

Appendix C
LNU Strategic Plan Projects and Priorities

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LNU Strategic Plan Projects and Priorities, Battalions 1410, 1411, 1412 and 1413

Battalion 1410 LNU Strategic Fire Plan, 2015, Projects and Priorities¹:

Past Projects

1410 continues to work with the Foothill Homeowners' Association to help them understand the risk of fire and the importance of defensible space, and also advised them on areas for fuels reduction and evacuation advice.

Current Projects

Battalion 1410 personnel will work with the local government fire agencies on defensible space projects in conjunction with LE-100 inspection in the SRA. Staff are currently working with Santa Rosa City FD and Rincon Valley FPD on structure protection preplans for the Riebli Rd, Fountain Grove area.

Annually, each Battalion within Sonoma County will target 100-200 residences per year for Mailers, followed up by inspections as needed. Within Battalion 1410 the first target areas are Joy Rd in the Occidental area and the SRA portion of Wikiup Village, Northeast of the City of Santa Rosa and located in the Central Fire Authority of Sonoma County (a new JPA between the Windsor and Rincon Valley Fire District. The primary threat to this intermix area is a fire approaching from the Shiloh Region Park under the influence of a North wind which will immediately threaten 50-100 residences.

Future Projects and Priority Rankings

Future projects will focus on areas identified as high risk/high hazard, support the West Sonoma Fire Safe Council and the City of Santa Rosa. Next Priority for LE-100 program is in the Redwood Hill and Gates Rd area.

¹ Strategic Fire Plan Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, 2015, p. 32

Battalion 1411: LNU Strategic Fire Plan, 2015 Projects and Priorities²

Past Projects

The unit has had a series of Vegetation Management Projects in The Sea Ranch Area. CAL FIRE staff worked with The Sea Ranch Association in development of their Fire Management Plan. Since that plan was adopted, the wildland-urban interface fire problem has evolved with the construction of more homes, an increase in understory fuels, the invasion of grasslands by shrub species, and a decline in the health of non-native pine trees. TSRA hired a consultant and using their own Association funds have begun to implement fuel reduction projects. Emphasis is placed on the lands adjacent and grasslands west of Highway 1.

In the Timber Cove area, a fuel reduction project funded by BLM through the Community Based Wildfire Prevention Grants Program created a shaded fuelbreak along Ruoff Road between Highway 1 and Timber Cove Road. Ruoff Road transects an area of timbered wildland that has been developed. The road provides access to many homes, and was not passable to two-way traffic in many locations because of the narrow paving and encroaching vegetation. The fuelbreak will provide for evacuation, access for firefighting resources, and a possible "line" to halt a fire. The grant was sponsored through Fire Safe Sonoma, with staff support provided by CAL FIRE and the Sonoma County Department of Fire Emergency Services.

The Fort Ross Volunteer Fire Company has been active in the reduction of fuel loading through coordinated chipping and formation of shaded fuelbreaks, through the same funding mechanism and administration as the Timber Cove area. A California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew was used in place of a private contractor to complete the work. The CCC crew worked with the residents to clear and chip several shaded fuelbreaks. CAL FIRE personnel continue to advise and work with The Sea Ranch Association for fuels reduction and defensible space inspections.

Present Projects

CAL FIRE has hosted community based meetings in The Sea Ranch, Timber Cove, Cazadero, and Armstrong Redwoods area the past summers.

Battalion 1411 personnel post fire preventions signs in high profile locations, conduct defensible space inspections in target areas, maintain a presence at large community events, and participate in many other forms of public education.

Battalion 1411 personnel continue working with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to conduct prescribed control burns in the State Parks. Plans are being formulated to carry out additional control burns in the future, and expand the burning program. The intent of these burns are to manage fuels in the State Parks, including fuel reduction to reduce fire behavior, and decrease the spread of invasive species. These control burns also offer a training opportunity for CAL FIRE and cooperating agencies, helping us work better together during emergencies.

Battalion 1411 personnel participate in defensible space inspections programs. Defensible space inspections allow CAL FIRE to interact with homeowners and discuss fire prevention and mitigation plans. Battalion personnel also become more familiar with assets at risks, access, and concerns that residents may have.

Future Projects and Ranking

Battalion 1411 personnel will continue to host community meetings and rotate locations to have exposure to the largest amounts of people. The purposes of these meetings are to increase the awareness level of preparing for wildland fire, defensible space, and actions to take during a wildland fire. Other approaches to accomplishing the same goal are being formulated. These include submitting letters and articles to homeowners groups, media, and other publications.

B1411 personnel will engage in the development of pre-fire response plans and other related documents, and maps for wildland areas, some remote, with high density structures such as Brushy Ridge Loop in Annapolis, and the Timber Cove area.

Battalion 1411 personnel will also support grants undertaken by Fire Safe Sonoma, and other community groups.

² Strategic Fire Plan Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, 2015, p. 34-35

Battalion 1412, LNU Strategic Fire Plan, 2015 Projects and Priorities,³

Past Projects

Past projects have been funded through BLM's Community Based Wildfire Prevention Grants Program using a variety of methods to get the actual work completed. Near Glen Ellen, a grant was sponsored through Fire Safe Sonoma, to establish a safety corridor and a secondary ingress and egress route in a high hazard area adjacent to Annadel State Park. Another project, also sponsored by Fire Safe Sonoma used Sonoma County work crews to clear roadways that had been overgrown by vegetation. And along five miles Trinity Road in the Mayacamas Mountains east of Glen Ellen, a shaded fuelbreak was created using CAL FIRE Fire Crews, residents, and county work crews. The Trinity Road fuelbreak was funded by the Forest Stewardship, a previous program similar to BLM's Community Based Wildfire Prevention Grant Program. Additionally, focused LE 100 inspections have been done in the area east of the town of Glen Ellen, in the Cavedale/Trinity road area. Approximately 300 inspections a year have been accomplished in this area. Other past projects include the "East Sonoma Pre Attack Fire Plan." This pre attack plan consists of a two sided tri-fold brochure that contains map a Contingency map on one side and Operational Safety Briefing, Staging Areas and Escape routes description on the other side. This pre attack plan will be beneficial to cooperating fire agencies along with Department resources in event of large scale wildfires occur in the area.

Present Projects

Present projects consist of small community events. CAL FIRE apparatus and personnel also participate in other community events such as parades in the town of Kenwood, Valley of the Moon and Sonoma.

Each year, CAL FIRE commits fire prevention and suppression resources to 3 large events at Sonoma Raceway during the summer race season. Sonoma Raceway is located near Sears Point along Highway 37 entirely in the SRA. The raceway holds several events during the summer months that attract upwards of over 100,000 spectators per event. CAL FIRE inmate crews are also assisting with the creation of a shaded fuel break in the Bennett Ridge subdivision east of Santa Rosa. The purpose of this project is to lessen the impact of a fire leaving Annadel State Park and impacting this subdivision. This project is being coordinated with State Parks and the Bennett Ridge Homeowners Group.

Future Projects and Priority Rankings

Along with Defensible Space Inspectors, all engine companies in B1412 are required to perform a minimum of 10 Defensible Space Inspections per week. Target areas are the areas east of Hwy 12 in the Sonoma Area, The area north of downtown Sonoma and the area south of the City of Petaluma.

Currently, there are plans to extend the "Pre-Attack Map" program to include all portions of the Sonoma Valley, pending grant funding.

³ Strategic Fire Plan Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, 2015, p. 36

Battalion 1413 LNU Strategic Fire Plan 2015, Projects and Priorities,⁴:

Past Projects

The Battalion has been very busy with pre-fire management programs in the past ranging from vegetation management program (VMP) control burns in the Geysers Geothermal area in Northeastern Sonoma County to homeowners working with CAL FIRE and the local fire department to reduce fuels in the Fitch Mountain area in Healdsburg, the Vineyard subdivision in Geyserville and the Palomino Lakes subdivision in Cloverdale.

Previously, the City of Healdsburg Fire Department contacted CAL FIRE for advice on its' growing wildland/urban interface fire hazard, particularly on the City's north and east flanks. This area comprises the steepest and highest elevations in the city, on Fitch Mountain, and area adjacent to it, which is SRA. Working with Fire Safe Sonoma, Healdsburg Fire Department, and Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services, a plan was developed for a multi-phase fire environment modification. Funding was secured through a Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant administered by the USDA Forest Service. This project was implemented with LE-100 defensible space inspections, a community chipper program, and the re-establishment of an alternative fire access road. California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews were also used.

In the Palomino Lakes subdivision, CAL FIRE and the Cloverdale Fire Protection District coordinated with the Palomino Homeowners' Association to reduce fuel loading. The Palomino Lakes subdivision has experienced damaging fires in the past. Private contractors were used to clear vegetation along roads, and chip over seventy-five cubic yards of vegetation. Along with the work, a community meeting was held.

CAL FIRE maintains an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers for wildland fire protection. Each year under this agreement, a meeting is held to discuss the contract. Part of CAL FIRE's responsibility is to train staff in wildland firefighting, discuss fire prevention issues, and pre-plan emergency response. Much of the lake's campgrounds are remote and access is only via a boat and/or fire roads.

CAL FIRE fire crews are used to construct precautionary handlines around the campsites prior to fire season, and bulldozers and graders are used to maintain the fire roads on a rotating basis. A fire prevention display is kept at the visitors' center as well as a fire prevention sign and fire danger rating sign along the roadway leading to the lake's main access. Each year CAL FIRE coordinates and participates in burning off the 80 acre dam face with many local departments participating, making it a valuable training tool for all.

⁴ Strategic Fire Plan Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, 2015, p. 37-38

Battalion 1413 LNU Strategic Fire Plan, Continued

The Battalion Chief works closely with local government cooperators, annually holding a multi-agency drill that replicates a wildland-urban interface wildfire response. This event, while providing training for CAL FIRE and local government personnel, increases wildfire awareness and prevention in the community in which the drill is held. The image of a fire engine backed in a driveway, with fire fighters in full personnel protective equipment and fire hoses deployed generates discussion amongst homeowners and CAL FIRE. Additional benefits include area orientation and pre-planning for fire fighters, the opportunity for homeowners to approach fire fighters, and for personnel from different fire departments the opportunity to interact.

Battalion 1413 personnel also complete over 200 LE-100 defensible space inspections each year. The Battalion Chief targets an area for each station to complete inspections, using *direct* mailers asking for volunteer compliance or self-inspection. CAL FIRE personnel then complete follow-up work to ensure compliance. This LE-100 approach in conjunction with the aforementioned multi-agency drill bodes well for promoting the concept of defensible space in the designated area.

Present Projects

Battalion 1413 continues to work with CalPine to continue the VMP burning projects on the lands they control. Brush species will be targeted with the burning most likely to occur in the fall, early winter and located close to the infrastructure (structures and power lines) in the geothermal area.

Battalion 1413 personnel actively participate in community events, such as the Healdsburg Future Farms of America (FFA) parade held on Memorial Weekend of each year and the Cloverdale Citrus parade held in February

Future Projects and Priority Rankings

Upcoming focus will be on the Fitch Mtn. area in Healdsburg and the Pine Mountain area in Cloverdale. The current Battalion Chief has met with homeowner groups in both areas numerous times and have prepared them for what to expect for the LE-100 program and future inspections and how to prepare their homes if a fire is in their area. Multi-agency drills will be held in the Fitch Mtn. area as well as the Pine Mtn. area in the coming years.