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Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Executive Summary

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The Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of Lake County, California have been consulted.
- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect Lake County, California.
- Recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the Plan.

The following entities mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Denise Rushing, Chair
Lake County Board of Supervisors

Ron Bertsch, Mayor
City of Lakeport

Chuck Leonard, Mayor
City of Clearlake

Jim Robbins, President
Lake County Fire Chiefs Association

Ernie Loveless, Unit Chief
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

II. Executive Summary

This Executive Summary summarizes the process and information developed for the Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Detailed information for each of the sections here can be found in the CWPP's relevant chapters and appendices, which are referenced here for more information. In addition to the nine chapters and six appendices, the Plan also includes three reference documents: a full glossary of terms, a list of internet links for further information, and a bibliography of literature cited in the Plan.

This CWPP identifies wildfire risks and hazards, and mitigations to reduce these, in Lake County, California. It also provides residents with a step-by-step guide on how to fire-safe their homes, structures, and community, and how to best contend with an impending wildfire. The appendices and reference sections contain several pages that can be copied or removed for ongoing local reference.

Sponsored by the County of Lake and the Lake County Fire Safe Council, the Lake County CWPP represents the collective knowledge, work, and community efforts of many individuals and organizations. The County hired Registered Professional Forester Tracy Katelman (ForEverGreen Forestry) to create this CWPP.

II.A. Plan Goals, Introduction, and Background

II.A.1. Overall Plan Purpose

The purpose of the Lake County CWPP is:

- To identify priority projects that reduce risks and hazards from wildfire while protecting conservation values in Lake County, California. Goals are to be achieved principally through prioritization and implementation of fuel hazard reduction, community education, and fire-protection projects and activities.
- To provide community priorities for conservation-based fuel reduction on public lands.
- To provide conservation-based fire safety educational information to residents of Lake County
- To provide a positive balance between fire prevention, conservation, and wildlife protection.
- To coordinate fire protection strategies across property boundaries, including evacuation planning and preparation.
- To encourage the integration of private land management goals with community needs and expectations for fire safety.
- To create ecologically sustainable biomass utilization and removal projects within Lake County.
- To provide a guiding document for future actions of the Lake County Fire Safe Council, land management agencies, private landowners and local emergency service providers.
- To provide a guiding document for governmental agencies in developing fire safe practices and policies.
- To meet the requirements under the National Fire Plan and other government funding sources and to provide community direction for federal land management within the planning area.

For more information on CWPP purpose and goals, please see Chapters 1 and 8.

II.A.2. Conservation Principles for Community Wildfire Protection

This document is based on the following Conservation Principles.

1. **Remember the Vegetation (Native Trees and Other Plants)**
 - a. Discover and monitor your forest and vegetation's dynamic changes.
 - b. Act conservatively.
 - c. Protect native species that share your home.
 - d. Keep the oldest and biggest trees.
2. **Remember the Wildlife**
 - a. Provide local wildlife a place to live.
 - b. Provide access to food and water.
 - c. Protect future generations of wildlife.
 - d. Value the standing dead trees.

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- e. Conserve rare and endangered species.
- 3. **Remember the Soil**
 - a. Maintain the life in your soil.
 - b. Ensure that your soil cover is fire safe.
 - c. Minimize erosion.
 - d. Protect your soil after a fire.
- 4. **Remember the People**
 - a. Plan your actions with your neighbors.
 - b. Find experienced workers and treat them well.
 - c. Work with your local fire department.

For more information on the Conservation Principles, please see Chapter 1.

II.A.3. Fire Safe Objectives

Community and firefighter health and safety—with conservation and protection of Lake County’s natural resources—were the issues that led to the development of this Plan. The objectives addressed in this CWPP are:

- To decrease the intensity, and thereby decrease the damage, of wildfires.
- To minimize fire ignitions.
- To increase the permeability of the landscape, a condition whereby natural wildfire can spread through a community with minimal negative impact.
- To increase landscape resiliency, the ability of an ecosystem to return to its balanced state after a natural disturbance—e.g. to encourage a fire-resistant landscape.

These objectives for fire safety drove the development of the assessment and action plan.

For more information on fire safe objectives, please see Chapter 1.

II.A.4. Lake County Profile

Lake County lies in northern California’s Coast Range. It is approximately one hundred miles north of San Francisco, ninety miles northwest of Sacramento, and 35 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Lake County was officially formed in 1861. It lies within the US 1st Congressional District and Senate District 2. In 2007, it is estimated that 64,664 people reside in Lake County.¹

Lake County has a total land base of 1,327 square miles (849,678 acres). Approximately 51% (435,500 acres) of the county is managed publicly by the US Forest Service, US Bureau of Land Management, Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks, and the County of Lake. The northern portion of Lake County is mostly the Mendocino National Forest and includes a portion of the Snow Mountain Wilderness area.

Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake entirely within California, is the centerpiece of the county. It has a total surface area of 68 square miles, more than one hundred miles of shoreline, and sits at an elevation of 1,326 ft. above sea level. Most Lake County communities, and hence population, are situated around the lake.

There are four main watersheds in the county: Upper Cache Creek, Upper Putah Creek, Upper Stoney Creek and the Upper Mainstem Eel River. Cache Creek, portions of which are recognized as a wild and scenic river, flows in the eastern portion of the county. Putah Creek flows in the southern portion of the county. Stoney Creek flows in the northeastern portion of the county. The Eel River flows out of Lake Pillsbury in the northern portion of the county. Topography within the county is mainly hilly and mountainous with elevations ranging from approximately 640 ft. to 6,873 ft.

The climate in Lake County is characterized by cold wet winters and hot dry summers. The average annual precipitation ranges from 24 inches in the lower areas to 70+ inches in the mountainous regions. Temperatures range from an average low of 32° F in the winter months to average highs of 95° F in the summer months. *For more information, see the Hydrology Map 3-1 in Chapter 3.*

For decades, Lake County has enjoyed some of the cleanest air in the nation.² In 2009, the county ranked third

¹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov>. U.S. Census Bureau. State & County Quickfacts.

² Lake County Air Quality Management District (LCAQMD),: www.lcaqmd.net/

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cleanest in USA in terms of particulate pollution in the atmosphere.³ For the past twenty years, strong local support for clean air measures has enabled the county to comply in full with the Federal Clean Air Standards and the more rigorous California standards for ozone and other air pollutants. No other Air District in California matches that record.⁴

Lake County is in the interface between the bedroom communities of the Bay Area and the more resource-dependent communities to the north. Its history of an agricultural community based on orchards (it was formerly known as the pear capital of the world) is quickly being transformed into a landscape of wineries, which brings with it a different set of land managers. Recreation is now the principal activity on most of the public lands in the county. New residents are principally retirees and Bay Area commuters.

Within Lake County there are seven Native American tribes, with ownership ranging up to 1,200 acres. Robinson Rancheria of the Pomo Indian, the largest landowner of the seven, uses their land for housing, a casino, and preserving open space.

In 2007 it was estimated that over 16% of Lake County residents were below the poverty level, and a different 16% are over the age of 65.⁵ These population demographics can help guide the need for fire safety programs, such as low income and elderly/disabled assistance, within the county.

For more general information on Lake County, please see Chapters 1 and 5.

II.A.5. Communities at Risk

Most of the populated areas within Lake County have been designated either at the federal or state level as “Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk from Wildfire”—more commonly known as “Communities At Risk.” These communities are: Anderson Springs, Blue Lakes, Cobb, Clearlake, Clearlake Oaks, Glenhaven, Hidden Valley Lake, Kelseyville, Loch Lomond, Lakeport, Lower Lake, Little Valley, Lucerne, Middletown, Nice, the Geysers, Upper Lake, and Witter Springs.

Additionally, this CWPP process has identified and recommended the following 13 communities to be included on the county’s list of Communities At Risk: Buckingham, Clear Lake Riviera, Coyote Valley, Double Eagle, Harbin Hot Springs, Kono Tayee, Lake Pillsbury, Morgan Valley, Riviera Heights, Riviera West, Soda Bay, Spring Valley, and Twin Lakes.

For more information on Lake County Communities at Risk, please see Chapters 1 and 8.

II.B. Fire Planning Process Overview

II.B.1. Planning Area Boundaries

This CWPP covers the entirety of Lake County, California. For purposes of this document, the county was divided into ten planning areas to maximize community input. These areas are listed here, starting from the northwest area of the county and moving to the southeast region:

- Lake Pillsbury, Blue Lakes, Upper Lake
- Scotts Valley, Lakeport
- Nice, Lucerne
- Spring Valley, Double Eagle
- Glenhaven, Clearlake Oaks, Paradise Valley, Kono Tayee
- Soda Bay, Rivas, Buckingham
- Jago Bay, Lower Lake, Clearlake
- Finley, Kelseyville
- Cobb Mountain
- Hidden Valley, Middletown

³ American Lung Association. State of the Air Report 2009. p. 24. www.lungusa2.org/sota/2009/SOTA-2009-Full-Print.pdf

⁴ LCAQMD Public Information Release. Douglas Gearhart. Air Pollution Control Officer. May 1, 2009

⁵ <http://quickfacts.census.gov>

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For more information on planning area boundaries, please see Chapter 2.

II.B.2. Planning Process Summary

One of the goals in developing the Lake County CWPP is to educate residents regarding fire safety and defensible space. Therefore, the planning process was designed to maximize public participation. A series of ten community meetings was held in October 2008, in each of the planning areas listed above. An additional meeting, for Lake Pillsbury residents specifically, was organized out of the first of these meetings.

Community outreach regarding the CWPP and the new Fire Safe Council was done jointly. A series of articles and ads were run in local media from August through October 2008. A website was developed for the Plan and the Fire Safe Council on the county's site: <http://www.co.lake.ca.us/FireSafeCouncil.htm>.

In addition to the meetings that generated local data, there were several opportunities for public input to this document. An Internal Review Committee made up of a variety of residents participated in an internal review of the document between January and April 2009. The Public Draft was released on May 7, 2009, providing citizens until July 1st for review and comment. The final Plan will be completed later in the summer of 2009.

For more information on the process and Plan development, please see Chapter 2.

II.B.3. Stakeholders

In addition to the approximately 140 individuals who attended community meetings, the following organizations participated in this process:

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- Cities of Clearlake and Lakeport
- Clear Lake Riviera Community Association
- County of Lake
- East Lake and West Lake Resource Conservation Districts
- Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
- Kelseyville, Lake County, Lake Pillsbury, Lakeport, Northshore, and South Lake County Fire Protection Districts
- Lake County Air Quality Management District
- Lake County Fire Safe Council
- Mendocino National Forest
- South Lake Fire Safe Council
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

For more information on stakeholders, please see Chapter 2.

II.C. Fire Safety and Defensible Space

When residents in the “wildland-urban interface” (where wildlands meet residential or developed areas) understand what steps they can take to make their homes and properties more fire safe, they are generally motivated to do it. Appendix C of this Plan includes a general description of how residents can defend themselves when faced with wildfire.

Wildfire behavior depends on fuel, weather, and topography. “Fuel” refers to all burnable materials including (but not limited to) living or dead vegetation, structures (including homes), and chemicals that may feed a fire. Of the three, fuel is the one factor that communities have some capacity to control. This Plan focuses on how fuel can be mitigated to enhance community safety while protecting conservation values. It also outlines necessary steps to help ensure the success of fire protection efforts (e.g. adequate addressing, signage and roads, proper turnarounds, secondary access, water supply, etc.).

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One of the most important concepts introduced in this CWPP is that of defensible space. In short, this means creating a space around residences/structures to enhance the chances of structural and human survivability. Thus, one of the priority goals of the CWPP is to document the various elements that make up defensible space and to do so in clear, action-oriented terms. This Plan lists various additional ways that residents can enhance their chances of surviving a fire, including the use of ignition-resistant building materials and construction methods, water availability, escape plans, landscaping, and fuel hazard reduction. A structure has a greater than 80% chance of surviving a wildfire if it has adequate defensible space and is made of ignition-resistant materials.⁶

This Plan outlines various actions that community members can take when a wildfire threatens. These include actions such as safe and effective evacuation, keeping friends and family members informed of their plans and whereabouts, gas/propane shut-off, water preparation and use, preparing their homes to survive an oncoming fire, and emergency communication.

Beyond the home, fuel reduction in the wildland-urban interface is critical to help create fire-safe communities, and eventually fire-permeable and fire-resilient landscapes. Fuel hazard reduction methods are described in Appendix D, with practices identified that are consistent with the Conservation Principles.

For more information on fire safety and fuel reduction, please see Appendices C, D, and F.

II.D. Wildfire Environment

From the grasslands and chaparral to the pine/oak woodlands and conifer forests, it is generally believed today that fires in the rural landscape of Lake County are less frequent—and more severe—compared to the patterns present before Europeans settled in the area. This region evolved with fire, and fire will continue to shape the landscape. Many Lake County residents understand that it is not a question of *if* a wildfire will occur here, but rather *when*. Much of the vegetation in the county is adapted to fire. For example, the chaparral ecosystem found here sprouts after fire and/or has seeds that require fire to germinate. Understanding fire and its role in the ecosystem will help us to better coexist with it.

Lake County is no exception to the increasingly common problem of loss from wildfire. Fuel loads have been accumulating to abnormal levels throughout the region, due to decades of fire suppression and land management practices. In 2008, fire protection agencies responded to 687 fires in Lake County. One of the largest recent fires was the *Walker Fire* of 2008, which burned a total of 14,500 acres in the Walker Ridge area near Colusa County.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) are significant fire hazard areas, as mapped by CAL FIRE based on several factors such as fuels, terrain, and weather. Much of Lake County's wildland areas are mapped within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs), as well as the communities of Nice, Lucerne, the Rivas, Cobb, Lake Pillsbury, and a few others. Most of the county's residents live in High or Moderate FHSZs around Clear Lake and the valleys. *For more information see Map 3-5 in Chapter 3.*

“Fire regime” is an objective measurement of fire's natural occurrence in the landscape, which is not necessarily the current condition or appearance. The fire regime includes the season, frequency, intensity, and spatial distribution of fires. There is quite a wide variability of “natural” intervals, intensities, and seasons, but some generalities can be made. A standardized set of five fire regimes has been generally accepted nationwide. Although the fire regimes within Lake County have been severely altered due to fire suppression and other land management activities, there are at least two pre-settlement fire regimes found here. According to information collected and analyzed by CAL FIRE, Lake County has a natural fire-return interval between 0–35 years of low-severity fire (Fire Regime I), and between 35–100 years of mixed-severity fire (Fire Regime III). The difference in fire regime between pre- and post-European settlement is described by the “condition class,” or degree of departure from the historical natural fire regime. Condition Class levels of low, moderate, and high are all present in Lake County. *For more information, see Maps 3-6 and 3-7 in Chapter 3.*

Chapter 4 describes the present condition of Lake County and the vegetation that occurs here, and considers how wildfire might change it. Many of the plant communities within the county are considered “fire-adapted”

⁶ Ethan Foote. “Wildland-Urban Interface Ignition-Resistant Building Construction Recommendations” from the 2004 Community Wildfire Protection Plan Workshops, by the California Fire Alliance and the California Fire Safe Council. August 2004.

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(having evolved with, and responding positively to, wildfire). The vegetation types can be categorized as follows: grassland, chaparral/chamise-chaparral, foothill woodland, ponderosa pine/mixed conifer, closed-cone pine-cypress, and montane hardwood conifer. *For more information, see Map 4-1 Lake County Vegetation Types.*

Each of these ecosystem types has a unique fire-behavior pattern and history (AKA “fuel model”), which informs the specific fuel-modification treatments which can be applied. For example, grasslands tend to burn more often, with fire passing through fairly quickly. Fire in a grassland system serves to reduce the amount of accumulated dead plant material, and can be beneficial for native grasses over introduced (and often invasive) annual grasses. Fuel-modification treatments for grassland can employ various methods, including weed-eating or grazing goats, to minimize smoke from controlled burning (another option for fuel-modification treatments).

In contrast, montane hardwood conifer areas are often thickly forested with larger trees. Drier areas with longer fire seasons in this vegetation type (such as can be found in Lake County) tend to have more frequent and higher-intensity fires. Periodic fire or other fuel-reduction methods in montane hardwood conifer forests can reduce the competition for water and nutrients, by reducing the understory tree and shrub component. Fuel buildup here can seriously affect the health and diversity of these forests, as well as increase the risk of eventual larger, less-controllable fires. Many options exist for fuel-modification treatments.

Finally, Chapter 4 provides fuel reduction prescriptions treatments for each vegetation type. However, each type and associated prescribed treatment varies with site-specific factors. These features combined with the local conditions are considered in the development of management prescriptions that: A) are consistent with the natural disturbance expected for each vegetation type, B) promote the Conservation Principles identified in Chapter 1, and C) improve the fire resiliency of the vegetation type. *In-depth descriptions of fire ecology and treatments are found by vegetation type, in their respective sections of Chapter 4.*

For more information on the wildfire environment/ecology, please see Chapters 3 and 4.

II.E. Fire Protection Organizations

In Lake County, there are six county Fire Protection Districts (FPDs):

- Kelseyville FPD
- Lake County FPD
- Lake Pillsbury FPD
- Lakeport FPD
- Northshore FPD
- South Lake County FPD

There are also the two state and federal fire protection agencies:

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit. CAL FIRE also provides emergency services to all Bureau of Land Management lands in Lake County.
- US Forest Service, Mendocino National Forest

For more information on fire agency jurisdictions and resources, please see Map 6-1 Lake County Fire Protection Resources.

All of these departments take pride in the work they do for the communities in which they serve. The support given by the approximately 160 volunteers echoes a long tradition of service that makes each department unique, productive and progressing.

All of the county’s FPDs provide first-response fire and medical service. Overall fire-protection capacity varies district by district, and is described in detail in each district’s respective section of Chapter 6. The identified resource needs of the fire agencies vary as well; major needs are summarized here as follows.

Fire Protection Needs

- **Kelseyville FPD:** Wildland-urban interface training, Arson Investigator I and II course availability, and a stable funding source.
- **Lake County FPD:** Funding to cover additional personnel and stations.
- **Lake Pillsbury FPD:** Addition of paid firefighters, radio communications, and additional sites for 911-use, as well as more funding for training and equipment replacement.

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- **Lakeport FPD:** Replacement of one structural engine and one wildland engine, as well as an additional wildland engine.
 - **Northshore FPD:** Replacement of a 2,000-gallon water tender, SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses), turnouts, radios, and personnel training.
 - **South Lake County FPD:** Additional staffing and the addition of two more stations within the district, and continued support from the Lake County Board of Supervisors in the adoption of Fire Codes and a fire-sprinkler ordinance.
 - **CAL FIRE:** No needs reported.
 - **Mendocino National Forest:** Replace Engine MNF43. Add a bulldozer and transportation vehicles to the fleet. Establish stronger mutual-aid agreements and cross-training with Fire Protection Districts.
- For more information on fire protection, please see Chapter 6.*

II.F. Lake County Risk Assessment

One of the major goals of this plan is to identify ways to protect lives, property, natural resources, and wildlands from wildfire. The assets (or values) of the county are the precious and often unquantifiable elements, which make up the quilted fabric of community life. These include homes, community infrastructure, cultural resources, wildlife habitat, natural resources, air quality, recreational facilities and areas, historical structures, and any other important attributes upon which individual communities rely.

Assets at risk are those things that are essential and important to the quality of life, that can be at risk of destruction or loss from wildfire. Information on community assets was gathered through community meetings, the public comment process, and researching local property values and existing community infrastructure. Taking into consideration community investment and an assessment of the overall risk of wildfire, this Plan attempts to highlight or prioritize those assets that can be deemed more critical to the community than others.

II.F.1. Lake County Assets at Risk

Homes and Structures

In addition to protecting human lives, homes are considered one of the highest priorities for protection. Homes are generally concentrated within town centers here and along the major roadways. Even though homes not directly adjacent to wildlands often burn during wildfire events, it is the remote homes and those on the edges of communities that are at the greatest risk, as they are generally the first to be reached by a fire.

General Infrastructure Assets

Infrastructure within Lake County includes all of the structures (both public and private), roads, utilities, water, and all other services that help Lake County residents live here. Some of these include: the two county airstrips, the Geysers geothermal power generation facility, and public and private utilities.

Commercial Assets

The primary commercial centers within the county are the incorporated and unincorporated metropolitan areas surrounding Clear Lake. Areas not directly adjacent to Clear Lake, such as Middletown, Kelseyville, and Hidden Valley, also have important commercial centers to protect, as local businesses provide jobs and services for residents and visitors. Lake County is also a year-round tourism and recreational destination. Boating, fishing, camping, wine tasting, sight seeing and many other recreational activities help bring in monies that aid in the development of community infrastructure and services.

Schools

There are seven school districts in Lake County: Kelseyville Unified, Konocti Unified, Lakeport Unified, Lucerne Elementary, Middletown Unified, Upper Lake Union Elementary, and Upper Lake Union High School District. There are also three parochial schools and two community colleges within the county to make up a total of 53 schools. These schools are major community investments that are critical to the future of Lake County.

Medical Facilities

There are two hospitals and three nursing homes within the county as well as six senior assistant centers. These facilities are essential to the health, safety, and lifestyle of Lake County residents.

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Cultural Assets

People have been living in Lake County for up to 12,000 years; the most notable human habitation being that of the Pomo Indians, several tribes of whom still remain. Cultural resources accumulated throughout this history include: bedrock mortars, grassland sites for basket making, oak trees for acorn gathering, ceremonial gathering places, and more. Post-settlement assets are abundant within the county as well. Historic downtown areas are found in Kelseyville, Lakeport, Lower Lake, and Upper Lake. Valued historical buildings (such as barns, schools, and churches) exist throughout the county. High-intensity fire poses a threat to all these cultural assets.

Natural Assets

Lake County is ecologically rich, and there are many natural assets to protect and responsibly steward. Many of these natural assets are located in remote areas that have associated high fire threat and hazard conditions. The state parks, state forest, national forest, and wilderness areas are all important ecological areas within the county. They provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered plants and wildlife (see Chapter 3 for more information on threatened and endangered species in the county, and Chapter 4 for vegetation types). Recreational and research opportunities, scenic vistas, and more are associated with these natural assets. The major natural resource businesses within the county include agriculture, cattle ranches, and wineries, and should be prioritized for protection from wildfire.

For more information on assets at risk, please see Chapter 7.

II.F.2. Conflicts Between Natural Assets and Human Occupation

Human encroachment into highly flammable wildland areas creates a conflict that often threatens life, property, and the natural environment. These areas are often aesthetically pleasing and provide an atmosphere in which many seek to live. This is quite apparent in Lake County, as residents slowly expand into these highly flammable and remote areas. This type of encroachment into wildland areas will continue to be a significant threat to both the human communities and the ecosystem in which they inhabit.

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II.F.3. Assets, Risks, and Priorities Table

The following table summarizes the risk assessment done for this Plan.

Figure 1. Summary of Assets and Associated Wildfire Risks for Medium and High Risk Communities in Lake County^{7,8}

Community, Structure, or Area at Risk	Assets at Risk	Fuel Hazard	Risk of Wildfire Occurrence	Structural Ignitability	Fire-Fighting Capability	Overall Risk	Observations
Anderson Springs	Med	High	High	High	Low	High	High fuels, older second homes, small and windy roads, very remote, significant wildfire threat. Good local FSC. Limited water.
Clear Lake Riviera	High	High	High	Med	Med	High	High-value real estate, with high fuels in a dense development. Wildfire threat from Hwy 29 could threaten rest of Rivas. Fire station with limited staffing. Water is limited.
Double Eagle	Low	High	High	High	Low	High	Very remote development, surrounded by fuels with high wildfire threat. Very bad roads/access. Minimal fire protection. Limited water.
Greater Cobb Area including Loch Lomond	High	High	High	High	Med	High	High fuels, older second homes, fire stations staffed only during fire season. Includes surrounding areas and forested landscape. Significant wildfire threat, access issues. Limited water. Good local FSC.
Harbin Hot Springs and Neighboring Springs	Med-High	High	High	High	Low	High	High fuels, important tourist/recreational destinations, high risk from many visitors, very limited access/evacuation.
Jago Bay, Point Lakeview	High	High	Med	High	Low	High	Tight roads, heavy fuels, older homes. Difficult access/evacuation. Limited water.
Lake Pillsbury	Low	High	High	High	Low	High	High wildfire threat, surrounding fuels. USFS in-holding community, limited fire protection capacity. Limited water supply outside LP Ranch.
Lakeport	High	Med	High	Med	High	High	High values and historical areas, with significant wildfire threat from BLM to east, some urban areas with high fuels and density.

⁷ This table is adapted from Step 5a of the CFA Simplified CWPP Template. p. 5. cafirealliance.org/cwpp/.

⁸ Communities that obtained an Overall Risk of “Low” were not included in this list.

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Community, Structure, or Area at Risk	Assets at Risk	Fuel Hazard	Risk of Wildfire Occurrence	Structural Ignitability	Fire-Fighting Capability	Overall Risk	Observations
Spring Valley and Long Valley	Med	Med-High	High	Med-High	Low	High	Good clearance and limited fuels within Spring Valley development. Higher fuels and significant wildfire threat in surrounding areas. Water supply is limited. Remote.
Glenhaven	Med	Med	High	Med	Med	High-Med	Narrow strip along Hwy 20, potentially blocked to limit evacuation. High threat of wildfire during extreme fire weather event, combined with high fuels in the interface. Limited water.
Hidden Valley and Coyote Valley	High	Med-High	Med-High	Med	Med-High	High-Med	High fuels in the interface. Threat of wildfire from east/northeast. HV Lake HOA great fuel reduction program. Other areas have access and water issues.
Lucerne	Med	High	High	High	High	High-Med	High threat of wildfire from FS during extreme fire weather event, combined with high fuels in the interface. Some historic sites. Good fire protection and water supply.
Nice	Med	High	High	High	High	High-Med	High threat of wildfire from FS during extreme fire weather event, combined with high fuels in the interface. Good fire protection and water supply.
Riviera Heights*	High	High	Med	Med	Low	High-Med	High-value real estate, with high fuels in a dense development. Not significant wildfire threat, but significant ember threat from local ignitions. Fire station with limited staffing. Good water supply.
Riviera West*	High	High	Med	Med	Low	High-Med	High-value real estate, with high fuels in a dense development. Access issues. Not significant wildfire threat, but significant ember threat from local ignitions. Good water supply, no local fire station.
Clearlake	High	Med	High	High	High	Med-High	Principal urban center. High fuels to east, some subdivisions with high fuels, many older second homes.
Clearlake Oaks	Med	High	High	Med	Med	Med-High	Semi-urban area along Lake and Highway 20. Threat of wildfire during extreme fire weather event, combined with high fuels in the interface. Good fire protection, water supply is limited.

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Community, Structure, or Area at Risk	Assets at Risk	Fuel Hazard	Risk of Wildfire Occurrence	Structural Ignitability	Fire-Fighting Capability	Overall Risk	Observations
Morgan Valley	Med	Med-High	High-Med	High	Med	Med-High	Rural interface east of Lower Lake, potential wildfire threat from public lands to east. Potential water and fire protection issues.
Scotts Valley	Med	Med	High	Med	Med	Med-High	Agricultural valley between Lakeport and BLM. Fuels and wildfire history, excellent controlled-burn history and interest. Significant wildfire threat from BLM lands. Water supply issues.
Blue Lakes	Low	High	High	High	Low	Med	High fuels and windy roads behind Lakes. Potential evacuation/access issues. No water system, water source is the lakes.
Buckingham*	High	Med	Med	Med-Low	Low	Med	Very high-value real estate, limited water supply. Not significant wildfire threat. Access/evacuation issues.
Jerusalem Valley	Low	Med	High	High	Low	Med	Access/evacuation issues, surrounding fuels.
Kelseyville Interface	Med	High	Med	Med	Med	Med	Fuels and wildfire threat from southwest and southeast, some remote neighborhoods. Mount Konocti fuel issues.
Kono Tayee	Med	Med	Med	High	Low-Med	Med	Some fuels on steep slopes, wildfire threat during extreme weather events. Adequate water.
Lower Lake	Med-High	Med	Med-High	Med	High	Med	Small community with historical district. Heavier fuels and windy roads at outskirts (see Morgan Valley and Twin Lakes). Local fire protection.
Soda Bay*	Med	High	Med	Med	Med	Med	Some fuels, history of local ignitions. Some wildfire threat from State Park to west.
Twin Lakes	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Med	Development with some fuels. Many homes and roads.
Upper Lake	Med	Low	High	Med	Med	Med	Historic, town center with limited fuels. Higher fuels in interface. Threat of wildfire from National Forest lands during extreme weather events. Water system issues.

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***The Exception: The Rivas**

The most obvious distinction in Lake County between risk of wildfire occurrence, and the possibility of a large wildland urban interface conflagration is that of the Rivas communities (Soda Bay, Riviera Heights, Buckingham, and Riviera West). Everyone in the county generally agrees that the Rivas would be the worst place for a rural fire to occur. There are large, expensive homes, with a lot of local fuels, and limited access, water supply, and fire-fighting capabilities. However, the chance of a fire coming into the Rivas from the neighboring wildlands is not high. A fire would need to come down Mount Konocti, or around it from the Highway 29 corridor. The probability of either of these occurring is not high. (However, this could happen in the eastern end of the Rivas, in Clear Lake Riviera, Point Lakeview, and Jago Bay.) Therefore, the Rivas area is not ranked as having a high risk of wildfire occurrence, even though a local fire there would quickly simulate extreme wildfire conditions. That said, prioritizing treatment of fuels, implementing defensible space, and reducing structural ignitability are all actions that must happen in the Rivas, and as soon as is feasible. As stated here and elsewhere in this document, the potential damage from an interface fire in the Rivas would likely be greater than anywhere else in the county. It is for this reason that the Rivas area is listed as a top priority area for action within the Action Plan (Chapter 8).

For more information on the risk assessment, please see Chapter 7.

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III. Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Action Plan Summary

This Plan identifies several actions to reduce hazards and risks from wildfire and decrease structural ignitability. The following sections and tables summarize these actions. They were identified through a collaborative public process.

In an ideal world, all of these action items would be implemented expeditiously. However, this Plan is being released in one of the greatest economic downturns in our recent history. Funds for public projects are scarce. Many are also feeling the economic effects at home, and hence their free time to contribute to community projects may be limited. Although it is the intention of Plan authors and signers that all the action items in this document be implemented as so designated, implementation will need to be done subject to the availability of funds and other resources for this purpose.

Identified action items are followed by an “S” (short, 1-2 years), “M” (medium, 2-5 years), “L” (long, 5-10 years), or “O” (ongoing), for implementation priority. In addition, a “★” indicates those action items that will be relatively easy to implement. *For more information on the Action Plan, please see Chapter 8.*

The following actions are proposed for this Community Conservation and Wildfire Protection Plan.

DESIGNATION OF WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREAS	Federal agencies accept WUI designations defined in this plan, including those previously identified by CAL FIRE. S, ★
	Federal agencies work with Lake County Fire Safe Council, South Lake Fire Safe Council, and other interested community members to reach agreement on projects proposed within WUI areas of Lake County. S, ★
DESIGNATION OF COMMUNITIES AT RISK	Lake County Community Development Department add the following Lake County communities to the Communities at Risk list. S, ★ Buckingham, Clear Lake Riviera, Coyote Valley, Double Eagle, Harbin Hot Springs, Kono Tayee, Lake Pillsbury, Morgan Valley, Riviera Heights, Riviera West, Soda Bay, Spring Valley, Twin Lakes
ADVANCING DEFENSIBLE SPACE	<u>Target Areas in Lake County for Defensible Space, Fire Safe Construction, and Alternate Access Programs:</u> Rivieras: Soda Bay, Riviera West, Riviera Heights, Buckingham, Clear Lake Riviera, Point Lakeview, Jago Bay; Hidden Valley and Coyote Valley, especially outlying areas beyond Hidden Valley Lakes; Cobb Mountain Area, including Cobb, Loch Lomond, and Anderson Springs; Harbin Hot Springs and neighboring resorts; Double Eagle Ranch; Lake Pillsbury; Northshore Communities Interface, especially around Nice and Lucerne; Lakeport Interface
	County, Cities, Federal Agencies, Fire Safe Councils, and other related agencies, focus fire safety and prevention efforts in the Target Areas listed above, including defensible space, fire-resistant building, and providing for alternate access routes. S
	County and City Community Development Departments work with the Lake County Fire Safe Council and other Plan Partners to develop a comprehensive defensible space ordinance. S
	Homeowner’s Associations in Target Areas work with Lake County Fire Safe Council and Fire Protection Districts to develop fire safe guidelines for all residents. S
	County apply General Plan (GP) <u>Policy HS-7.6, Development Guidelines</u> , to these target areas. M
RESIDENTIAL FUEL REDUCTION ORDINANCE	County Code Enforcement work with Fire Protection Districts and other interested partners to ensure abatement ordinance applies to clearance on abandoned lots and absentee-owned parcels that threaten neighboring parcels. S
	County develop provisions in ordinance language to place liens against properties to cover incurred costs. S
	County provide a funded, countywide enforcement officer to enforce ordinance, in cooperation with Fire Protection Districts. M

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	Lake County Fire Safe Council develop a list of known local contractors to implement residential fuel reduction ordinance. S
	Cities work with same partners to implement similar programs within their jurisdictions. M
DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND NEW DEVELOPMENT	In addition to the policies set forth in <u>GP Policy HS-7.6, Development Guidelines</u> , and in accordance with <u>GP Policy HS-7.5, Fuel Breaks</u> , the County will require new developments in high risk and hazard areas as defined in this plan to create fire-safe landscaping within the 100-foot defensible space zone of all structures. M
	County Community Development will work with the Lake County Fire Safe Council, Fire Protection Districts, and other Plan Partners to outline the requirements for Wildland Fire Management Plans for new developments as required by <u>GP Policy HS-7.4</u> . These plans will be required for all new developments within the Target Areas listed above, in addition to those outlined in the General Plan. M
	General Plan <u>Policy LU.3.2 Rural Development</u> , <u>Policy LU.3.3 Clustering of Rural Development</u> , and <u>Policy HS-7.2 Encourage Cluster Development</u> shall focus development in areas of highest potential fire safety within parcels or clusters, while maximizing efficient use of fire protection resource (e.g. access and water). Road standards should include adequate evacuation capability, unhindered access for emergency vehicles, and wherever possible shaded fuelbreaks along roadways and perimeters planned with respect to conservation-based principles and local aesthetics, especially around development clusters. M
	County ensure <u>Policy OSC-2.1 Design Guidelines for Structures in Rural Areas</u> and <u>Policy OSC-2.7 Landscaping Techniques</u> are done in conjunction with creating adequate defensible space around all new structures in high hazard or risk areas as identified in this plan, and favor fire-resistant landscaping. M
	Cities of Lakeport and Clearlake model similar programs to those developed countywide for their jurisdictions. M
	County Community Development Department will ensure builders and homeowners have copies of the current Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps (see Chapter 3) as well as copies of relevant policies from this plan and others regarding construction in high hazard areas. S
COMMUNITY DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND FUEL REDUCTION PROGRAMS	Lake County residents implement defensible space around all structures, and on all residential parcels within the county. S, O
	Lake County residents work with neighbors, and on neighboring properties (with the owner’s permission) to create neighborhood-wide defensible space. S, O
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with Plan Partners to provide information and resources to help residents create defensible space around their homes and in their neighborhoods. S, ★
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with Plan Partners to explore incentive programs to help residents create defensible space around their homes and in their neighborhoods. M
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with Plan Partners, Social Services, Senior Centers, schools, and other community and social service organizations to develop programs to create defensible space for elderly and disabled residents who are not able to do this for themselves. S
COMMUNITY CHIPPING PROGRAM	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with West Lake RCD to develop a program to provide community chipping days throughout the county, in partnership with the South Lake FSC for its area of influence, and other interested partners throughout the county, including Homeowners Associations. S
	All interested partners support a countywide community chipper program of the Lake County Fire Safe Council, by contributing resources where possible, and helping to secure ongoing funding as possible. S

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FIREWISE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM	County work with Fire Safe Councils, MNF, and BLM to develop a Firewise Communities Program for all applicable areas within Lake County. S, M
REDUCING FUELS	Lake County FSC work with appropriate land management agencies to obtain funding to maintain existing cooperative fuel reduction projects throughout the county. O
	Public land-management agencies, tribal experts, and CAL FIRE in cooperation with LCAQMD and Fire Safe Councils educate residents on the positive and negative aspects of controlled burning and prescribed fire and other fuel reduction options. S
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with land-management agencies to develop an “Adopt a Fuelbreak” program for maintenance of fuelbreaks. Work with CAL FIRE, tribal experts, and other fire and resource professionals to employ appropriate maintenance practices. M
	County support fuel reduction efforts, consistent with <u>GP Policy HS-7.3 Fuel Modification Programs</u> , by helping to streamline permitting processes wherever applicable and/or providing in-kind support, such as Public Works resources. M
	County work with state and federal agencies and Lake County Fire Safe Council to promote creation of shaded fuelbreaks along perimeters and ridges of open space buffers, planned with respect to conservation-based principles and local aesthetics, and consistent with <u>GP Policy OSC-1.9 Open Space Buffers</u> and <u>Policy OSC-2.15 Ridgeline / Hilltop Protections</u> . L
	County work with state and federal agencies and Lake County Fire Safe Council to explore the creation of a system of ridgeline shaded fuelbreaks or firebreaks planned with respect to conservation-based principles and local aesthetics, and in accordance with <u>GP Policy OSC-6.15 Ridgeline Trails</u> . L
PRIORITY FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with applicable agency and Plan Partners, (including MNF, BLM, CAL FIRE, RCDs, etc.), to explore funding and implement the strategic fuelbreaks and fuel reduction efforts identified in this Plan throughout Lake County. S, M, L See <i>Fuel Reduction Priorities table in Chapter 8 for a complete listing.</i>
REDUCING STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY	
WUI BUILDING STANDARDS	County implement <u>GP Policies HS-1.3 Building and Fire Codes</u> , and <u>HS-7.7 Fire Resistant Building Materials</u> by adopting, and keeping current on, the California Wildland-Urban Interface Building Code, especially Chapters 7 and 7A. S, ★
	County and Cities stay current on applicable wildland-urban interface standards and new legislation through the State of California Fire Marshal’s Office. O, ★
	County and Cities Community Development, Fire Protection Districts, and Fire Safe Councils educate decision-makers and residents on the importance of and implementation of WUI Building Codes, including appropriate building materials. S
	Fire Agencies work with Fire Safe Councils to perform risk assessments within their jurisdictions, M
ROOFING	Fire Agencies, County Community Development, Federal Partners, and Fire Safe Council educate residents on the importance of replacing untreated wood shake roofs. S
	County and Cities develop incentive-based programs for residents to replace untreated wood shake roofs. M
WINDOWS	Double-pane windows are far more effective in their ability to survive a wildfire, as well as being smart for energy conservation within the home.
	Fire Safe Councils, utilities, and interested partners educate residents on need to have double-paned windows throughout their homes with recommendations to upgrade to tempered glass for fire safety where appropriate. O
	Fire Safe Councils, utilities, and interested partners explore incentive programs to upgrade windows to double pane or higher standards. M

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DECKS	Fire Safe Councils and other Plan Partners educate residents on importance of fire-safe decking. O
OUTBUILDINGS	Fire Safe Councils and other Plan Partners educate residents on need for separation of heat loads from their residence. O
	County Code Enforcement, work with Fire Protection Districts and CAL FIRE to enforce clearing 30-100 feet (or to the property line) around structures, as per State law and the proposed countywide residential fuel reduction ordinance.
WOODPILES AND OTHER FUEL SOURCES	Fire Safe Councils and other Plan Partners educate residents on need to have a minimum of thirty feet separation of firewood piles and woodsheds from their residence. O
	Fire Safe Councils and other Plan Partners educate residents on need to have vegetative and flammable material clearance around propane tanks and other fuel storage areas near their residence. O
	Fire Safe Councils and other Plan Partners educate residents on need to keep propane tanks and other flammable materials at least thirty feet from homes and outbuildings. O
	Fire Safe Councils and other Plan Partners educate residents on the risks of having wood fences attached to homes. O
ENHANCING FIRE PROTECTION	
RESOURCES FOR FIRE PROTECTION	County, Kelseyville Fire Protection District, and CAL FIRE explore the possibility of an Amador Plan to provide additional coverage in the Rivas area. M
	County, Northshore Fire Protection District, and CAL FIRE explore the possibility of an Amador Plan to provide additional coverage in the Glenhaven area. M
	County work with Kelseyville Fire Protection District and local Homeowner’s Associations to provide additional fire protection staffing and resources to the Riviera Heights, the Rivas (Point Lakeview), and Clear Lake Riviera fire stations. M
	Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District, County, Forest Service, Pacific Gas and Electric, and Fire Chiefs explore options for additional funding and other resources for Lake Pillsbury FPD, including volunteer training opportunities on weekends. M
	Mendocino National Forest work with Lake Pillsbury Fire Protection District to provide additional equipment and fire protection services in the Lake Pillsbury areas. M
	Fire Protection Districts work with Lake County Fire Safe Council, and city, county, and federal agencies to develop a countywide volunteer firefighter recruitment program targeting those communities with primarily volunteer staffing. M
	CAL FIRE evaluate options for repair and staffing of Mt. Konocti Lookout. M
WATER	Lake County Fire Safe Council, RCDs, watershed councils, and other interested partners educate rural residents on the needs and benefits of water storage. S
	Plan Partners encourage RAC-funded program to place water storage tanks for fire protection on lands adjacent to federal lands, especially in Cobb Mountain, Scotts Valley, Double Eagle, and Lake Pillsbury areas. M
	Lake County Fire Safe Council and Plan Partners explore funding for a water storage tank program on private lands not adjacent to federal lands, especially Jerusalem Grade and Hidden Valley Rancho. M
	Fire Safe Councils, CAL FIRE, local governments, and other interested partners explore incentives for increasing water storage on private properties. L
	County and city governments, Fire Safe Councils, CAL FIRE, LCAQMD, social service agencies, and other interested partners explore options for funding water storage for low-income, rural households. M
	County, South Lake FPD, CAL FIRE, Calpine, and South Lake Fire Safe Council work with Cobb Area County Water District to develop additional water sources and capacity for fire protection. M

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	County and Kelseyville FPD work with Buckingham Homeowner’s Associations to develop adequate water for fire protection within the development. M
	County and Kelseyville FPD work with Homeowner’s Associations in the Rivas to improve their hydrant systems. M
	Clearlake Oaks County Water District improve the hydrants in Widgeon Way and the Avenues. L
	Glenhaven Community Water develop a hydrants system in Glenhaven. L
	County work with Lakeport FPD, CAL FIRE, BLM, and other partners to explore water sources for fire protection in Scotts Valley, including the purchase of additional water tenders. M
	County work with Northshore FPD, CAL FIRE, USFS, and other partners to explore water sources for fire protection in Upper Lake, including the purchase of additional water tenders. M
	Upper Lake Water District support the project to increase water line capacity and storage in the Upper Lake water system, including closing the loop from Old Lucerne to Main Street. M
	County, South Lake FPD, and CAL FIRE explore options to expand the hydrant system to the east side of Middletown and out Butts Canyon Road. L
	County work with Fire Chiefs to develop a policy whereby the County Assessor will not increase property values and taxes when water storage is added to private properties for the purpose of fire protection. M
	County Community Development ensure water for fire suppression needs is included in the development of the Integrated Water Management Plan, especially in terms of future development. M
ROADS	Office of Emergency Services (OES), to identify road ingress and egress issues that increase emergency response times. S
	County and Cities Public Works Departments work with OES, Caltrans, and interested partners to secure funding and other resources to repair priority ingress and egress sites. O
SIGNAGE OF ROADS AND STRUCTURES (ADDRESSING)	Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, federal agencies, County, and Cities collaborate to enforce existing signage requirements for streets and residences. O
	Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, Fire Chiefs, federal, county, and city agencies, and Fire Safe Councils explore incentives for private signage conformance, including public education. M
	Fire Agencies implement model signage program, similar to that developed by South Lake FPD, to expand it to other areas of the county. S
	County ensure all signage created in accordance with <u>GP Policy OSC 2.3 Signage Program</u> meets fire protection standards. O
EVACUATION PLANNING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	
DEVELOPING EVACUATION ROUTES AND SITES	County OES, Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, Red Cross, federal agencies, Fire Chiefs, and Fire Safe Councils collaborate to develop a detailed evacuation plan and update it as needed, using the information generated in this plan. M
	County OES, Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, federal agencies, Fire Chiefs, Fire Safe Councils, Red Cross, and Senior Centers develop and distribute evacuation-planning materials for all areas of the county based on the South Lake FSC Evacuation Plan to educate residents on evacuation options for their community. O

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GATES	Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, Fire Chiefs, federal agencies, Fire Safe Councils, and Homeowners Associations initiate informational programs to educate residents about the importance of easily passable gates during emergencies. S
	County, Law Enforcement, Fire Chiefs, CAL FIRE, Fire Safe Councils, and Homeowners Associations explore incentives and options for fire-safe gates. M
	Hidden Valley Lakes Homeowners Association work with South Lake FPD to provide access through gates to Hidden Valley Ranchos for evacuation and fire protection. S
ALTERNATE EVACUATION ROUTES	County OES, Fire Chiefs, Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, federal agencies, and Fire Safe Councils collaborate to explore the following evacuation routes: M
	- Alternate evacuation routes out of Riviera West and Clear Lake Riviera subdivisions to the south.
	- Alternate evacuation route out of north side of Clear Lake Riviera subdivision to Soda Bay Road.
	- Alternate evacuation route out of Riviera Heights Subdivision off of Westridge Drive or Circle to Soda Bay Road.
	- Alternate way out of Anderson Springs to Socrates Mine Road.
	- Alternate way out of Double Eagle to Benmore Canyon or Walker Ridge Roads.
	- Alternate evacuation route between Twin Lakes Subdivision and Perini Road.
	- Alternate evacuation route out of Donovan Valley.
	- Additional evacuation routes out of Gifford Springs and Jerusalem Grade.
	- Improve Point Lakeview Road for Evacuation.
	- Options for evacuating lakeside communities with boats.
	Mendocino National Forest, County, and Northshore FPD explore feasibility of opening Garner Ranch Road to make passable evacuation route out of New Long Valley and Spring Valley. L
	Mendocino National Forest, BLM, County, and Northshore FPD explore feasibility of opening Wolf Creek Road north to Bartlett Springs to make passable evacuation route out of Spring Valley. M
	County Public Works, OES, Fire Chiefs, Caltrans, and Law Enforcement improve roads and signage in Anderson Springs, Widgeon Way, Jerusalem Grade, Double Eagle, Blue Lakes Road, and Laurel Dell Road. M
EVACUATION SITES	County OES, fire chiefs, law enforcement, CAL FIRE, federal agencies, Fire Safe Councils, Red Cross, and Senior Centers develop and/or upgrade appropriate sites from those identified at community meetings to function as evacuation sites and/or disaster centers during emergency situations. M, L
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATIONS	County OES, Fire Chiefs, Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, and federal agencies explore options for emergency alert sirens for remote areas such as Lake Pillsbury and Double Eagle Ranch, and upgrading sirens in Cobb and Loch Lomond. M
EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION	County OES organize regular coordination meetings (quarterly at a minimum) between Law Enforcement, Fire Protection Districts, County Community Development, Cities, Fire Safe Councils, other emergency response providers including relevant state and federal agencies, and other interested partners to coordinate joint prevention and emergency response activities. S
	County OES organize regular, periodic, documented emergency response trainings and exercises, ranging from local to regionally synchronized, and from tabletop to detailed simulations. Follow sessions with after-learning period to facilitate effective communication and learning among partners, including Law Enforcement, Fire Protection Districts, County Community Development, Cities, Fire Safe Councils, and other emergency response providers. S

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	County explore and identify appropriate local structure for seeking state and national emergency response and pre-disaster funding. S
	County OES, Law Enforcement, Fire Protection Districts, and applicable city, state, and federal agencies maintain and update Lake County emergency response data with the County Information Technology Department (IT) to be shared with all participating agencies in accordance with <u>GP Policy HS-8.8 Coordinate with Cities and Other Local Agencies</u> and <u>Policy HS-8.11 Critical Facilities</u> . O
	County IT provide current available data and maps to any and all agencies and organizations (including Fire Safe Councils) participating in emergency response in Lake County. O
	Fire Protection Districts, CAL FIRE, law enforcement, and Fire Safe Councils work with County IT to update and maintain the Fire Run map book S
RESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	Lake County residents should be prepared for wildfire and other emergencies by creating family disaster and evacuation plans. S. O
	Residents in remote, rural areas and Target Areas (see above) consider storing their most valuable items in a nearby urban area during extreme fire weather conditions. S. O
	County OES work with Seniors Centers to upgrade to Disaster Center Readiness level. M
	County OES and Social Services work with other Plan Partners and Senior Centers to develop emergency planning resources and potential evacuation sites. M
	County OES and Social Services work with local Senior Centers and Red Cross to help residents plan and prepare for emergencies. O
	County OES, Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, federal agencies, Fire Chiefs, Fire Safe Councils, and Red Cross conduct disaster preparedness and emergency response drills for high-risk communities throughout the county. S, O
	County OES work with Spring Valley CERT to enhance and improve services, and explore additional CERT options throughout the county. M
	County OES work with high-risk communities and target areas to develop new or enhance existing CERT programs. M
SHELTERING IN PLACE	County OES and Red Cross work with Fire Safe Councils, Fire Protection Districts, Law Enforcement, CAL FIRE, MNF, and BLM to develop local information on how and when it may be appropriate to shelter in place. M
EVACUATION PLANS FOR PETS AND LIVESTOCK	Lake County is a rural, agricultural community. Many residents have pets, livestock, or both. A system of evacuation sites for pets and livestock needs to be developed to address this need. Many shelters will not allow animals other than assistance or service dogs. The Red Cross and Humane Society are two good resources on this subject; see www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/index.html , for more information.
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with Plan Partners, Red Cross, Humane Society, and local veterinarians to identify existing options for local pet and livestock emergency evacuation. Work through local feed stores, veterinarians, boarding facilities, and animal associations to educate residents on options. M
INTEGRATING POLICY	County Community Development work with OES, Mendocino National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, CAL FIRE and other relevant partners to ensure integration between planning efforts in Lake County that could affect the county’s long-term fire safety, including at the community and Area Plan planning level. O
	County develop mandatory, enforceable disclosure regulations for all local real estate transactions regarding the wildfire risks and hazards identified in this plan. M
	County prioritize <u>GP Policy LU-1.6 Paper Lot Consolidation</u> in order to minimize WUI fire threats, especially to the communities of Nice and Lucerne. In those areas where paper lots are turned into open space, management plans should include creation of shaded fuelbreaks along perimeters or ridges using conservation-based principles. M

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	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with Community Development and the local insurance industry to educate the industry on appropriate local defensible space practices, and provide materials for them to share with policyholders in accordance with <u>GP Policy HS-8.6 Insurance Provisions</u> . S
	Community Development work with Lake County Fire Safe Council to develop a fire safe plant landscaping document to distribute to Lake County residents, in accordance with <u>GP Policy OSC-1.7 Encourage Planting of Native Vegetation</u> and <u>Policy OSC-1.8 Native Vegetation for Landscaping</u> . S
	County incorporate the fire planning concepts and actions outlined in this CWPP in its planning for Mount Konocti Public Lands. M
PROMOTING FIRE SAFE EDUCATION	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with CAL FIRE, MNF, BLM, NRCS ⁹ , County, Cities, insurance industry, and others to implement a countywide community fire safety education program, including Public Service Announcements in all local media. S
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with federal agencies, County, Cities, and interested Plan Partners to develop and fund a regular “Living with Wildfire” newspaper or magazine for Lake County residents. S, O
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with CAL FIRE, MNF, BLM, and tribal experts to develop and implement a countywide education program on the benefits of using controlled burning/prescribed fire, including the importance minimizing air pollution during burning. M
FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with agencies and school districts to implement fire safety curricula in all grade levels throughout the county, in conjunction with community educational projects. M
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with 4-H chapters to develop fire safety educational programs for local youth. S
	Lake County Fire Safe Council work with Chamber of Commerce and local industries to fund and develop a service-learning program in local high schools focused on fire safety and defensible space. M
FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION FOR NEW RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS	Lake County Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE, MNF, BLM, Fire Chiefs, and local governments develop fire safety educational programs for real estate and development industries. M
	Lake County Fire Safe Council, County Visitor Information Center, CAL FIRE, MNF, BLM, Fire Chiefs, Chamber of Commerce, and local governments develop fire safety educational programs for local tourism industries. S
	Lake County Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE, MNF, BLM, Fire Chiefs, County Community Development, and local governments target fire safety educational efforts to new residents, especially those coming from urban areas and others with little experience with fire in the wildland-urban interface. M
	Fire Safe Councils work with Senior Centers to develop a welcome-neighbor program where a welcome basket with fire safety information is given to new residents. S
UTILIZING EXCESS FUELS	Local economic development interests, Resource Conservation Districts, and Lake County Fire Safe Council explore options for utilization of materials generated from hazardous fuel reduction efforts, including those collected through the County Green Waste program. L
	Lake County Fire Safe Council and Resource Conservation Districts work with landscaping community to utilize materials generated from the chipping and Green Waste program, potentially as a funding source for the program. M

⁹ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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	County and Cities Public Services work with Social Services to develop voucher program for low-income residents to utilize Green Waste collection program, if they are not participating in refuse pickup service. S
	County and cities Public Services work with Social Services to develop volunteer green waste pickup program for low-income, senior, and disabled residents who are unable to use other programs. S
	Fire Safe Councils work with local governments and LCAQMD to develop Green Waste collection days. S
	Lake County Fire Safe Council, MNF, and BLM explore biomass options in neighboring counties for utilization of fuels from Lake County fuel reduction efforts. M
FACILITATING LAKE COUNTY FIRE SAFETY IN THE LONG TERM	Public and private sector organizations, agencies, and individuals work with LCFSC and SLFSC to develop ongoing financial and in-kind support for FSC activities and development. O
	Lake County Board of Supervisors appoint representatives to actively and regularly participate in the Lake County Fire Safe Council. These appointees could represent Community Development, Emergency Services, the Planning Commission, and/or the Board. S, ★
	All local, state, and federal public and private land management agencies appoint a representative to actively and regularly participate in the Lake County Fire Safe Council. S, ★
	Public and private sector organizations, agencies, and individuals (including County, RAC ¹⁰ , MNF, BLM, and CAL FIRE) facilitate long-term funding to maintain a staff coordinator position at LCFSC. O
	Lake County FSC work with members and Plan Partners to develop a strategic plan for the FSC to identify a successful long-term management structure and funding sources. S
	As described in Chapter 9, project and plan monitoring is an integral part to the long-term success of this plan. Monitoring strategies need to be developed early on to ensure useful data collection.
	Lake County and South Lake FSCs work with MNF, BLM, RCDs, NRCS, and others to develop a long-term ecological monitoring program to track the effects of project activities on ecological processes and functions. M
	Lake County FSC work with Plan Partners to develop and implement a Strategic Planning Matrix to track project implementation. S, ★
	Lake County FSC, County, Cities, and all plan signatories review the Lake County CWPP at least every five years and update it as needed, using a collaborative public process. M

IV. Facilitating Lake County Fire Safety in the Long Term

A community Fire Plan is only as good as the community whom is charged with implementing it. Lake County is fortunate to have many people and resources committed to fire safety over the long-term.

IV.A. Monitoring

Monitoring the success of the actions identified in this Plan is important to the ongoing success of fire safety and prevention efforts in the county. Based on the collective experience of Plan Partners, lessons learned from Fire Safe Councils around the state, local Lake County knowledge, and the best available science, an action plan was set forth in this document to reduce the impacts of wildfire to Lake County and its residents. However, community fuel reduction and fire safety is an evolving field. Restoring landscapes to be more fire resilient is a

¹⁰ Mendocino National Forest Resource Advisory Council

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very long-term process. Mistakes will be made, and are part of our re-learning how to live in balance with wildfire, instead of trying to control and suppress it at all costs. The community should cooperate and share experiences in all aspects of the CWPP and this evolving field. This ongoing process will be most effective when monitoring successes and failures over time.

Consequently, it is important to monitor the actions identified within this CWPP to better understand the actual impact they are having meeting the Plan's objectives: to minimize ignitions, decrease intensity, decrease damage, increase permeability, and increase resiliency. Monitoring means not only analyzing how successful projects are to reduce fuels and the impact of fire, but also refers to tracking how projects affect ecological process and function. Projects should be designed to have minimal adverse ecological impact. Chapter 9 includes suggestions for how to monitor both the projects implemented from this plan, and their ecological impact. Finally, a Strategic Planning Matrix is shown for ongoing project and CWPP monitoring and implementation.

For more information on monitoring and maintenance, please see Chapter 9.

IV.B. Updating This Plan

No plan is ever permanent. This Plan was written in 2009 based on current conditions and best available information. The field of fire safety is rapidly changing. It is likely that new developments will occur in the coming years. Therefore, it will be important to review this Plan at least every five years (depending on available resources). The planning committee stakeholder groups should meet to review the Plan, and update it as needed.

For more information on updating this Plan, please see Chapter 9.

IV.C. Needed Resources

The Lake County Fire Safe Council will be the principal organization charged with implementing this Plan. Therefore, it will need to have a structure in place to oversee plan implementation. A Coordinator was hired in 2009 with funding from the County of Lake. It will be important to maintain and augment this funding source over time, to ensure Plan and projects continuity.

Finally, the success of the Fire Safe Council will also depend on the ability of participating organizations to contribute resources to the Council and its projects. A strategic plan for the Council should be developed to identify a successful long-term management structure that maximizes both resident and agency participation, and a long-term funding strategy to ensure its survival.

The will to succeed and the *social capital*¹¹ exist right now within Lake County for the effective implementation of this Plan. Plan authors are confident that Lake County will soon be a positive example for fire safety throughout California. We wish you well!

Statement of Liability

The activities suggested by this CWPP, the assessments and recommendations of all plan participants, and the plans and projects outlined here are made in good faith according to information available at this time. We can make no guarantees regarding the level of success users of this plan will experience. Wildfires do occur, despite efforts to prevent or contain them; the intent of all decisions and actions made under this plan is to reduce the potential for and the consequences of wildfires.

¹¹ Social Capital: The individual and communal time and energy that is available for such things as community improvement, social networking, civic engagement, personal recreation, and other activities that create social bonds between individuals and groups. From: *CDC Healthy Places Terminology*, <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/terminology.htm#p>