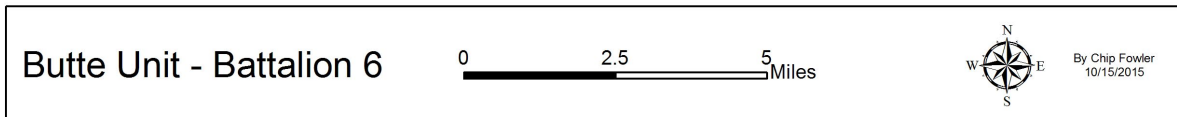
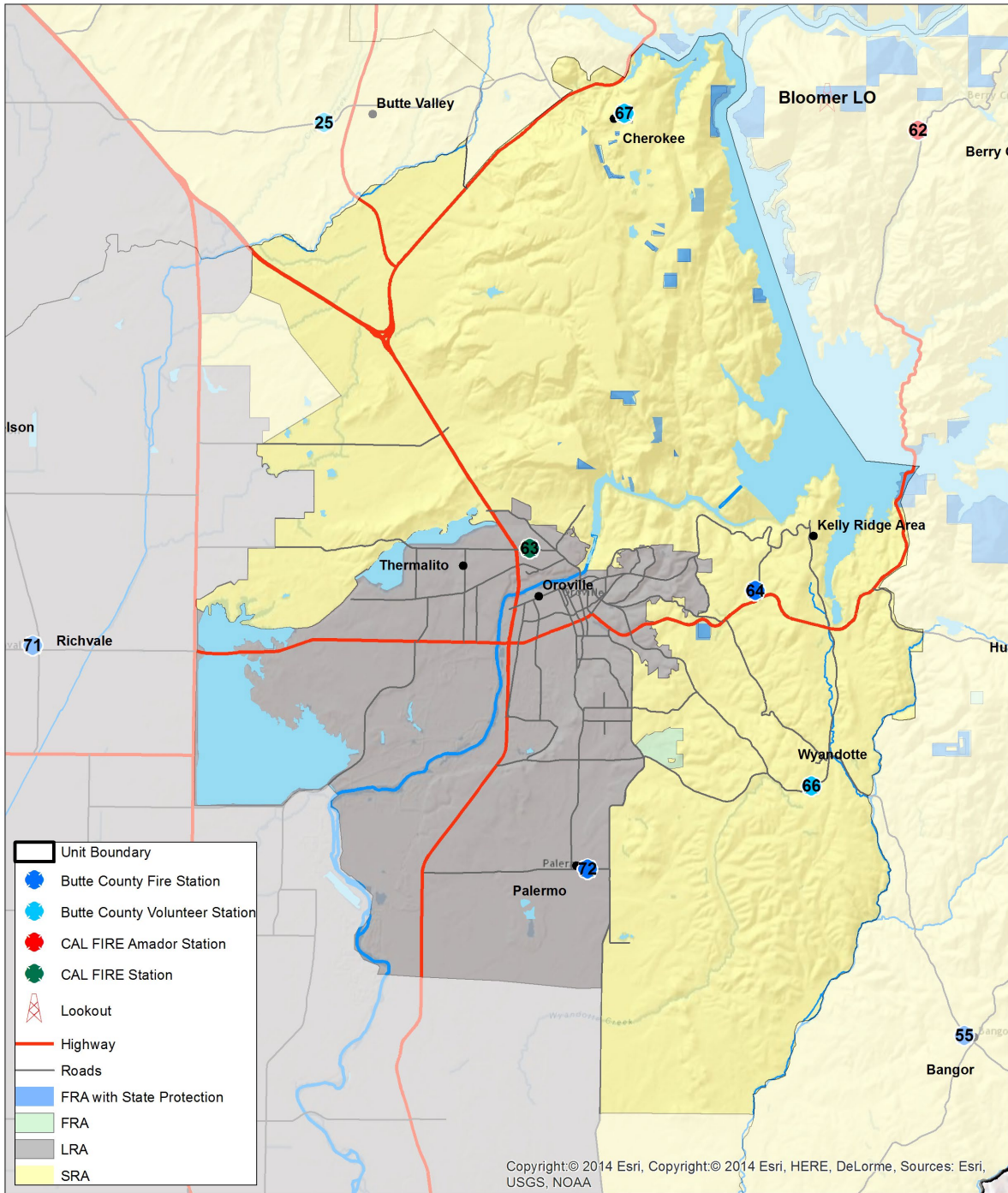
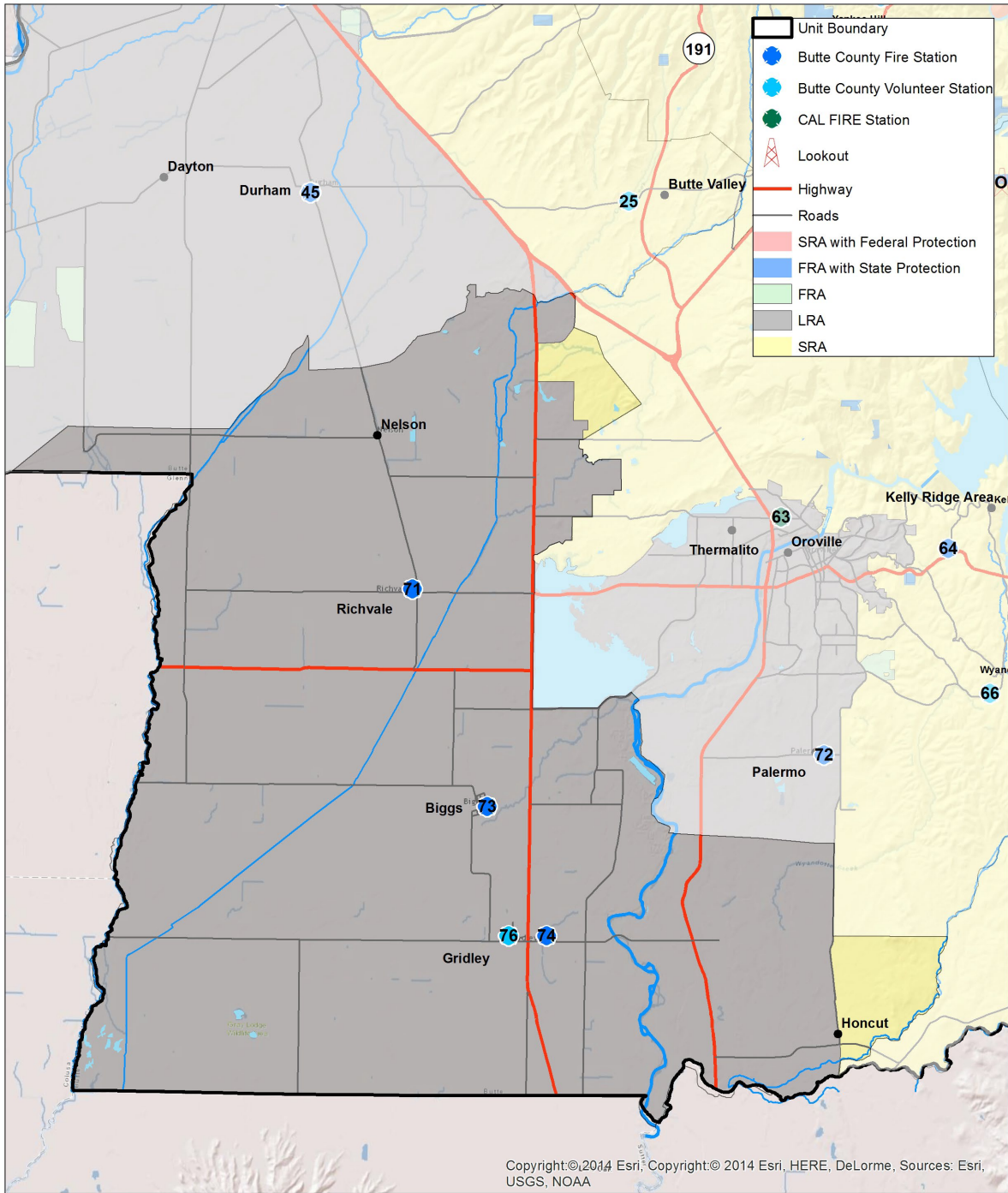


Figure H: Battalion 7 Map

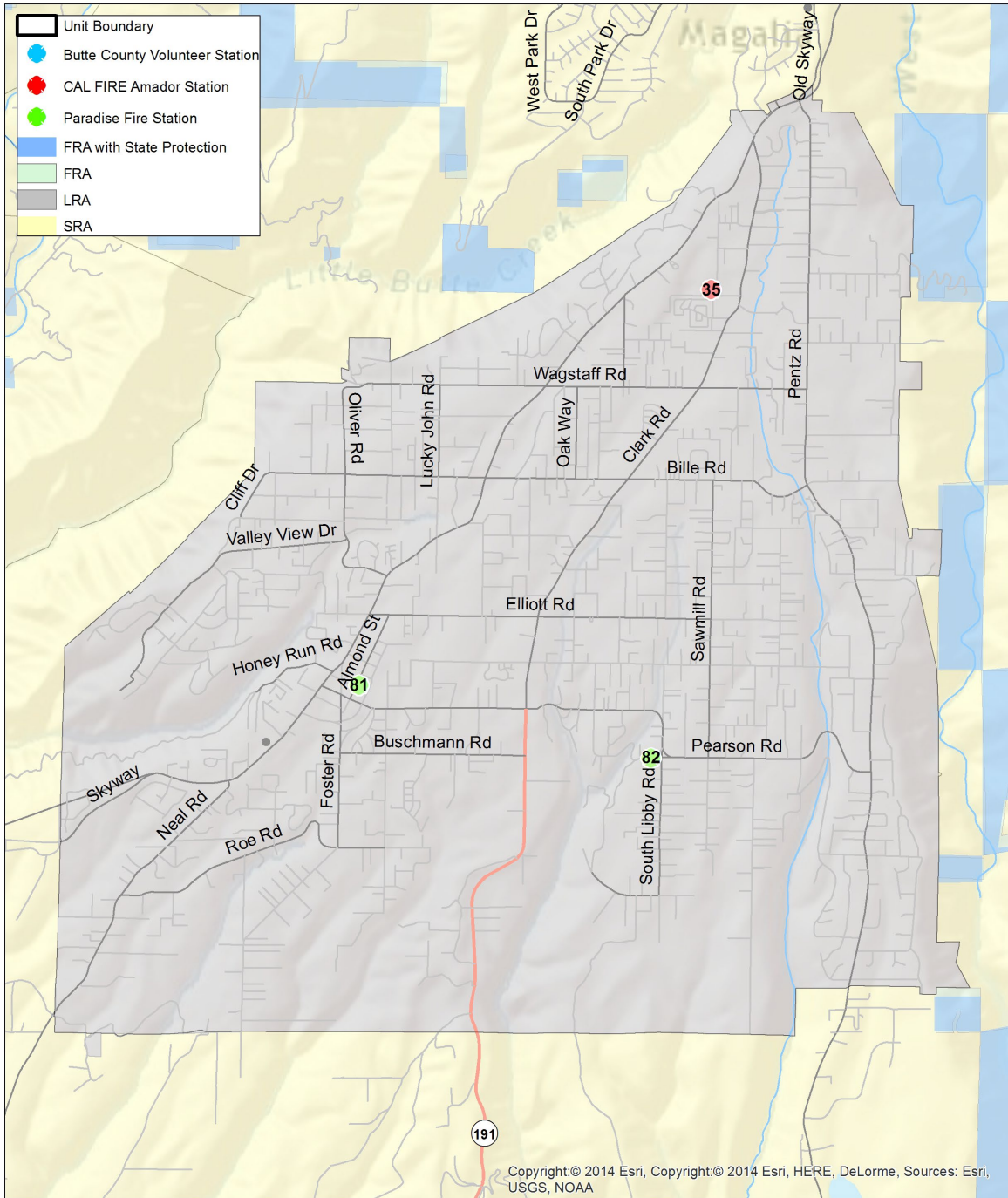


Butte Unit - Battalion 7

0 2.5 5 Miles

By Chip Fowler
10/15/2015

Figure I: Battalion 8 Map

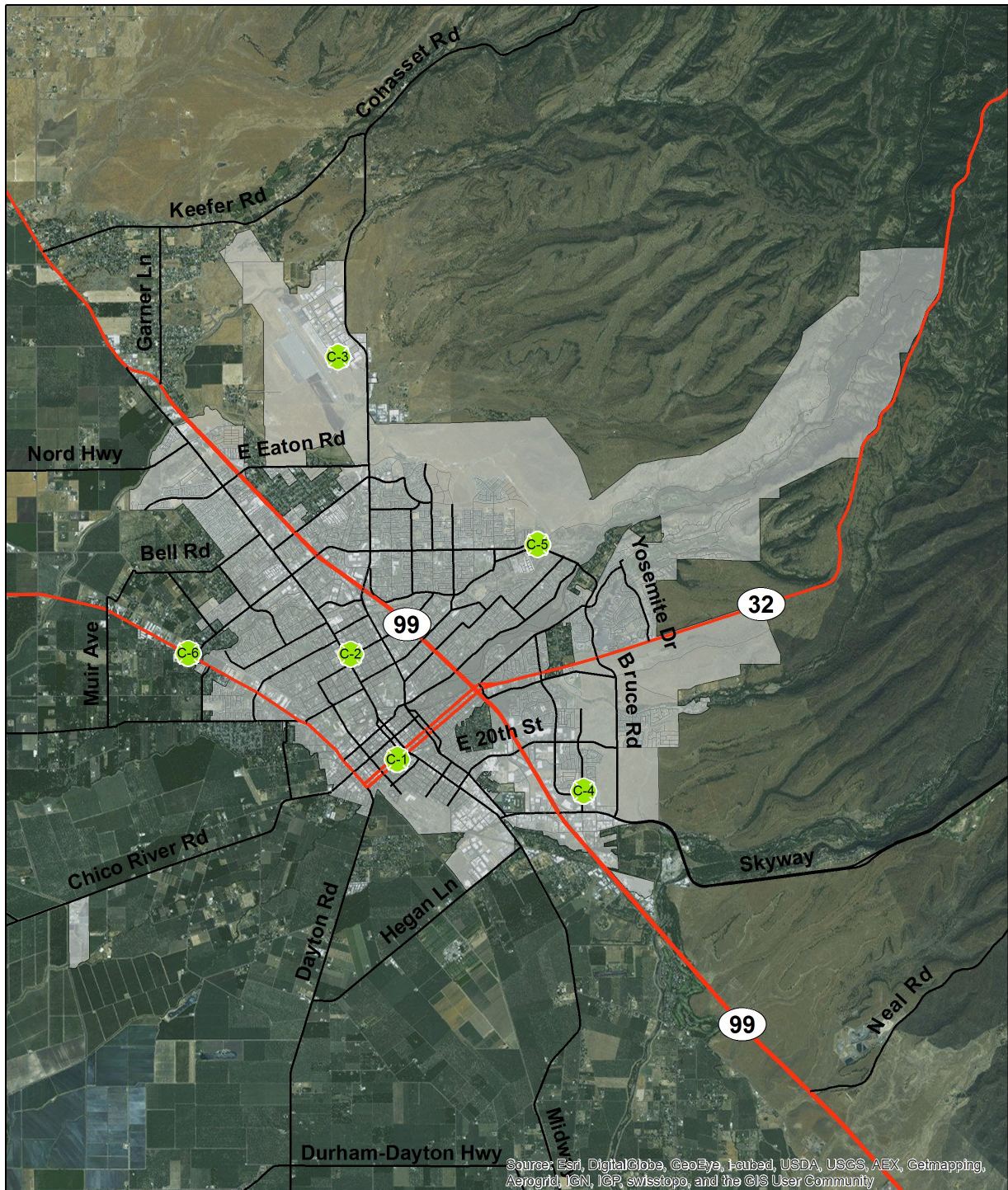


Butte Unit - Battalion 8

0 0.5 1 Miles

By Chip Fowler
10/15/2015

Figure H: City of Chico Map



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community





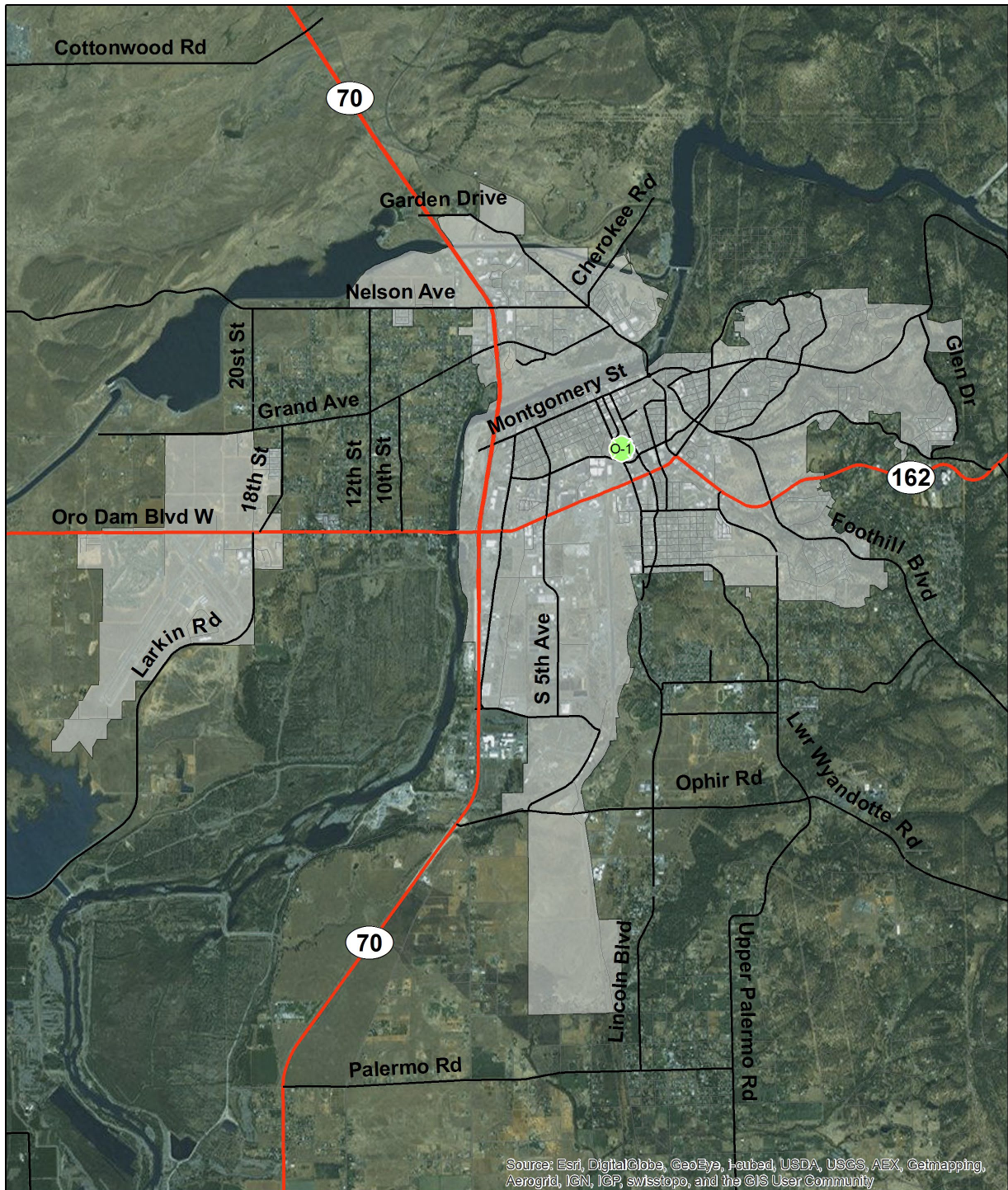
 City Limits			<h1>City Of Chico</h1> <p>By Chip Fowler 10/15/2015</p>
 Chico Fire Station			

Figure I: City of Oroville Map



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, iSat, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the ©S User Community





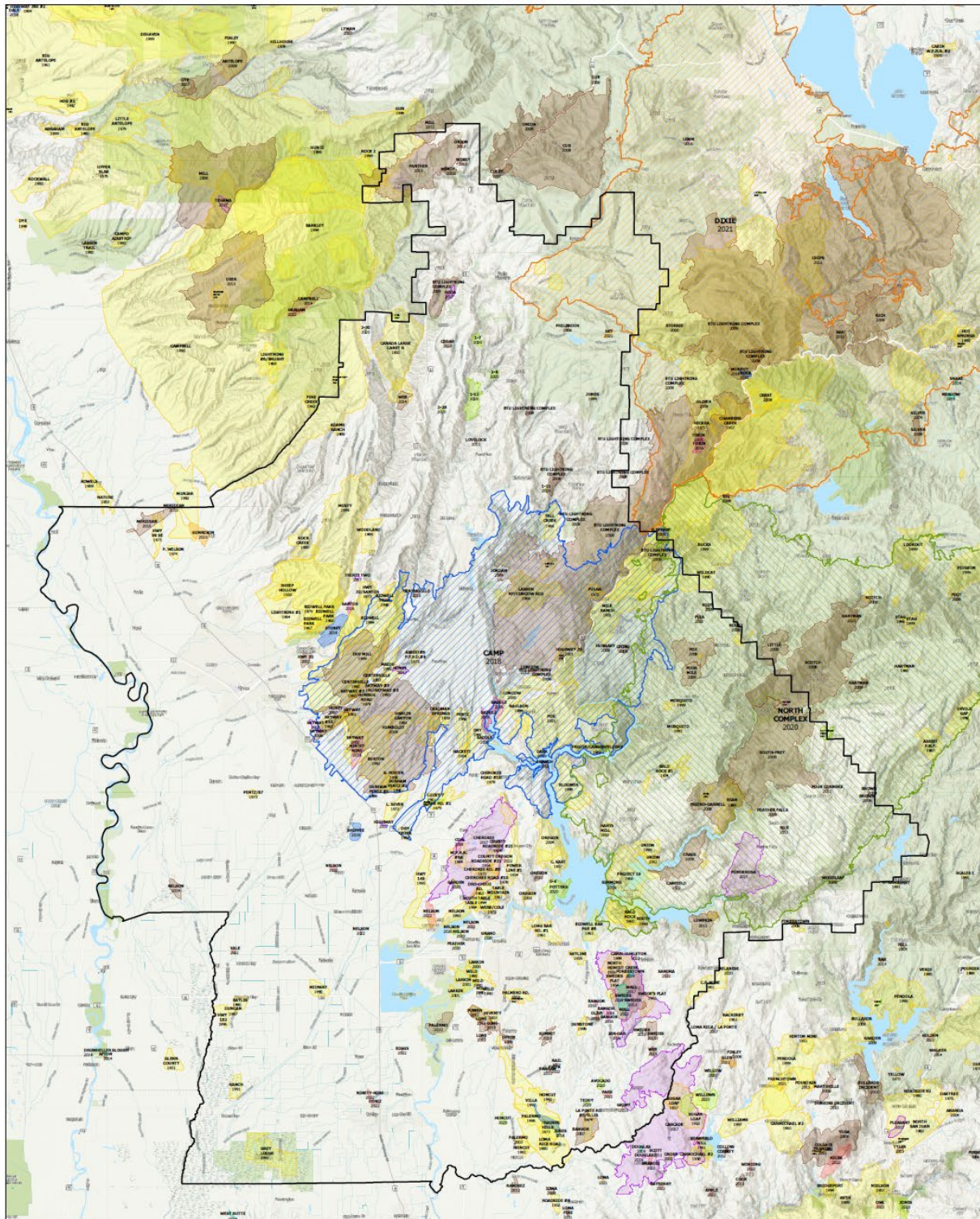
 Oroville Fire Station			<h1>City Of Oroville</h1>
 City Limits			

Figure K: Butte County Fire History Map



Butte County Fire History



ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2011

Annual Report of Unit Accomplishments

Objective:

Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities.

Over 30,000 Butte County residents attended presentations covering everything from Fire Safety to Defensible Space and Fire-Resistant Building Construction. 1,984 personnel-hours were dedicated to education during 58 events in 2011.

Objective:

Increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations through the use of CAL FIRE staffing as available, public and private organizations, and alternative inspection methods.

The Butte Unit personnel performed 2,333 PRC 4291 defensible space inspections during 2011. They noted 953 violations which resulted in 4 citations being issued. The inspection areas were pre-selected based on two primary factors, proximity to recent fuel reduction projects and fire ignition data.

Working closely with both the County Planning and Building Departments and County Department of Environmental Health, the Butte County Fire Department performed Building Code inspections for 120 residential permits and 43 commercial permits.

Objective:

Facilitate activities with individuals and organizations, as appropriate, to assist individual property owners in complying with fire safe regulations.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council manages a Resident Assistance Program and a residential Chipping Program which utilize volunteers and contractors to assist landowners comply with the requirements of PRC 4291.

Objective:

Support the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources, as well as public and private sector resources, for fuels management activities, including ongoing maintenance.

CAL FIRE crews were utilized to treat approximately 240 acres on 15 fuel reduction projects during 2011.

Objective:

Analyze trends in fire cause and focus prevention and education efforts to modify behavior and effect change.

Number of Fires by Type 2011

Structure	Vegetation	Vehicle	Improvement	Refuse	Other/Misc.	Total
102	189	80	13	58	11	453

Acres Burned 2011

	Acres
LRA	150
SRA	226
Total	376

Number of Fires by Cause 2011

Arson	Suspected Arson	Refuse-Escape	Electrical	Equipment	Other/Misc.	Powerline
61	32	73	24	93	52	18

Lightning	Smoking	Undetermined	Playing with Fire	PWF-Fireworks	Railroad
5	6	73	14	1	0

2012**Annual Report of Unit Accomplishments**

Objective: Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities.

Over 31,000 Butte County residents attended presentations covering everything from Fire Safety to Defensible Space and Fire-Resistant Building Construction. 1,914 personnel-hours were dedicated to education during 59 events in 2012. Information and educational materials are also distributed from fire stations and administrative offices.

Objective: Enhance external communications.

A standardized information fact sheet was developed and is used on a consistent basis to provide timely and accurate information to the media and public in Butte County. By proactively providing information, the number of phone inquiries from the media and public has been reduced.

Training was conducted to maintain the skills of 20 trained volunteer call center staff that may be activated when a significant incident occurs.

Objective: Increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations through the use of CAL FIRE staffing as available, public and private organizations, and alternative inspection methods.

The Butte Unit personnel performed 150 PRC 4291 defensible space inspections during 2012. The inspection areas were pre-selected based on two primary factors, proximity to recent fuel reduction projects and fire ignition data.

Objective: Facilitate activities with individuals and organizations, as appropriate, to assist individual property owners in complying with fire safe regulations.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council manages a Resident Assistance Program and a residential Chipping Program which utilize volunteers and contractors to assist landowners comply with the requirements of PRC 4291. The chipping program assisted 499 property owners throughout Butte County.

Objective: Support the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources, as well as public and private sector resources, for fuels management activities, including ongoing maintenance.

CAL FIRE committed 802 crew-days to projects within the Butte Unit. Fuel reduction activities were conducted on approximately 493 acres on 9 fuel projects during 2012.

Objective: Analyze trends in fire cause and focus prevention and education efforts to modify behavior and effect change.

The refuse and equipment fire-cause classes continue to be the leading causes of fires in the Butte Unit. Emphasis has been placed on educating the public by providing safe equipment-use fact sheets, releasing media statements, and discussing debris burning precautions when issuing burn permits to individuals.

Number of Fires by Type 2012

Structure	Vegetation	Vehicle	Improvement	Refuse	Other/Misc.	Total
90	208	72	10	89	7	476

Acres Burned 2012

	Acres
LRA	262
SRA	1817
Total	2079

Number of Fires by Cause 2012

Arson	Suspected Arson	Refuse-Escape	Electrical	Equipment	Other/Misc.	Powerline
37	35	102	21	109	45	14

Lightning	Smoking	Undetermined	Playing with Fire	PWF-Fireworks	Railroad
1	6	99	4	3	0

2013**Annual Accomplishment Reporting****Fire Planning:**

A consolidated effort with State, Federal and Local Governments, along with the Butte Fire Safe Council has updated the County CWPP. The Merry Mountain Village has joined the Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council and is the first community within the council to achieve Firewise Community status. The Butte Fire Safe Council and Unit are working with neighboring Councils to coordinate and plan bi-county projects. An Ignition Management Plan has been developed and added to the Butte Unit Fire Plan.

Civil Cost Recovery:

\$15,532.94 was recovered through the Civil Cost Recovery program in 2013. The largest recovery was from the Grubbs Incident which occurred on August 12, 2013. This fire accounted for \$11,322.67 (SRA) and \$1,515.02 (LRA) for a total of \$12,837.69. Five additional cases (Cedar, Centerville, Onion, Panther and Summit fires) have been referred to Region for cost recovery consideration. Each of these fires cost over \$50,000.00.

Education and Information:***Education:***

In 2013, over 20,000 Butte County Residents (Children and Adults) attended Fire Prevention presentations.

The multi-agency Fire PALS troupe preformed the week of March 4th through March 8th. Personnel from CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire, Paradise Fire, Oroville Fire and Butte County Sherriff Office joined forces to present 10 hour long shows. The shows safety messages reached 3,700 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade in 10 schools in Butte County and a road trip to NEU in Cameron Park.

Of the combined total of **1518** hours that were dedicated to education, **1450** hours were contributed by unit personnel.

Information:

The Public Information function was covered 24/7 by sharing the coverage between FPSII Aldrich, FC McLean and the ECC. Fire Season 2013 was the busiest incident year in the unit since 2008 and required multiple evacuations and call center activation.

Call Center training was held early in the season to share policy and procedure changes. The unit continues to have over 20 trained volunteer call center staff. Three fires in August, the Swedes, Branch and Centerville incidents, required call center activation, as well as the Summit incident

in October. With the exception of the Branch Incident, fast moving fires required rapid and long term evacuations. A combined total of 1,000 calls were handled by call center personnel.

During the year, 35 News Releases and 27 Incident Fact Sheets were sent.

Vegetation Management:

There were 10 projects within the Butte Unit in 2013. These projects included Reforestation, Fuel Reduction and Fuel Breaks. Various methods were used to complete them including manual thinning, piling and chipping as well as prescribed burning. 219 acres were treated by prescribed burning and an additional 117 acres were treated by other means. 336 total acres were treated and 1267 hours were invested into the management plans of these projects.

Volunteerism:

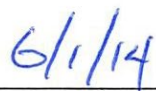
The VIP roster for 2013 includes 92 members. Of the 92, forty-one members are seasonal firefighters and seventeen are active call center staff. In 2013 there were 39 events, programs, or opportunities to volunteer. Many VIP's assisted in these programs. A total of 131 4291 Inspections were done in the Butte Unit for 2013.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA: Other notable projects were the Toy's for Tot's drive which has been a yearly tradition for several years now. Of the 3,573 families served by the Marine Corp Toys for Tots organization, CAL-FIRE/Butte County Fire Department collected over 1,000 toys.

CAL-FIRE/Butte County Fire employees and volunteers also staffed a display kiosk during the Butte County Fair.



Unit Chief
Greg McFadden



Date

2014

Annual Accomplishments Reporting

Fire Planning

Concow/Yankee Hill and Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. Berry Creek and Forbestown are now recognized as FIREWISE Communities. Wildfire Evacuation Plans incorporating "Ready, Set Go" principles were developed and distributed in the Fall of 2014 to the communities of Feather Falls, Forbestown, Town of Paradise and the Upper Ridge (Magalia).

Investigations and Enforcement

- 5 Arson Arrest
- 3 Felony Arrest
- 3 Felony Arson investigations without arrest that resulted in less fires

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

The Butte Unit hired four SRA Fee funded Forestry Aids to help enforce defensible space requirements (Public Resource Code 4291) from April 2014 through September 2014. 1,914 inspections were made Unit wide between the Forestry Aids, CAL FIRE and Butte County Fire Engine Companies. Several hundred hours were committed to educating the public on fire safety as well as handing out additional public safety information provided by the Butte County Fire Safe Council.

The areas focused on in 2014 were the east foothills of Oroville, Bangor, Robinson Mill, and the lower Cohasset area.

Inspections 4290 and 4291, citations associated with 4291 violations, citations or issue identified through industrial (Railroad or Power line) inspections.

Civil Cost Recovery

Two Civil Cost Recovery cases have been forwarded to Region for processing.

Education and Information

- Over 34,000 Butte County residents attended fire prevention education programs that covered everything from Stop, Drop and Roll to Defensible Space
- Unit Personnel contributed 1,179 hours to education
- Fire PALS performed the week of March 10th through March 14
 - 3,700 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade attended
 - Program reached ten different schools and a road trip to NEU for a Marysville Elementary School presentation

Butte County Fair Kiosk was staffed by Unit personnel for 160 hours providing fire safety information and information on the recruiting and training program for Butte County Fire Department Volunteers

The Public Information function was covered 24/7 by sharing the coverage between FPSII Aldrich, BC Damon and the ECC. The overall goal of this function is to keep our customers, the citizens of Butte County, informed by providing timely and accurate information to the varied media market in the North State.

Fire Season 2014 was a quiet incident year in the unit with only one call center activation for a two-day period for the Web Fire.

Call Center training was held early in the season to share policy and procedure changes. Each year we bring new tools to use to better inform our customers. This year, twitter was added in addition to the new Mass Public Notification System implemented by the county. Both features will give new layers of information to aid our call center during future incidents. The unit continues to have over 20 trained volunteer call center staff.

During the year, 35 News Releases and 64 Incident Fact Sheets were sent.

20 teens were afforded the opportunity to attend FAST CAMP and over 400 students were a part of the Sixth-Grade Education Program.

Report types of programs that are reflected in the hours reported for prevention activities (school program, County Fairs, parades, press releases, articles, signage, website, and social media).

Vegetation Management

The Butte Unit received money from the SRA Fire Prevention Fund which will be used to complete two shaded fuel breaks along Highway 32 in Forest Ranch and a fuels reduction project along the Skyway below the Town of Paradise.

There were two prescribed fires totaling 61 acres that not only reduced hazardous fuels in the area but provided training opportunities for firefighters.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council oversaw the work on six fuel breaks throughout the county which treated 485 acres by mechanical means, 40 acres of cut pile and burn, and 35 acres of prescribed fire totaling 560 treated acres. Two programs helped provide more than 570 residents with defensible space. Over 500 residents participated in the Chipper Program and 70 participated in the Residence Assistance Program.

CFIP, VMP, Rx burns, training exercise, CCC projects that treat fuels, fuel reduction grants

Volunteerism

Butte County has a Volunteer in Prevention (VIP) program which consists of 103 members. Of the 103, forty-one members are seasonal firefighters and 22 are active call center staff.

Call Center

The Butte Unit has a solid list of 22 trained and experienced Call Takers. These VIP's and paid staff attend yearly training and can be activated at a moment's notice.

The dedication of these VIP's is the back-bone for public information during a major emergency.

Events

In 2014 there were 60 events, programs, or opportunities to volunteer for. Many VIP's assisted in these programs.

Butte County Fire Safe Council has formed a new partnership with B.A.R.E. on the Ridge, which is an organization that raises money to staff and help support Sawmill Peak Lookout. The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) continues to

play a key role by using the BCSO Road Crew to provide defensible space through the Residence Assistance Program (RAP). Continued partnership with community fire safe councils in Berry Creek, Cohasset, Feather Falls, Forbestown, Forest Ranch and Paradise is providing volunteer hours in a variety of ways. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA

A portion of the SRA Fire Prevention Fund has been combined with other CAL FIRE Units SRA FPF funds for a statewide public service announcement campaign.

Grant funding through the Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council secured funding for a remote camera detection system for Butte County that consisted of three cameras. The Butte Fire Safe Council has secured additional funds to add a fourth camera located at Sawmill Peak Lookout in Paradise.



Fire Chief

Greg McFadden



Date

2015

Annual Accomplishments Reporting

2015

Fire Planning

With the addition of the City of Chico, City of Oroville and the El Medio Fire Protection District, the Butte County CWPP is now a countywide CWPP. Concow/Yankee Hill, Berry Creek, Forbestown, Forest Ranch and Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. Feather Falls has recently been recognized as a FIREWISE Community and an application is in the process for Paradise. Wildfire Evacuation Plans incorporating "Ready, Set Go" principles are available online at buttefiresafe.net for the communities of Feather Falls, Forbestown, Berry Creek, Forest Ranch, Town of Paradise and the Upper Ridge (Magalia). Planning for future wildfire safety projects through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan collaborative process began with a stakeholders meeting attended by over 60 participants.

Investigations and Enforcement

- 1 Arson Arrests
- 5 Arrests for crimes committed against CAL FIRE
- 3 Warrants Served
- 25 Citations Issued
- 41 Assist to other Law Enforcement Agencies

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

The Butte Unit hired four SRA Fee funded Forestry Aids to help enforce defensible space requirements (Public Resource Code 4291) from March 2015 through October 2015. 1,433 inspections were completed Unit wide between the Forestry Aids, CAL FIRE and Butte County Fire Engine Companies. Several hundred hours were committed to educating the public on fire safety as well as handing out additional public safety information provided by the Butte County Fire Safe Council.

The areas focused on in 2015 were Bangor, Berry Creek, Clipper Mills, Cohasset and Forest Ranch.

86 Fire Hazard Inspections were completed in 2015. 56% of the notices were for violating California Health and Safety Code 41800.

Civil Cost Recovery

9 Unit cost recovery cases were forwarded to Region for processing.

Education and Information

Information:

The Public Information function was covered 24/7 by sharing the coverage between FPSII Aldrich, BC Damon and the ECC. The overall goal of this function is to keep our customers, the citizens of Butte County, informed by providing timely and accurate information to the varied media market in the North State. Fire Season 2015 was more active than the past few years, with two major incidents that required activation of the call center.

Call Center personnel worked 79 hours to staff the center for the Swedes Fire and 241 hours staffing the phones for the Lumpkin Fire. Call Center training was held early in the season to share policy and procedure changes.

Each year we bring new tools to use to better inform our customers. This year, Twitter was added in addition to the new Mass Public Notification System implemented by the county. Both features will give new layers of information sources to aid our call center during future incidents. The unit continues to have over 20 trained volunteer call center staff.

During the year, 32 News Releases and 69 Incident Fact Sheets were sent. Twenty-one of the Fact Sheets were set by personnel in the Emergency Command Center and 48 were sent by the duty Public Information Officer.

Education:

Through the education function of the bureau, over 38,000 Butte County residents, both children and adults, attended presentations that covered everything from Stop, Drop and Roll to Defensible Space.

As always, the biggest contributing factor to the success of the public education program in the Butte unit is the growing trend for greater community involvement by local fire station personnel. Each station has continued to increase their day-to-day involvement in the various events that affect their community, bringing a very important "personal" touch to the messages that are taught and underscores our departments' commitment to customer service.

Of the combined total of **1,508** hours that were dedicated to education, **1,485** hours were contributed by unit personnel.

Vegetation Management

The Butte Unit received funding from the SRA Fire Prevention Fund which was used to maintain a fuels reduction project along the Skyway (a primary evacuation route) west of the Town of Paradise.

Two prescribed fires were conducted within the Highest Training Burn and Rabe Road Shooting Range projects totaling 56 acres. The burns not only reduced hazardous fuels in the area but provided training opportunities for firefighters.

A SRA Fire Prevention Fund grant was awarded to Butte County Department of Public Works to manually treat vegetation within the rights-of-way of roads in the community of Cohasset. Work commenced in the Fall/Winter of 2015.

The California Conservation Corps Chico Center utilized SRA Fire Prevention Funds to reduce vegetation across seven acres in the Bidwell Canyon area near the community of Kelly Ridge.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council oversaw the work on 5 fuel breaks throughout the county which treated 380 acres. Over 500 residents participated in the Chipper Program.

Volunteerism

The VIP roster for 2015 includes 50 members. Butte County Fire Safe Council has continued its partnerships with 6 community fire safe councils and B.A.R.E. on the Ridge, which share wildfire safety education information at their meetings and community events. The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) continues to play a key role by using the BCSO Road Crew to provide defensible space with the Residents Assistance Program and community fuels reduction projects. Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, and work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects.

Call Center

The Butte Unit has a solid list of 22 trained and experienced Call Takers. These VIP's and paid staff attend yearly training and can be activated at a moment's notice. The dedication of these VIP's is the back-bone for public information during a major emergency.

Events

In 2015 there were 90 events, programs, or opportunities to volunteer. Many VIP's assisted in these programs.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA

Fire PALS Presentation – 2015

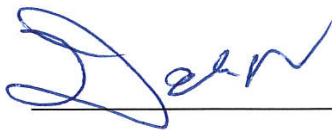
The multi-agency Fire PALS troupe performed the week of March 10th through March 14th. Personnel from CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire, USFS, Paradise Fire, Oroville Fire and Butte County Sheriff's Office joined forces to present 10 hour-long shows. The shows safety messages reached 3,700 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade in 10 schools in Butte County and a road trip to Westwood.

Informational Kiosk – Butte County Fairgrounds, Gridley

The permanent display kiosk at the Butte County Fairgrounds was maintained and staffed during the Butte County Fair. Station 74 personnel, FPSII Mary Ann Aldrich, and our Forestry Aids staffed the booth providing fire safety information and information on the recruiting and training program for Butte County Fire Department Volunteers.

Toys for Tot's Toy Drive

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire continued its yearly tradition of partnering with the Marine Corp Toys for Tot's Toy Drive in Butte County. Collection boxes were placed at fire stations and two special events were organized and staffed by department personnel and volunteers. Toys were collected in front of Tractor Supply in Chico and the Company 33 volunteer members staffed a collection site at the Paradise K-Mart each week-end after Thanksgiving. These combined efforts helped collect over 1,100 toys that helped the organization serve 3,758 children in Butte County. Over \$500.00 was donated by unit personnel to help purchase toys. In addition to these totals, toys were collected, wrapped and distributed to 20 Magalia families at Company 33's annual Christmas Eve event.



Darren Read
Fire Chief



Date

2016

Annual Accomplishments Reporting

Fire Planning

Concow/Yankee Hill, Berry Creek, Forbestown, Forest Ranch, Feather Falls and Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) have maintained their FIREWISE Community status.

The Butte Unit and Butte County Fire Safe Council along with other cooperators and stakeholders are in the process of developing a new system of determining where and what kind of fuel reduction and fire prevention projects should take place through Landscape Level Planning. Incorporating Landscape Level Planning into the Community Wildfire Protection Plan was the feature of the December wildfire safety summit with over 60 participants.

Investigations and Enforcement

The Fire Prevention Bureau made 9 arrest in 2016, 7 of which were for Arson. The Bureau issued 4 Warrants and assisted other Law Enforcement agencies 12 times.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

Each year the Butte County Fire Marshalls Office performs inspections in both the LRA and SRA.

The following items were reviewed, approved or inspected in 2016;

81 Building Permits	1 Certification of Corrections	6 Lot Line Determinations
13 Lot Line Adjustments	11 Land Conservation Agreements	2 Parcel Merger
6 Map Extensions	6 Minor Use Permits	6 Tentative Parcel Maps
3 Tentative Subdivisions	5 Use Permits	3 Refund Requests
33 Title 19's		

Building Inspections

266 Pre-Inspections	147 Final Inspections	413 Total Inspections
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The Butte Unit hired 5 SRA Fee funded Forestry Aids to help enforce defensible space requirements (Public Resource Code 4291) and completed 5,136 inspections from March 2016 through October 2016. 1,511 inspections were completed utilizing the Collector Application which gives the fire department a visual view of the inspections throughout the County helps aid the fire department determine fire prevention needs. 68% of these inspections were compliant with the defensible space laws on the first visit. The areas focused on in 2016 were Berry Creek, Forest Ranch, Lower Paradise and Magalia.

Civil Cost Recovery

Two civil cost recovery cases were submitted to Region by Resource Management for illegal hardwood harvesting on commercial timberland.

Education and Information

Education:

Through the education function of the Fire Prevention Bureau, over 27,000 Butte County residents, both children and adults, attended presentations that covered everything from Stop, Drop and Roll to Defensible Space.

As always, the biggest contributing factor to the success of the public education program in the Butte unit is the growing trend for greater community involvement by local fire station personnel.

Each station has continued to increase their day-to-day involvement in the various events that affect their community, bringing a very important “personal” touch to the messages that are taught and underscores our departments’ commitment to customer service.

Of the combined total of 1,559 hours that were dedicated to education, 1,487 hours were contributed by unit personnel.

These functions are supported with appropriate educational hand-outs provided with funds from the units Prevention Education budget.

Information:

The Public Information function was covered 24/7 by sharing the coverage between FPSII Aldrich, BC Damon and the ECC. The overall goal of this function is to keep our customers, the citizens of Butte County, informed by providing timely and accurate information to the varied media market in the North State.

The Call Center was active four times during 2016. Call Center personnel worked 20 hours on July 23rd on the Golf Incident, 12 hours on the 99 Incident on

August 2nd, 13 hours on August 26th for the Santos Incident and 155 hours on September 6th through 8th on the Saddle Incident for a total of 190 hours.

Call Center training was held early in the season to share policy and procedure changes. The unit continues to have over 20 trained volunteer Call Center staff.

This was the second year that twitter and the new Mass Public Notification System was used for Incident information and evacuation notifications. CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire tweeted 483 times and the Mass Notification System was activated for two fire incidents.

During the year, 20 News Releases and 47 Incident Fact Sheets were sent. Thirty-Nine of the Fact Sheets were set by personnel in the Emergency Command Center and 8 were sent by the duty Public Information Officer. Ten Incident Updates on the Saddle Fire were issued.

The Unit Forester is the co-chair for the Butte County Tree Mortality Task Force. He attended several meetings to discuss and provide education regarding the bark beetle epidemic and was interviewed by a local newspaper on the same subject.

Vegetation Management

Butte Unit Crews did preparation work on 42 acres of the SPI H-Line VMP project and burned 17 acres. Crews also work on the Loafer Creek VMP for The Department of Water Resources preparing the project for prescribed fire in the fall of 2017. Butte County Sheriff's Office was awarded a \$43,000 SRA grant to do vegetation management in the County road right-of-way on the primary roads around the community of Cohasset. Approximately 20.5 acres was cut and chipped on 6.8 miles of roadway.

\$14,700 in SRA Fire Prevention Fund money was allocated to the Butte Unit. This money was used to pay for inmate crews and a chipper from Salt Creek Conservation Camp to create a shaded fuel break within 50' of the roadway on Skyway from Paradise town limits to Cliffhanger Drive. CAL FIRE engine crews also helped treat fuels on this project.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council oversaw the work on 1 fuel break and numerous community resident's assistance projects as well as many acres treated with the Chipper Program.

Volunteerism

VIP Programs:

The VIP roster for 2016 includes 30 members.

Call Center

The Butte Unit has a solid list of 22 trained and experienced Call Takers. These VIP's and paid staff attend yearly training and can be activated at a moment's notice.

The dedication of these VIP's is the back-bone for public information during a major emergency.

Events

In 2016 there were 71 events, programs, or opportunities to volunteer. Many VIP's assisted in these programs.

Butte County Fire Safe Council

Butte County Fire Safe Council has continued its partnerships with 6 community fire safe councils and B.A.R.E. on the Ridge, which share wildfire safety education information at their meetings and community events. The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) continues to play a key role by using the BCSO Road Crew to provide defensible space with the Residents Assistance Program and community fuels reduction projects. Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA

Fire PALS Presentation – 2016

The multi-agency Fire PALS troupe preformed the week of March 7th through March 11th. Personnel from CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire, Oroville Fire and Butte County Sherriff Office joined forces to present 10 hour- long shows.

The shows safety messages reached 3,700 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade in 10 schools in Butte County and a road trip to Gerber and Cottonwood.

Informational Kiosk – Butte County Fairgrounds, Gridley


The permanent display kiosk at the Butte County Fairgrounds was maintained and staffed during the Butte County Fair.

Station 74 personnel and our Forestry Aids staffed the booth providing fire safety information and information on the recruiting and training program for Butte County Fire Department Volunteers.

Toys for Tot's Toy Drive

CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire continued its yearly tradition of partnering with the Marine Corp Toys for Tot's Toy Drive in Butte County. Collection boxes were placed at fire stations and the fire department challenged other county departments, in addition to two special events organized and staffed by department personnel and volunteers. Toys were collected in front of Tractor Supply in Chico and the Company 33 volunteer members staffed a collection site at the Paradise K-Mart each week-end after Thanksgiving. These combined efforts helped collect over 1,460 toys that helped the organization serve 3,758 children in Butte County. \$1,599.00 was donated by unit personnel to help purchase needed toys.

For the second year, the Headquarters staff stepped up to facilitate the distribution of toys to the families of South Butte County. This was a huge project and the extra efforts enabled families to pick up their toys locally.



Darren Read
Fire Chief



Date

2017**Annual Accomplishments Reporting****2017****Fire Planning**

The Butte Unit and Butte County GIS have partnered in 2017 to create Wildland Fire Pre-Plans for each of the Unit's Field Battalions. When completed, the Wildland Fire Pre-Plans will be available by print and electronically.

Planning for landscape level Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) continued and was again the feature of the December wildfire safety summit with over 60 participants. Concow/Yankee Hill, Forbestown, Forest Ranch, Feather Falls and Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. The CWPP working group has grown in number with new partners engaging in landscape level planning. Butte County Fire Safe Council continues to help steer the working group and planning process.

2017 Law Enforcement Statistics

Arrest for Arson	11
Arrests for Other Crimes	1
Citations Issued	30
Warrants Authorized	5
Vehicles Stored/Impounded	2
Assists other LE Agency	3
Detail Investigations	125
Criminal Subpoenas Received	150

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

Each year the Butte County Fire Marshalls Office performs inspections in both the LRA and SRA.

The following items were reviewed, approved or inspected in 2017;

	Permits Issued
17	Minor Use Permits
4	Use Permits
4	Tentative Subdivision Maps
8	Tentative Parcel Map
9	Map Extensions
4	Mergers
7	Land Conservation Acts

	Permits Issued
19	Lot Line Adjustments
9	Legal Lot Determinations
15	Parade/Festival Permits
56	Commercial Building Permits
274	Residential Pre-Inspections
207	Residential Final Inspections

The Butte Unit hired 4 SRA Fee funded Forestry Aids to help enforce defensible space requirements (Public Resource Code 4291) and completed 5,739 inspections. An additional 167 defensible space inspections were completed by fire station personnel.

Civil Cost Recovery

One civil cost recovery case was submitted to Region by the Fire Prevention Bureau for allowing a fire to escape and burn the property of others.

Education and Information

Education:

The Butte Unit Fire Prevention Bureau promoted the 'One Less Spark One Less Wildfire' message by designing and managing the installation of eight two-sided Fire Prevention Education signs on major roadways in the State Responsibility Area of Butte County. The purpose of the signs is to remind residents to maintain defensible space around their homes and to limit their use of outdoor power equipment after 10:00 AM. The message was spread further throughout Butte County by placing ads in the Chico ER, Paradise Post and Oroville/Mercury Newspapers.

80, 638 residents were reached during education programs such as “Fire PALS”, Butte County Fair Kiosk and hours teaching the public by fire station personnel during station tours or school presentations.

Information:

The Public Information function was covered 24/7 by sharing the coverage between the Unit FPSII, Training Officer and the ECC. The overall goal of this function is to keep our customers, the citizens of Butte County, informed by providing timely and accurate information to the varied media market in the North State.

The Call Center was active four times during 2017.

2017 Call Center Activations

Emergency	Number of Days	Total Calls
Oroville Dam Emergency	8	8,724
Wall Fire	6	5,245 s
Ponderosa Fire	7	4,651
Cherokee/LaPorte Fire	5	3,172

This was the third year that social media and the new Mass Public Notification System was used for Incident information and evacuation notifications. CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire posted 795 times in social media and the Mass Notification System was activated for four fire incidents and the Oroville Dam Spillway Incident.

During the year, 33 News Releases and Facts Sheets were sent out to the public and media.

Vegetation Management

Drought augmentation funding allowed the Butte Unit to implement hazardous fuel reduction activities with a crew of 18 firefighters during the spring months of 2017 and another 11 firefighters continued this work briefly in the fall prior to the fires in Southern California. Approximately 510 acres were treated on seven separate projects during 2017. Sixty-one acres were broadcast burned and several hundred acres are prepared or in the planning process. Money collected through the SRA Fire Prevention Fund was used at the Unit level to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels along Mud Creek and Vilas Roads in the community

of Cohasset to reduce roadside starts and improve the ingress and egress for the public and firefighting resources.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council oversaw the work of two watershed and forest health projects in the community of Magalia and completed CEQA for 1066 acres in the area to leverage future projects. Additional fuels reduction successes included the Chipper program and projects with Butte County Sheriff Work Crews. Preparations were made to implement fuels reduction in partnership with Department of Water Resources in early 2018. There were three devastating wildfires in the county during the year. Butte County Fire Safe Council assisted in Wildfire recovery outreach by acting as a networking forum and providing residents assistance for burned vegetation.

Butte County Public Works cleared the right of way areas along Centerville, Nimshew and Humbug Roads utilizing an SRA Grant. This work will also assist with reducing roadside starts and the ingress and egress of the public and firefighting resources.

Volunteerism

VIP Programs:

The VIP roster for 2017 includes 21 members.

Call Center

The Butte Unit has a solid list of 21 trained and experienced Call Takers. These VIP's and paid staff attend yearly training and can be activated at a moment's notice.

The dedication of these VIP's is the back-bone for public information during a major emergency.

Events

In 2017 there were 35 events, programs, or opportunities to volunteer. Many VIP's assisted in these programs.

Community

Butte County Fire Safe Council

Butte County Fire Safe Council; has continued its partnerships with 6 community fire safe councils and B.A.R.E. on the Ridge, which share wildfire safety education information at their meetings and community events. Presentations were made to a variety of community groups. Social media, website and printed publications continued

to be effective methods of providing the community wildfire information. Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects.

 4/13/18

Darren Read, Fire Chief

Date

2018

Annual Accomplishments Reporting

(2018)

Fire Planning

Concow/Yankee Hill, Forbestown, Forest Ranch, Feather Falls Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) and Paradise have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. Planning for landscape level Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) continued and was again the feature of the December wildfire safety summit with over 100 participants. This was a healing event bringing together partners who had been heavily impacted by the Camp Fire. The CWPP working group has grown in number with new partners engaging in landscape level planning. Butte County Fire Safe Council continues to help steer the working group and planning process. A partner organization called the Sacramento River Watershed Program received a grant from CAL FIRE to develop a data portal featuring the work of Butte County Fire Safe Council's CWPP Large Scale Planning efforts.

2018 Law Enforcement Statistics

Type of Activity	Number
Arrest for Arson	2
Arrests for Other Crimes	3
Citations Issued	32
Warrants Authorized	3
Assists other LE Agency	6
Detail Investigations	119
Criminal Subpoenas Received	88

Defensible Space Inspections/Weed Abatement Enforcement

Butte Unit fire station personnel completed 4372 defensible space inspections and Forestry Aids completed 4041 for a total of 8413 inspections. Public Resource Code 4291 violations were found during 1040 inspections. 76 LE38 or hazard inspections were completed as well.

Public Education/Information

Education Programs	937
Residents Reached	100,000
Media Releases/Fact Sheets	58
Volunteers in Prevention	28
Social Media Postings	962

Butte County Fire Safe Council Community Firewise Education

Butte County Fire Safe Council has continued its partnerships with 6 community fire safe councils and B.A.R.E. on the Ridge, which share wildfire safety education information at their meetings and community events. Presentations were made to a variety of community groups. Social media, website and printed publications continued to be effective methods of providing the community wildfire information. Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects.

Fire Marshal and Fire Protection Planning

Parade/Festival Permits	15	Pre-Development Review	6
Lot Line Determinations	2	Tentative Parcel Maps	5
Lot Line Adjustments	11	Tentative Subdivision Maps	4
Land Conservation Agreements	11	Use Permits	3
Parcel Merger	4	Minor Use Permits	6
Mining Permits	1	Commercial Building Permits	62
Map Extensions	2	Pre-Construction Inspections	360
General Plan Amendments	3	Final Inspections	121

Call Center Activations

The call center was staffed for 20 days in 2018 for three fires. The Call Center Staff received an astonishing 23,000 calls in 18 days for the Camp Fire averaging almost 1300 calls per day. The Stoney Fire and Simmons Fire required the Call Center to be open for just one day each. Forty calls were received for the Stoney and 90 for the Simmons.

Resource Management and Forest Practice Enforcement

Timber Harvest Plans Received	11	Pre-Harvest Inspections	8
Exemptions Received	218	Active Inspections	16
Open THPs	45	Inactive Inspections	7
Active THPs	16	Post-Harvest Inspections	18
Active Nonindustrial Mgt. Plan	1	Maintenance Inspections	4
Completion Report Inspections	6	Citation Case Reports Submitted	1
Stocking Report Inspections	6	Notices of Violation Issued	26

Fuels Reductions CAL-FIRE

Thinning	190 Acres
Chipping	24 Acres
Piling	87 Acres
Pile Burning	114 Acres
Broadcast Burning	396 Acres

Fuels Reductions Butte County Fire Safe Council

The Butte County Fire Safe Council oversaw the work of two watershed and forest health projects in the community of Magalia. One grant was funded by CAL FIRE around the Paradise Pines Property Owners Association and the other funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy in the Little Butte Creek Watershed. A project was also undertaken at the Bidwell Trail in Oroville in partnership with the Department of Water Resources. Additional fuels reduction successes included the Chipper program and projects with Butte County Sheriff Work Crews. Grants

were written and received for four fuels reduction projects in the communities of; Paradise/Magalia, Forest Ranch, Forbestown/Clipper Mills and Berry Creek. These projects will be implemented in 2019. Grants were also prepared to be submitted in 2019 for Camp Fire Recovery and the community of Cohasset.



David Hawks, Fire Chief



Date

2019

Annual Accomplishments Reporting
(2019)

Fire Planning

Concow/Yankee Hill, Forbestown, Forest Ranch, Feather Falls Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) and Paradise have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. Additionally, a few other communities are in the process of becoming recognized by the NFPA as being FIREWISE. Planning for landscape level Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) continued and was again the feature of the December wildfire safety summit with over 100 participants. The CWPP working group has grown in number with new partners engaging in landscape level planning. Butte County Fire Safe Council continues to help steer the working group and planning process. Sacramento River Watershed Program developed a data portal featuring the work of Butte County Fire Safe Council's CWPP Large Scale Planning efforts with help from a grant from CAL FIRE.

2019 Law Enforcement Statistics

Type of Activity	Number
Arrest for Arson	3
Arrests for Other Crimes	4
Citations Issued	64
Warrants Authorized	4
Assists other LE Agency	12
Detail Investigations	142
Criminal Subpoenas Received	67

Defensible Space Inspections/Weed Abatement Enforcement

Butte Unit fire station personnel completed 1398 defensible space inspections and Forestry Aids completed 2852 for a total of 4250 inspections. Public Resource Code 4291 violations were found during 830 inspections. 51 LE38 or hazard inspections were completed as well.

Public Education/Information

Education Programs	937
Residents Reached	100,000
Media Releases/Fact Sheets	58
Volunteers in Prevention	28
Social Media Postings	962

Call Center Activations

In 2019 there was only 1 activation of the call center during the Swedes Fire. The Call Center was staffed for 1 day in which processed a total of 1,010 calls for instruction and information.

Butte County Fire Safe Council Community Firewise Education

Butte County Fire Safe Council has continued its partnerships with 6 community fire safe councils and B.A.R.E. on the Ridge, which share wildfire safety education information at their meetings and community events. Presentations were made to a variety of community groups. Social media, website and printed publications continued to be effective methods of providing the community wildfire information. Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects.

Resource Management and Forest Practice Enforcement

Exemptions Received	758	Pre-Harvest Inspections	1
Open THPs	41	Active Inspections	232
Active THPs	16	Inactive Inspections	166
Completion Report Inspections	6	Post-Harvest Inspections	364
Stocking Report Inspections	6	Maintenance Inspections	10

Fire Marshal and Fire Protection Planning

Admin Permits	10	Pre-Development Review	6
Parade/Festival Permits	8	Residential Plan Review	788
Use permits	5	Commercial Plan Review	131
Minor Use Permits	7	Tentative Parcel Maps	9
Lot Line Determinations	3	Tentative Subdivision Maps	2
Lot Line Corrections	2	Final Inspections - Residential	284
Lot Line Adjustments	22	Final Inspections - Commercial	104
Parcel Merger	8	General Plan Amendments	4
Tentative Sub Division Map	2	Land Conservation Agreements	19
Map Extensions	2	Title 19 Inspections	82

Fuels Reductions CAL-FIRE/Butte County Fire Safe Council

Fuel Reduction Activities	Treated Acres	Personnel Hours	Equipment Hours
Fuel Breaks*	431	3,279	2,697
* Forbestown Ridge Fuel Break			
Fuel Reduction	79	1,248	901
Right of Way Clearance	80	269	487
Broadcast Burning	440	197	79
Total	1,030	4,993	4,164

* The Forbestown Ridge Fuel Break identified as one of Governor's 35 projects in Executive Order N-5-95. The 600-foot-wide project runs from Swedes Flat Rd, through Fire Camp Rd, crossing Forbestown Rd going through the community of Hurleton and over Stringtown Mountain stopping at the South Fork of the Feather River treating 315 acres. Eight communities will benefit from the fuel reduction completed in this project.

Fuels Reductions Butte County Fire Safe Council

The Butte County Fire Safe Council continued to do fire safety community education, fuels reduction and forest thinning projects as well as landscape level planning. However, the beginning of the year was heavily focused on recovery in the aftermath of the Camp Fire. The organization expanded its mission to include recovery and began assisting residents with post fire dead and dying tree removals. A tremendous amount of local, state and federal officials visited the Camp Fire area and organization was invited to present at many these events. A series of success stories were developed in print and power point format to share how fuels reduction prior to the fire had resulted in saved lives, forests and community assets.

Fuels reduction work began on the five grants received for the communities of; Paradise/Magalia, Forest Ranch, Forbestown/Clipper Mills and Berry Creek. Camp Fire tree removal was a significant undertaking and helped hundreds of residents with the safety hazard of falling dead and dying trees. Funding for some of those efforts was provided by the North Valley Community Foundation, Butte Strong Grant. It became evident that the massive amount of dead and dying trees in the community could be best processed in a local biomass processing facility which would produce jobs and products for the community. The organization formed a group of stakeholders to develop partnerships that explored a path forward for biomass processing.

Work continued with the Forest Health Project funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) in the Little Butte Creek Watershed and in partnership with the Department of Water Resources Fuel Load Management Plan.

Additional grants were written for Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (SNC), Cohasset and the Mt. Ida community (CAL FIRE). The organization grew in both Board members and staff with an increase in staff from 3 to 11. A new fuels crew was developed by the organization to support Camp Fire recovery at Magalia Reservoir through funding with the Alliance for Work Force Development.

Additional fuels reduction successes included the Chipper program and projects with Butte County Sheriff Work Crews.

A Data Portal for Forest Restoration was developed by the partner Sacramento River Watershed Program to facilitate Landscape Level Planning for the CWPP project list with the CWPP working group.



David Hawks, Fire Chief

04/20/2020

Date

2020**Annual Accomplishments Reporting****Fire Planning**

Concow/Yankee Hill, Forbestown, Forest Ranch, Feather Falls, Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) and Paradise have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. Additionally, a few other communities are in the process of becoming recognized by the NFPA as being FIREWISE. Planning for landscape level Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) continued and was again the feature of the December wildfire safety summit with an Action Plan component for both Pre-and Post-Wildfire areas. Sacramento River Watershed Program's data portal, which was launched in 2019 was updated and continues to support CWPP signatories in obtaining grant funding, CWPP project submission and information sharing.

To help develop and implement the Action Plan County Department heads have formed a Wildfire Safety Task Force. Butte County Fire Safe Council continues to help steer wildfire safety planning process by working with funding agencies to identify forest thinning and fuels reduction projects County wide. In 2020 a companion list of projects needing implementation in the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was created and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The organization strives to create "shovel" ready projects with landowner permission and environmental compliance so that the pace and scale of forest restoration and community protection can increase.

2020 Law Enforcement Statistics

Type of Activity	Number
Arrest for Arson	9
Arrests for Other Crimes	1
Citations Issued	17
Warrants Authorized	2
Assists other LE Agency	6
Detail Investigations	111
Criminal Subpoenas Received	84

Fire Marshal and Fire Protection Planning

Admin Permits	5	Pre-Development Review	2
Parade/Festival Permits	2	Residential Plan Review	632
Use permits	2	Commercial Plan Review	45
Minor Use Permits	7	Tentative Parcel Maps	12
Lot Line Determinations	5	Tentative Subdivision Maps	4
Lot Line Corrections	2	Final Inspections - Residential	414
Lot Line Adjustments	12	Final Inspections - Commercial	43
Parcel Merger	10	General Plan Amendments	4
Tentative Sub Division Map	4	Land Conservation Agreements	3
Map Extensions	2	Title 19 Inspections	89

Defensible Space Inspections/Weed Abatement Enforcement

Butte Unit fire station personnel completed 1,038 defensible space inspections and Forestry Aids completed 3,310 for a total of 4,348 inspections. Public Resource Code 4291 violations were found during 967 inspections. 186 LE38 or hazard inspections were completed as well.

Call Center Activations

In 2020 there were 2 activations of the call center, for the 2020 Lightning Complex and during the North Complex. The Call Center was staffed for 17 total days for both events. During that time the center processed a total of 10,726 calls for instruction and information.

Public Education/Information

2020 was a challenging year for public education and information. We still managed to reach essentially every resident of Butte County throughout the year through local news and social media. The CAL FIRE/Butte County Facebook page @CALFIREButteCo has 31,661 followers and our Twitter page @CALFIRE_ButteCo has 36,422 followers. Those followers and others were reached with 810 Twitter posts in 2020. Those posts led to 13,853,000 impressions, 334,857 profile visits, and attracted 5,807 new Twitter followers from the end of 2019. In addition, we were selected by the non-profit "Hero In

You Foundation" to receive fire preparedness activity books for kids featuring their mascot, Rocket. We took delivery of 55 boxes of the activity books late in 2020 and are working to distribute them to the community. We also continue to promote Captain Cal, CAL FIRE's popular new mascot who will be joining firefighters at community events and school visits when they are able to resume.

Education Programs	263
Residents Reached	220,000
Media Releases/Fact Sheets	142
Volunteers in Prevention	17
Social Media Postings	1,195

Butte County Fire Safe Council Community Firewise Education

Butte County Fire Safe Council has continued its partnerships with community fire safe councils, which share wildfire safety education information at their meetings and community events. Social media, website and printed publications continued to be effective methods of providing the community wildfire information. Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects.

Resource Management and Forest Practice Enforcement

Exemptions Received	345	Pre-Harvest Inspections	1
Open THPs	38	Active Inspections	79
Active THPs	8	Inactive Inspections	46
Completion Report Inspections	51	Post-Harvest Inspections	71
Stocking Report Inspections	28	Maintenance Inspections	14

Fuels Reductions CAL-FIRE/Butte County Fire Safe Council

Fuel Reduction Activities	Treated Acres	Personnel Hours	Equipment Hours
Fuel Breaks	526	4947	3394
Fuel Reduction	528	5740	3173
Right of Way Clearance	115	336	677
Broadcast Burning	734	231	96
Total	1,903	11,254	7,340

Fuels Reductions Butte County Fire Safe Council

The Butte County Fire Safe Council continued to do fire safety community education, fuels reduction and forest thinning projects as well as landscape level planning. However, the beginning of the year was heavily focused on recovery in the aftermath of the Camp Fire. The organization expanded its mission to include recovery and began assisting residents with post fire dead and dying tree removals. A tremendous amount of local, state and federal officials visited the Camp Fire area and organization was invited to present at many these events. A series of success stories were developed in print and power point format to share how fuels reduction prior to the fire had resulted in saved lives, forests and community assets.

Fuels reduction work began on the five grants received for the communities of; Paradise/Magalia, Forest Ranch, Forbestown/Clipper Mills and Berry Creek. Camp Fire tree removal was a significant undertaking and helped hundreds of residents with the safety hazard of falling dead and dying trees. Funding for some of those efforts was provided by the North Valley Community Foundation, Butte Strong Grant. It became evident that the massive amount of dead and dying trees in the community could be best processed in a local biomass processing facility which would produce jobs and products for the community. The organization formed a group of stakeholders to develop partnerships that explored a path forward for biomass processing.

Work continued with the Forest Health Project funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) in the Little Butte Creek Watershed and in partnership with the Department of Water Resources Fuel Load Management Plan.

Additional grants were written for Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (SNC), Cohasset and the Mt. Ida community (CAL FIRE). The organization grew in both Board members and staff with an increase in staff from 3 to 11. A new fuels crew was developed by the organization to support Camp Fire recovery at Magalia Reservoir through funding with the Alliance for Work Force Development.

Additional fuels reduction successes included the Chipper program and projects with Butte County Sheriff Work Crews.

A Data Portal for Forest Restoration was developed by the partner Sacramento River Watershed Program to facilitate Landscape Level Planning for the CWPP project list with the CWPP working group.

X

John Messina
CAL FIRE Butte, Unit Chief - Butte Co. Fire Chief

2021**Annual Accomplishments Reporting****Fire Planning**

Concow/Yankee Hill, Forbestown, Forest Ranch, Feather Falls, Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) and Paradise have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. Additionally, a few other communities are in the process of becoming recognized by the NFPA as being FIREWISE. Planning for landscape level Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) continued and was again the feature of the December wildfire safety summit with an Action Plan component for both Pre-and Post-Wildfire areas.

To help develop and implement the Action Plan County Department heads have formed a Wildfire Safety Task Force. Butte County Fire Safe Council continues to help steer wildfire safety planning process by working with funding agencies to identify forest thinning and fuels reduction projects County wide. In 2020 a companion list of projects needing implementation in the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was created and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The organization strives to create “shovel” ready projects with landowner permission and environmental compliance so that the pace and scale of forest restoration and community protection can increase.

Law Enforcement Statistics

Type of Activity	Number
Arrest for Arson	12
Arrests for Other Crimes	2
Citations Issued	12
Warrants Authorized	4
Assists other LE Agency	3
Detail Investigations	90
PRA/Subpoena Requests	135
Criminal Subpoenas Received	124

Fire Marshal and Fire Protection Planning

Admin Permits	2	Pre-Development Review	4
Parade/Festival Permits	1	Residential Plan Review	579
Use permits	6	Commercial Plan Review	89
Minor Use Permits	5	Tentative Parcel Maps	12
Lot Line Determinations	10	Tentative Subdivision Maps	7
Lot Line Corrections	0	Final Inspections - Residential	392
Lot Line Adjustments	20	Final Inspections - Commercial	45
Parcel Merger	7	General Plan Amendments	3
Tentative Sub Division Map	7	Land Conservation Agreements	1
Map Extensions	1	Title 19 Inspections	99

Defensible Space Inspections/Weed Abatement Enforcement

Butte Unit personnel completed 7,296 defensible space inspections in 2021.

Public Resource Code 4291 violations were found during 1,398 inspections and Butte County Chapter 38A violations were found during 2,015 inspections. 186 LE38 or hazard inspections were completed as well.

Call Center Activations

In 2021 there was 1 activation of the call center for the 2021 Dixie Fire. The Call Center was staffed for 14 total days, during which the center processed a total of 1,957 calls for instruction and information.

Public Education/Information

The Public Information Office was able to reach essentially every resident of Butte County throughout the year through local news and social media. In addition, since the Dixie Fire started in Butte County, our Public Information Officers (PIOs) were the initial point of contact for residents seeking fire information as it spread into Plumas, Tehama, Shasta, and Lassen counties, expanding Butte County PIOs reach to tens of thousands of additional residents.

As of December 31, 2021, the CAL FIRE/Butte County Facebook page @CALFIREButteCo had 47,427 followers (15,776 increase from 2020) and our Twitter page @CALFIRE_ButteCo has 42,858 followers (5,985 increase from 2020). Those followers and others were reached with over 150 Facebook posts and 788 Tweets in 2021. The Twitter posts alone led to 1,385,200 profile visits, 14,150,000 impressions, and 3,868 “mentions”. In addition, we distributed 6,450 fire preparedness activity books for kids that were provided by the non-profit “Hero In You Foundation”. We also continue to promote Captain Cal, CAL FIRE's popular new mascot who will be joining firefighters at community events and school visits as they resume post-pandemic.

Education Programs	24
Residents Reached	300,000 ⁴
Media Releases/Fact Sheets	58
Volunteers in Prevention	30
Social Media Postings	988

Butte County Fire Safe Council Community Firewise Education

Butte County Fire Safe Council has continued its partnerships with community fire safe councils, which share wildfire safety education information at their meetings and community events. Social media, website and printed publications continued to be effective methods of providing the community wildfire information. Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects. Wildfire Ready Raccoon engages youth through its music video, book, and guest appearances at schools and parades.

⁴ Includes residents reached by Butte County Public Information Officers during the 2021 Dixie Fire that started in Butte County and burned into Plumas, Lassen, Shasta, and Tehama Counties

Resource Management and Forest Practice Enforcement

Timber Harvest Plans (THP) Received	0	Pre-Harvest Inspections	0
Exemptions Received	69	Active Inspections	85
Open THPs	33	Inactive Inspections	20
Active THPs	0	Post-Harvest Inspections	51
Active NTMPs	0	Maintenance Inspections	11
Completion Report Inspections	65	Citation Case Reports Submitted	0
Stocking Report Inspections	5	Notices of Violation Issued	3

Fuels Reductions CAL-FIRE/Butte County Fire Safe Council

Fuel Reduction Activities	Treated Acres	Personnel Hours	Equipment Hours
Fuel Breaks	31	130	31
Fuel Reduction	1,276	10,783	5,428
Right of Way Clearance	385	Not Available	Not Available
Broadcast Burning	1,265	1,132	434
Chipper	719	Not Available	Not Available
RAP/Hazard Tree Removal	281	Not Available	Not Available
Total	3,957	12,045	5,893

Fuels Reductions Butte County Fire Safe Council

The Butte County Fire Safe Council continued to do fire safety community education, fuels reduction and forest thinning projects as well as landscape level planning. After the 2018 Camp Fire, the organization expanded its mission to include recovery and begin assisting residents with post-fire dead and dying tree removals. A series of success stories were developed in print and PowerPoint format to share how fuels reduction prior to the fire had resulted in saved lives, forests and community assets. The 2020 North Complex fires created another post-fire landscape with tremendous need for hazard tree removal.

Fuels reduction work has been active with grants received for the communities of Paradise/Magalia, Forest Ranch, Forbestown/Clipper Mills, Cohasset, Mount Ida, and Berry Creek. Camp Fire and North Complex tree removal was a significant undertaking and helped hundreds of residents with the safety hazard of falling dead and dying trees. Funding for some of those efforts was provided by the North Valley Community Foundation, Butte Strong Grant. It became evident that the massive amount of dead and dying trees in the community could be best processed in a local biomass processing facility which would produce jobs and products for the community. The organization formed a group of stakeholders to develop partnerships that explored a path forward for biomass processing.

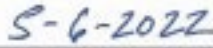
Work continued with the Forest Health Project funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) in the Little Butte Creek and Big Chico Creek Watersheds as well as in partnership with the Department of Water Resources Fuel Load Management Plan.

The organization grew in both Board members and staff with an increase in staff from 11 to 20. The new fuels crew which was developed by the organization to support Camp Fire recovery at Magalia Reservoir through funding with the Alliance for Work Force Development expanded to help with the resident assistance program.

Additional fuels reduction successes included the Chipper program and projects with Butte County Sheriff Work Crews.



Garrett Sjolund, Fire Chief



Date

2022**Annual Accomplishments Reporting****Fire Planning**

Concow/Yankee Hill, Forbestown, Forest Ranch, Feather Falls, Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills), and Paradise have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. Lake Wyandotte has recently obtained FIREWISE Community status. Additionally, a few other communities are in the process of becoming recognized by the NFPA as being FIREWISE. Planning for landscape level Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) continued and was again the feature of the December wildfire safety summit with an Action Plan component for both Pre-and Post-Wildfire areas.

To help develop and implement the Action Plan County Department heads have formed a Wildfire Safety Task Force. Butte County Fire Safe Council continues to help steer wildfire safety planning process by working with funding agencies to identify forest thinning and fuels reduction projects County wide. In 2020, a companion list of projects needing implementation in the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was created and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The organization strives to create “shovel” ready projects with landowner permission and environmental compliance so that the pace and scale of forest restoration and community protection can increase.

Defensible Space Inspections/Weed Abatement Enforcement

Butte Unit personnel completed 8,711 defensible space inspections in 2022. Public Resource Code 4291 violations were found during 1,704 inspections and Butte County Chapter 38A violations were found during 2,682 inspections.

Following the initial inspection, compliance rates for improved parcels in Butte County increased from 66% to 82%. A total of 2,055 second inspections were completed on improved parcels.

Assembly Bill 38 (AB38) requires a defensible space inspection to be conducted upon the sale of real property in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone after July 1, 2021. There were 103 AB38 inspections in 2022.

Law Enforcement Statistics

Type of Activity	Number
Arrest for Arson	13
Arrests for Other Crimes	3
Citations Issued	1
Warrants Authorized	10
Assists other LE Agency	28
Detailed Investigations	62
PRA/Subpoena Requests	169
Criminal Subpoenas Received	79
LE38/Hazard Inspections	38

Fire Marshal and Fire Protection Planning

Admin Permits	2	Pre-Development Review	8
Parade/Festival Permits	3	Residential Plan Review	462
Use permits	2	Non-Residential Plan Review	69
Minor Use Permits	3	Tentative Parcel Maps	10
Legal Lot Determinations	5	Tentative Subdivision Maps	2
Lot Line Corrections	0	Final Inspections-Residential	390
Lot Line Adjustments	25	Final Inspections–Non-Residential	52
Parcel Merger	7	General Plan Amendments	0
Title 19 Inspections	132	Land Conservation Agreements	0
Map Extensions	0		

Public Education/Information

Thanks to its aggressive campaign of social media and traditional media outreach, the Public Information Office reached virtually every resident of Butte County 2022 with public information and fire prevention information. Despite the lack of major fire activity in the county last year, we continued the important work of expanding our reach locally and across California, the United States, and the world.

As we begin 2023, our social media pages continue growing, outpacing many other organizations of similar size and scope. The CAL FIRE/Butte County Facebook page @CALFIREButteCo has nearly 50,000 followers and our Twitter page @CALFIRE_ButteCo has almost 45,000 followers. Both numbers represent an increase of about 2,000 followers on each platform over the prior year. In response to the makeup of Butte County residents, we are building the Instagram page @CALFIRE_ButteCo, and currently have more than 3,500 followers. This is evidence that we are reaching a younger audience, who are often less engaged in fire prevention education efforts. Our very active social media campaign broadcast 1,008 posts across all platforms in 2022.

We work closely with the Butte County Fire Safe Council to bring fire prevention education to residents, including joining them in school programs throughout Butte County. We also continue to attend public events countywide, including the Butte County Fair, the Salmon Festival at the Oroville Fish Hatchery, Red Suspenders Day in Gridley, and many other community gatherings, with CAL FIRE's popular mascot, Captain Cal, on hand for many of these events.

Education Programs	87
Residents Reached	209,120
Media Releases/Fact Sheets	45
Volunteers in Prevention	30
Social Media Postings	1,008

Call Center Activations

In 2021 there was 1 activation of the call center for the 2021 Dixie Fire. The Call Center was staffed for 14 total days, during which the center processed a total of 1,957 calls for instruction and information. In 2022, the call center was not activated.

Butte County Fire Safe Council Community Firewise Education

Butte County Fire Safe Council has continued its partnerships with community fire safe councils, which share wildfire safety education information at their meetings and community events. Social media, website and printed publications continued to be effective methods of providing the community wildfire information. Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities. The volunteers from these communities participate in wildfire safety activities, serve on the Board of Directors, work on their properties and on community fire safe council projects. Wildfire Ready Raccoon engages youth through its music video, book, and guest appearances at schools and parades.

Resource Management and Forest Practice Enforcement

Timber Harvest Plans (THP) Received	0	Active Inspections	84
Exemptions Received	68	Inactive Inspections	19
Emergency THPs Received	27	Pre-Harvest Inspections	0
Open THPs	26	Post-Harvest Inspections	74
Active THPs	7	Maintenance Inspections	31
Active NTMPs	0	Notices of Violation Issued	4
Completion Report Inspections	50	Open Emergencies	125
Stocking Report Inspections	12	Open Exemptions	137
Citation Case Reports Submitted	0		

Fuel Reduction Activities-CAL FIRE Butte Unit

Fuel Reduction Activities	Treated Acres	Personnel Hours	Equipment Hours
Fuel Breaks	Included in Fuel Reduction Total On Next Line		
Right of Way Clearance	Included in Fuel Reduction Total On Next Line		
Fuel Reduction	1,143	8,469	6,695
Broadcast Burning	762	2,876	1,589
Total	1,905	11,445	8,284
Number of Work Days	234		

Fuel Reduction Activities-Butte County Fire Safe Council

Fuel Reduction Activities	Treated Acres	Personnel Hours	Equipment Hours
Fuel Breaks	Included in Fuel Reduction Total On Next Line		
Fuel Reduction	1,323	Not Available	Not Available
Right of Way Clearance	130	Not Available	Not Available
Broadcast Burning	60	Not Available	Not Available
Chipper	863	Not Available	Not Available
Resident Assistance Program (RAP)	119	Not Available	Not Available
Hazard Tree Removal	228	Not Available	Not Available
Total	2,723	Not Available	Not Available

Fuel Reduction-Butte County Fire Safe Council

The Butte County Fire Safe Council continued to do fire safety community education, fuels reduction and forest thinning projects as well as landscape level planning. After the 2018 Camp Fire, the organization expanded its mission to include recovery and begin assisting residents with post-fire dead and dying tree removals. A series of success stories were developed in print and PowerPoint format to share how fuels reduction prior to the fire had resulted in saved lives, forests, and community assets. The 2020 North Complex fires created another post-fire landscape with tremendous need for hazard tree removal.

Fuels reduction work has been active with grants received for the communities of Paradise/Magalia, Forest Ranch, Forbestown/Clipper Mills, Cohasset, Mount Ida, and Berry Creek. Camp Fire and North Complex tree removal was a significant undertaking and helped hundreds of residents with the safety hazard of falling dead and dying trees. Funding for some of those efforts was provided by the North Valley Community Foundation, Butte Strong Grant. It became evident that the massive amount of dead and dying trees in the community could be best processed in a local biomass processing facility which would produce jobs and products for the community. The organization formed a group of stakeholders to develop partnerships that explored a path forward for biomass processing.

Work continued with the Forest Health Project funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) in the Little Butte Creek and Big Chico Creek Watersheds as well as in partnership with the Department of Water Resources Fuel Load Management Plan.

The organization grew in both Board members and staff with an increase in staff from 11 to 20 in 2021. The new fuels crew which was developed by the organization to support Camp Fire recovery at Magalia Reservoir through funding with the Alliance for Work Force Development expanded to help with the resident assistance program.

Additional fuels reduction successes included the Chipper program and projects with Butte County Sheriff Work Crews.



Garrett Sjolund, Fire Chief

5-3-2023
Date

2023**Annual Accomplishments Reporting****Fire Planning**

Cohasset, Falcons Pointe Dr (East Chico), Forest Ranch, Humboldt Woodlands (West Forest Ranch), Stirling City, Troy Estates (Magalia), Bille Park Neighborhood (Paradise), Concow/Yankee Hill, Berry Creek, Lake Wyandotte (East Oroville), Forbestown, and Merry Mountain Village (Clipper Mills) have maintained their FIREWISE Community status. Additionally, a few other communities are in the process of becoming recognized by the NFPA as being FIREWISE.

Planning for landscape level Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) continued and was again a topic of discussion at the annual wildfire safety summit with an Action Plan component for both Pre-and Post-Wildfire areas.

In addition, the process of developing the planned 2025 update to the Butte County CWPP has begun. The vision is to completely reimagine the content, layout, and design of the document as well as develop an interactive web-based portal that will enable the general public to easily understand projects located in their area of interest. The member agencies of the recently formed Butte County Collaborative Group (BCCG) will play an important role in the development of this project.

Development of the BCCG “Hub Site” has continued. The Hub Site displays all fuel reduction, broadcast burn, and other projects from numerous partner agencies and organizations in a single, consolidated online map. This site has become a

To help develop and implement the Action Plan, County Department heads have formed a Wildfire Safety Task Force. Butte County Fire Safe Council continues to help steer the wildfire safety planning process by working with funding agencies to identify forest thinning and fuels reduction projects county wide. In 2020, a companion list of projects needing implementation in the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was created and has been reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The organization strives to create “shovel” ready projects with landowner permission and environmental compliance so that the pace and scale of forest restoration and community protection can increase.

Defensible Space Inspections/Weed Abatement Enforcement

Butte Unit personnel completed 5,741 defensible space inspections in 2023. Public Resource Code 4291 violations were found during 928 inspections and Butte County Chapter 38A violations were found during 1,285 inspections.

In 2023, the compliance rates for initial defensible space inspection on improved parcels in Butte County was 75%. Subsequent inspections of parcels that were not in compliance during the first inspection brought the total compliance rate to 87%. Comparatively, in 2022, compliance rates for first inspections on improved parcels rose from 66%, increasing to 83% upon reinspection.

Assembly Bill 38 (AB38) requires a defensible space inspection to be conducted upon the sale of real property in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone after July 1, 2021. There were 126 AB38 inspections in 2023 and 103 in 2022.

Law Enforcement Statistics

Type of Activity	Number
Arrest for Arson	17
Arrests for Other Crimes	6
Citations Issued	13
Warrants Authorized	12
Assists other LE Agency	48
Detailed Investigations	95
PRA Requests	150
Subpoena Requests	56
Criminal Subpoenas Received	51
LE38/Hazard Inspections	70

Fire Marshal and Fire Protection Planning

Administrative Permits	8	Pre-Development Review	5
Parade/Festival Permits	3	Residential Plan Review	436
Use permits	4	Non-Residential Plan Review	65
Minor Use Permits	4	Tentative Parcel Maps	8
Legal Lot Determinations	3	Tentative Subdivision Maps	3
Lot Line Corrections	0	Final Inspections-Residential	358
Lot Line Adjustments	15	Final Inspections–Non-Residential	39
Parcel Merger	2	General Plan Amendments	0
Title 19 Inspections	163	Land Conservation Agreements	0
Map Extensions	0		

Public Education/Information

The Public Information Office in Butte County oversees many varied projects, supported by the Fire Prevention Bureau, fire station, and administration personnel in cooperation with CAL FIRE's Sacramento Communications office. Local PIOs attend monthly meetings with PIOs from partner agencies throughout the county.

Information

The function of distribution of Public Information was covered 24/7 between two staff PIOs and the Emergency Command Center. The goal of this function is to keep our customers – the citizens of Butte County – informed, both by providing timely and accurate information to the various North State media outlets and directly engaging the public through social media. Our social media presence continues growing as residents are learning this is the best way to get the most accurate, timely information. Our Facebook page has more than 52,000 followers and the 386 posts on that platform gathered a reach of more than 10 million in 2023. Twitter and Instagram also continue growing, and we started a CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department YouTube channel this year, featuring

some of our best videos, including a compilation of clips of Tanker 93 from the Chico Air Attack Base dropping retardant on wildfires.

Education

Each year, thousands of Butte County residents of all ages attend dozens of fire education events, including school programs, fair exhibits, and other community meetings. A few examples of long-running, popular community gatherings are the Butte County Fair, Gridley's Red Suspenders Day, Oroville's Salmon Festival, National Night Out, and Christmas and 4th of July parades. Presentations cover topics including "Stop, Drop, and Roll", Home Safety, Defensible Space, Wildfire Safety, and many more.

We partner with the Butte County Fire Safe Council to present in-classroom programs in schools throughout the county. We assisted the Fire Safe Council in their 6th grade curriculum and will expand that to include more grades in the coming years.

We continue to provide fire engine visits to schools as well. These visits, conducted largely by firefighters, bring a very personal touch to the messages like the popular "Firefighters are Friends" program, underscoring our department's commitment to customer service.

Additionally, Fire Hazard inspectors educate citizens on developing knowledge and problem-solving skills to meet the standards in PRC 4291 and Chapter 38A of the Butte County Code. 16,000 improved structures have been identified in "high" and "very high" fire danger zones within Butte County. The defensible space inspectors go door to door throughout these areas talking with residents and providing educational material and guidelines on creating the defensible space needed to protect their home. Our Defensible Space Inspectors committed over 1,400 hours on-site for inspections, with over 466 hours engaging directly with Butte County residents, forging vital connections within our community.

We have partnered with a private marketing firm to launch the "Be Ready, Butte" campaign. The aim of this campaign is to increase public awareness of the need for defensible space in 20 small, rural communities in Butte County. Many of these communities are low-income and many residents lack resources and knowledge to care for their properties properly.

Call Center Activations

In 2023, a contract was signed with 2-1-1 to provide call center services during major wildfires in the county. The lack of fire activity during the year meant we didn't need to activate the call center, but we conducted multiple training sessions with 2-1-1, including a scenario-based training where we simulated a growing fire. This gave our employees training on the 2-1-1 system and the 2-1-1 call takers training on handling stressful phone calls. In 2021 there was 1 activation of the call center for the 2021 Dixie Fire. The Call Center was staffed for 14 total days, during which the center processed a total of 1,957 calls for instruction and information. In 2022, the call center was not activated.

Education Programs	73
Residents Reached	110,000
Media Releases/Fact Sheets	44
Volunteers in Prevention	30
Social Media Postings	1,000

Resource Management and Forest Practice Enforcement

Active Inspections	32	Inactive Inspections	3
Exemptions Received	21	Open Exemptions	89
Active THPs	7	Open THPs	21
Active NTMPs	0	Open NTMPs	7
Pre-Harvest Inspections	0	Post-Harvest Inspections	16
Stocking Report Inspections	16	Completion Report Inspections	124
Maintenance Inspections	84	Open Emergencies	44
Timber Harvest Plans (THP) Received	0	Emergency THPs Received	6
Citation Case Reports Submitted	1	Notices of Violation Issued	3

Fuel Reduction Activities-CAL FIRE Butte Unit

Fuel Reduction Activities	Treated Acres	Personnel Hours	Equipment Hours
Fuel Breaks	Included in Fuel Reduction Total On Next Line		
Right of Way Clearance	Included in Fuel Reduction Total On Next Line		
Fuel Reduction	776	11,714	5,194
Broadcast Burning	1,406	8,361	3,432
Total	2,182	20,075	8,626
Number of Work Days	218		

Fuel Reduction Activities-Butte County Fire Safe Council

Fuel Reduction Activities	Treated Acres	Personnel Hours	Equipment Hours
Fuel Breaks	Included in Fuel Reduction Total On Next Line		
Fuel Reduction/Forest Health Projects	2,127	Not Available	Not Available
Right of Way Clearance	400	Not Available	Not Available
Chipper	667	Not Available	Not Available
Grazing	173	Not Available	Not Available
Resident Assistance Program (RAP)	92	Not Available	Not Available
Hazard Tree Removal	55	Not Available	Not Available
Total	3,514	Not Available	Not Available

Fuel Reduction-Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC)

2023 was a year of growth for the BCFSC with an increase from 23 staff to 39 with a corresponding move to a new office location. The organization's role in community recovery continues from catastrophic wildfire impacts resulting from the 2018 Camp Fire, 2020 North Complex and 2021 Dixie fires.

Improvements in GIS and data management programs allowed the organization to undertake large landscape level projects at an unprecedented scale.

The BCFSC supported the development of the "Butte County Collaborative Group" to facilitate greater partnership for projects as well as assisted with the annual Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) community process. As part of this process

relationships were built with multiple partners including the major tribes of Butte County. Improvements in permitting were made to assist in increasing the pace to which projects can be implemented.

There were many accomplishments in the organization mission including:

Community Wildfire Safety Education

- Wildfire Ready Raccoon engages youth through its music video, book, and guest appearances at schools and parades.
- The second annual Paradise Grazing Festival, Adopt-A-Forest, and Wildfire Safety Summit were well attended outreach events.
- Social media, website and printed publications continued to be effective methods of providing the community wildfire information.
- Continued partnership with community fire safe councils is a foundation to generating volunteer hours and creating fire safety communities.

Boots on the Ground Fuel Reduction

A wide range of forest health and wildfire safety projects took place across the Butte County WUI as depicted in the table below including the following areas:

- Cohasset
- Forest Ranch
- Big Chico Creek
- Paradise Ridge
- Little Chico Creek
- Concow/Yankee Hill
- Berry Creek
- Forbestown/Clipper Mills



Garret Sjolund, Unit Chief



Date