

PITTVILLE

Community Fire Safe Plan

Lassen County



January 2004

COUNTY OF LASSEN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

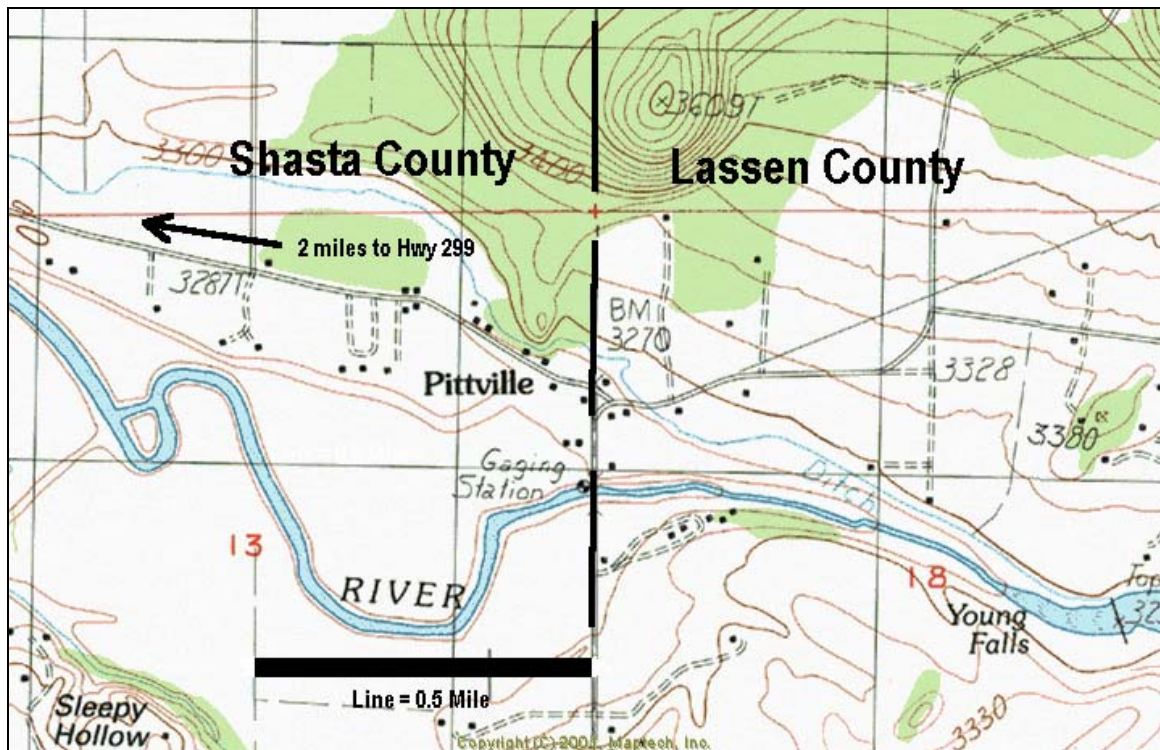
Pittville Community Fire Safe Plan

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION.....	1
POPULATION.....	1
VALUES AT RISK.....	1
NATURAL RESOURCES AT RISK	2
TRANSPORTATION	2
LEVEL OF SERVICE PROVIDED TO COMMUNITY.....	2
RESTRICTING COVENANTS AND/OR ORDINANCES.....	3
COMMUNITY LEGAL STRUCTURE	5
MEDIA	5
SCHOOLS	5
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	6
<i>Access/Roads</i>	6
<i>Structures</i>	6
<i>Utilities</i>	6
<i>Obstacles to Emergency Response Vehicles</i>	6
VEGETATION CONDITIONS WITHIN AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.....	6
VEGETATION FUEL TYPES, CONDITION, & FUEL MODELS.....	6
WILDFIRE THREAT EVALUATION.....	8
AREA FIRE HISTORY.....	8
EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR.....	8
CURRENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WILDFIRE MITIGATION MEASURES	9
RECOMMENDATIONS	9
COMMUNITY PRESCRIPTIONS.....	9
<i>Community Fuel Break</i>	9
<i>Infrastructure Improvements</i>	9
<i>Defensible Space</i>	10
<i>Monitoring, Evaluation, and Maintenance</i>	11
PROPOSED PROJECTS	11
COMMUNITY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND INVOLVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.....	11
APPENDICES	13
APPENDIX A - VICINITY MAP	15
APPENDIX B - VEGETATION TYPE MAP	17
APPENDIX C - FIRE HISTORY MAP	19
APPENDIX D – DEFENSIBLE SPACE	21
<i>Residence Protection Measures</i>	21
<i>Burning</i>	23
<i>Public Resources Code Section 4291 – Reduction of Fire Hazards around Buildings; Requirements; Exemptions</i>	23
<i>Supplemental Defensible Space Clearances</i>	25
<i>Defensible Space Illustrations</i>	26
<i>Homeowner’s Checklist</i>	29
REFERENCES.....	35

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Population

The year-round resident population within and immediately surrounding the community of Pittville is approximately 200 to 250 people. Pittville is not a resort community so the seasonal population remains relatively stable throughout the year. There are about 25 homes in the community and 15 to 20 ranches in the outlying areas. The community is divided by the Shasta County - Lassen County line as indicated on the map below:



Values at Risk

The Pittville Community Fire Safe Plan Area is defined as the area within the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District (FPD) which incorporates the community of Pittville and the adjacent ranches immediately surrounding the community proper (see FPD boundaries on maps in "Appendix B" and "C").

The community of Pittville consists of private homes on small lots in town as well as homes on larger parcels and ranches in the outlying areas. There are about 25 ranch and home residences in the immediate vicinity of town. There are no commercial service stores or businesses presently in the community. The closest full facility communities are Fall River Mills and

McArthur, approximately one mile west of the junction of State Route 299 and County road 111 (Pittville Road), in Shasta County.

Within and surrounding the community, values that are potentially at risk from encroaching wildfires consist of the existing private residences and lots, the accompanying infrastructure including power and telephone service, and most importantly the residents themselves. Other values at risk include visual impacts, aesthetics, security, wildlife habitat, and air quality. A loss of any number of these values may also impact employment, insurability and rates, health, and community stability.

Natural Resources at Risk

Pittville is primarily an old farming and ranching community. Land ownership is comprised of private holdings consisting of cropland, rangeland, and rural residences. Landowners are mostly full time residence consisting of ranchers, farmers, and retired people. The community is located on the northeast side of the Pit River Valley with agricultural lands bordering most of the community. Sagebrush/grass with scattered juniper and pine dominate lands to the northeast. The Pit River meanders through the valley after exiting the Pit River Canyon, a popular stretch of Class IV-V whitewater use for recreational rafting. Big Valley Mountain lies approximately 5 miles east of the community. There are no USDA Forest Service lands near the community or within the Lassen-Northwest FPD. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are located about five miles south and east of town. The BLM lands are primarily used for rangeland grazing and wildlife habitat.

The mixture of natural and agricultural habitat surrounding the community provides important winter range for mule deer as well as year-round and seasonal habitat for avian and other terrestrial wildlife.

Transportation

The community of Pittville is located approximately 3 miles southeast of the town of McArthur. It is accessed from State Route 299 via the Pittville Road, a well maintained paved two-lane County road approximately one mile east of McArthur. Other primary transportation roads in the community include the Little Valley Road and the Dee Knoch Road.

Level of Service Provided to Community

The Pittville community is located within the Northwest Lassen (FPD) and also within State Responsibility Area (SRA) with wildland fire protection provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). The CDF Station located in Bieber provides initial attack wildland fire response to this area. The FPD has a mutual aid agreement with CDF and the McArthur Fire Department for assistance with wildland fires and structure

fires. The Lassen-Northwest FPD has one station at Pittville, which provides medical assistance and structure fire protection within the district. Current equipment resources available at the station include the following:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>	<u>Other</u>
Engine		500	500	2x4	
Engine		600	300	2x4	
Water Tender		2,000	600		

The Department typically responds to six wildland fires and five structure fires in an average year.

Restricting Covenants and/or Ordinances

No specific restricting covenants and/or ordinances relating to wildland fire, other than those required by the State and policies adopted by the County and listed below, were identified that apply to this community.

Enforcement of vegetation clearing around buildings on SRA private land is the responsibility of the CDF. The CDF also serves as the permitting agency for State law governing commercial tree harvesting and burning on private land

Vegetation on Federal lands adjacent to the community is managed by the BLM.

Lassen County recognizes the problems associated with wildfire and has adopted appropriate policies. Specific implementation measures include the following:

1. Implement a study to locate and identify areas of existing and potential fire, geologic, and health hazards.
2. Require all structures and developments to strictly adhere to Public Resource Code 4291 (clearing for defensible space).
3. Subdivision and minor land division ordinances should require that roads constructed be of sufficient width and that there be multiple ingress and egress options for evacuation routes.
4. Population centers should be encouraged to improve or install water systems with adequate storage capacities.
5. Communities should be protected by fuel breaks together with fire suppression equipment backed up with an adequate water supply.
6. For the purposes of faster response time of fire suppression equipment, all major and minor roads should have signs identifying their names.

These measures were included in Resolution No. 2552, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on September 3, 1974. This resolution is included as the *Safety and Seismic Safety Element* of the Lassen County General Plan 2000.

Resolution No. 88-117, adopted by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors on November 29, 1988 established "goals, policies and programs for residential development in areas of the unincorporated territory of Lassen County which are not located within the boundaries of any fire protection district or other agency which provides structural fire protection". This resolution specifically outlines actions, facilitated by the County, that may be taken by existing or newly formed fire protection districts to establish capital development revenue sources in order to provide adequate fire protection in designated County growth areas.

In addition, Ordinance No. 427-C was adopted by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors on June 13, 1989 and amended to Chapter 12.08 of the Lassen County Code. This section prohibits the use of wood shakes or shingles for new construction (roofing or siding) in the unincorporated territory of the County. The provision also applies to existing buildings when fifty percent (50%) or more of the roof or siding is to be replaced.

The Fire Safety Standards Ordinance No. 502 was adopted by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors on June 12, 1990, adding Chapter 9.16 to Title 9 of the Lassen County Code. A summary of the ordinance was published in compliance with the provisions of the California Government Code Section 25124(b) and reads as follows:

"Effective July 12, 1990, the Lassen County Fire Safety Standards Ordinance will establish the policy that all new development within the unincorporated area of the County will be required to meet minimum standards for the adequate fire protection for the particular type of development. These standards will not be applicable within the City of Susanville nor affect State or Federal agencies. Any law, regulation or ordinance involving fire safety which is more restrictive will control over the provisions of Ordinance.

The fire safety standards imposed by the proposed ordinance will apply to new development such as parcel map applications, subdivisions and other development, including commercial, industrial, residential and other development requiring a County permit, to ensure that firefighting equipment will be able to reach and effectively operate at all locations of the new development.

The regulations are broken down into three areas of development classification: Subdivision Standards, Building Standards and Recreational Vehicle/Mobilehome Park Standards. Each of these three classifications are further defined as to access requirements, identification standards, water requirements and construction standards."

This ordinance was adopted in response to what was at the time "...an unprecedented rate of building development in its unincorporated forest and watershed areas" combined with "one of the driest summers in several decades and the hazard of forest and brush fires...at an unparalleled high level". Chapters 9.16, 12.20, and 12.24 of the Lassen County Code were subsequently amended, under Ordinance 502A, on September 24, 1991. This amendment delegated enforcement authority to the County Fire Warden and inspection, certification, and reporting requirements and procedures by the County Fire Warden to the County Building Inspector prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Community Legal Structure

The community of Pittville is unincorporated. There is no formal legal or political structure beyond those provided by State and County governing bodies and the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District.

Media

Several regional newspaper publications are available in the community of Pittville. The Intermountain News is a weekly (Wednesday) newspaper, published in Burney. They may be contacted at (530) 335-4533, e-mail to editor@im-news.com. The Mountain Echo is a weekly newspaper published in Fall River Mills. They may be contacted at (530) 336-6262, e-mail to mtecho@shasta.com. The Lassen County Times is also a weekly (Tuesday) newspaper published in Susanville, though not as widely read in the Fall River/Pit River Valley area. As noted in the publication, it is "adjudicated a legal newspaper and qualified for publication of all matters required by law to be published in a newspaper". They may be contacted at (530) 257-5321, e-mail to LCTime@AOL.com.

Due to the surrounding mountains, radio and television reception is limited in the Pittville area. However, several radio stations including KCNO (AM 570, FM 94.5), a radio station based in Alturas, and KLAD (AM 960, FM 92.5), a radio station broadcast from Klamath Falls, are generally well received and listened to in the area. With standard television antennas and repeaters located on surrounding mountains, channel 7 (KRCR) in Redding and channel 12 (KHSL) in Chico are generally received in the Pittville area, though most houses utilize satellite dishes.

Schools

There are no schools located in the community of Pittville. The closest schools are located in McArthur (high and junior high school) approximately 3 miles northwest of the community. The closest elementary school is located in Fall River Mills.

Physical Description

Access/Roads

Primary access to Pittville is County Road 111 (Pittville Road) via State Route 299. Secondary access is provided by several improved gravel/dirt roads.

The roads outside the community but within the FPD are more variable, and include less maintained dirt roads and private access roads.

Structures

Most of the buildings in the community are of ordinary wood frame construction, although there are a number of residential mobile homes as well, mostly concentrated in a mobile home park in the community. Roofing materials are generally metal or composition shingles, which help protect against embers from a wildfire or chimney. With the exception of the mobile home park, structures are generally spaced widely apart across the community.

Utilities

All residents are on wells for water as there is no central water system within the community. There are no fire hydrants. Power and telephone service is above ground.

Obstacles to Emergency Response Vehicles

There are currently no major obstacles to emergency response vehicles in the community. Streets are generally wide and clear of overgrowth and debris.

VEGETATION CONDITIONS WITHIN AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Vegetation Fuel Types, Condition, & Fuel Models

Vegetation within and surrounding the community of Pittville is comprised of a mosaic of natural fuels and irrigated agriculture lands. The map in "Appendix B- Vegetation Type Map" illustrates the major vegetation (fuel) types in this area. There are two primary vegetation types depicted: **Irrigated Agriculture**, and **Sagebrush/Annual Grass** with scattered junipers.

Sagebrush/Annual Grass: Depicted in yellow on the map and described as pine/grass in the map legend, this vegetation type is actually dominated by sagebrush and annual grass with scattered western juniper and pine trees.

The most significant fuel type from a wildfire threat perspective, this fuel type is primarily located on the upland slopes around Pit River Valley. This fuel type most closely approximates Fire Behavior Fuel Model 2 and has the following characteristics important for estimating fire behavior (*Reference #8*):

Total fuel load, < 3-inch, dead and live	4.0	tons per acre
Dead fuel load, 1/4 inch	2.0	tons per acre
Live fuel load, foliage,	0.5	tons per acre
Fuel bed depth	1.0	feet



Fuel Model #2: Sagebrush/Grass/Juniper

This fuel type ignites easily and once ignited, can spread rapidly under normal summer burning conditions. Under a 5-mile per hour wind and a fuel moisture content of 8%, fires in this fuel type can spread at the rate of 0.4 miles per hour with flame heights of 6 feet. High winds and extremely low humidity will increase the rate of spread. In addition, the accumulation of dead material, low branching characteristics, and highly volatile nature of the junipers that are found in this fuel type creates the potential for more intense and destructive wildfires. Defensive measures are a key component in this fire regime to protect life and property.

Irrigated Agriculture Lands: The irrigated lands in and around the community of Pittville and along the Pit River are depicted in gray on the "Vegetation Type Map". These areas are predominantly composed of irrigated hay fields and pastureland and occupy most of the valley floor. A minimal hazard or risk of wildfire is associated with or exists in this

vegetation type. There are patches and strips of dry annual grass and weeds located along fence lines and adjacent to managed fields, which are susceptible to wildfires and may burn, however they are generally small and fires are easily controlled.

Wildfire Threat Evaluation

Area Fire History

The map located in "Appendix B- Fire History Map" indicates that the fire hazard and fire history is low within the Northwest Lassen FPD. Records indicate that the ignition rate within the FPD is also low. Historically, only one wildland fire over 300 acres in size has been recorded in or near Pittville or within the FPD. This fire occurred on the wooded hill slopes north and east of Pittville. While small grass fires are relatively common in the area, they have been readily controlled and have not presented a significant risk to the community in the past.

The Pittville community has been listed in the Federal Register (August 17, 2001) as an *Urban Wildland Interface Community in the Vicinity of Federal Lands that are at High Risk from Wildfire*.

Expected Fire Behavior

The topography within the Northwest Lassen FPD ranges from elevations of approximately 3200-3700 feet in the rolling valley surrounding Pittville up to 6321 feet in the Big Valley Mountains north of the community. The valley is primarily farmland irrigated by the Pit River and Beaver Creek.

The climate in and around the community of Pittville is typical of high desert areas of northeastern California. Summers are hot, dry, and often very windy. The average summer maximum temperature for July and August is approximately 90° F. Annual precipitation is approximately 16 inches, with most accumulating as snow and rain during the winter months, November – March. The remaining moisture is contributed by regional spring rains and localized summer storm cells.

The normal fire season is from June through mid-October, with July, August, and September being the peak fire season period. There is not a history of large wildfires in the area. Most fires in this area are started by equipment or lightning. The vegetation around Pittville is largely comprised of irrigated fields in the summer, which provides a large measure of protection to the community. A wind-driven wildfire could threaten some of the ranch and other outlying homes due to the presence of flammable grass, sagebrush, and trees located on the slopes outside of the town and valley.

Existing fire hazards in the Pittville community are the natural vegetation, particularly the annual grasses. Fire risks, or sources of fire, include the normal living activities of the inhabitants, including the common use of wood stoves for heating and use of burn barrels. The most significant threat to dwellings and other buildings is from fires originating on or spreading from adjacent undeveloped or unmaintained properties containing natural fuels. This threat can be reduced by meeting the basic clearing requirements of PRC 4291 and creating additional defensible space. However, this threat is not severely critical, as compared to some other Lassen County communities, due to the presence of irrigated fields around town.

Current Resource Management Wildfire Mitigation Measures

No National Forest lands are located within the Northwest Lassen FPD. Bureau of Land Management lands are present and located about five miles south and east of town. Thinning, pile and burning, and other hazard reduction projects are currently underway on BLM lands in the Muck Valley area several miles east of Pittville. While beneficial, these projects provide marginal assistance in terms of wildfire threat mitigation for Pittville due to their proximity to the community.

Recommendations

Community Prescriptions

Community Fuel Break

Based on the fire hazards and historic risk of wildland fires occurring in the area, no "Community Fuel Break" or fuel treatments are recommended for the community of Pittville at this time. The vegetation types, dominated by irrigated agricultural lands, provide adequate protection for a significant portion of the area and residents within and surrounding Pittville. Isolated and individual dwellings, particularly those located in the more hazardous vegetation types, could be best protected from wildfire by creating and maintaining "Defensible Space" (see below).

Infrastructure Improvements

As part of the defensible space clearing measures, all propane and other fuel tanks should have all vegetation, including dry grass, removed from within a ten foot radius. In addition, the following specific measures, appropriate to individuals and residences within and around the Pittville community, are recommended to reduce the threat of wildfire:

1. Mail out appropriate informational packets developed for homeowners such as Homeowners "Watch Outs!" developed by the Fire Safe Council

to all parcel owners within the Pittville community. Use the Lassen County Assessor's roll to identify owners.

2. Increase compliance with PRC 4291 provisions for removal of flammable vegetation, overhanging tree limbs, etc. from around buildings. Follow up law enforcement action should be taken as necessary to achieve compliance.
3. Identify specific private parcels, especially vacant lots, with fuel conditions that threaten adjacent properties and make personal contact with these property owners.
4. Encourage landowner/homeowner to comply with additional defensible space recommendations in Appendix D.

Defensible Space

In order to protect structures from wildland fire it is recommended that a defensible space be constructed around all structures, particularly residences, with vegetation encroachment within the community of Pittville. Those residences that are located in the more hazardous fuel types, i.e. Sagebrush/Annual Grass and juniper, are in particular need of creating and maintaining a defensible space around their dwellings and other vulnerable structures. Implementing the basic clearing requirements specified in Public Resources Code 4291 and creating additional defensible space can reduce the threat to dwellings and other buildings within the community.

Defensible space refers to *"that area which lies between a residence and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the risk of wildfire threat and which provides an opportunity for firefighters (and the homeowner) to safely defend the residence"*. All fuel types can be modified to create defensible space. Fuel modifications include thinning and pruning to break up fuel continuity and reduce or eliminate crown fires. Creating a defensible space around a residence involves the cutting, removing, and/or thinning of grass, brush, trees, or any other vegetation type to within a minimum specified distance, or farther, from structures. The amount of thinning and pruning needed to provide sufficient defensible space in and around the community is dependent upon characteristics such as fuel type, topography, and seasonal wind and weather patterns. The concept of "defensible space" also applies to roads, driveways and other access or escape routes that individuals, firefighters, or other emergency personnel may use to protect life or property.

The "Appendix D – Defensible Space" provides detailed information, including specific measures and illustrations, that can be applied to protect structures from the risk of wildland fire. In addition, the Lassen County Fire Safe Council and CDF have excellent publications that address creation of defensible space.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Maintenance

As part of the ongoing efforts to ensure that the community of Pittville continues to be protected or reduce the risk from wildland fires, efforts should be made to monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of community fire safe projects. Those projects designed to create defensible space around community structures and individual residences should be monitored on an annual basis to reinforce implementation and to ensure that they are properly and effectively carried out.

Proposed Projects

Proposed Project	Responsible Party
Inventory for additional FPD equipment & facility needs and seek appropriate funding sources.	Northwest Lassen FPD
Inventory for specific problem properties on private land.	Northwest Lassen FPD
Mail out fire safe information to all landowners within the community and FPD.	Northwest Lassen FPD/LCFSC
Encourage landowner/homeowner to comply with additional defensible space recommended in Appendix D	Northwest Lassen FPD/CDF

Community Education, Outreach, and Involvement Recommendations

Wildfires constitute a minor threat to the Pittville community. However, some of the outlying homes and ranches that are located within the sage/annual grass and juniper fuel types are at risk from wildland fire. This Fire Safe Plan is prepared to assist the community in achieving a greater level of protection from wildfires. When fires erupt, most people rely on the fire department for their protection. This approach to safety is perilous in the urban/wildland interface. The individual property owner cannot rely solely on fire-fighting agencies to protect his or her property. The primary and initial burden for protection rests with the property owner. Residents, business owners, and local officials must take the necessary measures to prepare themselves and their communities in the event of fire and make it easier for firefighters to successfully do their jobs. Effective community education and outreach can mitigate the risk of wildfires to the community if initiated and maintained by citizens within the community. (*Reference #9*)

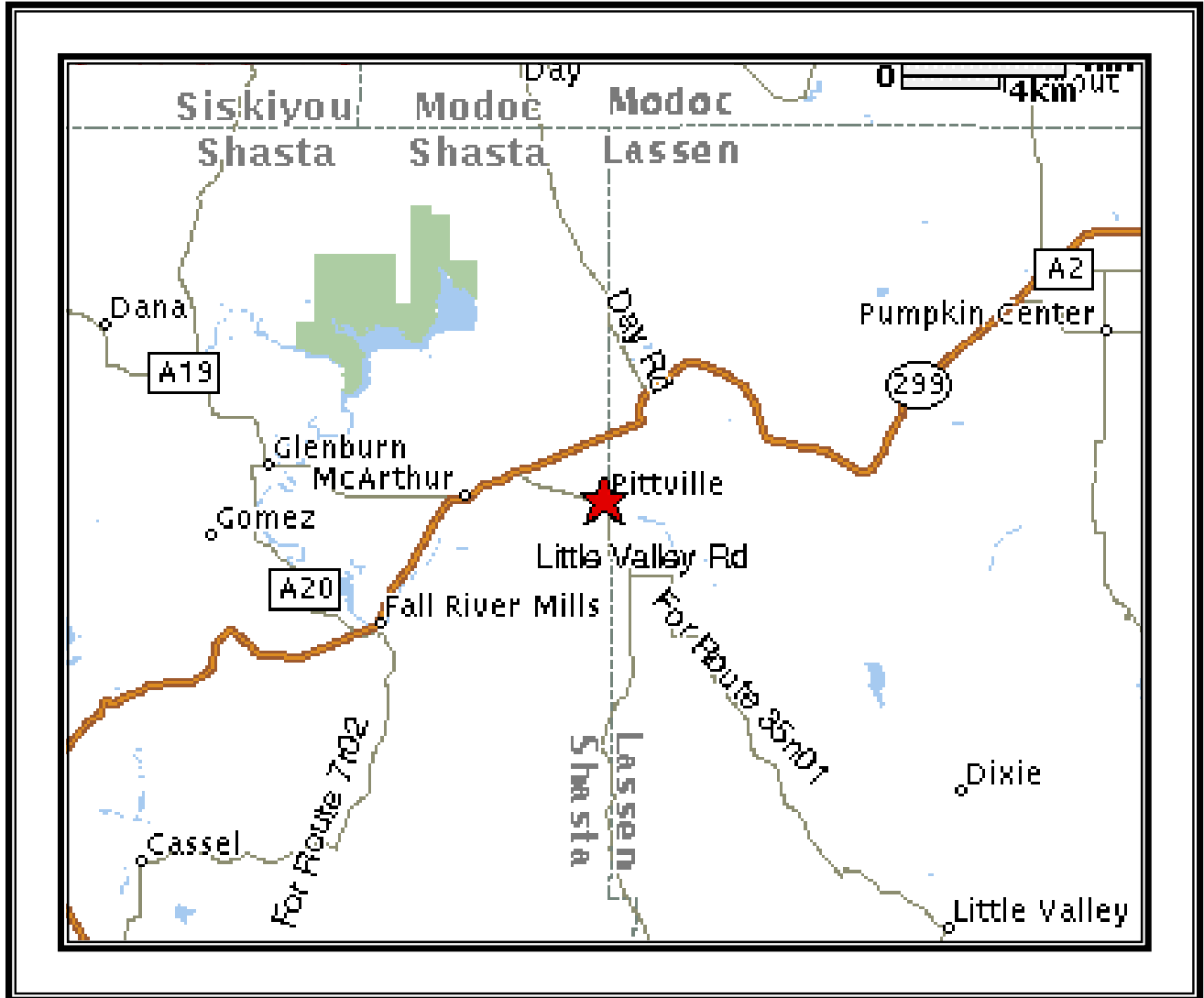
The Fire Safe Council was formed at the State level in 1993 to educate and encourage Californians to prepare for wildfires before they happen to reduce the risk to their communities, their homes, and their property. Since then, many local Fire Safe Councils have been established. Utilizing the combined expertise, resources and distribution channels of its members, the Fire Safe Council fulfills its mission to preserve California's natural and manmade resources by mobilizing all Californians to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe. (*Reference #9*)

This Plan is specifically prepared assuming that the community of Pittville, the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District, and Lassen County Fire Safe Council, will provide the leadership role for acting on recommendations included in the plan. The Council has already been instrumental in gaining cost-share assistance to execute fuel reduction projects in Lassen County.

Appendices

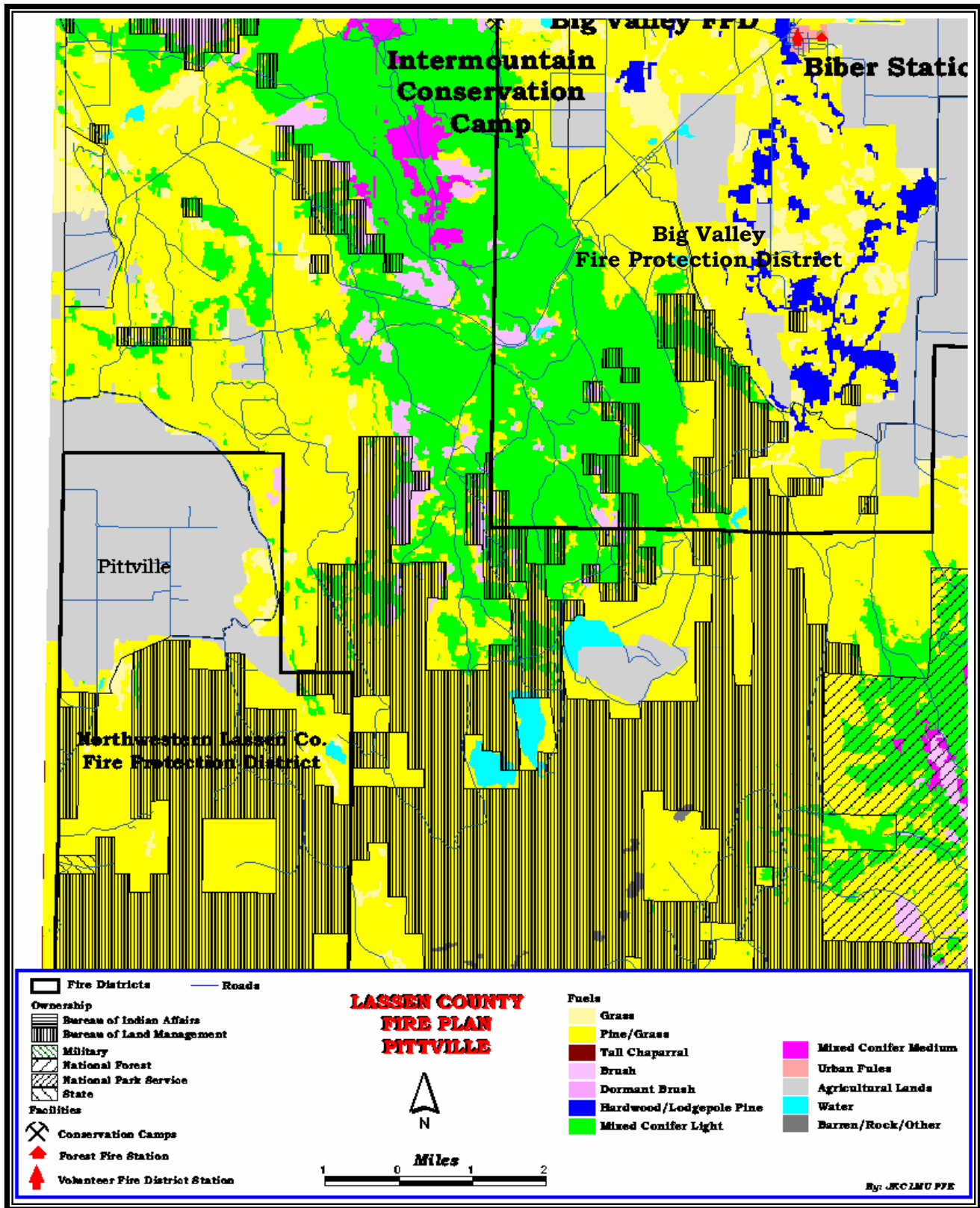
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Appendix A - Vicinity Map



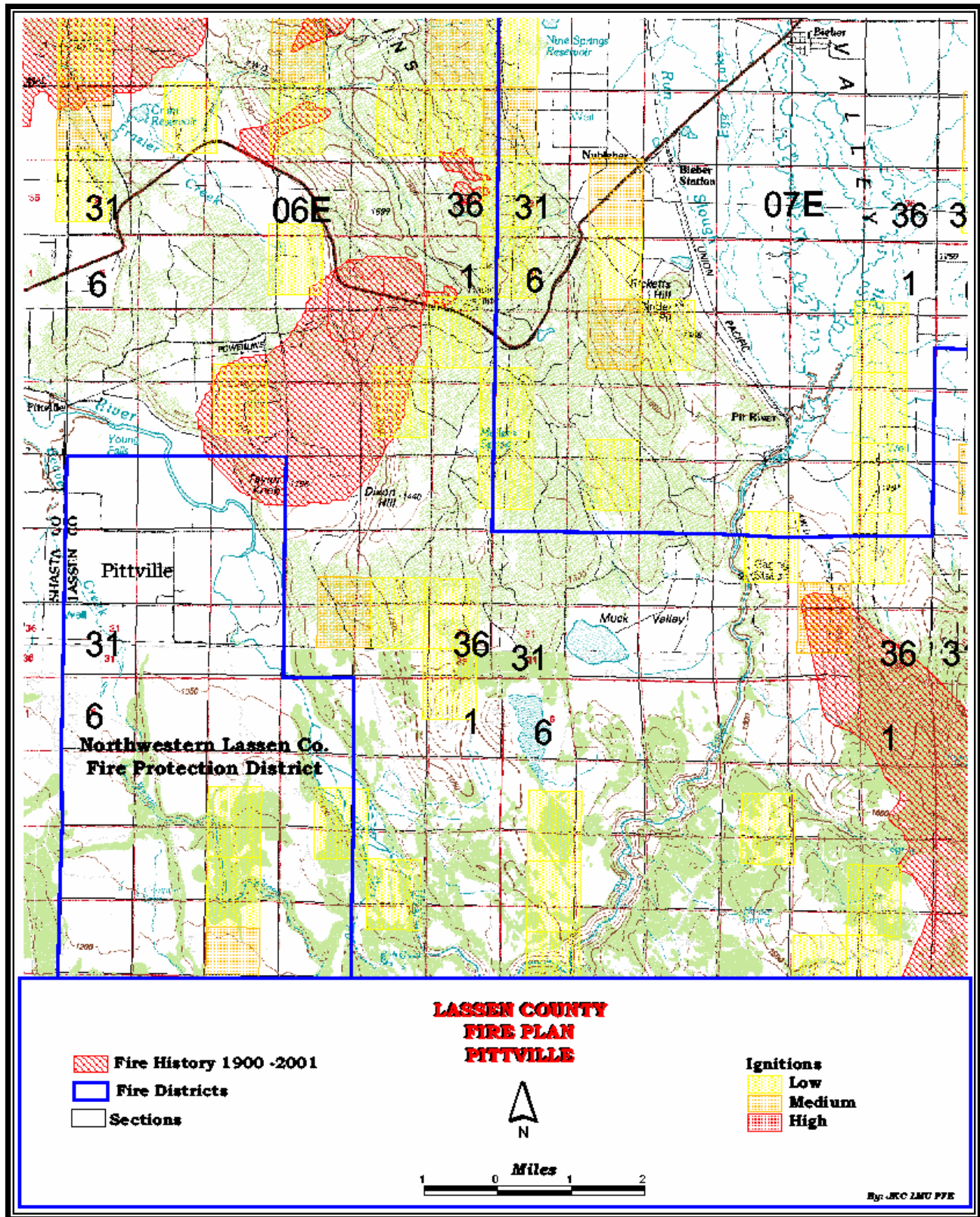
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Appendix B - Vegetation Type Map



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Appendix C - Fire History Map



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Appendix D – Defensible Space

Defensible space is the area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and to provide an opportunity for firefighters to effectively defend the house.

The clearing for defensible space is entirely under the control of the individual citizen. It is one of the easiest and most important pre-fire management activities, and one that could make the difference between a residence surviving a wildfire or being destroyed.

The State of California has mandatory defensible space requirements of “any person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains any building or structure” within the rural and wildland interface zone. These requirements are spelled out in Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291, which is included at the end of this section.

In brief, PRC 4291 requires the clearing of accumulated flammable vegetation from within 30 feet of buildings, and within 100 feet of buildings if directed by CDF because of “extra hazardous conditions”. The statute also provides for the removal or maintenance of trees near chimneys, stovepipes, and roofs, the removal of flammable debris from roofs, and the maintenance of chimney or stovepipe screens.

The requirements specified in PRC 4291 are minimum requirements. Individual citizens are encouraged to voluntarily comply with the supplemental recommendations included within this section. In addition, both the CDF website (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/Education/IndoorFireSafety.asp>) and the Janesville Fire Safe Plan (pages 38-48) have excellent discussions of defensible space.

Residence Protection Measures

The Home Zone 0'-10'

Purpose: To prevent the spread of fire from vegetation to structure.

Actions: Remove all flammable fuel sources from this zone. Conifer trees, brush, dry grass, leaves, needles, woodpiles, and flammable ornamentals are examples.

- Remember to remove leaves and needles from roofs, rain gutters, and under decks.

This zone can be landscaped with gravel, rock, concrete or left to bare mineral soil. Replace vegetation with less flammable plants: green lawns, and/or flower beds are good choices, if well watered. Keep flammable mulches away from base of house.

The Yard Zone 10'-30'

Purpose: To provide an area where fuels have been substantially modified to reduce wildfire intensity and reduce potential exposure problems. (This fuel zone should be sufficient for grasslands, and is integrated into fuel reduction for brush and timberlands.)

Actions:

- 1) Thin trees so that spacing between crowns equals crown width.
- 2) Prune branches of trees to at least 10' above ground (trim not more than 1/3 of height for small trees).
- 3) Eliminate ladder fuels.
- 4) Limit litter layer to 1" to 2".
- 5) Remove any bitterbrush.
- 6) Remove snags and logs.
- 7) Break up horizontal continuity of fuels by use of low flammability plants, flower beds, green lawns, and gravel or concrete. Watering reduces flammability.
- 8) Propane tanks located 10' from structure or property line.
- 9) Oil tanks located 5' from home; 10' from property line.

(Check with County Building Department with questions concerning *Actions 8 and 9*)

The Screen Zone 30' to 100'

Purpose: To keep wildfire on the ground, and to use vegetation to screen for privacy. This is the primary zone for fire suppression. Even though 100' of fuel reduction appears adequate for brush covered lands, further effort is necessary in timberlands.

Actions:

- 1) Thin trees so that spacing between crowns equals crown width.
- 2) Prune branches of trees to at least 10' above ground (trim not more than 1/3 of height for small trees)
- 3) Eliminate ladder fuels.
- 4) Remove snags and logs.
- 5) Thin bitterbrush and other species so that spacing equals plant height. Remove dead branches.
- 6) Separate patches and clumps of understory so they are spaced horizontally and vertically apart from the overstory.
- 7) Use vegetation to screen for privacy.

The Forest Zone 100' to 150'

Purpose: To provide a space in which a wildfire will “cool down, slow down, and stay on the ground.” This zone can provide cover for wildlife. Views within this zone can be enhanced to be more aesthetically pleasing.

Actions:

- 1) Apply all recommendations for improving forest health.
 - 2) Thin trees so that spacing between crowns equals 1/3 of crown width.
 - 3) Prune branches of trees to at least 10' above ground (trim not more than 1/3 of height for small trees).
 - 4) Eliminate ladder fuels.
 - 5) Thin bitterbrush and other species so that spacing equals plant height. Small patches and strips can be left.
- Convert combustible roofing materials such as wood shakes or shingles to materials such as comp, metal, or tile.
 - Maintain the roof and gutters free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetation.
 - Cover all exterior vents at the eaves or to the attic or under the floor and under any wood decks with wire screen with ½-inch or less mesh size.
 - Do not store combustible materials or trash near the house.
 - During the fire season, keep stacks of firewood and lumber at least 30 feet from the house, and keep loose leaves and other material 10 feet away from firewood or lumber stacks.
 - Locate all LPG (butane and propane) tanks at least 30 feet from the house and keep loose leaves, dead vegetation, and other material 10 feet away from the tanks.

Burning

- Contact local fire department to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so obtain a burning permit. Clear at least 10 feet around burn piles prior to burning.

Public Resources Code Section 4291 – Reduction of Fire Hazards around Buildings; Requirements; Exemptions

4291. Any person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains any building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area or forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, or grass-covered lands, or any land

which is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

- (a) Maintain around and adjacent to such building or structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This subdivision does not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants which are used as ground cover, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any building or structure.
- (b) Maintain around and adjacent to any such building or structure additional fire protection or firebreak made by removing all brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth which is located from 30 feet to 100 feet from such building or structure or to the property line, whichever is nearer, as may be required by the director if he finds that, because of extra hazardous conditions, a firebreak of only 30 feet around such building or structure is not sufficient to provide reasonable fire safety. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from such building or structure and less than 18 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.
- (c) Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.
- (d) Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood.
- (e) Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.
- (f) Provide and maintain at all times a screen over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe that is attached to any fireplace, stove, or other device that burns any solid or liquid fuel. The screen shall be constructed of nonflammable material with openings of not more than one-half inch in size.
- (g) Except as provided in Section 18930 of the Health and Safety Code, the director may adopt regulations exempting structures with exteriors constructed entirely of nonflammable materials, or conditioned upon the contents and composition of same, he may vary the requirements respecting the removing or clearing away of flammable vegetation or other combustible growth with respect to the area surrounding said structures. No such exemption or variance shall apply unless and until the occupant thereof, or if there be no occupant, then the owner thereof, files with the department, in such form as the director shall prescribe, a written consent to the inspection of the interior and contents of such structure to ascertain whether the provisions hereof and the regulations adopted hereunder are complied with at all times.

4291.1. (a) Notwithstanding Section 4021, a violation of Section 4291 is an infraction punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500). If a person is convicted of a second violation of Section 4291 within five years, that person shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500). If a person is convicted of a third violation of Section 4291 within five years, that person is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500). If a person is convicted of a third violation of Section 4291 within five years, the department may perform or contract for the performance of work necessary to comply with Section 4291 and may bill the person convicted for the costs incurred, in which case the person convicted, upon payment of those costs, shall not be required to pay the fine. If a person convicted of a violation of Section 4291 is granted probation, the court shall impose as a term or condition of probation, in addition to any other term or condition of probation, that the person pay at least the minimum fine prescribed in this section.

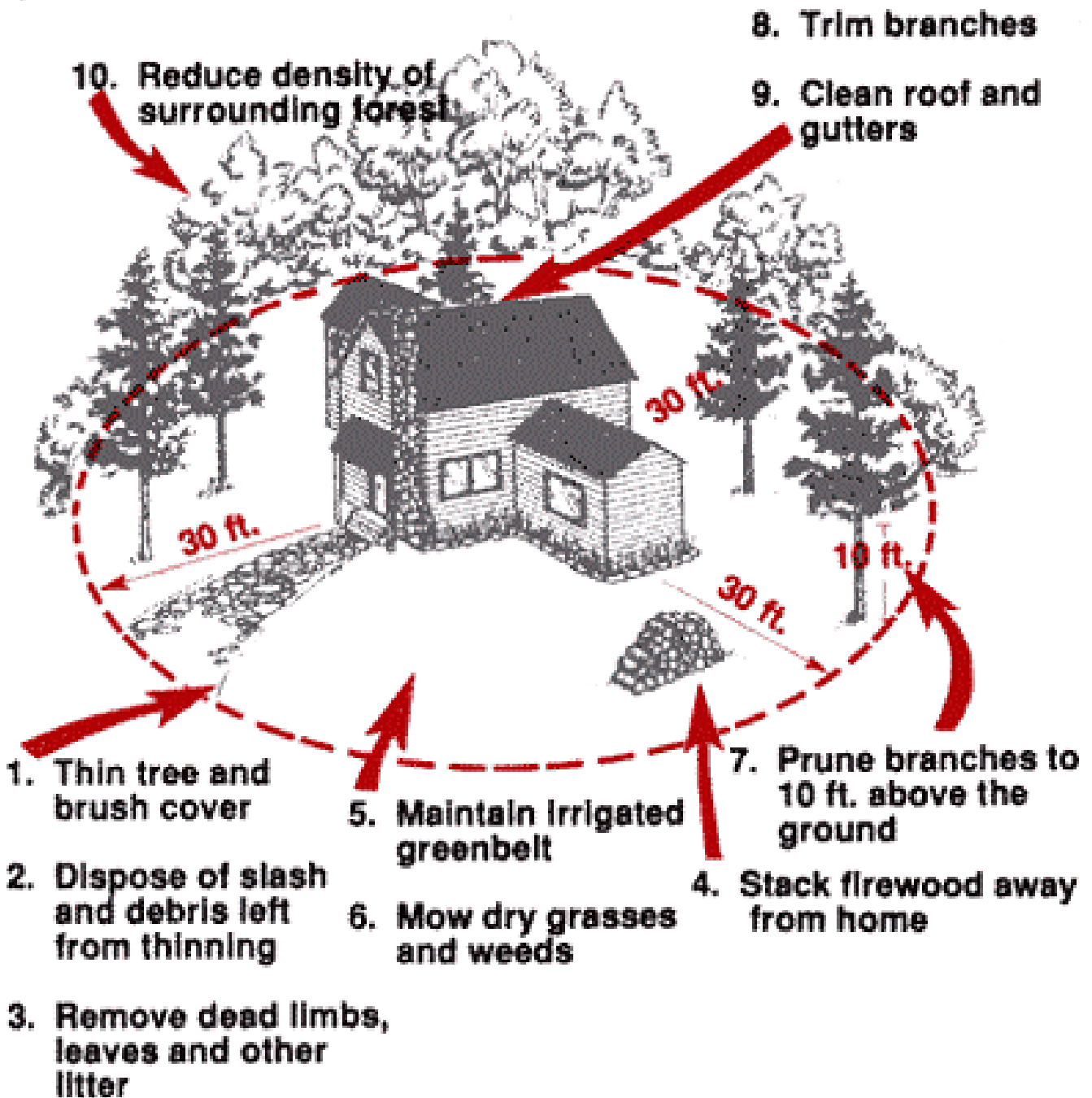
(b) If a person convicted of a violation of Section 4291 produces in court verification prior to imposition of a fine by the court, that the condition resulting in the citation no longer exists, the court may reduce the fine imposed for the violation of Section 4291 to fifty dollars (\$50).

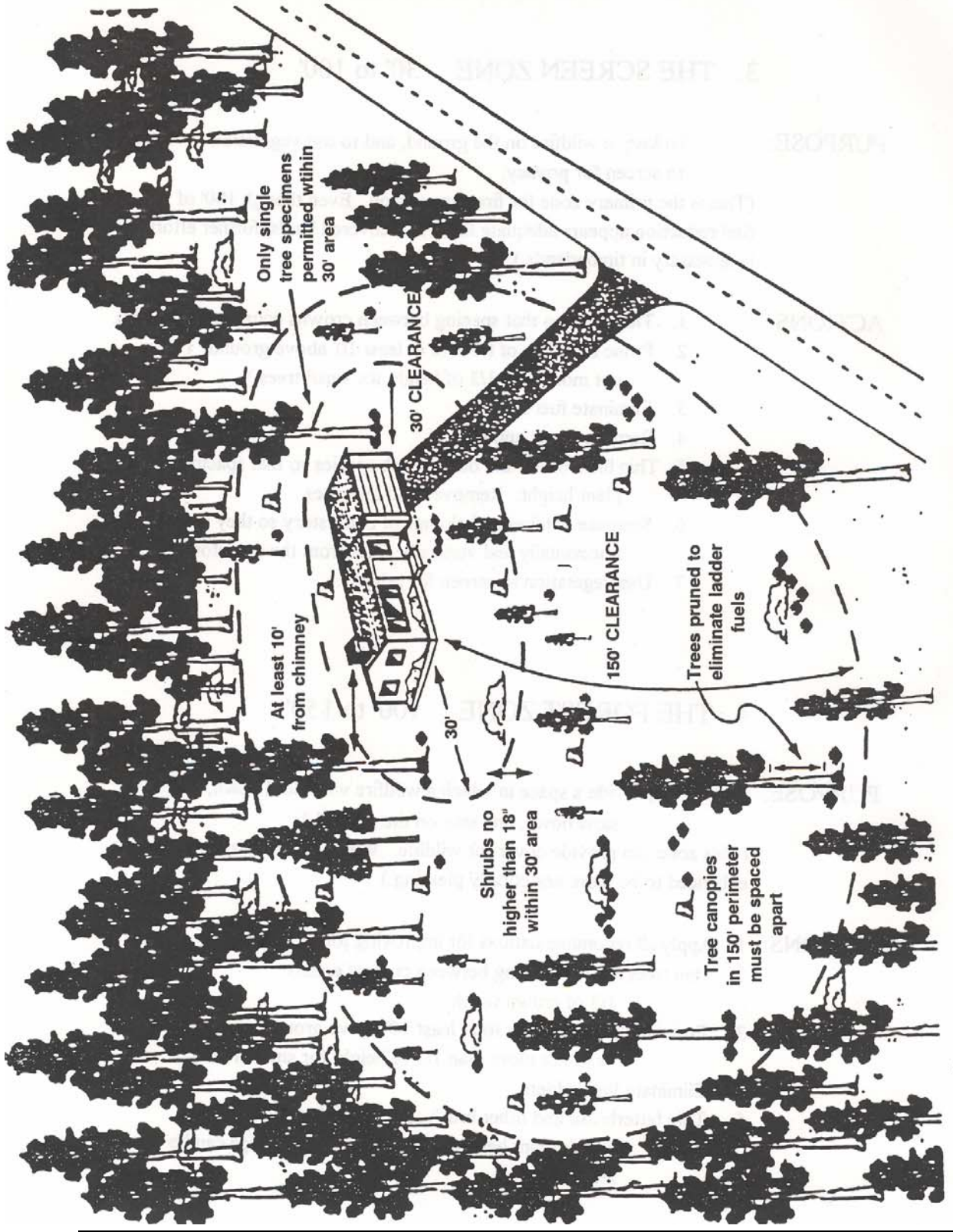
Supplemental Defensible Space Clearances

The following supplemental defensible space clearances, beyond the required minimum distance of 30 feet, are recommended by CDF in the following fuel types:

Fuel Model #	Fuel Model Type	Recommended Fuel Reduction Distances
1	Grass	30 feet
2	Pine/Sagebrush/Grass	100 feet
4	Tall Chaparral	100 feet
5	Brush/Dominant Brush	100 feet
6	Brush	100 Feet
9	Second Growth Pine	150 feet
10	Mixed Conifer	150 feet

FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES





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Homeowner's Checklist

OUTSIDE



1 Design/Construction

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

2 Access

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
- Construct roads that allow two-way traffic
- Design road width, grade and curves to allow access for large emergency vehicles
- Construct driveways to allow large emergency equipment to reach your house
- Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks
- Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations

- Make sure dead-end roads, and long driveways have turn-around areas wide enough for emergency vehicles
- Construct turnouts along one-way roads
- Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads
- Construct fire barriers such as greenbelts
- Make sure that your street is named or numbered, and a sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
- Make sure that your street name and house number are not duplicated elsewhere in the county
- Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway, or on your house if it is easily visible from the road

3 Roof

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

4 Landscape

- Create a "defensible space" by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures
- Never prune near power lines. Call your local utility company first
- Landscape with fire resistant plants
- On slopes or in high fire hazard areas remove flammable vegetation out to 100 feet or more
- Space native trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart
- For trees taller than 18 feet, remove lower branches within six feet of the ground
- Maintain all plants by regularly watering, and by removing dead branches, leaves and needles
- Before planting trees close to any power line contact your local utility company to confirm the maximum tree height allowable for that location

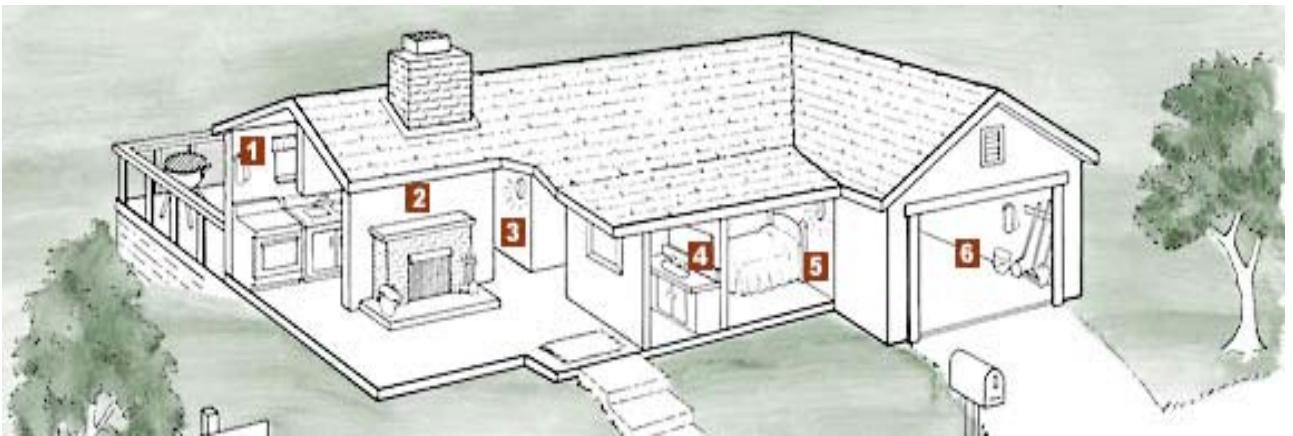
5 Yard

- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and remove vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles
- Locate LPG tanks (butane and propane) at least 30 feet from any structure and maintain 10 feet of clearance
- Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard
- Contact your local fire department to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit
- Where burn barrels are allowed, clear flammable materials at least 10 feet around the barrel; cover the open top with a non-flammable screen with mesh no larger than 1/4 inch

6 Emergency Water Supply

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

INSIDE



1 Kitchen

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

2 Living Room

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

3 Hallway

- Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas
- Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year, when clocks are changed in the spring and fall
- Install child safety plugs (caps) on all electrical outlets
- Replace electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections, or are frayed

4 Bedroom

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

5 Bathroom

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

6 Garage

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

Disaster Preparedness

- ___ Maintain at least a three-day supply of drinking water, and food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking
- ___ Maintain a portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns and batteries
- ___ Maintain first aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives
- ___ Keep a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency; if possible, store these valuables together
- ___ Make sure that all family members are ready to protect themselves with STOP, DROP AND ROLL
- ___ For safety, securely attach all water heaters and furniture such as cabinets and bookshelves to walls
- ___ Have a contingency plan to enable family members to contact each other. Establish a family/friend phone tree
- ___ Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home
- ___ Practice emergency exit drills in the house (EDITH) regularly
- ___ Outdoor cooking appliances such as barbecues should never be taken indoors for use as heaters

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3. Henry Crane, Past Fire Chief, Northwest Lassen Fire District, Pittville, (530) 336-5135.
4. Rick Kyle, CDF Battalion Chief, Bieber CDF Station, (530) (530) 294-5251.
5. Tim Williams, Dispatcher, Susanville Interagency Command Center, Susanville, CA, (530) 257-5575.
6. http://www.fireplan.gov/communities_at_risk.cfm
7. http://www.fireplan.gov/community_2002.cfm
8. Aids to Determining Fuel Models for Estimating Fire Behavior, Hal E. Anderson, General Technical Report INT-122, April 1982.
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10. Tom Gauthier, Lassen Fire Safe Council, (530) 257-3627.
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