

# ***Unit Strategic Fire Plan***

## ***SISKIYOU UNIT***



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## UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

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## ***SIGNATURE PAGE***

### **Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for Siskiyou Unit**

This Plan:

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



***Unit Chief***

Greg Roath

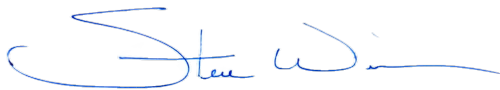
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Fire Plan reflects CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit's focus on fire prevention and suppression activities to protect lives, property, and natural resources. Through collaboration among local, state, federal, tribal, and private partners we will progress towards a more fire resilient wildland-urban interface and natural environment. This may include working together to improve fire prevention and education information, access egress, fuel breaks, landscape level fuel reduction projects, as well as continuing to develop and update Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). Community protection includes promoting the safety of the public and emergency responders as well as protection of property, natural resources and improvements.

The Siskiyou Unit Fire Plan will be successful by meeting the following goals:

1. Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property, and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social, and other values of functioning ecosystems.
2. Facilitate the collaborative development and sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.
3. Promote and support local land use planning processes as they relate to:
  - a) protection of life, property, and natural resources from risks associated with wildland fire.
  - b) individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
4. Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of local, county, and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.
5. Increase fire prevention awareness, knowledge, and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss, property damage, and impacts to natural resources from wildland fires.
6. Integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner/land manager priorities across jurisdictions.
7. Determine the level of resources necessary to effectively identify, plan, and implement fire prevention using adaptive management strategies.
8. Determine the level of fire suppression resources necessary to protect the values and assets at risk identified during planning processes.
9. Implement post-fire assessments and programs for the protection of life, property, and natural resource recovery.

Through collaborative efforts and hard-work the Siskiyou Unit Fire Plan will guide us towards a more fire resilient future using pre-fire efforts.

## SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

### UNIT DESCRIPTION

The Siskiyou Unit (SKU) is in the far Northern portion of California and borders the State of Oregon. The Unit encompasses 1.4 million acres of ecologically diverse State Responsibility Area (SRA). Eco-types range from high desert to majestic coniferous forests with lush ranch lands carpeting the interior valleys throughout. Magnificent Mt. Shasta serves as the Units geographical centerpiece rising abruptly to an astonishing 14,179 feet in elevation. The Counties watersheds drain to the Sacramento River in the south, the Klamath River in the north, and the Salmon River in the west.

The weather patterns in Siskiyou County are as diverse as its ecology. Summer temperatures may climb into the 100's, while winter temperatures may drop well below freezing with significant snowstorms common throughout the winter months. Fuel types in the unit include timber, timber with a grass understory, grass, brush, oak woodland, desert sage and western juniper stands. Like most mountainous areas, Siskiyou County may experience a high occurrence of lightning activity during the summer months. Ranching, recreation, and the timber industry fuel Siskiyou County's economy. The summer months see a large influx of tourists who take advantage of the County's wide-open spaces for outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, white-water rafting, mountain climbing, and camping.

Most of the large fires in the Siskiyou Unit over the past 50 years have been wind driven fires. Lightning, equipment-use, and debris burning have historically been the determined lead ignition sources for these large fires.

The Klamath National Forest, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management are the largest public land ownerships adjacent to the unit. Other public lands include the Shasta Valley, Horseshoe Ranch, Butte Valley, Lower Klamath, and Tulelake Wildlife Refuge Areas.

In June of 2010, the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP released *California's Forest and Rangelands: 2010 Assessment*. As part of the assessment, states were required to identify key issues and define the status and trends throughout the forests. Furthermore, states were asked to identify specific geographic areas, called "priority landscapes". The intent of identifying "priority landscapes" was to assist investment and other programs focusing on the issue areas. The assessment identifies forest and rangeland issues throughout the state including Siskiyou County. The assessment also identifies strategies to address these issues. The complete assessment can be found on the CAL FIRE FRAP website. The "priority landscapes" identified within the Siskiyou Unit will be considered during the planning phase of future projects within the unit. The following "priority landscapes" and strategies have been identified within the Siskiyou Unit:

#### *Wildfire Threats to Ecosystem Health and Community Safety*

Developing coherent strategies involves collaborative planning, given the unique and disparate audience for dealing with the threat (i.e., numerous individual landowners. In terms of protecting communities, this is discussed in detail in Chapter 3.3: Planning for and Reducing Wildfire Risks to Communities.

### *Sustainable Working Forests and Rangelands*

Opportunities exist for landowner assistance to enhance productivity and health of working landscapes. Risk Reduction on Forestlands: Identifies areas with timber and biomass energy assets that are threatened by wildfire and forest pests. Risk Reduction on Rangelands: identifies areas where rangeland productivity is threatened by wildfire. Restoring Impacted Timberlands: identifies areas with timber and biomass energy assets that have been impacted by past wildfires or forest pest outbreaks.

### *Forest Pests and Other Threats to Ecosystem Health and Community Safety*

Forest management tools include the removal of dead, dying, and diseased trees, thinning of small and medium live trees, replanting multiple species, and other techniques used to remove hazards and improve ecosystem health. In California, responsibility for the control of forest pest outbreaks often falls to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on state and privately owned lands, and the U.S. Forest Service on federal lands. CAL FIRE, with the approval of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF), can declare a zone of infestation for native and exotic insect and disease pests. Within a zone of infestation CAL FIRE employees may go on private lands to attempt eradication or control in a manner approved by the Board of Forestry.

### *Water Quality and Quantity Protection and Enhancement*

Protecting and managing forests in source watersheds is an essential part of future strategies for providing a sustainable supply of clean water for a broad range of beneficial uses. Tools to address threats to water supplies include water conservation, restoration of riparian forests, restoration of mountain meadows, and protection of groundwater. Tools to address water quality concerns include reduction of soil erosion through Best Management Practices for forest roads and timber harvesting, additional protection for riparian areas in salmonid watersheds, road maintenance, and fuel reduction treatments designed to reduce high severity wildfires.

### *Planning for Reducing Wildfire Risks to Communities*

In California, community involvement in wildfire planning is extensive, as evidenced for example, by CWPP (as defined under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003), local and regional Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, and community participation in the federal Fire Wise Communities/USA program. State laws requiring “defensible space” around structures, building codes, and other responsibilities are aimed at helping communities reduce their risk of loss when wildfire strikes. Federal programs such as the National Fire Plan also help with funding for fire hazard reduction.

### *Emerging Markets for Forests and Rangeland Products and Services*

Strengthen and develop new market opportunities for forest products and benefits provide incentives for forest stewardship and conservation. Emerging markets for renewable energy, ecosystem services, and niche product areas impact how forest and rangelands are managed. Developing appropriate policies will require a better understanding of the benefits and environmental impacts of these emerging markets and how society values the various market and non-market products and services provided by forests and rangelands.

### *Plant, Wildlife, and Fish Habitat Protection, Conservation and Enhancement*

Numerous efforts in California are working towards identifying and protecting important wildlife, plant, and fish habitat. Tools for addressing wildlife habitat needs include the purchase of land and conservation easements, development planning, zoning, habitat mitigation banking and restoration, policy, regulations, and funding mechanisms that support these efforts.

### *Climate Change: Threats and Opportunities*

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has identified five strategies to mitigate against greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: reforestation, forestland conservation, fuels reduction, urban forestry, and forest management to improve carbon sequestration.

## **UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES**

At the peak of firefighting preparedness, Siskiyou Unit suppression resources include approximately 131 career personnel and 113 seasonal personnel. The Siskiyou Unit is geographically divided into four fire battalions. Within these battalions the Siskiyou Unit has resources and facilities strategically located. These include: seven fire stations, one conservation camp, one fire center, and a headquarters facility. During summer months, thirteen schedule "B" engines, two bulldozers, up to four incarcerated persons fire crews, up to two firefighter 1 hand crews, and up to three fire lookouts are staffed. The fire lookouts are staffed based upon fire, weather, and lightning activity levels. In the winter months, the Hornbrook Forest Fire Station (FFS) is committed to a fire protection contract with Siskiyou County as a part of the Amador Plan, and is staffed with one engine. Additionally, the Yreka FFS and the Weed FFS are staffed year-round with one engine each.

The Siskiyou Unit has an Emergency Command Center known as the Yreka Interagency Command Center (YICC). The YICC is located at the Siskiyou Unit Headquarters in Yreka and is a collaboration of CAL FIRE, United States Forest Service (USFS) and County of Siskiyou staff. The YICC provides dispatching services for CAL FIRE, USFS, 26 local government fire departments, and 6 ambulance companies. The YICC is responsible for emergency call taking, dispatching, and tracking of resources. The YICC has an Emergency Dispatcher at the console 24 hours a day. The goal of the YICC is to meet and exceed the standards set in NFPA 1221 section 6.4.2. These standards specify that 95 percent of all alarms be answered within 15 seconds and 99 percent answered within 40 seconds. In addition, Section 6.4.3 specifies that 95 percent of all dispatching be completed within 60 seconds.

Battalion I (Scott Valley Battalion) is located in the northwest portion of the unit and includes the Fort Jones FFS. This station is located in the City of Fort Jones and houses three type III fire engines and one type II fire bulldozer. Deadwood Conservation Camp is located north of Fort Jones along McAdams Creek. Deadwood is an 80-person camp and is capable of providing four type I hand crews. There are two fire lookouts located within the Scott Valley Battalion, Quartz Hill, and Duzel Rock.

Battalion II (Shasta Valley Battalion) is centrally located in the northern portion of the unit. Within the Shasta Valley Battalion there are two CAL FIRE stations. One station is in Yreka, and one is in Hornbrook. Yreka FFS is considered the headquarters station and houses two type III fire engines and one type II bulldozer. Hornbrook FFS is located along Interstate 5 near the California and Oregon border in the town of Hornbrook. This station houses two type III fire engines. There is one fire lookout within the Shasta Valley Battalion, Paradise Craggy. The Siskiyou Fire Center located at the Siskiyou County Fairgrounds is also within the battalion. The 40 person center houses the Siskiyou Fire Fighter I hand crew.

Battalion III (Butte Valley Battalion) can be identified on a map as two distinct geographical areas separated by Federal Direct Protection Area. One portion of the Butte Valley Battalion is in the central portion of the unit near the City of Weed. The other is in the Northeast portion of the unit and includes the Butte Valley and extends north to the Oregon border. Within the Butte Valley Battalion there are two CAL FIRE stations. One station is in the City of Weed. Weed FFS houses two type III fire engines and serves as the battalion headquarters. Macdoel FFS is in the town of Macdoel and houses one type III engine.

Battalion IV (McCloud Battalion) is in the southern portion of the unit. Within the McCloud Battalion there are two CAL FIRE stations. One is in McCloud and the other is in Pondosa. McCloud FFS houses two type III fire engines. Pondosa FFS is located within Shasta County but is staffed and administered by the Siskiyou Unit and houses two type III fire engines.

## LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS



The Siskiyou Unit is very appreciative of its local fire departments. Many of these departments are staffed completely by volunteers whose personnel are often the first to arrive at fires, medical aids, and other types of emergencies. These departments are often located within Fire Protection Districts (FPD) or Community Services Districts (CSD) which are typically governed by elected boards of directors and have authority to levy taxes to support their work. Within the Siskiyou Unit, CAL FIRE reciprocates emergency services using Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreements.

The following local fire departments exist within the Siskiyou Unit:

Etna City Fire Department	South Yreka Fire Protection District
Fort Jones City Fire Department	Yreka City Fire Department
Scott Valley Fire Protection District	Butte Valley Fire Protection District
Happy Camp Fire District	Dorris City Fire Department
Copco Lake Fire Protection District	Seiad Valley Fire Company
Gazelle Fire Protection District	Tennant Community Services District
Grenada Fire Protection District	Tulelake Fire Department
Hammond Ranch Fire Zone	Weed City Fire Department
Hilt Fire Protection District	Lake Shastina Community Service District
Hornbrook Fire Protection District	Castella Fire Protection District
Klamath River Fire Company	Dunsmuir City Fire Department
Mayten Fire Protection District	McCloud Community Services District
Montague Fire Protection District	Mt Shasta City Fire Department
Mt. Shasta Vista Fire Zone	Mount Shasta Fire Protection District
Salmon River Fire Company	Pleasant Valley Fire Zone



## SECTION II: COLLABORATION

### COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan are included in the following table. Their organization and title are indicated below:

#### Plan Development Team:

Organization	Title
Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County	Fire Safe Council Members
Lower Scott River FSC/Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
French Creek FSC/Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
Scott Valley FSC/Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
Yreka Area FSC/ Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
Juniper Flat FSC/Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
Rattlesnake Creek FSC/Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
Upper Mid Klamath Watershed Council/ Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
Scott Bar FSC/ Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
Seiad Creek FSC/ Northern California Resource Center	Fire Safe Council Members
Happy Camp Fire Safe Council	Fire Safe Council Members
Greater Weed Fire Safe Council	Fire Safe Council Members
Dunsmuir Fire Safe Council	Fire Safe Council Members
Mt. Shasta Fire Safe Council	Fire Safe Council Members
Weed City Fire Department	Fire Chief
Etna City Fire Department	Fire Chief
Fort Jones City	Elected Officials
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors	Elected Officials

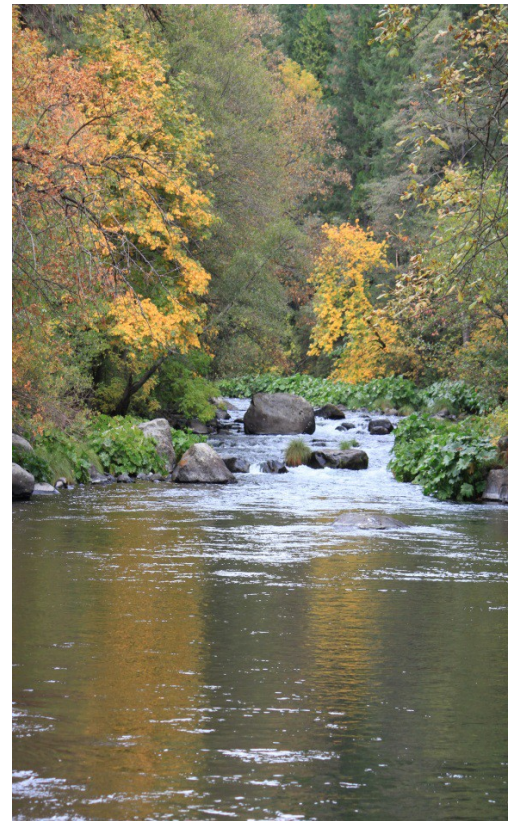
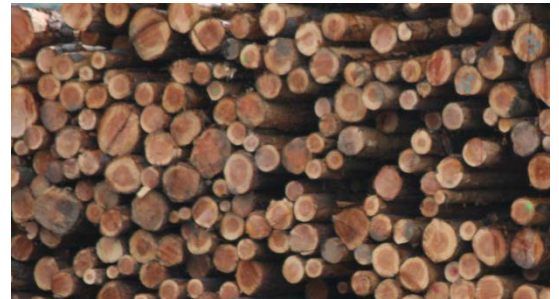
## SECTION III: VALUES

### A: VALUES

It is the goal of the Siskiyou Unit to protect life and property from the devastating effects of wildfire and other natural disasters. The Siskiyou Unit is vast in size and varied in its makeup of both natural and man-made assets at risk to wildfires.

The following are values identified at risk in the Siskiyou Unit:

- Citizen and firefighter safety
- Infrastructure
- Structures, residential and commercial
- Watershed and water
- Timber
- Rangelands
- Wildlife and associated habitat
- Air quality
- Unique areas (scenic, cultural, and historic)
- Recreation
- Soil erosion
- Hydroelectric power



## B: COMMUNITIES

To help protect people and their property from potential catastrophic wildfire, the National Fire Plan directs funding to be provided for projects designed to reduce the fire risks to communities. A fundamental step in achieving this goal was the identification of communities that are at high risk of damage from wildfire. These high-risk communities identified within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), where homes and wildlands intermix, were published in the Federal Register in 2001. At the request of Congress, the Federal Register notice only listed those communities neighboring federal lands. The list represents the collaborative work of the 50 states and five federal agencies using a standardized process, whereby states were asked to submit all communities within their borders that met the criteria of a structure at high risk from wildfire.

The “Communities at Risk” in Siskiyou County listed in the table below are on the National Registry available at the following site: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/pre-fire-planning>

Community	Federal Threat	Community	Federal Threat
Big Springs		Lower Scott River	F
Callahan	F	Macdoel	
Cecilville	F	McCloud	F
Dorris	F	Montague	
Dunsmuir	F	Mount Shasta	F
Etna	F	Quartz Valley Indian Reservation	F
Forks of Salmon	F	Sawyers Bar	F
Fort Jones	F	Scott Bar	F
Gazelle		Seiad Valley	F
Greenvew	F	Somes Bar	F
Grenada		Tennant	F
Hamburg	F	Tulelake	F
Happy Camp	F	Weed	F
Hornbrook	F	Yreka	F
Horse Creek	F	*Hammond Ranch*	
Klamath River	F	**Mt. Shasta Forest**	
**Mt. Shasta Vista**		**Klamath River Country Estates**	

1. Federal Threat code of **F** indicates some or all the wildland fire threat to that community comes from federal (e.g., US Forest Service, BLM,) lands.
2. \* Indicates a community that is not yet designated as a Community at Risk by the State but is in the application process.
3. \*\* Identifies proposed Communities at Risk.

## FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

While the entire County of Siskiyou is subject to varying degrees of fire hazard, there are specific features that make some areas more hazardous than others. CAL FIRE is required by law to map areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather and other relevant factors. These maps were developed using science-based and field-tested computer models that assign a hazard score based on factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior. Many factors are considered such as fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical weather for the area. There are three hazard zones in state responsibility areas: moderate, high and very high. These maps identify fire hazard and not fire risk. "Hazard" is based on the physical conditions that give a likelihood that an area will burn over a 30 to 50-year period without considering modifications such as fuel reduction efforts. "Risk" is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, including any modifications such as defensible space, irrigation and sprinklers, and ignition resistant building construction which can reduce fire risk. Risk considers the susceptibility of what is being protected.

These maps are intended to be used for:

- Implementing wildland-urban interface building standards for new construction.
- Natural hazard real estate disclosure at time of sale.
- Defensible Space/Home Hardening Disclosure (AB38) at time of sale.
- 100-foot defensible space clearance requirements around buildings.
- Property development standards such as road widths, water supply and signage.
- Consideration in city and county general plans.

Visit the CAL FIRE Website at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones> to determine the fire hazard severity in a specific area.





## SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### A: LAW ENFORCEMENT / FIRE PREVENTION



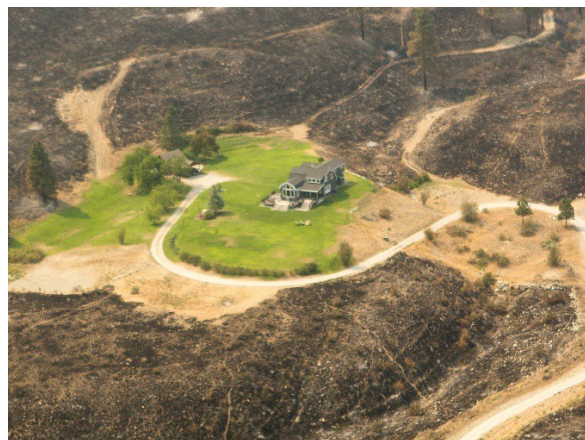
Law Enforcement / Fire Prevention activities in the Siskiyou Unit include but are not limited to the following:: forest and fire law enforcement, fire prevention education, hazardous fuel reduction and vegetation management, civil cost recovery, fire prevention engineering, pre-fire planning, risk analysis, and Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) program. In general, these programs have been shown to be highly effective at reducing the incidence of fire ignitions. The Siskiyou Unit contributes its success to the utilization of these main fire prevention components. In addition, the Siskiyou Unit Fire Prevention Bureau prides itself on providing quality public service in a timely, accurate, and courteous manner.



## ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

### Public Resources Code 4290

These regulations have been prepared and adopted for establishing minimum wildfire protection standards in conjunction with building, construction, and development in State Responsibility Areas (SRA). These regulations became effective September 1, 1991. The future design and construction of structures, subdivisions, and developments in SRA shall provide for basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection measures as specified in Public Resources Code (PRC 4290). These measures shall provide for emergency access, signing and building numbering, private water supply reserves for emergency fire use, and vegetation modification. The fire protection standards contained within PRC 4290 shall specify the minimums for such measures. The unit enforces PRC 4290 in its original form. The County of Siskiyou has not yet increased these standards.



## Public Resources Code 4291

One of the main objectives of the Siskiyou Unit is to ensure residents comply with the provisions set forth within California Public Resources Code 4291. This is accomplished through education and enforcement. It is important residents recognize that their first defense against wildfire is to create and maintain defensible space around their homes.

California Public Resources Code 4291 requires property owners in mountainous areas, forest-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material to create at a minimum a 100-foot defensible space (or to the property line) around their homes and other structures. In addition, after July 1, 2021, when you sell property that is located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone you'll need documentation of a compliant Defensible Space Inspection that complies with Section 4291 of the Public Resources Code.

The state legislature enacted PRC 4291 to improve fire safety and to help prevent catastrophic fires. Under the law, property owners or those who control a property must establish a:

- 0–5 feet ember resistant zone
- 5-30 feet lean, clean and green zone
- 30-100 feet reduced fuel zone

Zones 1 and 2 currently make up the 100 feet of defensible space required by law. Assembly Bill 3074, passed into law in 2020, requires a third zone for defensible space. This law requires the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop the regulation for a new ember-resistant zone (Zone 0) within 0 to 5 feet. This regulation is currently in process with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

This does not mean the property must be clear-cut to bare soil, it involves thinning and breaking up the continuity of ladder fuels and large areas filled with contiguous shrubs that can readily transmit fire.





## **FIRE SAFE COUNCILS**

Fire Safe Councils were developed with the mission to preserve California's natural and manmade resources by enlisting all Californians to make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe. Siskiyou County is fortunate to have many active Fire Safe Councils. The Siskiyou Unit is very appreciative of the tremendous efforts these Fire Safe Councils have made in attempting to make Siskiyou County fire safe. Fire Safe Councils are predominantly volunteer based organizations and are continually looking for new community members to join in their efforts. Fire Safe Councils in Siskiyou County are identified in the battalion program section of this plan.

## **SISKIYOU PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION (SPBA)**

The Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association includes landowners, tribes, and local organizations and agencies that work together to safely conduct burns in the interest of restoring historic roles of fire, using fire as a management tool, and reducing wildfire hazard to communities and watersheds throughout the diverse fire-adapted landscapes of Siskiyou County.

## **SISKIYOU COUNTY FUELS REDUCTION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING TOOL**

The Siskiyou County Fuels Reduction and Forest Management Planning Tool is a Grant funded online GIS planning tool that is in development for collaborative county-wide pre fire planning and mapping. The planning tool will allow a common operating picture between agencies and stake holders to reduce duplication of effort and allow for more efficient fuel reduction planning. It will also give local entities the ability to create and edit their own GIS data to produce maps and info for future funding opportunities. The Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District is the lead agency working closely with CAL FIRE.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Information and education are an extremely important component of the Siskiyou Unit. Each year the unit participates and promotes many Fire Safety Education Programs throughout the county.



Captain CAL, Smokey Bear, and Sparky the Fire Dog are commonly called to service to introduce and instill fire prevention and life safety messages in both children and adults. Our fire prevention messages are presented to the public by the Siskiyou Unit participating in numerous outreaches each year which include exhibits at the Siskiyou County Fair, Sportsmen's Expo, poster contests, living with fire flyers, prevention road signs, rodeos, parades, classrooms, printed materials, radio, television spots, community meetings, Fire Safe Council events and meetings, one-on-one contact with homeowners, and up-keeping of the unit's social media accounts. Our educational programs are informative and are provided to all ages.

The Siskiyou Unit has a dedicated Volunteer in Prevention (VIP) Program that utilizes the citizens of our community who graciously volunteer their time to increase awareness, knowledge, and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires. VIPs assist in accomplishing these goals by conducting defensible space inspections required by Public Resource Code 4291. VIPs in the Siskiyou Unit educate thousands of people of all ages about fire prevention by participating in events and outreaches throughout Siskiyou County and other counties of California as well. Within the Siskiyou Unit, VIPs have also been trained to be fire lookouts, to inspect power lines, and to educate homeowners on how to keep their home fire safe. Furthermore, VIPs are trained to assist CAL FIRE's efforts in providing information to the media and public during wildland fires and other emergencies.

## **B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

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



### **Fuels Modification**

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

### **Vegetation Management Program (VMP)**

The VMP program is a cost-sharing program utilizing prescribed fire and mechanical means to address wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on SRA lands. The use of prescribed fire mimics the natural process, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety. VMP allows private landowners to enter a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. The unit will support projects that are of the most value to the citizens and resources.

### **California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP)**

The California Vegetation Treatment Program, developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, is a critical component of the state's multi-faceted strategy to address California's wildfire crisis. The CalVTP includes the use of prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, manual treatments, herbicides, and prescribed herbivory as tools to reduce hazardous vegetation around communities in the WUI. The CalVTP Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) provides a powerful tool to expedite the implementation of vegetation treatments to reduce wildfire risk while conserving natural resources.

### **California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)**

A state cost share program to assist private timberland owners in the management of their lands. Eligible practices include site preparation, reforestation, pre-commercial thinning, pruning, release, slash disposal, and land conservation projects. Funding assistance to landowners is up to 90% for projects on lands damaged by wildfire.

## **Grant Funded Fuel Treatments**

These projects generally involve the construction or maintenance of fuel breaks in the WUI.

### ***Environmental Review***

#### ***Fire Suppression Repair/Post Fire Assessment***

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

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

Resource Management staff provides suppression repair duties in the unit. Their natural resource background, along with training and knowledge of both fire control issues and methods of addressing complex environmental issues allows them to assess the effects of pre and post fire treatments to refine best practices. This overall experience, knowledge and training greatly support the California's Strategic Fire Plan. They work with landowners and other stakeholders to provide a rapid post-fire assessment of the burned area, utilizing after-action reports to implement the most current technologies and practices. They have many private and agency cooperator contacts, and effectively utilize available resources, including CAL FIRE hand crews to accomplish the restoration and protection activities.

### ***Forest and Range Health***

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

## SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

### DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS



# ***CAL FIRE***



### **SISKIYOU UNIT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

#### **Overview**

The Siskiyou Unit Fire Prevention Bureau Consists of the following staffing:

- (1) Battalion Chief / Law Enforcement Peace Officer
- (3) Fire Captain Specialist / Law Enforcement Peace Officers
- (1) Fire Captain / Pre-Fire Engineer
- (1) Fire Prevention Specialist II / Public Information Officer
- (2) Forestry Technician / AB 38 Inspectors
- (4) Forestry Aid / Defensible Space Inspectors

The Siskiyou Unit Prevention Bureau covers approximately 1.4 million acres in Siskiyou County. Fuel types within the unit include timber, brush, oak woodland, grasses, desert sage and juniper.

Due to the vast size of the county and the diverse landscapes contained within it, the weather in Siskiyou County can vary greatly from one location to the next. However, weather in Siskiyou County can be generally characterized as having hot, dry summers followed by cool, wet winters. Temperatures in the summer can soar above the 100-degree mark and dip below freezing in the winter. Windy conditions are consistently common in several geographical areas of the county. Historically, most of the large fires within the unit have been wind driven. The mountain ranges and the local weather patterns support a natural mixture for severe lightning storms throughout most of the summer months. Often these storms are accompanied by strong winds and can have little to no precipitation associated with them.

Historically, lightning has been the number one cause of ignitions within the unit with debris burning being the second leading cause of ignitions. Analysis of the debris burn incidents has concluded that most debris burns are not debris burn escapes, but rather enforcement issues (i.e., burning out of hours, burning on non-burn days). These incidents typically do not require full suppression efforts from responding firefighting resources. Often, actions taken by firefighting resources have included having the responsible person extinguish the fire. Subsequently, the responsible person was either counseled and educated or criminally cited by a CAL FIRE peace officer on the permit requirements of debris burning.

Ranching, recreation, and the timber industry fuel the county economy. The summer months see a large influx of tourists who take advantage of the wide range of outdoor activities in the county. Activities include hiking, fishing, hunting, mountain climbing, white water rafting, mountain biking and camping. At times, these activities result in both authorized and unauthorized fires. To reduce the total number of negligent fires, the Prevention Bureau takes the lead role in informing, educating, and enforcing forest and fire laws.

Personnel within the Prevention Bureau work seamlessly with county government to ensure public safety with development of initial site plans for commercial and residential development. The Prevention Bureau vigorously and consistently pursues prompt enforcement of all forest and fire laws and when appropriate, seeks cost recovery for fire suppression.

The Pre-Fire Engineer is an integral part of the Prevention Bureau and is responsible for the accurate documentation and thorough examination of the Fire Plan and statistical data, with the aim of facilitating effective pre-fire planning.

The Prevention Bureau works with each battalion towards accomplishing goals and objectives to reduce the ignition problems throughout the unit. Mapping in a GIS environment is a large component of the Pre-Fire Engineering duties. It is imperative that the bureau assures that all maps are complete and accurate, and the most current methodologies are being used to capture data.

The Prevention Bureau continues to provide education and information through social media platforms, school programs, out-reaches, and one-on-one contact with the public. The bureau generates press releases and public service announcements on a regular basis, to inform and educate as many residents as possible. Prevention Bureau personnel actively participate in an inter-agency Fire Prevention Co-op. The cooperative is between local, state, and federal agencies, and is an ongoing effort to spread fire prevention messages to the communities we serve.

The Prevention Bureau continues to use Forestry Aids (Defensible Space Inspector) and Forestry Technicians (AB 38 Inspector) to provide defensible space inspections in the SRA, public education, post fire damage inspections (DINS) and power line inspections.

VIP's help the Prevention Bureau by educating the public on defensible space inspections around residences and also assist with campfire permits, power line inspections, and other educational opportunities.

## **FIRE PREVENTION GOALS**

### **GOAL # 1**

**Reduce the total number and severity of fires throughout the unit.**

- a. Prioritize projects, education, and community involvement in target areas based on analyzed ignition data.
- b. Reduce the total number of illegal debris burning fires through education and enforcement efforts.
- c. Work closely with state, federal, and local governments to cooperatively reduce ignitions across jurisdictional boundaries.
- d. Actively patrol on high fire danger days and provide education on potential fire hazards, proper fire use, and fire safety.
- e. Actively patrol in areas with high ignitions and vigorously pursue prompt enforcement action of forest and fire laws when necessary.

### **GOAL # 2**

**Increase the total number of defensible homes within the unit.**

- a. Educate residents on the proper care, maintenance, and benefits of a “defensible space” home.
- b. Analyze data to identify areas with large concentrations of homes that do not meet the defensible space requirements and target these areas for inspections.
- c. Provide training to Siskiyou Unit on PRC 4291 (LE-100) to use as an educational tool with any public contact.
- d. When necessary, pursue enforcement actions to gain “defensible space” compliance.
- e. Collaborate with county and local governments and Fire Safe Councils to identify and prioritize planning and fuel reduction projects that will increase a community’s defense in the event of wildfire.

### **GOAL # 3**

**Reduce the total number of undetermined fires within the unit.**

- a. Provide further training and education to field personnel in proper origin and cause investigation.
- b. Analyze investigation reports from the field for accuracy and completeness.
- c. Provide direction to field personnel on proper reporting techniques.



#### **GOAL # 4**

**Ensure that all open positions within the prevention bureau are filled with motivated individuals.**

- a. Actively recruit self-motivated individuals with a passion for prevention activities within the Siskiyou Unit.
- b. Actively recruit self-motivated individuals with a passion for prevention activities from neighboring units.
- c. Build relationships with field personnel to educate on the variety of different duties and the rewards earned from Law Enforcement activities as well as non-Law Enforcement activities.
- d. Participate in any youth career days or mentoring programs within the Siskiyou Unit.
- e. Participate with ride-a-long activities when operationally appropriate.

#### **GOAL # 5**

**Enhance education and training for bureau personnel.**

- a. Provide bureau personnel with training in Juvenile Fire Setter Program.
- b. Provide bureau personnel with training in Field Training Officer (FTO).
- c. Provide bureau personnel with training in Public Information.
- d. Provide bureau personnel with training in Firearms Instruction.
- e. Provide bureau personnel with advanced training in GIS.
- f. Provide bureau personnel with advanced training in Fire Investigation.



# ***CAL FIRE***

## **Siskiyou Training Battalion**



The Siskiyou Unit Training Bureau provides on-going training, education and certification to all CAL FIRE personnel assigned to the Siskiyou Unit. The Training Bureau also provides training and education support for several local government volunteer fire departments throughout Siskiyou County. The Training Bureau is currently state funded for one Battalion Chief, two Fire Captains, and one Staff Services Analyst.

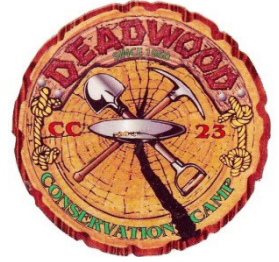
The priority of the Training Bureau is to provide the overall safety of permanent, seasonal, and volunteer personnel through proper training. Training is conducted through instructional programs that target operational efficiency with emphasis on safe operating procedures in all aspects of fire and emergency operations. All training is focused on providing and maintaining the highest quality emergency services at both fire and medical responses to the citizens of California. Instructional programs target operational efficiency with emphasis on safety and cost effectiveness in all aspects of fire and emergency operations. The Siskiyou Unit requires all employees to spend at least 15 percent of their time in training. This training can range from informal routine station training to formal web-based or classroom environment training. The Siskiyou Unit has implemented an online training program (Vector Solutions) which has streamlined the delivery of emergency operational training. All training is based on defined, measurable objectives and delivered in the most effective and cost-efficient manner.

The Siskiyou Unit is heavily involved with cooperative relationships, which include involvement with the College of the Siskiyou's (COS) Fire Program and training grounds. This cooperation leads to outstanding opportunities that allow quality and cost-efficient professional training using one of the best fire training facilities on the West Coast. The Siskiyou Unit, in cooperation with local government fire departments, conduct annual multi-agency training drills (North and South Fire Readiness Drills) each year to provide annual re-certification wildland fire training for the Siskiyou County fire service. The Unit also regularly engages with resources from the United States Forest Services Klamath National Forest and Shasta Trinity National Forest in multi-agency trainings. Local, state and federal agency firefighters who participate in training together improve their skills, as well as create cooperative working relationships in an interagency environment.



# ***CAL FIRE***

## **Deadwood Camp**



Deadwood Camp houses up to 80 incarcerated persons and is capable of staffing up to four fire-suppression hand crews. The camp is located within Siskiyou County approximately five miles from the City of Fort Jones. Opened in 1962, Deadwood is jointly operated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Deadwood Camp is staffed by one Division Chief, eight Fire Captains, one Heavy Fire Equipment Operator, one Stationary Engineer, and one Staff Services Analyst. Correctional staff consists of six Correctional Officers, one Sergeant and one Lieutenant. The primary mission of the camp is to provide fire crews for fire suppression within the State of California. In addition to fire suppression, incarcerated persons hand crews provide a work force for flood control, conservation projects and community service.

Daily work assignments include fuel reduction projects for fire safe councils, schools, and local, state, and federal agencies. Acres treated vary by project and stakeholder needs. The fire plan acknowledges that using incarcerated persons labor for fuel reduction projects not only helps to create defensible space around valuable assets and infrastructure, but also provides valuable training for fire crews, all while being a cost-effective solution for the taxpayer. In addition, Deadwood Camp provides opportunities for incarcerated persons to learn skills in many different aspects including kitchen work, auto repair, cabinet making, and basic facility maintenance.



# ***CAL FIRE***



## **Siskiyou Fire Center**

The Siskiyou Fire Center is staffed with one Battalion Chief, four Fire Captains, three Fire Apparatus Engineers, 40 Firefighters, 2 Cooks and 2 Food Service Technicians. The facility is centrally located in the unit, off the I-5 corridor, at the Siskiyou County Golden Fairgrounds in Yreka.

The fire center started with augmented funding in 2020 and became permanently funded in July of 2022. Due to the FFI crew program's early success, when permanent funding became available, the unit was able to fill the four Captain and three Engineers positions with experienced personnel from within the unit. Many of the returning firefighter I's will be starting their fifth season as hand crew members.

Siskiyou FFI hand crews are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for nine months of the year. Fire Center crews train and respond to all-risk emergencies. Crews specialize in tactical hand crew operations, low angle rope rescue, swift water rescue, UTV operations, and hazard tree mitigation. Crew members receive additional training and certification in these disciplines. Additionally, when not assigned to emergency incidents crews are heavily involved in fuel reduction projects that include cutting and piling, broadcast burning and pile burning. The Fire Center's large dynamic workforce also regularly assists other unit programs and cooperating agencies with needs that could otherwise not be met.



# ***CAL FIRE***

## **Yreka Interagency Command Center**



The Siskiyou Unit has an Emergency Command Center known as the Yreka Interagency Command Center (YICC). The YICC is located at the Siskiyou Unit Headquarters in Yreka and is a collaboration of CAL FIRE, County of Siskiyou staff, and the United States Forest Service (USFS). The YICC provides dispatching services for CAL FIRE, USFS, 30 local government fire departments and 6 ambulance companies.

The YICC is responsible for emergency call taking, dispatching, and tracking of resources. The YICC dispatches approximately 10,000 calls per year to all EMS and Fire agencies within Siskiyou County. The YICC is also the EMS Medical Helicopter Coordination Center for Siskiyou County. This involves requesting and coordinating medical helicopters from both within California and from out of state.

In addition to receiving and dispatching emergencies, personnel in the YICC receive and order Agency resources and equipment in the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC). They also request and hire private resources and equipment in the Hired Equipment Management System (HEMS). Additionally, they track weather trends and the burn index in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS).

CAL FIRE and Siskiyou County staffing includes one Battalion Chief, six Fire Captains, four Communications Operators and one Communications Operator Supervisor. The Klamath National Forest staffing includes one center manager, two assistant center managers and seven dispatchers. All personnel in the YICC are Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) qualified to provide medical instructions to 9-1-1 callers for medical emergencies. The Command Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The goal of the YICC is to meet the standards set in NFPA 1221 section 6.4.2. These standards specify that 95 percent of all alarms be answered within 15 seconds and 99 percent answered within 40 seconds. In addition, Section 6.4.3 specifies that 95 percent of all dispatching be completed within 60 seconds. YICC staff continues to exceed these standards.



# ***CAL FIRE***

## **Scott Valley Battalion**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**



The Scott Valley Battalion (Battalion 1) is located within the northwestern portion of the Siskiyou Unit. The battalion is bordered to the east by the Siskiyou Units Shasta Valley Battalion and bordered to the north, west and south by the Klamath National Forest. The Scott Valley Battalion consists of approximately 308,923 acres of State DPA. The majority of the SRA lands are in the foothills surrounding the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) lands located on the valley floor and are bordered by federal Responsibility Area (FRA) in the high mountainous areas. Approximately 56,000 acres of the battalion's DPA are federal lands belonging to the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The battalion's infrastructure includes the Fort Jones FFS, Duzel Rock Lookout, Quartz Hill Lookout, as well as numerous seasonal water tanks located throughout the battalion for fire suppression. The Battalions assigned fire suppression equipment includes one Battalion Chief vehicle (B-2611), two front line engines (E-2661 & E-2671), one reserve engine (E-2695), as well as a transport and bulldozer (TD-2641). Assigned personnel include one Battalion Chief (BC), two Fire Captains (FC), five Fire Apparatus Engineers (FAE), and two Heavy Fire Equipment Operators (HFEO). During fire season staffing also includes approximately 10 to 14 seasonal firefighters. Lookouts are staffed during high fire danger or when severe lightning storms are predicted.

Within the Scott Valley Battalion the Scott Valley Volunteer Fire Protection District, Etna City Volunteer Fire Department, Fort Jones Volunteer Fire Department, and the United States Forest Service (USFS) support and enhance responses to emergencies with Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements. Collaboration and coordination between agencies and the public is crucial to enhance emergency response within the battalion.

There is a significant number of residences within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) in Scott Valley. Mitigation strategies to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires should start at the community level and work outward with an emphasis on routes of ingress and egress. As mitigation strategies work away from communities, the focus should then go to landscape level projects that build continuity with previously completed work. The areas of Fort Jones, Etna, Greenview, Quartz Valley, and Callahan are the most populated areas within the battalion. State Highway 3 runs through the middle of the battalion with moderate traffic during the daylight hours. Vegetation types within the battalion include seasonal grasses, oak woodland, brush, and timber. Fire history in the Scott Valley is extensive in some areas and infrequent in others. Timber mortality and fuel conditions due to drought, combined with lack of fire history has increased the possibility for large catastrophic wildfires to occur within recent years.

Decreased timber harvesting and increased number of individuals living and recreating within the battalion also contribute to this potential.

Weather patterns in the battalion throughout the spring and summer months consist of warm and dry days with moderate to strong afternoon winds. During the nighttime hours temperatures usually drop with some relative humidity recovery. Snowpack from the surrounding mountains contribute to the area's available water and vegetation moisture content. The valley's surrounding seasonal snowpack has seen a significant reduction in recent years due to drought.

The topography of the battalion includes portions of the lush, agricultural lands of the Scott Valley floor, and extends upward into the timberland of the steep and rugged mountains. The mountain ranges, and the local weather patterns support a natural mixture for severe electrical storms throughout most of the summer months. Often, these storms are accompanied with strong winds, and can have little to no precipitation associated with them.

The Scott Valley Battalion has several productive Fire Safe Councils (FSC). Fire Safe Councils are non-profit community led organizations that work with communities and other cooperators to increase fire resilience over the landscape. One goal moving forward is to consolidate the various councils into one or two main groups with several smaller groups under them. Over the past several years these councils have evolved into a vital part of the hazard mitigation and emergency response planning within the battalion. Collectively, these fires safe councils have planned and completed several million dollars' worth of fuels modification projects, reducing the fire threat in target areas surrounding the foothills of the Scott Valley (see the attached spreadsheet of projected and completed projects within the battalion). These projects include fuel breaks and hazardous fuels reduction along routes of ingress and egress. These Fire Safe councils include:

- Lower Scott River FSC
- French Creek FSC
- Quartz Valley Area FSC
- Rattlesnake Creek FSC
- Scott Bar FSC
- Scott Valley FSC
- Seiad Valley FSC

## **FIRE PREVENTION GOALS**

### **GOAL # 1**

#### **Reduce the total fires in the battalion.**

- a. Advertise fire prevention messages with fire prevention signs along major roadways.
- b. Provide public training through one-on-one public contact and web-based applications.
- c. Educate the public with news releases and radio messages.
- d. Train with local fire departments and fire agencies to achieve common goals.
- e. Participate in local events for educational purposes.
- f. Increase the total number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws (PRC4291).



- g. Increase the total number of power line inspections and promote increasing level of compliance with power line laws and regulations (PRC4293).
- h. Analyze trends in fire cause and focus prevention and education efforts to modify behavior and effect change.

## **GOAL # 2**

### **Minimize fire size and reduce overall damage and costs associated with wildfires.**

- a. Support and assist Fire Safe Councils in identifying, obtaining, and executing strategically placed fuel reduction projects along ingress and egress routes and fuel breaks around communities that are located throughout the battalion.
- b. Work with landowners to maintain access roads into remote fire prone areas and give direction on Defensible Space options for their infrastructure.
- c. Interact with private timberland owners, local timber operators, and resource management staff to identify active timber operations, where education can reduce the threat of fire from their operations.
- d. Support projects with the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources for fuel management activities including new projects and ongoing maintenance of existing fuels modification projects.

## **GOAL # 3**

### **Identify high hazard areas and plan for defending assets at risk.**

- a. Support projects with the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources for fuel management activities including new projects and ongoing maintenance of existing fuels modification projects.
- b. Open and maintain existing roads that lead into high fire prone areas.
- c. Preplan with collaborators to identify primary travel routes and safe refuge areas within the battalion.
- d. Facilitate activities with individuals and organizations, as appropriate, to assist individual property owners in complying with fire safe regulations and fuel reduction.
- e. Provide a direct community presence in high fire prone areas. Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning to homeowners and landowners, as it relates to fire risk and living within the WUI.
- f. Develop a wildland fire pre-plan for the Scott Valley Battalion.

## **GOAL # 4**

### **Continue to Foster Cooperation with allied agencies.**

- a. Host and attend multi agency trainings.
- b. Attend Scott Valley Fire Chiefs and Scott Valley Consolidation meetings.
- c. Communicate with and involve allied agencies at all levels.
- d. Participate in and host cooperative fuel reduction and prescribed fire projects.

### **List of Stakeholders**

- Residents within the battalion
- Property owners within the battalion

- Timber Landowners
  - FWS Forestry
  - EFM
  - Michigan California
  - Shasta Cascade
- City of Etna
- City of Fort Jones
- Town of Greenview
- Town of Callahan
- CAL-TRANS Highway 3
- Pacific Power & Light (PacifiCorp)
- Siskiyou County Road Department

### **List of Cooperators**

- Various Fire Safe Councils
- Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)
- Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- Scott River Watershed Council
- Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Karuk Tribe
- Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
- Fire Departments
  - Scott Valley FPD
  - Etna FD
  - Fort Jones FD
  - Happy Camp FD
  - Seiad Valley Fire Company
  - Klamath River Fire Company
  - Salmon River Fire Company
  - CAL FIRE
  - USFS Klamath National Forest

### **Pre-Fire Management Solutions**

#### **General description of the agreed-on target areas:**

Target areas within the Scott Valley Battalion include communities and populated areas, infrastructure, and timber lands. Targeted areas include the west side of Scott Valley from Greenview to French Creek; the Fort Jones area from Scott River Road to Mineral Range Road; and the French Creek road area and the community of Callahan. All target areas should begin around communities and work outward including routes of ingress and egress. Beyond communities, target areas should be addressed at the landscape level and should build continuity with other work that is completed or planned.

#### **Key points of the local fire problem:**

The Scott Valley Battalion is an extremely large area (387,000 acres). The battalion contains only one CAL FIRE station. Response times can be extended due to long travel times. Inaccessible terrain also creates extended time frames in locating and suppressing fires. The high occurrence of lightning activity and lightning caused fires can sometimes overwhelm available resources within the battalion.

**General description of the desired future condition:**

Continued improvement and maintenance of fuel breaks, fuel reduction projects, and prescribed fires are crucial for protecting against wildfires. Strategic placement near communities, infrastructure, and timber lands is essential. Additionally, maintaining access roads, water storage, and fire lookout staffing while implementing early detection technology is vital. Public engagement for fire prevention and creating fire-adaptive communities will enhance safety for all stakeholders.

Refer to the Siskiyou Unit's Fire Plan for a detailed list of pre-fire projects within the Scott Valley Battalion.



# ***CAL FIRE***

## **Shasta Valley Battalion**



### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Shasta Valley Battalion (Battalion II) is centrally located in the northern part of Siskiyou County with the north end bordering the State of Oregon, the Scott Valley Battalion to the west, and Weed Battalion to the south. The Klamath National Forest (KNF) borders the east and west with several thousand acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA) extending into the KNF DPA. The battalion is approximately 397,122 acres designated as State DPA. It is comprised of the Siskiyou Unit Headquarters Station (Yreka FFS) which houses two fire engines (E2652 & E2692) and one bulldozer (D2642), the Hornbrook FFS which houses two fire engines (E2672 & E2682), and Paradise Craggy Lookout. Hornbrook FFS is committed to year-round fire protection due to a contract with Siskiyou County as part of the Amador Plan. Both stations are open year-round for fire permit issuance and other public services. Paradise Craggy Lookout is only staffed with emergency workers during high fire danger days as well as during and after lightning storms.

Fuel types consist of grass, brush, and timber that cover flat, rolling hills, and mountainous terrain. Much of the timberlands are fueled with medium to heavy slash from past logging operations. Interstate 5 and Highway's 3, 96, 99, 263, as well as the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP) railroad line run through the center of the battalion. There are several major electrical transmission lines running north-south through the battalion. The battalion has a significant wildland urban interface (WUI) problem with many houses dispersed amongst the wildland areas. Due to the significant WUI problem, the lack of immediate water sources, and long travel times, much of the prevention efforts have been focused on reducing the potential for large fire losses by public education and enforcement of the California Public Resource Code Section 4291, which requires up to one hundred feet of fuel reduction/clearance around structures.

The weather patterns in the battalion throughout the spring and summer months consist of warm and dry days with moderate to strong afternoon winds. The Shasta Valley is very prone to steady strong north winds in the summer and very strong south wind in the winter months. During the nighttime hours, the temperature usually drops with some relative humidity recovery.

The Siskiyou Unit is active in local community outreach programs such as food / toy drives, school programs, fire prevention week programs, and public safety messages. Several fire prevention signs are displayed throughout the battalion along major roadways in support of these programs.

#### Existing Prevention Sign Locations:

- Copco Road near railroad tracks.
- Ager-Beswick Road at Omega Road.
- Ager Road at Yreka-Ager Road.
- Old Hwy. 99, south of Yreka near South Yreka FD (Also visible from Interstate 5).
- Hwy. A-12, east of Grenada.
- Hwy. 263, north of Yreka.

### **FIRE PREVENTION GOALS**

#### **Goal #1**

##### **Reduce the total number of fires in the battalion.**

- a. Advertise fire prevention messages with fire prevention signs along major roadways.
- b. Educate children utilizing school programs.
- c. Public education through public participation in local events and fire safe councils.
- d. Public education through news releases.
- e. Public education during burn permits issuance on proper and legal burning techniques.

#### **Goal # 2**

##### **Reduce the impact of large, damaging fires in the battalion.**

- a. Educate and enforce on proper clearances around structures, per PRC 4291.
- b. California Public Resources Code Section 4291 using the LE-100 inspection program.
- c. Support county and battalion fire safe councils.
- d. Assist with fuel reduction programs and fuel break projects.
- e. Support the California Public Resources Code Section 4290 program, which applies to new construction, to develop safer ingress and egress by establishing road and address standards, develop water supplies for emergency use, and delineate setbacks for fuel break / greenbelt development.

#### **Goal # 3**

##### **Reduce the number of intentionally caused fires.**

- a. Train with state and local fire personnel on fire scene preservation.
- b. Reduce the number of undetermined fires.

## List of Stakeholders

- Residents within the battalion
- Property owners within the battalion
- Timber owners
  - FWS Forestry
  - Timber Products
- U.S. Forest Service, Klamath National Forest
- BLM Medford
- BLM Redding
- County of Siskiyou
- CAL-TRANS: Highways 3,96,263, and Interstate 5
- Pacific Power & Light (PacifiCorp)
- Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP)
- Fire Safe Councils
  - Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County
  - Copco/Bogus
  - Yreka Area Fire Safe Council
    - Guys Gulch Working Group
    - Shamrock Working Group
    - Greenhorn Working Group
    - Rolling Hills Working Group
    - Hawkinsville Working Group
    - Yreka Working Group
  - Black Mountain Fire Safe Council
- Siskiyou County Fire Departments within or bordering the Shasta Valley Battalion
  - Hilt Fire Hose Company
  - Hornbrook Fire Department
  - Copco Fire Department
  - Mayten Fire Department
  - Yreka Fire Department
  - South Yreka Fire Department
  - Montague Fire Department
  - Grenada Fire Department
  - Klamath River Fire Hose Company
  - Klamath National Forest
  - Oregon Department of Forestry
- Cities and Communities within the Shasta Valley Battalion
  - City of Yreka
  - City of Montague
  - Town of Grenada
  - Town of Hornbrook
  - Community of Klamath River Country Estates
  - Community of Copco
  - Community of Klamath River
  - Community of Big Springs
  - Community of Little Shasta
  - Community of Hilt
  - Community of Colestine

## **Pre-Fire Management Solutions**

General description of the agreed-on target areas:

Target areas within the Shasta Valley Battalion include all populated areas and communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resource assets at risk. Identifying and treating target areas should be a collaborative effort between stakeholders and cooperators to maximize effectiveness and efficiency.

### **Key points of the local fire problem:**

The Shasta Valley Battalion covers a large area (484,018 acres) with only two CAL FIRE stations. Response times can be extended due to long travel times to incidents. Inaccessible terrain also creates extended time frames in locating and extinguishing ignitions. Receptive fuels, local weather patterns, and major highways running through the battalion contribute to the potential for a high frequency of fires along with rapid fire growth. The high occurrence of lightning activity and lightning caused fires can sometimes overwhelm available resources within the battalion.

### **General description of the desired future condition:**

The future desired condition for the Shasta Valley Battalion is to reduce the total number and size of fires within the battalion by creating a fire resilient landscape through pre-fire planning, pre-fire engineering, fire prevention information, and fuel reduction work in addition to maintaining early detection and aggressive initial attack.

To accomplish this the battalion will continue educating the public through fire prevention messages via signs, school programs, news releases, meetings, and local events while maintaining a positive presence within the community using these programs.

Pre-fire planning and engineering will include developing pre-plans, completing defensible space inspections, conducting post fire damage inspections, issuing burn permits, and ensuring compliance with burning regulations.

Fuel reduction efforts will seek to improve and maintain existing fuel breaks concentrating on areas that provide ingress and egress into and around communities. Also, improve and maintain fuel breaks that are strategically advantageous for fire suppression and are close to communities and residences. Treatments will be geared towards modifying and connecting fuel breaks to completely envelope these areas.

Work will continue towards maintaining and reclaiming forest access roads to areas that are prone to high lightning activity with a focus on clearing and repairing roads and water crossings. Continue to assess the need for water sources in areas of the battalion where water is scarce. Maintenance and staffing of lookouts should continue to be a focus to aid in early fire detection.

Refer to the Siskiyou Unit's Fire Plan for a detailed list of pre-fire projects within the Shasta Valley Battalion.



# ***CAL FIRE***

## **Butte Valley / Weed Battalion**



### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Butte Valley / Weed Battalion (Battalion III) includes the southernmost portion of the Shasta Valley and the Butte Valley. The Battalion is comprised of approximately 348,502 acres of State DPA and staffs two state fire stations overseen by one Battalion Chief. The Weed FFS is staffed by two Fire Captains and four Fire Apparatus Engineers. Approximately 10 to 14 seasonal firefighters complete the peak summer staffing. The fire apparatus assigned to Weed FFS are Engine 2663 and Engine 2673. The Macdoel FFS is staffed with three Fire Captains, four Fire Apparatus Engineers, and three Firefighters. The fire apparatus assigned to Macdoel FFS is Engine 2683. Macdoel Forest Fire Station is the first in the unit to transition to the new traditional staffing model.

The fuel types include timber, juniper, desert sage, and grassland. Most areas are arid with minimal surface water available for firefighting. Many areas have poor access due to volcanic geographic features. Most of the vegetation cover needs windy and dry conditions to burn intensely. The weather presents this condition many days throughout the year.

Most residents live within the communities of Weed, Dorris, Tulelake, Macdoel, Gazelle, Lake Shastina, Hammond Ranch, Mount Shasta Vista Subdivision, and Carrick Subdivision. Interstate 5 and State Highway 97 run through the battalion with heavy traffic throughout the day. The Union Pacific Railroad (UP) tracks travel through both the Weed area and the Butte Valley. The Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP) has tracks extending from Weed north through the Shasta Valley. There are several sets of major electrical transmission lines that run north-south through the battalion.



## **FIRE PREVENTION GOALS**

### **GOAL # 1**

#### **To reduce the total fires in the battalion:**

- a. Advertise fire prevention messages with fire prevention signs along major roadways.
- b. LE-100 Inspections.
- c. Educate children utilizing school programs.
- d. Public education through public contact and Fire Safe Council outreach.
- e. Participation in local events.
- f. News releases.

### **GOAL # 2**

#### **Reduce the impact of a large fire in the battalion:**

- a. LE-100 inspections.
- b. Fire Safe training to home-owner groups and other community groups.
- c. Assist with fuel reduction programs and fuel break projects.
- d. Obtain funding to perform or contract the work done for fuels projects.
- e. Support the PRC 4290 and 4291 Program.
- f. Support Fire Safe Councils.
- g. Improve and develop water storage for fire suppression.

### **GOAL # 3**

#### **Promote Fire Prevention Goals to local Government Fire Departments:**

- a. Jointly train and help local government fire departments.
- b. Assist in prevention and planning with local government.
- c. Assist with media handouts and information material.

### **List of Stakeholders**

- Residents within the battalion
- Property owners within the battalion
- Timber owners:
  - Roseburg Forest Products
  - Sierra Pacific Industry
  - FWS Forestry
  - Hearst Corporation
  - Hancock/Olympic Forests
  - Land Vest
  - Timber Products
  - U.S. Forest Service, Klamath National Forest
  - U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Michigan California Timber Company

Siskiyou County Fire Departments  
(Auto/Mutual Aid Agreements)

- Weed FD
- Lake Shastina CSD
- Gazelle FD
- Butte Valley FD
- Dorris FD
- Hammond Ranch FZ
- Mount Shasta Vista FZ
- Pleasant Valley FZ
- Tulelake FD
- Tennant CSD
- USFS (KNF and SHF)
- CAL FIRE
- Oregon Department of Forestry

Cities and Communities

- City of Weed
- City of Dorris
- City of Tulelake
- College of the Siskiyous
- Town of Gazelle
- Town of Macdoel
- Town of Tennant
- Town of Edgewood
- Mount Shasta Vista Subdivision
- Carrick Addition Subdivision
- Pleasant Valley Subdivision
- Lake Shastina CSD
- Hammond Ranch

Additional Cooperators

- CAL-TRANS
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Pacific Power & Light (Pacific Corp)
- County of Siskiyou
- Union Pacific Railroad (UP)
- Lake Shastina CSD/ Rancho Hills Subdivision
- Boyd Farms
- Shasta Valley Farms
- Lassen Canyon Nursery
- Red Rock Ranch
- Sierra Pacific Ranches
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Fire Safe Councils

- Butte Valley FSC
- Greater Lake Shastina FSC
- Greater Weed Area FSC
- Juniper Flat FSC
- Hammond Ranch FSC

## **PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS**

### **General description of the agreed-on target areas:**

Target areas within the Butte Valley/ Weed Battalion include all populated areas and communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resource assets at risk. Identifying and treating target areas should be a collaborative effort between stakeholders and cooperators to maximize effectiveness and efficiency. One of the major local fire problems the battalion is encountering is the Mount Shasta Vista Subdivision. The area that is east of Big Springs Road, west of highway 97 and north and south of County Road A-12 has seen a major influx in population. It is estimated that the population in that area has increased by 10,000+ in 2021. The main issues associated with this influx are the possible increase in ignition sources, additional building issues, and unpermitted buildings. The battalion will continue to provide public education in different languages to reach as many people as possible regarding fire safety. This area has caused a spike in the battalion's responses to nuisance fires, vegetation fires, structure fires and illegal burning. The density of the population, compounded with the narrow roads, language barriers, and an inability to do LE-100 inspections for safety concerns, make this area a high priority for fire and emergency planning.

### **Key points of the local fire problem:**

Extremely large area (348,502 acres), only two CAL FIRE stations in the battalion, inaccessible terrain, and/or long travel times. High occurrence of lightning activity and lightning caused fires. Area is subject to high winds creating fast moving fires with long range spotting potential. Major highways and populated communities present the potential for a high frequency of fires with potential for rapid fire growth through wildland urban interface areas.

### **General description of the future condition:**

The Butte Valley/Weed Battalion aims to achieve a future state where the occurrence and severity of fires are significantly reduced. This will be accomplished by fostering a landscape resilient to fires through comprehensive pre-fire planning, engineering, dissemination of fire prevention information, and fuel reduction initiatives, coupled with maintaining robust early detection and swift initial response capabilities.

To realize this vision, the battalion will persist in public education efforts, utilizing various channels such as signage, school programs, press releases, community meetings, and local events to convey fire prevention messages and maintain positive community engagement. Pre-fire planning and engineering endeavors will encompass developing pre-incident plans, conducting defensible space inspections, post-fire damage assessments, issuing burn permits, and ensuring adherence to burning regulations.

Fuel reduction activities will target the enhancement and upkeep of existing fuel breaks crucial for community access; alongside strategic development of new fuel breaks adjacent to residential areas. These treatments will be designed to interconnect and fortify existing fuel breaks, forming a continuous protective barrier around vulnerable communities.

Efforts will also be directed toward maintaining and rehabilitating forest access roads, particularly in areas prone to frequent lightning strikes. This involves clearing and repairing roads and water crossings, focusing on assessing and augmenting water sources in water-scarce regions within the battalion's jurisdiction.

For detailed pre-fire project listings within the Butte Valley/Weed Battalion, reference the Siskiyou Unit's Fire Plan.



# ***CAL FIRE***

## **McCloud Battalion**



### **Executive Summary:**

The McCloud Battalion (Battalion IV) is in Southern Siskiyou County and parts of Northern Shasta County. The battalion has approximately 298,286 acres of State DPA. McCloud and Pondosa are the two CAL FIRE stations staffed in McCloud Battalion. McCloud FFS provides fire protection to the SRA during non fire season with personnel from both stations. Pondosa FFS is a seasonal station located on Highway 89, four miles from the old logging mill town Pondosa. During fire season, both stations are equipped with two fire engines. McCloud FFS operates E2654 and E2664, and Pondosa FFS operates E2674 and E2684.

A Battalion Chief (B2614), four Fire Captains, and eight Fire Apparatus Engineers staff battalion IV. During the summer months, the staffing is augmented by seasonal employees including up to twenty-two seasonal Firefighters.

The SRA within the battalion is made up of both private and federal lands, almost entirely timber. The Fire Hazard Ranking for battalion IV is high and very high. Battalion IV faces challenges with the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) in the areas surrounding Dunsmuir, Mt. Shasta, and McCloud. Particularly, the rural regions on the eastern side of Mt. Shasta City and the Mount Shasta Forest and Wilderness Estate subdivisions located east of McCloud are of significant concern. The City of Dunsmuir, which is in the Sacramento River drainage along Interstate 5, is another area of major concern. Interstate 5 and State Highway 89 are the major routes that run through the battalion, with heavy traffic during most times of the day. The Union Pacific Railroad (UP) has tracks that run north-south through the city of Dunsmuir and Mt. Shasta. Additionally, several major electrical transmission lines and a natural gas pipeline also run north-south through the eastern portion of the battalion.

## ***Fire Prevention Goals***

### **GOAL #1**

#### **Prevent loss of life and property within the battalion.**

- Actively seek opportunities to provide fire safety information to the public.
- Continue participation in programs that are already established.
- LE-100 inspections.
- Update maps with water sources and fuel breaks.

### **GOAL #2**

#### **Prevent human caused fires by providing homeowners and stakeholders with information about safe burning practices and current burn regulations.**

- All employees will be well versed in current burn policies.
- Collect all fire plans from timber companies and ensure employees are familiar with locations of logging operations and access.
- Public education through interaction with community members.
- Distribute wildfire safety brochures.

### **GOAL #3**

#### **Reduce the impact of large fires in the battalion.**

- Assist and participate with fuel reduction programs and fuel break projects.
- In collaboration with cooperators and stakeholders, explore landscape-level fuel break opportunities, such as the proposed Castella to Dead Horse Fuel Break. Cross-boundary fuel breaks are critical tools that can significantly reduce the potential for large-scale wildfires.
- Support and assist the Fire Safe Councils in Mt. Shasta, Dunsmuir, and McCloud.
- Continue to collaborate with local, federal, and private landowners to promote training and establish connections that ensure a proactive initial fire response.

### **List of Stakeholders**

- Residents
- Property owners
- Timber owners: Hearst Forests, Campbell Global, Schroll Timberlands, Sierra Pacific Industries, Shasta Cascade Timberlands.
- Timberland Management: Hearst Forests, Sierra Pacific Industries, WM Beaty & Associates, FWS Forestry, Pacific Forest Trust, Willow Creek Ranch.

- USFS Shasta Trinity National Forest
- BLM
- Cal Trans Interstate 5 and Highway 89
- County of Siskiyou
- Greater McCloud Fire and Emergency Response Zone
- Mt. Shasta Forest Property Owners Association
- McCloud River Railroad
- Willow Creek Ranch
- City of Dunsmuir and the Dunsmuir Disaster Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC)
- City of Mt. Shasta
- McCloud Community Service District
- Fire Departments
  - McCloud Fire Department
  - Mt. Shasta City Fire Department
  - Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District
  - Dunsmuir Fire Department
  - Mt. Shasta Forest Volunteers
  - Solider Mountain Fire Department (Shasta County)
- Fire Safe Councils
  - McCloud Fire Safe Council
  - Mt. Shasta Area Fire Safe Council
  - Dunsmuir Fire Safe Council
  - Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council



## **Pre-Fire Management Solutions**

### **General description of the agreed-on target areas:**

Target areas within the McCloud Battalion include all populated areas and communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resource assets at risk. Identifying and treating target areas should be a collaborative effort between stakeholders and cooperators to maximize effectiveness and efficiency.

### **Key points of the local fire problem:**

The McCloud Battalion covers a large area with only two CAL FIRE stations with three of the larger communities in the unit. Response times can be extended due to long travel times to incidents. Inaccessible terrain also creates extended time frames in locating and extinguishing ignitions. Remote housing developments, major highways, major railroad, logging, and tourism in the battalion contribute to the potential for a high frequency of fires along with rapid fire growth. The high occurrence of lightning activity and lightning caused fires can sometimes overwhelm available resources within the battalion.

### **General description of the desired future condition:**

The McCloud Battalion aims to decrease the frequency and magnitude of fires by creating a fire-resilient landscape through pre-fire planning and engineering, fire prevention education, fuel reduction projects, maintaining early detection capabilities, and executing aggressive initial attack strategies.

To accomplish this the battalion will continue educating the public through fire prevention messages via signs, school programs, news releases, meetings and local events while maintaining a positive presence within the community using these programs. The battalion will also continue to encourage early notifications through multiple communication channels, such as the Code Red alert system and the Zone Haven EVAC system.

Pre-fire planning and engineering will include developing pre-plans, completing defensible space inspections, conducting post fire damage inspections, issuing burn permits, performing origin and cause investigations, and ensuring compliance with burning regulations.

Fuel reduction efforts will seek to improve and maintain existing fuel breaks concentrating on areas that provide ingress and egress into and around communities. Also, fuel breaks that are strategically advantageous for fire suppression and are in close to communities and residences. Treatments will be geared towards modifying and connecting fuel breaks to completely envelope these areas.

Work will continue towards maintaining and reclaiming forest access roads to areas that are prone to high lightning activity with a focus on clearing and repairing roads and water crossings. Continue to assess the need for water sources in areas of the battalion where water is scarce. Battalion personnel will ensure two-way communication with logging companies and the railroad to ensure notifications are given and received regarding current logging operations and maintenance of the railroad right-of-way.

Refer to the Siskiyou Unit's Fire Plan for a detailed list of pre-fire projects within the McCloud Battalion.

## APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS



### PRE-FIRE PROJECTS

#### Siskiyou Unit (SKU)

01/01/2024 thru 12/31/2024

PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	Project Status	Treatment Footprint Acres	
Fire Plan	<b>5GG19143 Juniper Flat Comprehensive Fuel Reduction Project</b>	Complete	<b>161.33</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>5GG21233 Scott Valley's WUI Fuel Treatment Program</b>	Active	<b>150.32</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>5GG21234 Partridge Pines Community Hazardous Fuels Reduction</b>	Active	<b>45.17</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>5GG21236 Dunsmuir Fuels Mitigation</b>	Active	<b>687.08</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>8CA05919 GNA-Yreka/Craggy Mountain</b>	Active	<b>1,005.93</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Azalea Fuel Break</b>	Active	<b>119.57</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Baird Ranch</b>	Complete in Mainten	<b>73.27</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Big Springs Ranch</b>	Active	<b>443.78</b>	SKU
CFIP	<b>Bishop CFIP 2022</b>	Complete	<b>220.53</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>BLM Humbug</b>	Active	<b>42.10</b>	SKU
VMP	<b>Bogus Creek VMP 2019</b>	Active	<b>945.14</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Bray Underburn KNF</b>	Active	<b>1,474.92</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Butte Valey Wildlife Refuge</b>	Active	<b>788.70</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Butte Valley Wildlife</b>	Active	<b>1,028.21</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Castle Craggs</b>	Active	<b>247.94</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Craggy GNA</b>	Active	<b>4,286.04</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>Craggy Vegetation Management Project</b>	Active	<b>9,764.68</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Crystal Creek PBA</b>	Active	<b>33.99</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Custer Assist 2023</b>	Active	<b>150.65</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Deadwood Defensible Space</b>	Active	<b>199.98</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Deetz Rd</b>	Active	<b>11.02</b>	SKU
CFIP	<b>Dobson CFIP 2024</b>	Active	<b>46.41</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Dunsmuir Fuel Reduction 2023</b>	Active	<b>61.42</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Dunsmuir RGC</b>	Active	<b>19.80</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>East Fork Scott</b>	Active	<b>4,220.70</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Erickson</b>	Cancelled	<b>296.79</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Erickson RX Assist</b>	Active	<b>430.14</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Esperanza Rd</b>	Active	<b>12.60</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Etna HS</b>	Complete in Mainten	<b>34.50</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Finley Ranch Assist</b>	Active	<b>87.10</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Fredrickson Rx</b>	Active	<b>5.17</b>	SKU
CFIP	<b>Frontgate CFIP 2020</b>	Complete	<b>667.26</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Grass Lake Cal Trans</b>	Active	<b>1,330.30</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Greenhorn KNF</b>	Active	<b>78.09</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Greenhorn Park</b>	Active	<b>523.82</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Hammond Ranch Area Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program</b>	Active	<b>216.76</b>	SKU
CFIP	<b>Handley Family Trust</b>	Complete	<b>1,920.46</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Highway 89 Fuel Break and Safety Project</b>	Active	<b>1.02</b>	SKU

Fire Plan	<b>Hornbrook Station</b>	Active	<b>12.86</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Houghton Assist</b>	Active	<b>151.00</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Huckleberry Fuel Break</b>	Active	<b>212.45</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>I-5 Fuels Treatment (Azalea Phase II)</b>	Active	<b>56.37</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>I-5 Mount Shasta Project</b>	Active	<b>295.62</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>Implementing Landscape-Scale Restoration and Reforestation in Klamath National Forest</b>	Active	<b>3,950.09</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>Implementing Post-Fire Reforestation on Klamath National Forest</b>	Planned	<b>1,292.08</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Island</b>	Cancelled		SKU
Fire Plan	<b>KNF Badger</b>	Active	<b>25.88</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>KNF Carter Meadows CG</b>	Active	<b>23.35</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>KNF Harlan Assist</b>	Active	<b>27.53</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>KNF Lovers Canyon</b>	Active	<b>119.03</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>KNF McBaldy</b>	Active	<b>143.24</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>KNF Scott Bar Mtn. Rx</b>	Active	<b>968.45</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>KNF Six Shooter Assist</b>	Active		SKU
Fire Plan	<b>KNF Steamboat</b>	Active	<b>157.48</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Lake Shastina CEQA and Fuels Reduction Project</b>	Active	<b>1,375.89</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Lassen Canyon Farms RX Assist</b>	Active		SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Lewis Pile Burning</b>	Active	<b>26.60</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Long Gulch Assist</b>	Active	<b>34.49</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Lower Klamath RX</b>	Active	<b>3,577.97</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Marsh Island Ranch Assist</b>	Active	<b>104.21</b>	SKU
CFIP	<b>Maskill CFIP 2022</b>	Active	<b>31.06</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>McBride RX Assist</b>	Active	<b>338.48</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>McCloud Community Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break</b>	Cancelled	<b>21.15</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>McKinley Scott Fuel Reduction Partnership</b>	Active	<b>2,682.74</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>McKinney Fire Reforestation</b>	Active	<b>7,413.89</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Meiss Lake Road</b>	Planned	<b>54.82</b>	SKU
CFIP	<b>Michalak CFIP 2022</b>	Complete	<b>405.49</b>	SKU
CFIP	<b>Mills Tennant CFIP 2022</b>	Complete	<b>785.54</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Modoc Gulch Assist</b>	Active	<b>92.02</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Modoc Nation RX Assist</b>	Active	<b>10.01</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Mount Shasta H.S.</b>	Active	<b>4.01</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Mt Hebron</b>	Cancelled	<b>36.43</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Mt Shasta Cal Trans</b>	Active	<b>476.15</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>MT Shasta Fish Hatchery</b>	Active	<b>81.95</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Mt. Shasta Transfer</b>	Active	<b>63.19</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Newton Rx</b>	Active	<b>89.70</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>North Shore RX</b>	Active	<b>47.29</b>	SKU
Cal VTP	<b>Osgood VTP</b>	Active	<b>63.16</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Pilgrim Plantation Assist</b>	Active	<b>535.65</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Pondosa Station</b>	Active	<b>6.04</b>	SKU
CFIP	<b>Presley CFIP 2023</b>	Complete	<b>66.34</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Quartz Valley Pile Burning</b>	Active	<b>63.57</b>	SKU
Fire Plan	<b>Rancho Chipping</b>	Active	<b>28.94</b>	SKU
VMP	<b>Red Rock VMP</b>	Active	<b>834.10</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>Restoring Forest Health...Klamath National Forest and the Butte Valley</b>	Active	<b>10,928.03</b>	SKU
VMP	<b>Scott River Ranch VMP 2020</b>	Active	<b>2,177.72</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>Scott Valley/Callahan Fuels Reduction and Forest Resiliency Project</b>	Active	<b>2,968.57</b>	SKU
Forest Heal	<b>Scott Valley/Etna Fuel Reduction and Forest Resiliency Project</b>	Active	<b>3,259.39</b>	SKU



Fire Plan	Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	Active	318.51	SKU
Fire Plan	SHF Ah-Di-Na	Active	11.08	SKU
Fire Plan	SHF Bike	Active	367.28	SKU
Fire Plan	SHF Castle Lake Hand Piles Assist	Active	14.35	SKU
Fire Plan	SHF Mt. Shasta I-Zone Assist	Active	90.53	SKU
Fire Plan	SHF Old McCloud	Active	18.10	SKU
Fire Plan	SHF Sandy Thin Assist	Active	85.95	SKU
Fire Plan	Sierra Cascade Nursery Assist	Active	94.14	SKU
Fire Plan	Siskiyou 89	Active	26.22	SKU
Fire Plan	Siskiyou Co Flood	Active	572.03	SKU
Fire Plan	Siskiyou County Fuel Reduction Collaborative Planning Project	Active		SKU
Fire Plan	Siskiyou Fairgrounds	Active	2.32	SKU
Fire Plan	Siskiyou Land Trust Mt. Shasta	Active	10.36	SKU
Fire Plan	SKU-City of Mt. Shasta Wildfire Mitigation	Active	227.67	SKU
Fire Plan	SKU-Fort Jones Fire Safety & Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Active	836.36	SKU
Fire Plan	SKU-Outsen Road Fuels Reduction	Active	804.42	SKU
Fire Plan	SKU-Seiad Creek Ingress/Egress Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Active	67.63	SKU
Fire Plan	SKU-SVRCD Technical Assistance 2023	Active	1,217.18	SKU
Fire Plan	SKU-Yreka Regional Fuels Disposal (Air Curtain) and	Active	1.49	SKU
Fire Plan	Spencer Ranch VMP	Active	105.25	SKU
Fire Plan	Spring Meadows	Complete in Maintenance	3.32	SKU
Fire Plan	Stone Rx	Active	6.12	SKU
Fire Plan	Sweezy Rx	Active	84.16	SKU
Fire Plan	Tauhindauli Park	Active	2.50	SKU
Fire Plan	Tule Lake Rx 1A	Active	4,503.48	SKU
Fire Plan	VanBremmer Rx Assist	Active	379.40	SKU
Fire Plan	Weed City FD	Planned		SKU
Fire Plan	Weed HS	Active		SKU
Forest Health	Western Klamath Landscape Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project	Active	6,976.42	SKU
Fire Plan	Whiskey PBA	Active	38.38	SKU
Fire Plan	White Rock	Active	63.58	SKU
Fire Plan	Yreka Cal Trans	Active	191.59	SKU
Fire Plan	Yreka Ridge Assist	Active	456.90	SKU
Fire Plan	Yreka Ridge Fuel Break	Active	206.52	SKU
Fire Plan	Yreka Transfer	Active	68.21	SKU
<b>Totals</b>			<b>95,804.16</b>	

\*TOTALS REPRESENT PROJECT BOUNDARY ACRES, NOT ACRES TREATED

## APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Identify and evaluate assets at risk while collaboratively developing and sharing common data sets.
  - Develop streamlined data collection tools within the unit to present consistent data sets for timely analysis and reporting.
  - Collect and create updated maps and GIS data layers within the unit for ownership, assets at risk, operations, hazards, fire history, ignitions, and any other pertinent data as needed.
  - Evaluate and protect against emerging threats such as climate change, insect and disease outbreaks, and hazardous fuel conditions.
  - Engage with local groups (e.g., Fire Safe Councils, Tribes) to prioritize assets at risk and mitigating factors.
- Support local land use planning and the development of local plans within the unit that pertain to wildland fire protection.
  - Collaborate with local agencies to ensure current and future land use planning identifies strategies to ensure communities are fire safe.
  - Ensure compliance with fire safe regulations through all stages of land use planning.
  - Support and participate in development of local fire plans and CWPPs ensuring common goals and objectives as it relates to the Unit Fire Plan.
  - Support community-based efforts to mitigate the risks and effects of wildland fires.
- Reduce risk to lives, property, and natural resources through increased fire prevention efforts.
  - Continue to grow fire prevention awareness and planning through expanded education efforts utilizing public out-reach, community events, social media, and new technology as applicable.
  - Expand the number of defensible space inspections within the unit and promote an increasing level of compliance.
  - Expand educational efforts to not only include defensible space, but also fire safe building materials, structure hardening, and improved building design to withstand wildland fires.
  - Investigate all wildland fires and pursue appropriate mitigating action.
  - Utilize trends in fire cause to focus fire prevention efforts.

- Increase fuels reduction scope by integrating fire and fuels management practices with stake-holder priorities.
  - Support landowner-initiated fuels reduction at the unit level.
  - Ensure a collaborative approach to local fuel reduction and prescribed fire projects within the unit by partnering with local stake holders to develop common priorities and objectives.
  - Support local partners in securing grant funding for collaboratively planned fuel reduction work within the unit.
  - Promote the use of vegetation management, prescribed fire, grazing, forest thinning, hazardous fuels removal, sustainable commercial forest management and other fuels treatment projects.
- Identify the level of prevention and firefighting resources needed at the unit level to implement pre-fire strategies and protect assets at risk.
  - Conduct analysis based on data collected to determine effectiveness of current resources and need for additional future resources and equipment.
  - Expand efforts to enable personnel to understand and participate in pre-fire activities.
  - Maintain an aggressive initial attack policy prioritizing life, property, and natural resources while considering values at risk.
  - Ensure that personnel receive appropriate training and equipment to meet the increasingly challenging response environment safely and successfully.
  - Evaluate and implement new technologies to improve efficiency, safety, and situational awareness.
- Develop post-fire assessment strategies and tactics to protect life, property, and natural resources.
  - Implement rapid post-fire analysis, when appropriate, to determine values at risk and implement mitigation measures in a timely manner.
  - Utilize appropriate resources to accomplish restoration and protection activities.
  - Assess pre- and post-fire treatments to refine best management practices.
  - Assist stakeholders and landowners in burned areas to develop vegetation treatment plans and promote native species for restoration.

## **APPENDIX C: UNIT PRIORITY PROJECTS**

### **Priority Projects:**

For 2025 the Siskiyou Unit has identified the following Priority Projects:

#### **Scott Valley Battalion:**

- Scott Valley WUI Fuels Reduction
- Spencer Ranch (fuels reduction)
- Scott River Ranch VMP (fuels reduction)
- Fort Jones Fuel Break
- Etna Fuel Break

#### **Shasta Valley Battalion:**

- Osgood VTP (WUI, fuel break)
- Kilgore VTP (WUI, fuel break)
- Greenhorn Park (dead fuel reduction, public hazard mitigation)
- Yreka Ridge Fuel Break (pile burning)
- Rockin M VTP (fuels reduction)
- Butcher Hill NOE (fuel break/fuels reduction)

#### **Weed / Butte Valley Battalion:**

- Red Rock (fuels reduction)
- C.O.S. (fuels reduction)
- Lake Shastina Fuels Reduction VTP

#### **McCloud Battalion:**

- McCloud State Route 89 VTP (WUI, fuel break)
- I-5 ROW Fuels Reduction projects – Dunsmuir to Azalea, Azalea to Edgewood
- Lake Siskiyou Assist (WUI, fuel break)
- McCloud Mill VTP (WUI, fuel break, row clearing)
- C to D (fuel break)
- McCloud 89 South (fuel break, WUI)



## **Appendix D: Proposed/ planned fire safe council and other entity fuel reduction/ planning projects supported by the unit:**

- **Abner Weed Heritage Fuels Reduction and Forest Resiliency Project-** Weed: Treating 1146 acres and reforesting 555 acres.
- **Antelope Chipping/Mastication-** Butte Valley (Antelope Fire): Treating 417 acres and reforesting 1028 acres.
- **Azaela Phase II Interstate 5 Fuels Treatment** – Treating 50 acres along I-5 freeway.
- **Black Mountain Fuel Reduction-** Hornbrook area: Treating 200 Acres and protecting 200 structures.
- **Black Mountain Siskiyou FSC** – Fuels reduction on 50 acres.
- **Boles Creek-N. Rays Fuel Reduction Project-** Weed: Treating 100 acres and protecting the town of Weed.
- **Bray II Fuel Reduction-** Bray: Treating 118 acres and protecting 100 structures.
- **Butte Creek NCRC** – Fuels reduction.
- **Butte Valley Headwaters Fire Restoration Project-** Butte Valley: Treating 549 acres and reforesting 844 acres.
- **Butte Valley Siskiyou FSC** – Fuels reduction on 50 acres.
- **California Fire Safe Council 22 WF County Coordinator Program** – FSC coordination.
- **Community Wildfire Defense Grant-** 500 homes hardened, defensible space created, and 300 acres of fuel reduction for ingress and egress.
- **Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Phase II** – Home assessments for an additional 500 homes, fuels reduction for ingress and egress, and a Firewise community coordinator.
- **Deetz-Eddy-Luginbuhl Fuel Reduction-** Mount Shasta: Treating 150 acres and protecting 100 structures.
- **Dunsmuir Fuels Mitigation-** Dunsmuir: 125-150 acres for fuels reduction and 690 acres for CEQA.
- **Dunsmuir Hazardous Fuel Reduction-** Dunsmuir: Treating 500 acres.
- **East Weed Fuel Reduction Project-** Treating 100 acres and protecting South Weed infrastructure.
- **Highland Drive Fuel Reduction-** Mount Shasta: Treating 100 acres and protecting 100 structures.
- **Hidden Meadow Fuel Reduction-** Weed: Treating 140 acres protecting 3000 structures.
- **Horse Creek Fuel Reduction-** Horse Creek: Treating 200 acres.
- **Horse Creek Phase II NCRC** – Fuels reduction.
- **Implementing Landscape Scale Restoration/ Reforestation in Klamath National Forest-** Klamath National Forest: Treating 6450 acres and reforesting 450 acres.
- **Interstate 5 Fuel Treatment-** South Mt. Shasta: Treating 8.5 miles and 296 acres along I-5.
- **Juniper Flat Comprehensive Fuel Reduction-** Juniper Flat: Treating 425 acres.
- **Kilgore Hills Fuel Reduction-** Protecting southeast side of Yreka area.
- **Klamath River Fuel Reduction-** Klamath River: Treating 200 acres.

- **Klamath River Project Siskiyou FSC** – Driveway and defensible space.
- **Lake Shastina CEQA Fuel Reduction-** Lake Shastina: Treating 185 acres and protecting 2300 structures.
- **Lower McCloud Fuels Treatment-** South of McCloud in portions of Shasta and Siskiyou Counties: Treating up to 12,000 acres and protecting private timber land/private property. Multiple treatments and treatment types including prescribed fire and fuel modification.
- **Lower Scott River Water Tanks-** Multiple locations off of Scott River Road, west of Meamber Creek Schoolhouse.
- **Miller Mountain Phase II ORECAL** – Fuels reduction on 1200 acres.
- **Mount Shasta/89/Cantera Project** – Treating 500+ acres.
- **North Mount Shasta Fuel Reduction-** Mount Shasta: Treating 1000-1400 acres and protecting 500-1000 structures.
- **North Old Stage Road Fuel Reduction-** Mount Shasta: Treating 165 acres.
- **Partridge Pines Community Hazardous Fuel Reduction-** Scott Valley: Treating 200 acres.
- **Pleasant Valley Fuel Reduction-** Dorris/Butte Valley: Treating 100 acres, protecting 100 structures and the town of Dorris.
- **Scott Bar Mountain Fuel Reduction-** Klamath National Forest: Treating up to 560 acres.
- **Scott Valley WUI-** Scott Valley: Treating up to 1500 acres.
- **Scott Valley/ Callahan Fuels Reduction and Forest Resiliency Project-** Callahan: Treating 2553 acres and reforesting 123 acres.
- **Seiad Creek Ingress/Egress-** Seiad: Treating 70 acres.
- **Seiad Phase II NCRC** – Fuels reduction.
- **Sheep Rock ORECAL** – Fuels reduction on 300 acres.
- **Siskiyou County CWPP-** Siskiyou County and Weed Area CWPP development.
- **Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Project-** Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association planning and implementation.
- **Siskiyou Prescribed Fire Capacity Project-** Planning and training for prescribed fire.
- **South Mount Shasta Fuel Reduction-** Mount Shasta: Treating 500-1200 acres and protecting 500 structures.
- **South Old Stage-Hwy. 89 Fuel Reduction-** Mount Shasta: Treating 220 acres and protecting 2000 structures.
- **Timber Hills-Rainbow Ridge Fuel Reduction Project-** Mount Shasta: Treating 150 acres and protecting 500 structures.
- **Wallow Fire Fuel Reduction-** Fort Jones: Treating 200 acres.
- **Westside Fuel Reduction-** Protecting southwest side of Yreka area.
- **Yreka Phase II NCRC** – Fuels reduction.

## **APPENDICES E-Z**

These Appendices are reserved for future use if necessary.

## EXHIBITS: MAPS

Figure A: Unit Map

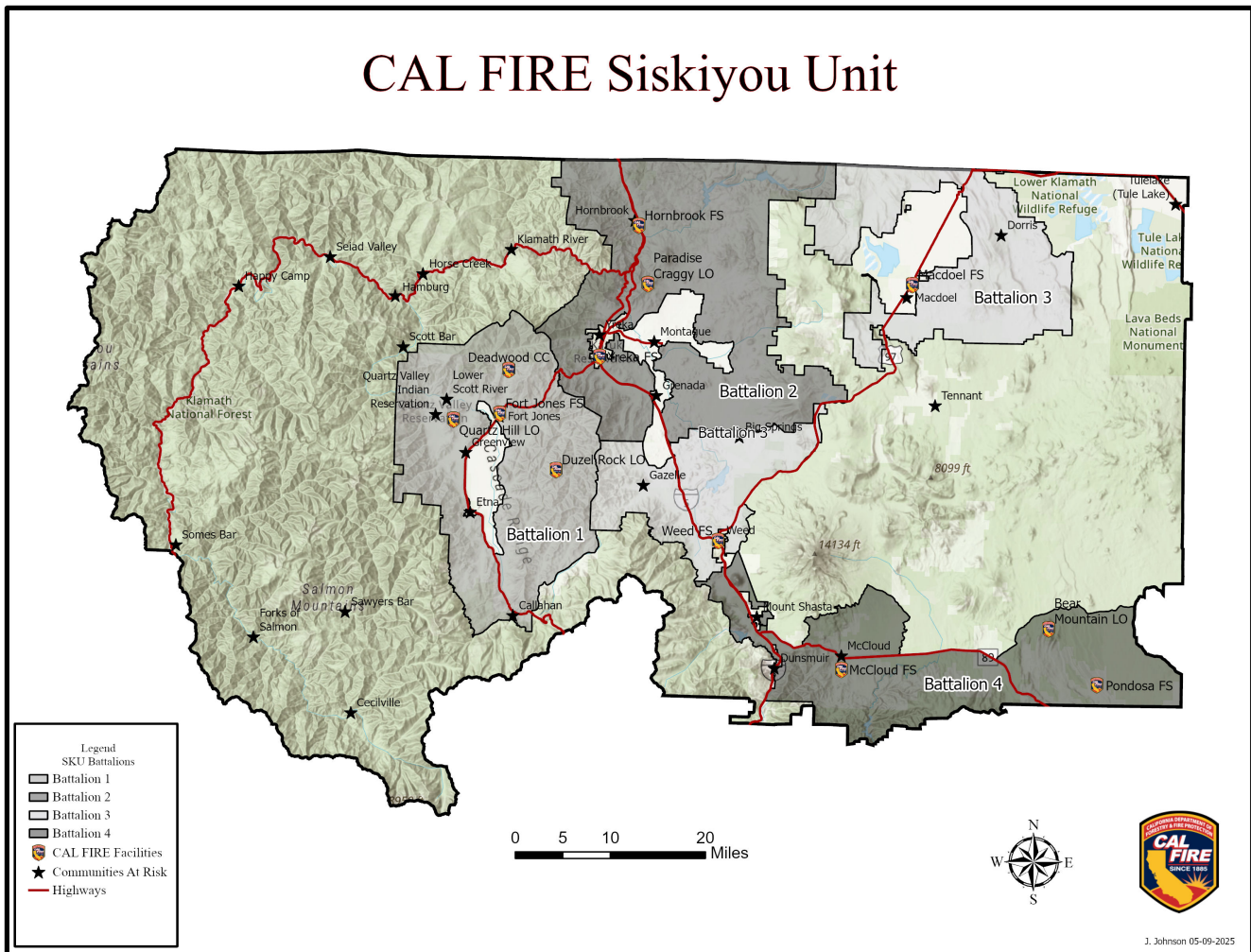


Figure B: 2023 Ignitions Map

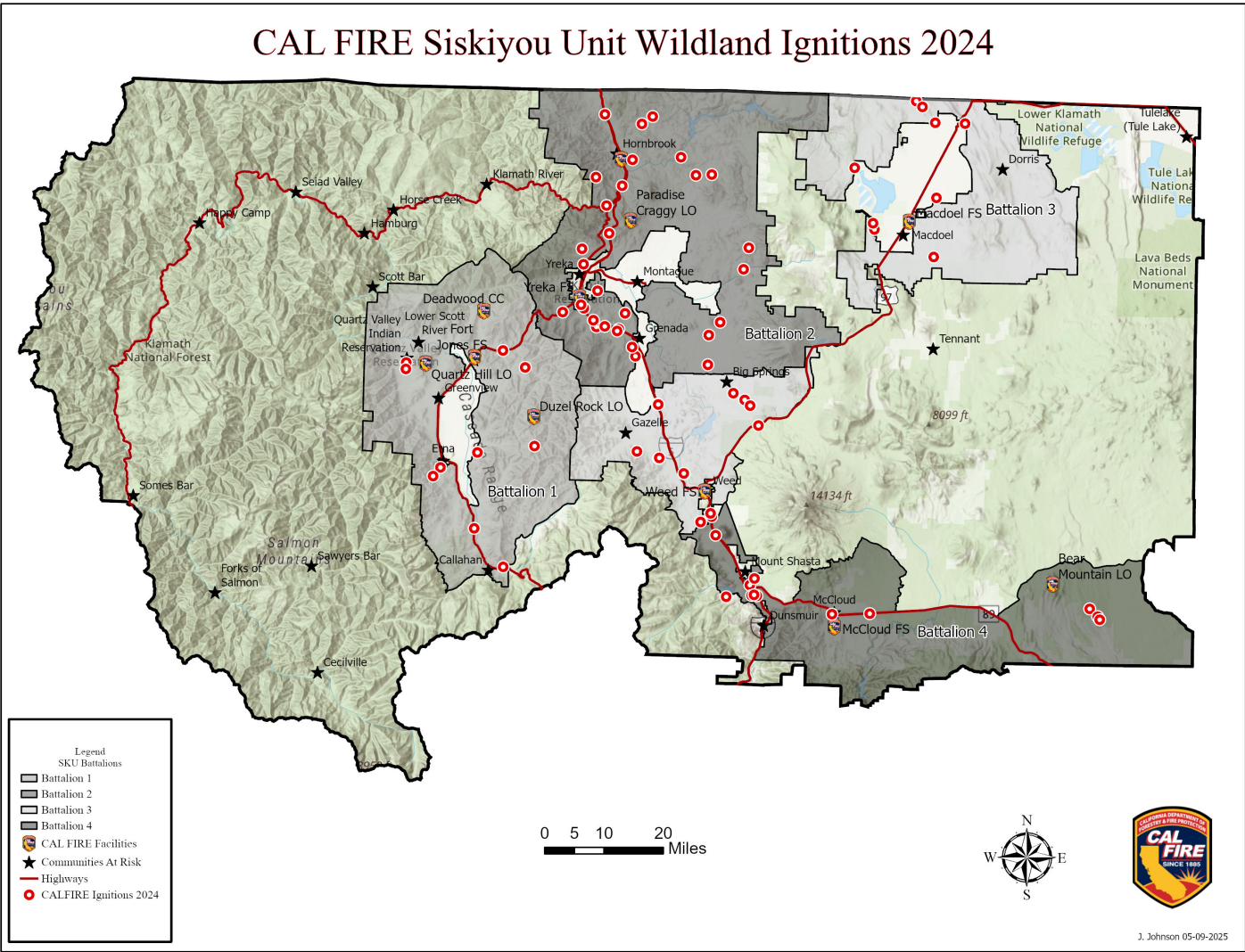
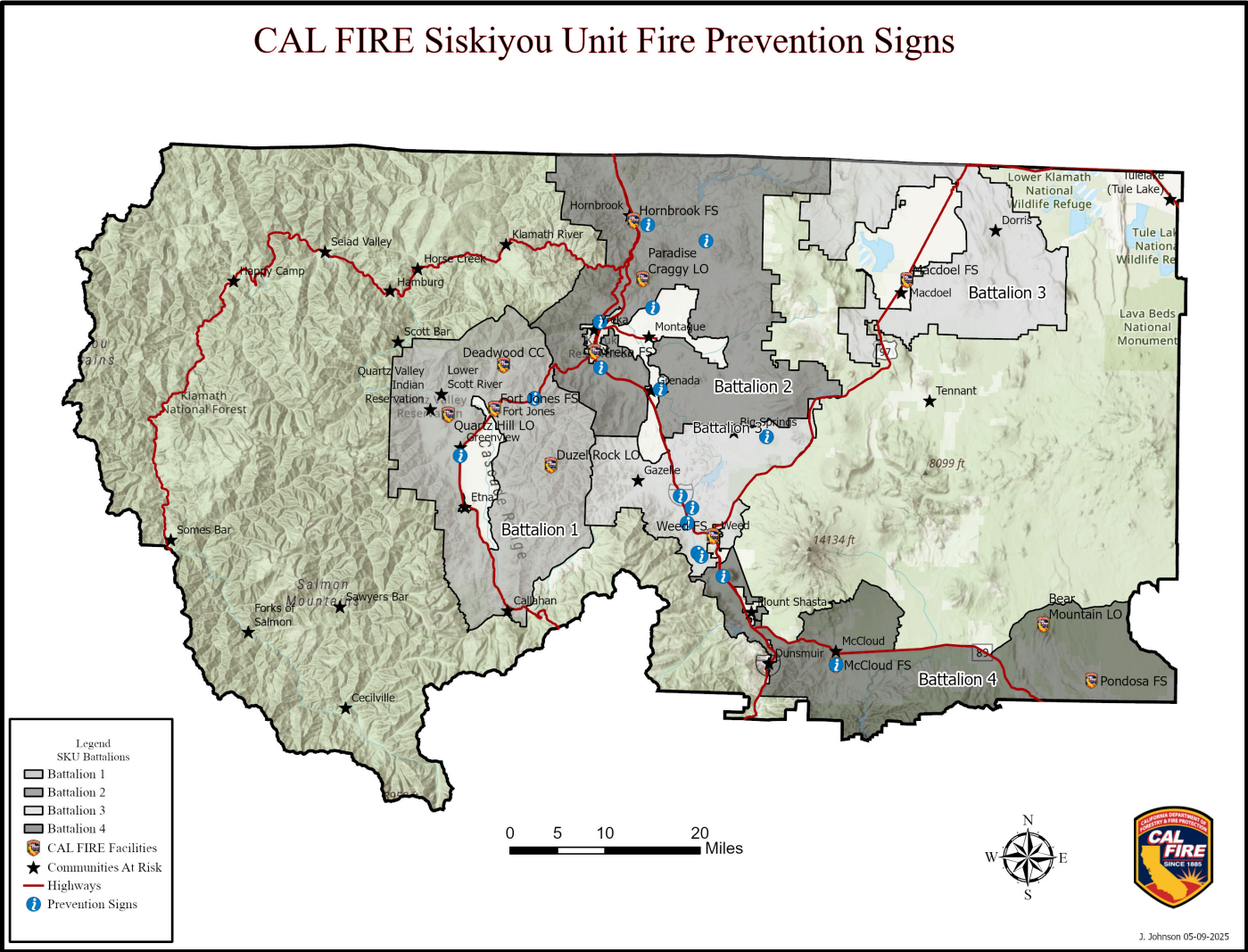




Figure C: Fire Prevention Signs



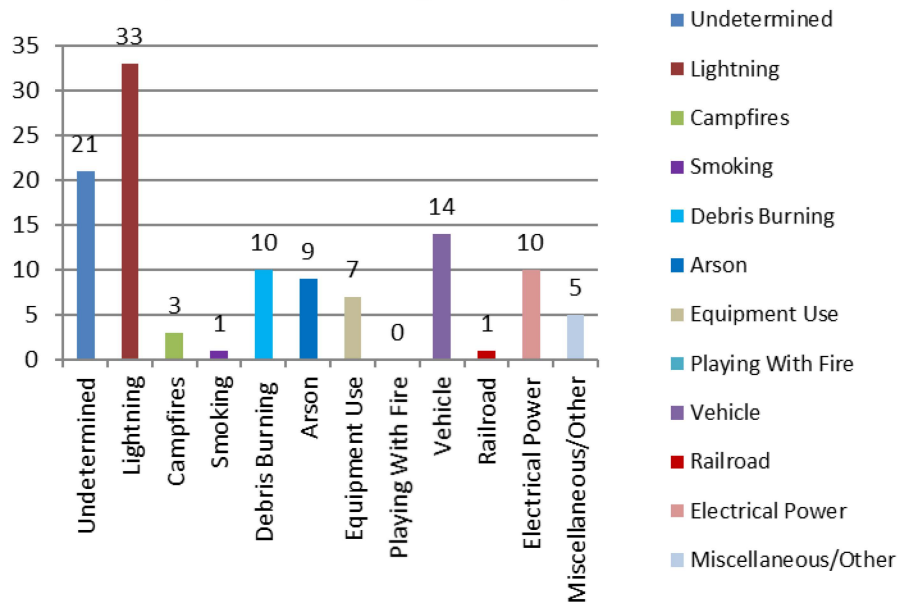
## 2020 Siskiyou Unit Ignition Analysis

In 2020 the Siskiyou Unit had 114 vegetation fires burning 747.22 acres within the State Direct Protection Area. This was down by 9 fires from the previous year and up about 7 from the average. Lightning was the number one cause of ignitions within the unit at 33 which is near average. The ignition analysis showed that vehicle caused fires were the major preventable cause of fires last year, almost three times the 11-year average. The number of undetermined fires in the unit was up by 11 fires from last year and was above the 11-year average. The unit had 9 Arson fires which is up from 7 last year and is nearly twice the 11-year average. Debris burning caused fires were 33 percent below the unit average which is likely a direct result of focused fire prevention education and enforcement. All other ignitions in the unit were near or below the 10-year average. GIS mapping data was collected for 17 SRA vegetation fires within the unit and submitted to the Fire and Resource Assessment Program.

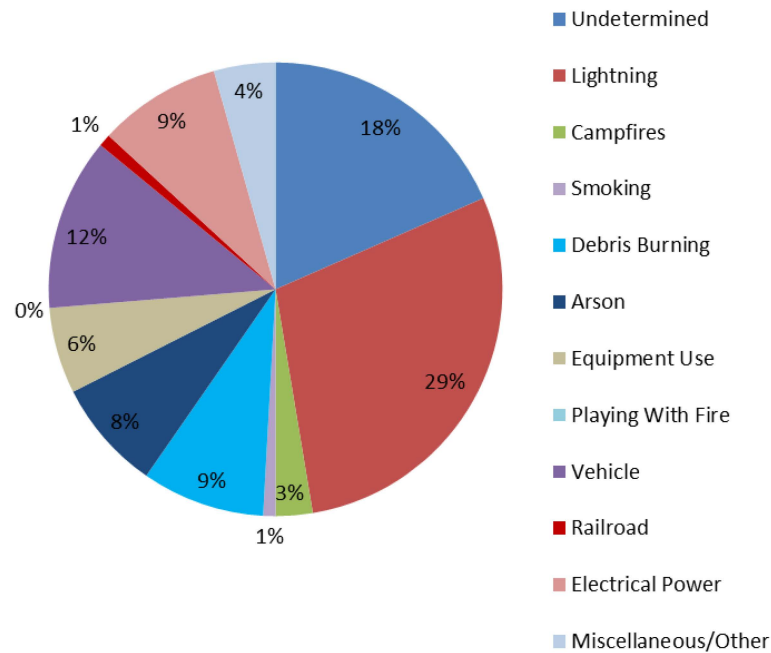
SKU 2020	Number by Causes	Acres Burned	2010 to 2020 Causes	Number by Causes	Yearly Average
Undetermined	21	112.2	Undetermined	185	17
Lightning	33	30.81	Lightning	383	35
Campfires	3	1.2	Campfires	63	6
Smoking	1	0.9	Smoking	17	1.5
Debris Burning	10	21.14	Debris Burning	164	15
Arson	9	0.27	Arson	50	5
Equipment Use	7	9.6	Equipment Use	80	7
Playing With Fire	0	0	Playing With Fire	14	1.3
Vehicle	14	560.94	Vehicle	54	5
Railroad	1	0.2	Railroad	10	0.9
Electrical Power	10	8.6	Electrical Power	58	5
Miscellaneous/Other	5	1.36	Miscellaneous/Other	103	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>747.22</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>107.3</b>



### 2020 Siskiyou Unit - Total Ignitions By Cause



### 2020 Siskiyou Unit Ignitions - Cause Percentages



## **Scott Valley Battalion 2020 Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### **Achievements:**

In 2020, battalion personnel worked throughout Siskiyou County on unit fuel reduction projects. The Battalions personnel and equipment attributed to the Units successful completion of these critical projects. These projects will help protect Siskiyou County communities and first responders from the damaging effects of catastrophic wildfires. Battalion personnel worked with local landowners within Scott Valley to educate and assist them with fuel reduction projects, utilizing broadcast burning to enhance agriculture production and fire safe landscapes. Opening and maintaining fire access roads continued to be a priority in the battalion. Work continued through cooperation with private timber companies and landowners to open fire access roads that were previously impassable.

Eco Trust received grant funding for a local project and continues with fuel reduction as well as access and egress improvement on their lands in the Crystal creek area. This project builds on the maintenance and future continuation of Etna Fuel Break. The project also contributes to the protection of citizens and landowners from wildfires on the west side of Scott Valley. The Lower Scott River Fire Safe Council (LSRFSC) has made progress on a water tank project. The tanks are in place and work continues with the plumbing. The LSRFSC is currently working on grant proposals for both fuel breaks and pre-fire planning. These proposals include creating maps and GIS databases to utilize in pre-plans as well as fuel breaks along Scott River Road that will increase ingress and egress for the public and first responders. The French Creek, Quartz Valley area, Rattlesnake Creek, Scott Bar, Seiad and Scott Valley Fire Safe Councils will be cooperatively applying for three grants to include fuel reduction around the Partridge Pine Community, Defensible Space for disabled and elderly in the Scott Valley area, and ingress and egress in the Seiad Creek Community.

The Scott River Water Shed Council will also submit grants for fuels reduction projects in Scott Valley that will tie into previous completed fuel breaks and proposed Fire Safe Council grant fuel breaks.

The Scott River Ranch VMP Project in the McConaughey Gulch area continues to move forward. This project is in year 2 of 10-year contract and will improve habitat and range land as well as reducing potential ignition and spread of catastrophic wildfires in the area. CAL FIRE personnel and equipment were able conduct pile and broadcast burning this winter and will continue with mechanical treatment and plan for a broadcast burn at the end of this year. By reducing fuel loading and reintroducing controlled fire to the landscape, the area will be more resilient to the damaging effects of potential wildfires upon completion. The unit received assistance from CAL FIRE Northern Region staff in completing environmental compliance documents and other important portions of the project to ensure the successful approval of the VMP project. Battalion personnel also assisted residents and landowners with fuel reduction, focused on ingress and egress, along Mill Creek Road. This project will continue and is anticipated to be completed in

2020. The project enhances the safety of residences and property owners the area as well as first responders.

Battalion personnel continued to foster cooperative relationships with local and federal counterparts, participating in local and multi-agency training exercises. The battalion worked with the Units Fire Prevention Bureau participating in local events. This created direct contact with community members for public education. Fire Prevention education topics included the leading causes of fires within the battalion and unit. Scott Valley Battalion personnel alone completed over 150 LE-100 fire safety inspections within Scott Valley in 2020 to help ensure the safety of residents and first responders.

In 2020 the total number of fire ignitions and burned acres within the Scott Valley Battalion slightly increased from historical averages.

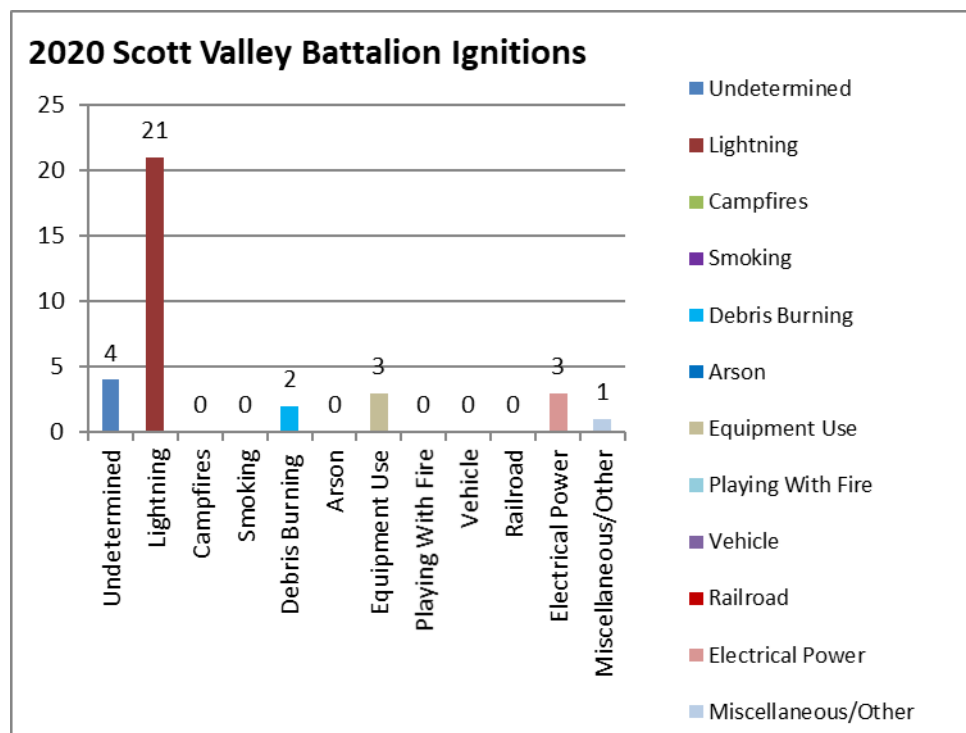
#### Ignition Analysis:

In 2020, the Scott Valley Battalion had 34 ignitions totaling 111.82 acres, which was higher than the previous year. This increase can be attributed to 6 additional lightning caused fires. Lightning was the leading cause of fires within the battalion with 21 ignitions totaling 13.11 acers burned. Aggressive fire suppression, lookout staffing, landowner relationships and available suppression resources contributed to the quick containment and minimal acres burned in these ignitions. Battalion personnel will continue to work with landowners to keep access roads open and foster cooperative relationships to aid in the suppression of these ignitions.

The battalion had 4 undetermined fires which was the second leading causes of fire ignitions. Debris burning caused fires were down from last year and about half of the historical average. Electrical and equipment caused fires were tied for the third leading cause of fire ignitions with 3 each. Additional prevention signs and increasing efforts in posting social media content to assist with public education regarding fire safety when burning seems to have decreased these ignitions. Fire personnel will continue to educate the public while issuing LE-5 burn permits at the fire station. Battalion personnel will conduct random burn pile inspections when burning is observed and continue education efforts at local events like the Etna Rodeo.

In 2021 the Scott Valley Battalion will continue to look for opportunities to work with the community on fuel breaks in and around populated areas. The focus of these fuel breaks will be to improve ingress and egress routes for communities within the battalion as well as protecting communities, critical infrastructure, and timber lands. The battalion will also continue to work to identifying locations for the implementation and completion of fuel reduction projects within these strategic locations. The goal for these projects will be to reduce available fuel for fire ignitions and reduce the spread of wildland fires within Scott Valley.

Batt I	Number	Acres
2020	by	Burned
	Causes	
Undetermined	4	95.1
Lightning	21	13.11
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	2	1.01
Arson	0	0
Equipment Use	3	2.1
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	0	0
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	3	0.4
Miscellaneous/Other	1	0.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>111.82</b>



## **Shasta Valley Battalion 2020 - Achievements and Ignition Analysis**

### **Achievements:**

In 2020, the Shasta Valley Battalion was successful in keeping 95% of our fires to less than 10 acres. A decrease in lighting activity had a part in this. Another contributing factor was the successful use of hired equipment for initial attack during resource drawdown. This augmentation included engines, bulldozers, and helicopters.

The Yreka Fire Safe council continued its efforts to educate the public in the area and sought more citizen involvement along with identifying funding for additional Fire Safe projects. They received a grant for state funding, to analyze fire behavior in the Yreka area. This data is being used to update the Yreka Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Fire Safe Council hopes to tie in past and current projects with the USFS Craggy Fuel Break project. The Craggy project will provide a fuel break on Humbug and Gunsight ridges helping to protect the city of Yreka and surrounding communities.

Shasta Valley Battalion personnel in conjunction with other CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit personnel completed the Newton prescribed fire project, located on the southern edge of Yreka City. This was an 83-acre broadcast burn project with an additional 6 acres of manual fuel treatment. The battalion has plans to complete phase two of this project in 2021. Other fuel reduction projects completed in 2020 include the KNF Greenhorn, BLM Humbug, and multiple other projects assisting the Klamath National Forest.

Currently, CALFIRE is in the early planning phases with several fuel reduction projects around the Yreka area. Most of these projects are expected to tie into the current USFS Craggy Fuel project and past Fire Safe Council fuel reduction efforts.

## Ignition Analysis:

In 2020, the Shasta Valley Battalion saw a decrease in total ignitions. This reduction in total number of fires can most directly be associated with a below average amount of lighting caused fires.

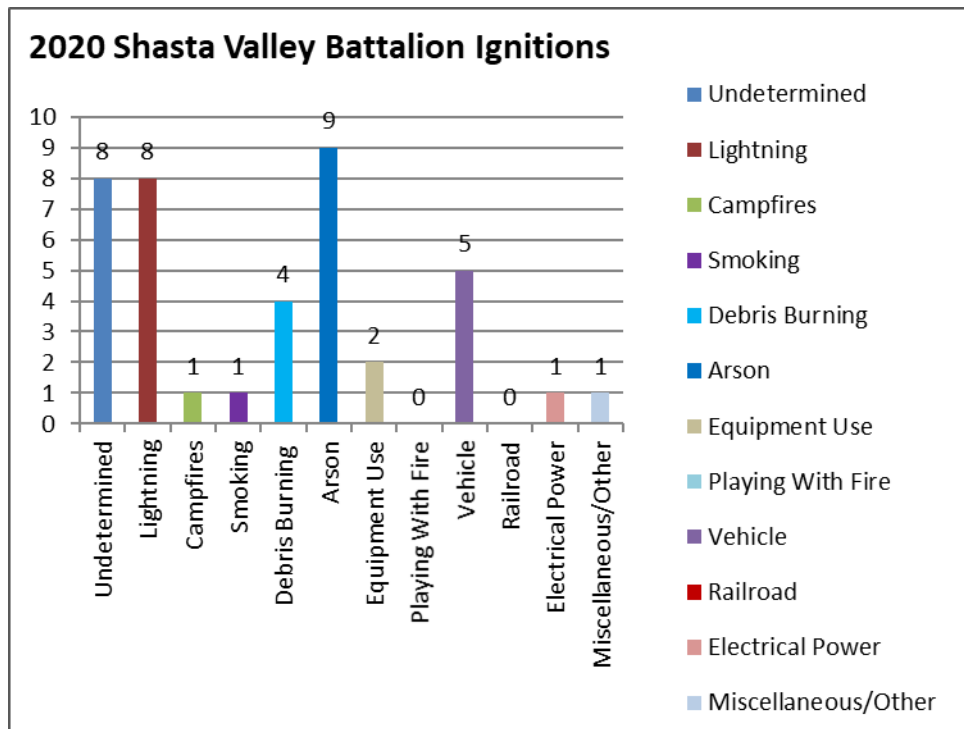
The leading cause of fires in the battalion for 2020 was Intentionally set fires with a total of nine. This was an increase of 80% above the six-year normal in this category. Fortunately, suppression resources were able to limit the intentionally caused fires to a total of 0.27 acres. Undetermined fires were slightly above the six-year historical average.

The largest fire in the Shasta Valley was the Badger fire. The fire grew to approximately 557 acres. The Badger fire was a vehicle caused fire. The Townsend Fire was the second largest at 13 acres. The Townsend Fire was a debris burn escape. All other ignitions were at or below the historical averages.

Large fast-moving fires are becoming more of a trend throughout the state. Fuel reduction efforts within the Shasta Valley Battalion, will continue to focus on improving ingress and egress for communities, protecting critical infrastructure, and creating a fire resilient environment while protecting natural resources.

Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public through the burn permit process including burning regulations, site inspections and public outreach in conjunction with the Prevention Bureau. Battalion personnel will work closely with the Prevention Bureau to gain more education and experience in preserving fire scenes along with conducting origin and cause investigations. The results of this will help decrease the number of undetermined fires in the battalion.

Batt II	Number	Acres
2020	by	Burned
	Causes	
Undetermined	8	14.5
Lightning	8	15.4
Campfires	1	0.1
Smoking	1	0.9
Debris Burning	4	16.74
Arson	9	0.27
Equipment Use	2	7
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	5	559.21
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	1	0.1
Miscellaneous/Other	1	0.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>614.32</b>



## **Butte Valley / Weed Battalion 2020- Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

Battalion personnel assisted The Klamath National Forest with prescribed burns in the Tennant area with a 500-acre prescribed burn on the Klamath National Forest as well as the Bureau of Land Management with pile burning in Butte Valley. They also assisted with prescribed burns totaling over 2,500 acres with the USFWS in the Tulelake/State line area. Participating in these prescribed burns encourages interagency cooperation, area orientation and provides valuable training and experience to battalion and unit personnel.

The Butte Valley / Weed Battalion continues to focus on improving emergency ingress and egress routes for at-risk communities. Weed and Macdoel station personnel continued with local chipping projects in coordination with the Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council in Mt Shasta Vista and the Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council. The focus of the chipping projects is to improve ingress and egress of easements in subdivisions where vegetation has built up and impedes civilian evacuation and emergency responder access. The Mt. Shasta Vista subdivision continues to be an area of concern for fuels reduction, ingress, and egress. This area is at high risk due to local wind patterns, extended response times, narrow winding roads and a high concentration of people. February of 2020, Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council received a CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention Grant for \$812,000 to complete 433 acres of fuel reduction (100ft each side) along the roads in the Mount Shasta Vista Sub-Division. The project will utilize mastication and chipper/chainsaw work to provide valuable ingress, egress, and defensible space for the citizens in that area. As of March 2021, the RFP for the fuel reduction project has been awarded and work will begin as soon as the weather permits. Additional fuel reduction projects will continue to be evaluated and planned to protect communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources in the Butte Valley / Weed Battalion.



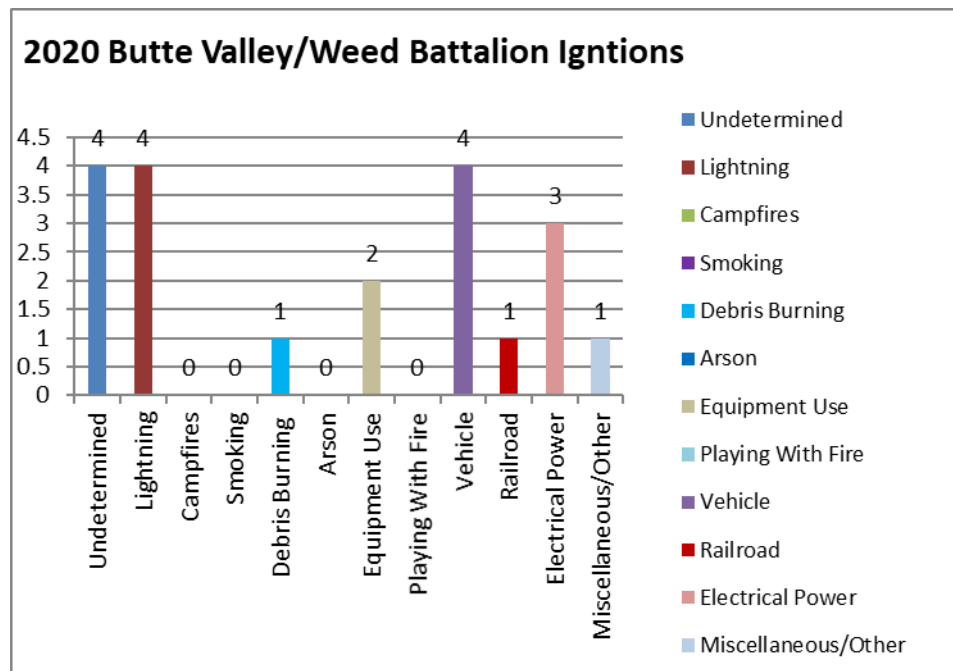
### Ignition Analysis

In 2020, there were 20 ignitions in the battalion, compared to 30 ignitions in 2019 and 40 in 2018. This is down 20 in the last two years and is 10 below the 6-year average for the battalion. This is mainly the result of fewer lightning caused fires and partly because of focused fire prevention education, widespread media coverage of recent large fires. In 2020 the total acreage burned in the battalion was 10.89 acres, which is about 11 percent of the yearly average of 96 acres over the last six years. Resource availability and early detection aided in quick fire suppression keeping all fires within the battalion less than 10 acres.

The leading causes for 2020 were lightning fires, undetermined fires, and vehicle caused fires. Lightning fires were well under the historical average whereas all other ignitions were near or below average. Historically lightning caused fires are the number one cause of fires in the unit and battalion. For this reason, work will continue with landowners and cooperating agencies to improve ingress and egress for areas with high lightning occurrence to aid in quick fire detection and suppression. In 2020, debris burning was about 80 percent lower than the past 6 years. Battalion personnel will focus on increasing public education on safe residential and agricultural burning in 2021 working with the Public Information Officer to increase prevention efforts as this is typically near the top of human caused fires. The battalion had 4 fires that were undetermined which was down by 1 from last year. To better understand the fire problem in the battalion, it is important to reduce the number of undetermined fires to better target prevention efforts. Battalion personnel will work with the Prevention Bureau to get additional training and experience with cause and origin investigations. Vehicle was determined as the cause of 4 fires which burned 1.23 acres. Vehicle caused fires increased from 2019 which will also be a focus of fire prevention in 2021.

The Butte Valley/ Weed Battalion will continue to focus on preventing and reducing the number of all vegetation fires through public education events, media, fuel reduction, pre-planning and any other means that are feasible. All other ignitions were near or below historical averages.

<b>Batt III</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>Burned</b>
	<b>Causes</b>	
Undetermined	4	1.4
Lightning	4	2.3
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	1	0.1
Arson	0	0
Equipment Use	2	0.5
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	4	1.23
Railroad	1	0.2
Electrical Power	3	5.1
Miscellaneous/Oth	1	0.06
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10.89</b>



## **McCloud Battalion 2020-Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

2020 saw many accomplishments in the McCloud Battalion highlighted by the restarting of the McCloud and the Dunsmuir Fire Safe Councils. Fuel reduction work continued through the Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County around the City of Mount Shasta, with fuel break projects utilizing chipper days, Deadwood Crews and Engine Companies within the battalion. Engine crews began work on the Deetz Rd. project in 2020 and will continue in 2021. Deadwood Crews and battalion Engine companies completed the Siskiyou 89 project in cooperation with CAL TRANS and began working on the Squaw Valley Fuel Break. Maintenance work continues for fuel reduction projects at Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery and at the Mt. Shasta sewer ponds. Collaboration between CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service, local Timber Companies, Fire Safe Councils and local Fire Departments for pre-fire planning and fire prevention will continue to be a priority in the battalion. Defensible space inspections in the battalion continued with an emphasis on compliance and public education. Timber companies continue to add fuel breaks while also maintaining existing fuel breaks and roadways. Collaboration with cooperators continues to be a critical asset in pre-planning and fire suppression.

McCloud Battalion personnel are involved in the local Fire Safe Council and School programs in addition to outreach events designed to educate the public on the importance of wildfire awareness through various means such as the Ready, Set, Go, Code Red and defensible space programs. The McCloud Fire Safe Council was awarded a grant through CAL FIRE's California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program that will establish a shaded fuel break around the town of McCloud for \$775,066.00 with work continuing in 2021.

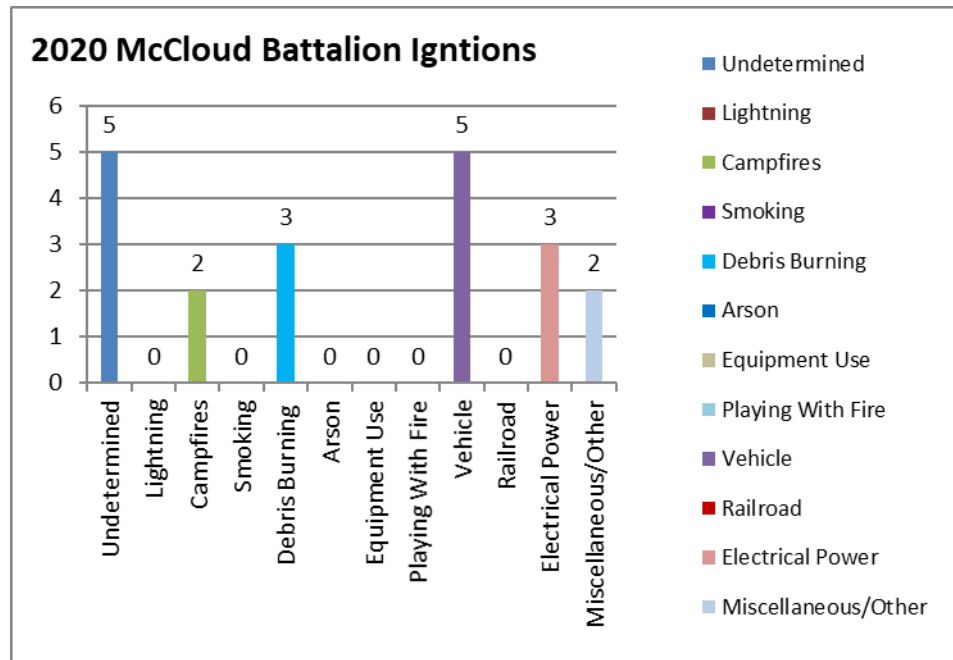
The Siskiyou Unit is working with CAL TRANS on the reentry and maintenance of the Azalea Fuel break on Interstate 5 from Dunsmuir to Azalea Rd. This project will treat both sides of Interstate 5 within the CAL TRANS right-of-way. This is the first of three phases to treat fuels along the Interstate 5 Right-of-Way from Dunsmuir to Edgewood Rd

### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2020 there were a total of 20 ignitions, which was up from the 12 ignitions the previous year. The increase in ignitions in the battalion was mostly due to an increase in tourism and outdoor recreation in the battalion. Causes varied from abandoned campfires, debris burns, vehicle, undetermined/other, electrical power, and miscellaneous fires. The McCloud Battalion did not have any lightning fires in 2020. The remaining ignitions fell within historical averages. Early detection and aggressive initial attack contained all fires to less than 10 acres and a total of 10.19 acres, up by five acres from the year prior.

All human caused fire types will be addressed by targeted messaging and education of the public utilizing fire prevention signs, education outreach, and social media campaigns. Battalion personnel will work closely with the Prevention Bureau to gain more education and experience in preserving fire scenes along with conducting origin and cause investigations. The results of this will help decrease the number of undetermined fires in the battalion.

Batt IV	Number	Acres
2020	by	Burned
	Causes	
Undetermined	5	1.2
Lightning	0	0
Campfires	2	1.1
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	3	3.29
Arson	0	0
Equipment Use	0	0
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	5	0.5
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	3	3
Miscellaneous/Other	2	1.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10.19</b>



## ***ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2020***

### **Fire Planning:**

In 2020 fuel reduction work continued to be a priority on multiple CAL FIRE and Fire Safe Council projects. These projects included the Newton Broadcast Burn, Squaw Valley Fuel Break, Scott River Ranch VMP, Bogus Creek VMP, Castle Crags Project, Siskiyou County Flood Control, Deadwood Defensible Space, multiple USFS (KNF & SHF) projects, along with many other projects. Siskiyou Unit Personnel participated in the review and editing of various Community Wildfire Protection Plans including the Yreka Area CWPP Update.

The Siskiyou Unit recognizes the necessity for maintenance to be completed on multiple fuel breaks within the unit. Maintenance grants have been challenging to obtain by Siskiyou County Fire Safe Councils. The unit would be more fire resilient by maintaining and constructing strategically located fuel breaks rather than completing fuel breaks in non-strategic areas.

In 2020, CAL FIRE conducted the 5-year State Responsibility Area (SRA) review. The Siskiyou Unit proposed 34,462 acres of Local Responsibility Area (LRA) be converted to SRA. This proposal was approved by the California Board of Forestry and went into effect on July 1st of 2020.

### **Investigations and Enforcement:**

In 2020 the Siskiyou Unit investigated 167 total SRA fires with various causes, 114 of which were vegetation fires. The ignition analysis shows that vehicle caused fires were the major preventable cause of fires last year. In addition to debris burn escapes, investigating illegal burning was a main activity for unit personnel and prevention investigators. Illegal burn investigations associated with marijuana cultivation continues to steadily increase. Nine fires within the unit were determined to be caused by arson which was up from 7 last year and was up from the unit average.

During the year, the Prevention Bureau took the following enforcement actions: 2 custodial fire related arrests, 8 citations, 1 District Attorney Complaints, and multiple assists to other law enforcement agencies. 44 LE-38 notices of fire hazard inspection were issued due to illegal burning within the unit.

### **Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:**

The Siskiyou Unit processed a total of 127 building permit applications and conducted 24 plan reviews in 2020.

**Education and Information:**

Fire prevention and education programs were conducted throughout the year. 2020 made it very challenging with the Covid-19 pandemic. These accomplishments included: 30 fire prevention signs that were displayed on major roadways, fire prevention messaging to over 20,000 people daily via social media, and 12,490 contacts with students through virtual school programs. The Prevention Bureau processed 9,490 defensible space inspections, an increase of 3,635 from the previous year. Unit Forestry Aids (DSI) were instrumental in completing these inspections. There were 167 media contacts made for fire information and/or prevention education. Numerous hours of staff time were spent with outreaches to local and federal government cooperators and fire safe councils in aiding them in fire prevention efforts.

**Vegetation Management:**

Fuel reduction work continues to be a priority within the Siskiyou unit. In 2019 many fuel reduction projects were completed as well as new projects planned. Fuel reduction work was completed on the 500-acre Vegetation Management Program (VMP) contract on the Ordway Ranch in Weed. Treatments included a hand and tractor piling, pile burning and prescribed burning. Prescribed fire burn preparation began on the 1400-acre Bogus Creek VMP in anticipation of burning in 2020. The Scott River Ranch VMP located in Scott Valley was approved in 2019 with preparation work beginning in 2020. Planning has begun for several other VMP and fuel reduction projects including the Golden Gate Flat VMP, several smaller VMPs in the Yreka area, the Azalea Fuel Break in Dunsmuir, and the Squaw Valley Fuel Break in McCloud.

**Volunteerism:**

Volunteers in Prevention put in 1000 plus hours of Fire Prevention activity. Volunteer hours were limited to the Honor Guard and training functions due to the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic.

**Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation:**

No Fire Hazard Mapping was conducted in 2020 but it is expected that new Fire Hazard Severity Zone mapping will be completed in 2021. Fuel reduction projects to be conducted throughout Siskiyou County continue to be considered short term mitigations for fire hazard severity.

**Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA:**

Numerous hours of staff time were spent in with Local and Federal government cooperators assisting them in combined fire prevention efforts. Staff hours were also spent aiding Fire Safe Councils in their fuel reduction and fire prevention education efforts.

## 2021 Siskiyou Unit Ignition Analysis

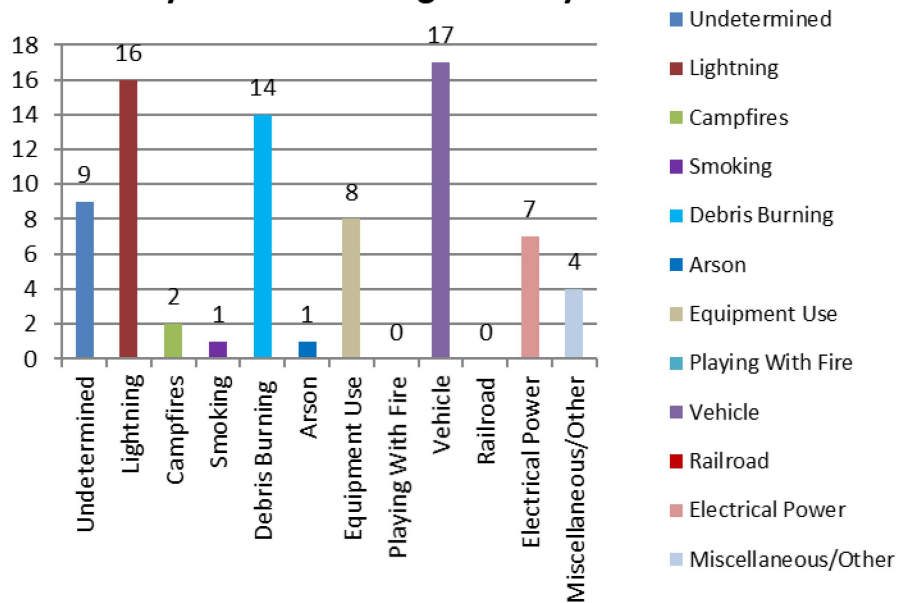
In 2021 the Siskiyou Unit had 79 vegetation fires that started in State Direct Protection Area (DPA). These fires burned 187.36 acres within the State DPA. This was down by 35 fires from the previous year and down about 32 from the average number of fires per year. The reduction in ignitions can be attributed to less than half the average number of lightning caused fires. Vehicle was the number one cause of ignitions within the unit at 17 which is above average. The ignition analysis showed that vehicle caused fires were the major preventable cause of fires last year, almost two times the 5-year average. Acreage for fires in State DPA was almost half the 5-year average. All other ignitions in the unit were near or below the 5-year average. GIS mapping data was collected for 9 SRA vegetation fires within the unit and submitted to the Fire and Resource Assessment Program for fire history data sets.

In addition to the 79 fires originating in State DPA, there were four Federal DPA fires that burned onto State DPA totaling 5680 (State DPA Burned) acres as well as one unprotected Local DPA fire totaling 874 acres. In 2021 the Siskiyou Unit was able to contain about 97 percent of the fires in State DPA to less than 10 acres, exceeding the Department's goal of 95 percent.

In 2022 the Siskiyou Unit will continue to focus on fire prevention education, fuel reduction, pre-fire planning, training, and aggressive initial attack to meet the goals of this Fire Plan.

SKU 2021 Causes	Number by Causes	Acres Burned	SKU 5-Year Averages	Average by Causes	Average Acres
Undetermined	9	13.72	Undetermined	15	31.3
Lightning	16	3.13	Lightning	35.6	96
Campfires	2	0.6	Campfires	2	1
Smoking	1	0.5	Smoking	1	1.4
Debris Burning	14	41.48	Debris Burning	16.4	28
Arson	1	0.5	Arson	6	8.5
Equipment Use	8	6.24	Equipment Use	9.6	6.5
Playing With Fire	0	0	Playing With Fire	0.2	0
Vehicle	17	1.16	Vehicle	10	2.2
Railroad	0	0	Railroad	0.6	0.6
Electrical Power	7	119.71	Electrical Power	7	33
Miscellaneous/Other	4	0.32	Miscellaneous/Other	8	99
	79	187.36		111.4	307.5

## 2021 Siskiyou Unit - Total Ignitons By Cause





## **Scott Valley Battalion 2021 Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### **Achievements:**

In 2021, battalion personnel worked throughout Siskiyou County on unit fuel reduction projects. The Battalions personnel and equipment attributed to the Units successful completion of these critical projects. These projects will help protect Siskiyou County and Scott Valley communities and first responders from the damaging effects of catastrophic wildfires. Battalion personnel worked with local landowners and cooperators within Scott Valley to educate and assist them with fuel reduction projects utilizing broadcast burning to enhance agriculture production and fire safe landscapes. Opening and maintaining fire access roads continued to be a priority in the battalion. Work continued through cooperation with private timber companies and landowners to open fire access roads that were previously impassable.

Private Timber Companies have continued fuel reduction efforts from Patterson Creek to the Crystal Creek accounting for about 11 miles of treatment varying in width from 600 feet to half a mile. They have also thinned along Sniktaw Road above Shackleford Creek and continue to work on improving ingress and egress routes. These projects seek to bolster and extend the Etna Fuel Break to protect of stakeholders on the west side of Scott Valley from wildfires. Local fire safe organizations have applied for grant funding to complete fuel reduction projects for the communities of Seiad Valley and Partridge Pines with treatments that focus on ingress and egress, defensible space for the disabled and elderly, and building continuity with other local fuel treatments.

The Scott River Water Shed Council and the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association have submitted grants for education and fuels reduction projects in Scott Valley that connect previously completed fuel breaks and proposed Fire Safe Council grant fuel breaks.

The Scott River Ranch VMP project in the McConaughy Gulch area of Scott Valley is in year 3 of a 10-year contract and will improve habitat and range land as well as reducing potential ignition and spread of catastrophic wildfires in the area. There have been several different treatments completed totaling about 270 acres utilizing mechanical thinning, mechanical piling, hand thinning, hand piling, pile burning, and broadcast burning. Future efforts will utilize the same treatment methods.

CAL FIRE personnel are currently in the planning phase of a new VMP project adjacent to the Scott River VMP that will be finalized in 2022 with similar goals and treatments objectives.

Battalion personnel continued to foster cooperative relationships with local and federal counterparts, participating in local and multi-agency training exercises. The battalion worked with the Units Fire Prevention Bureau participating in local events. This created direct contact with community members for public education. Fire Prevention education topics included the leading causes of fires within the battalion and unit. Scott Valley Battalion personnel completed over 150 LE-100 fire safety inspections within Scott Valley in 2021 to help ensure the safety of residents and first responders.

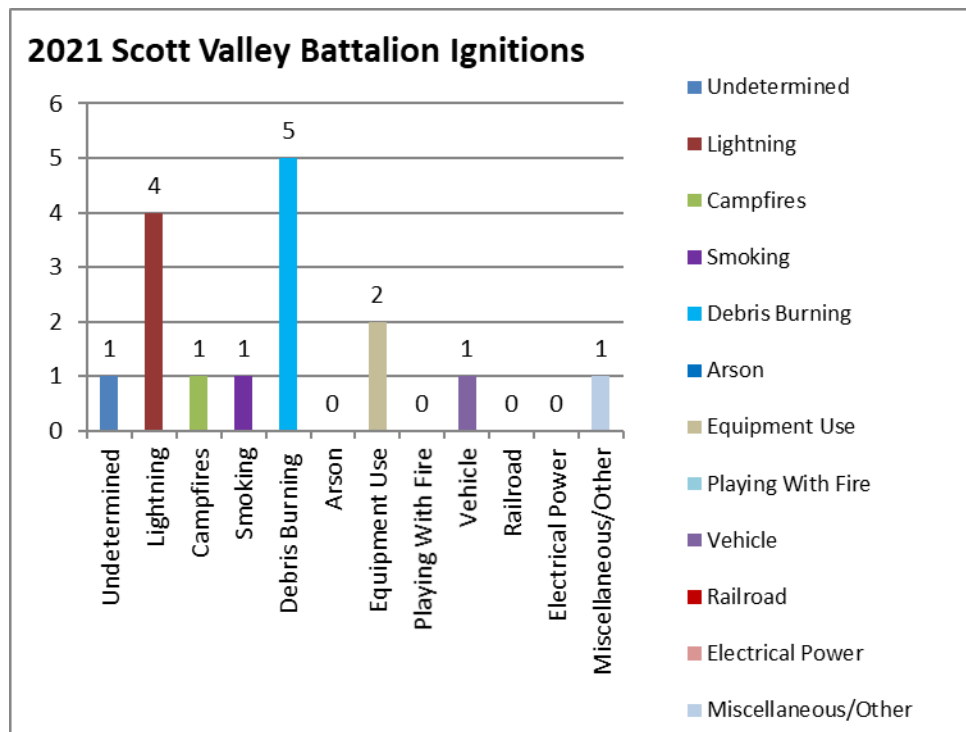
### Ignition Analysis:

In 2021, the Scott Valley Battalion had 16 ignitions totaling 8.02 acres, which was less than half from both the previous year and the 5-year average. This can be attributed to a decrease in lightning caused fires and focused fire prevention efforts. Debris burning was the leading cause of fires within the battalion with 5 ignitions, which equals the 7-year average, totaling 6.16 acres burned. Lightning fires were second with 4 totaling 13 acres. Aggressive fire suppression, lookout staffing, landowner relationships and available suppression resources contributed to the quick containment and minimal acres burned in these ignitions.

Equipment use resulted in 2 fire ignitions while campfires, smoking, vehicle, other type and undetermined resulted in 1 ignition for each cause. All ignitions were near or below the 7-year average in yearly occurrence. Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public while issuing burn permits, complete burn pile inspections, and continue education efforts at local events.

In 2022 the Scott Valley Battalion will continue to look for opportunities to work with the community, cooperators, and stakeholders on fuel breaks in and around populated areas. The focus of these fuel breaks will be to improve ingress and egress routes within the battalion as well as protecting communities, critical infrastructure, and timber lands. The battalion will also continue to identify locations for the implementation and completion of fuel reduction projects within these strategic locations. The goal for these projects will be to reduce available fuel for fire ignitions and reduce the spread of wildland fires within Scott Valley.

Batt I	Number	Acres
2021	by	Burned
	Causes	
Undetermined	1	0.3
Lightning	4	0.13
Campfires	1	0.1
Smoking	1	0.5
Debris Burning	5	6.16
Arson	0	0
Equipment Use	2	0.12
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	1	0.51
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	0	0
Miscellaneous/Other	1	0.2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8.02</b>



## **Shasta Valley Battalion 2021 - Achievements and Ignition Analysis**

### **Achievements:**

In 2021, the Shasta Valley Battalion was successful in keeping 97% of our fires to less than 10 acres. A 70% decrease in lighting activity, based on a seven-year average, had a part in this. Another contributing factor was the four significant Federal DPA fires in the area throughout the summer. These fires were a constant reminder to the public to be fire safe. Once again, the augmentation of an additional bulldozer, type one helicopter, and 40-person firefighter hand crew aided with aggressive initial attack helped keep most of the new fire starts from developing into extended attack fires.

The Yreka Fire Safe council continued its efforts to collaborate and educate the public through zoom meetings in the area and sought more citizen involvement along with identifying funding for additional Fire Safe projects. The Fire Safe Council hopes to tie in past and current projects with the USFS Craggy Fuel Break project. The Craggy project will provide a fuel break on Humbug and Gunsight ridges helping to protect the city of Yreka and surrounding communities. Future projects are being discussed to protect all sides of the Yreka area.

Shasta Valley Battalion personnel in conjunction with other CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit personnel completed the Newton prescribed fire project, located on the southern edge of Yreka City. This was an 83-acre broadcast burn project with an additional 6 acres of manual fuel treatment. The battalion has plans to complete phase two of this project in the fall of 2022. Additional fuel reduction projects completed in 2021 were the BLM Humbug and BLM Yreka pile burning units.

Currently, CALFIRE is in the early planning phases with several fuel reduction projects around the Yreka area. Most of these projects are expected to tie into the current USFS Craggy Fuel project and past Fire Safe Council fuel reduction efforts.

### Ignition Analysis:

In 2021, the Shasta Valley Battalion saw a decrease in total ignitions. This reduction in total number of fires can most directly be associated with a below average amount of lighting caused fires.

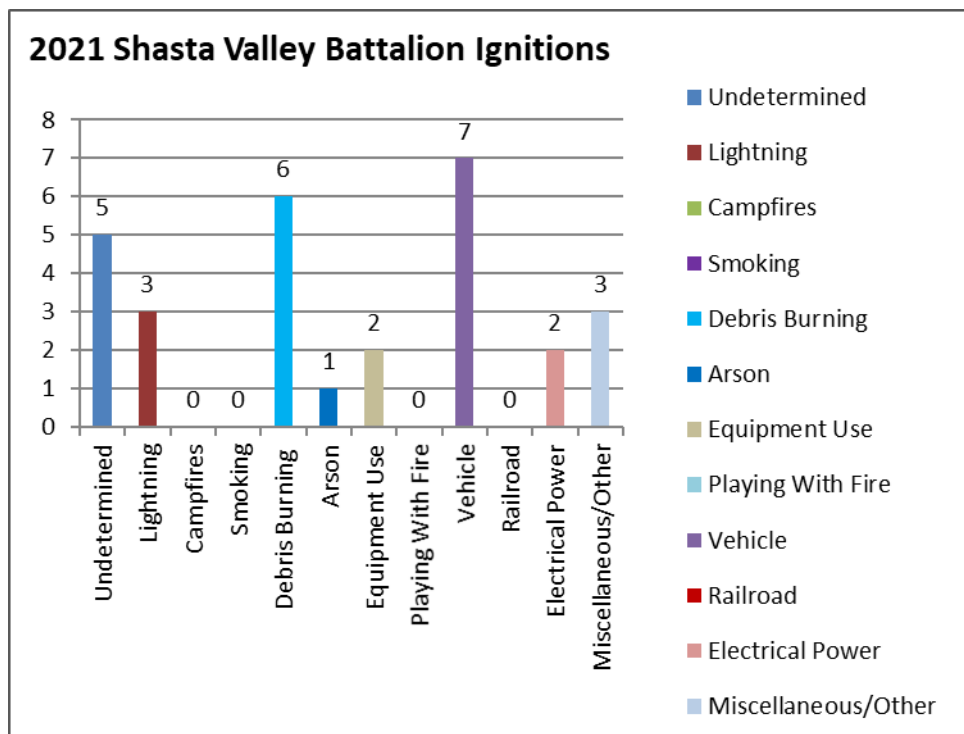
The leading cause of fires in the battalion for 2021 was vehicle caused fires, with seven fire starts. However, almost all these fires were from a single moving vehicle along Interstate 5.

The largest fire in the Shasta Valley was the Beswick fire. The fire grew to approximately 118 acres. The Beswick fire was caused by electrical power. The Hovey Fire was the second largest at 9.5 acres. The Hovey Fire was a debris burn escape. The total debris burn caused fires exceeded the 7-year average. All other ignitions were at or below the historical averages.

Large fast-moving fires are becoming more of a trend throughout the state. Fuel reduction efforts within the Shasta Valley Battalion, will continue to focus on improving ingress and egress for communities, protecting critical infrastructure, and creating a fire resilient environment while protecting natural resources.

Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public through the burn permit process including burning regulations, site inspections and public outreach in conjunction with the Prevention Bureau. Battalion personnel will work closely with the Prevention Bureau to gain more education and experience in preserving fire scenes along with conducting origin and cause investigations. The results of this will help decrease the number of undetermined fires in the battalion.

Batt II	Number	Acres
2021	by	Burned
	Causes	
Undetermined	5	6.02
Lightning	3	0.42
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	6	12.35
Arson	1	0.5
Equipment Use	2	0.12
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	7	0.34
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	2	118.1
Miscellaneous/Other	3	0.12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>137.97</b>



## **Butte Valley / Weed Battalion 2021- Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

Battalion personnel assisted The Klamath National Forest with prescribed burns in the Tennant area with a 500-acre prescribed burn on the Klamath National Forest as well as the Bureau of Land Management with pile burning in Butte Valley. They also assisted with prescribed burns totaling over 2,500 acres with the USFWS in the Tulelake/State line area. Participating in these prescribed burns encourages interagency cooperation, area orientation and provides valuable training and experience to battalion and unit personnel.

The Butte Valley / Weed Battalion continues to focus on improving emergency ingress and egress routes for at-risk communities. Weed and Macdoel station personnel continued with local chipping projects in coordination with the Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council in Mt Shasta Vista and the Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council. The focus of the chipping projects is to improve ingress and egress of easements in subdivisions where vegetation has built up and impedes civilian evacuation and emergency responder access. The Mt. Shasta Vista subdivision continues to be an area of concern for fuels reduction, ingress, and egress. This area is at high risk due to local wind patterns, extended response times, narrow winding roads and a high concentration of people. In February of 2020, the Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council received a CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention Grant for \$812,000 to complete 433 acres of fuel reduction (100ft each side) along the roads in the Mount Shasta Vista Sub-Division. The project will utilize mastication and chipper/chainsaw work to provide valuable ingress, egress, and defensible space for the citizens in that area. Work on this project began in 2021 is now near completion. Additional fuel reduction projects will continue to be evaluated and planned to protect communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources in the Butte Valley / Weed Battalion.

### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2021, there were 21 ignitions in the battalion, compared to 20 ignitions in 2020 and 30 in 2019. This is down 10 from 2019 and up 1 from 2020, 8 below the 7-year average for the battalion. This is mainly the result of fewer lightning caused fires, focused fire prevention education, and widespread media coverage of recent large fires. In 2021 the total acreage burned in the battalion was 38.74 acres, which is about 44 percent of the yearly average of 87.9 acres over the last 7 years. Resource availability, early detection, and aggressive initial attack aided in quick fire suppression keeping most fires within the battalion less than 10 acres.

The leading causes for 2021 were lightning caused fires, undetermined fires, and vehicle caused fires. Lightning fires were well under the historical average whereas all other ignitions were near or below average. Historically lightning caused fires are the number one cause of fires in the unit and battalion. For this reason, work will continue with landowners and cooperating agencies to improve ingress and egress for areas with high lightning occurrence to aid in quick fire detection and suppression. In 2021, debris burning was about 60 percent lower

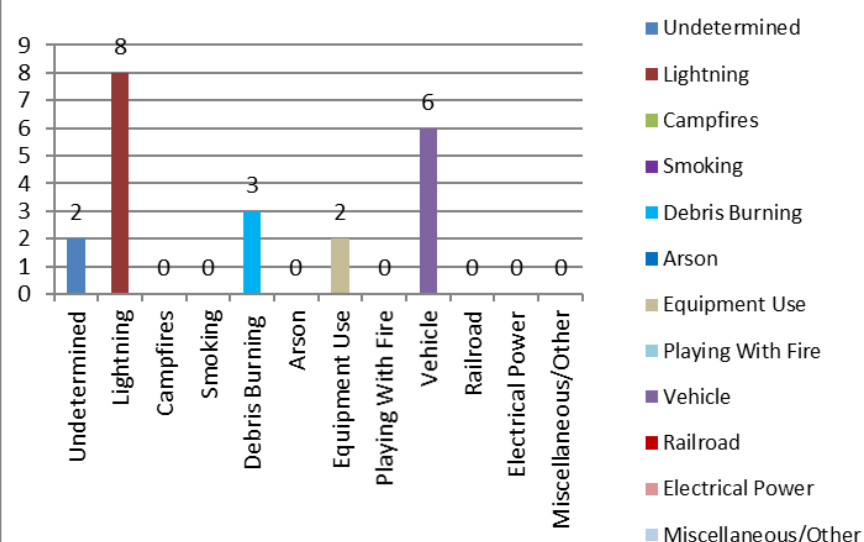


than the past 7 years. Battalion personnel will focus on increasing public education on safe burning in 2022 while working with the Public Information Officer to increase prevention efforts as this is historically the leading type of human caused fires. The battalion had 2 fires that were undetermined which was down by 2 from last year. To better understand the fire problem in the battalion, it is important to reduce the number of undetermined fires to better target prevention efforts. Battalion personnel will work with the Prevention Bureau to get additional training and experience with cause and origin investigations. Vehicle was determined as the cause of 6 fires which burned 0.19 acres. Vehicle caused fires increased from 2020 which will also be a focus of fire prevention in 2022.

The Butte Valley/ Weed Battalion will continue to focus on preventing and reducing the number of all vegetation fires through public education events, media, fuel reduction, pre-planning and any other means that are feasible. All other ignitions were near or below historical averages.

Batt III 2021	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	2	7.3
Lightning	8	2.48
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	3	22.97
Arson	0	0
Equipment Use	2	5.8
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	6	0.19
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	0	0
Miscellaneous/Other	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>38.74</b>

**2021 Butte Valley/Weed Battalion Ignitions**



## **McCloud Battalion 2021-Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

2021 saw many accomplishments in the McCloud Battalion highlighted by formation of Dunsmuir's Disaster Planning Advisory Committee board to work with the Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council on planning and completing fire prevention and fuel reduction work. Battalion personnel continued fuel reduction work on the Deetz Road project and on the Squaw Valley Fuel Break with work continuing in 2022. Maintenance work continues for fuel reduction projects at Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery and at the Mt. Shasta sewer ponds. Collaboration between CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service, local Timber Companies, Fire Safe Councils and local Fire Departments for pre-fire planning and fire prevention will continue to be a priority in the battalion. Defensible space inspections in the battalion continued with an emphasis on compliance and public education. Timber companies continue to add fuel breaks while also maintaining existing fuel breaks and roadways. Collaboration with cooperators continues to be a critical asset in pre-fire planning and fire suppression.

McCloud Battalion personnel continue to be involved with local fire prevention programs and outreach events designed to educate the public on wildfire awareness, Ready Set Go, Zone Haven evacuation system, Code Red, and defensible space programs. The McCloud Fire Safe Council Grant for a shaded fuel break around the town of McCloud is in progress and will continue through 2022.

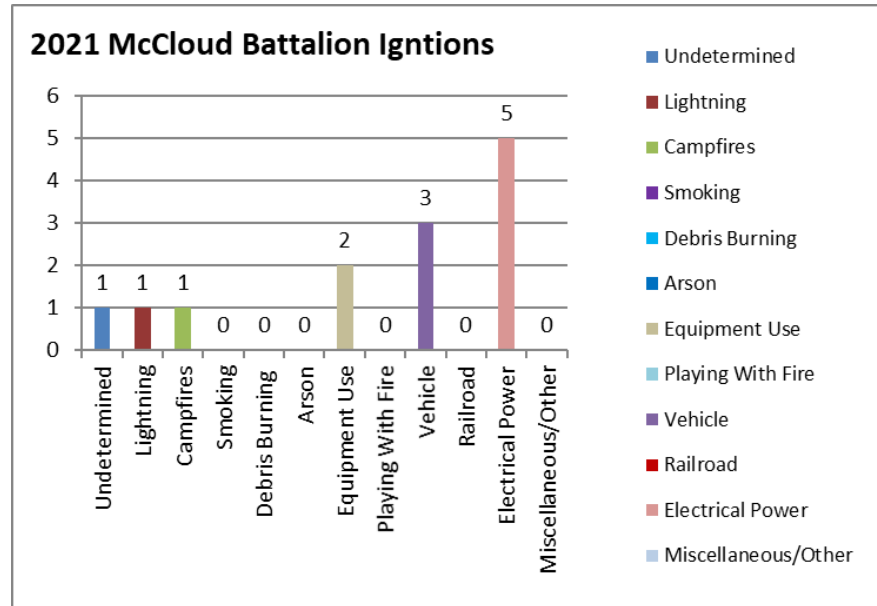
The Siskiyou Unit is working with CAL TRANS, Shasta Valley RCD, and the Mount Shasta Fire Safe Council on the Azalea Fuel break on Interstate 5 from Dunsmuir to Azalea Rd. This project will treat both sides of Interstate 5 within the CAL TRANS right-of-way. This is the first of three phases to treat fuels along the Interstate 5 Right-of-Way from Dunsmuir to Edgewood Rd. Planning efforts continued in 2021 for several future fuel reduction projects including phase 2 of the Interstate 5 project and the Highway 89 fuels project.

### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2021 there were a total of 13 ignitions, which was down from the 20 ignitions the previous year. The decrease in ignitions in the battalion was mostly due to a reduction in lightning caused fires and fire prevention education. Causes varied from abandoned campfires, equipment use, vehicle, undetermined/other, electrical power, and Lightning. The McCloud Battalion did not have any Arson, Smoking, Debris Burning, Playing-with fire, or Railroad caused fires in 2021. All ignitions were at or below historical averages except Electrical Fires which had an increase from the previous year. Early detection and aggressive initial attack contained all fires to less than 2.63 acres, a decrease of 7.56 acres the previous year.

All human caused fire types will be addressed by targeted messaging and education of the public utilizing fire prevention signs, education outreach, and social media campaigns. Battalion personnel will work closely with the Prevention Bureau to gain more education and experience in preserving fire scenes along with conducting origin and cause investigations.

Batt IV 2021	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	1	0.1
Lightning	1	0.1
Campfires	1	0.5
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	0	0
Arson	0	0
Equipment Use	2	0.2
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	3	0.12
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	5	1.61
Miscellaneous/Other	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2.63</b>



## ***ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2021***

### **Fire Planning:**

In 2021 fuel reduction work continued to be a priority on multiple CAL FIRE and Fire Safe Council projects. These projects included the BLM Yreka Project, Azalea Fuel Break, Squaw Valley Fuel Break, Scott River Ranch VMP, Castle Crags Project, the Craggy GNA, Siskiyou County Flood Control, Deadwood Defensible Space, multiple USFS (KNF & SHF) projects, along with many other projects. Siskiyou Unit Personnel participated in the review and editing of various Community Wildfire Protection Plans including the Yreka Area CWPP Update.

The Siskiyou Unit recognizes the necessity for maintenance to be completed on multiple fuel breaks within the unit. Maintenance grants have been challenging to obtain by Siskiyou County Fire Safe Councils. The unit would be more fire resilient by maintaining and constructing strategically located fuel breaks rather than completing fuel breaks in non-strategic areas.

### **Investigations and Enforcement:**

In 2021 Siskiyou Unit Law Enforcement Officers responded to 370 various calls for service. Of these calls for service, Officers Investigated 77 SRA vegetation fires with various causes, 18 structure fires, and 121 other type fires. The ignition analysis shows that vehicle caused fires were the major preventable cause of fires last year. In addition to debris burn escapes, investigating illegal burning was a main activity for unit personnel and prevention investigators. Illegal burn investigations associated with marijuana cultivation continues to steadily increase. During the year, the Prevention Bureau took the following enforcement actions: 12 custodial arrests and Misdemeanor Citations and over 20 infraction citations issued. CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officers assisted other law enforcement agencies approximately 95 times throughout the year. A total of 36 LE-38 notices of fire hazard inspection were issued due to illegal burning within the unit.

### **Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:**

The Siskiyou Unit processed a total of 134 building permit applications and conducted 62 plan reviews in 2021.

**Education and Information:**

Fire prevention and education programs were conducted throughout the year. 2021 made it very challenging with the Covid-19 pandemic. These accomplishments included: 30 fire prevention signs that were displayed on major roadways, fire prevention messaging to over 20,000 people daily via social media, and 13,000 contacts with students through virtual school programs. The Prevention Bureau processed 8,035 defensible space inspections. Unit Forestry Aids (DSI) were instrumental in completing these inspections. There were 167 media contacts made for fire information and/or prevention education. Numerous hours of staff time were spent with outreaches to local and federal government cooperators and fire safe councils in aiding them in fire prevention efforts.

**Vegetation Management:**

Fuel reduction work continues to be a priority within the Siskiyou Unit. In 2019 many fuel reduction projects were completed as well as new projects planned. Fuel reduction work was completed on the 500-acre Vegetation Management Program (VMP) contract on the Ordway Ranch in Weed. Treatments included a hand and tractor piling, pile burning and prescribed burning. Prescribed fire burn preparation began on the 1400-acre Bogus Creek VMP in anticipation of burning in 2020. The Scott River Ranch VMP located in Scott Valley was approved in 2019 with preparation work beginning in 2020. Planning has begun for several other VMP and fuel reduction projects including the Golden Gate Flat VMP, several smaller VMPs in the Yreka area, the Azalea Fuel Break in Dunsmuir, and the Squaw Valley Fuel Break in McCloud.

**Volunteerism:**

Volunteers in Prevention put in 1200 plus hours of Fire Prevention activity. Volunteer hours were limited to the Honor Guard and training functions due to the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic.

**Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation:**

No Fire Hazard Mapping was ongoing 2021 and it is expected that new Fire Hazard Severity Zone mapping will be completed for State Responsibility Area in 2022. Local Responsibility Area should begin in the fall of 2022. Fuel reduction projects to be conducted throughout Siskiyou County continue to be considered short term mitigations for fire hazard severity.

**Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA:**

Numerous hours of staff time were spent in with Local and Federal government cooperators assisting them in combined fire prevention efforts. Staff hours were also spent aiding Fire Safe Councils in their fuel reduction and fire prevention education efforts.

## 2022 Siskiyou Unit Ignition Analysis

In 2022, the Siskiyou Unit had 86 vegetation fires that started in State DPA. These fires burned 17,568 acres within State DPA. This was up by 7 fires from the previous year, and down approximately 14 from the average number of fires per year. The increase in ignitions from 2021 to 2022 can be attributed to additional arson caused fires. Lightning was the number one cause of ignitions within the unit at 19, which is below the Siskiyou Unit 5 year average for lightning caused fires. The ignition analysis showed that arson caused fires were the major preventable cause of fires last year, more than two times the 5-year average. All other ignitions in the unit were near or below the 5-year average. 2022's total acreage for fires in State DPA was almost double the 5-year average. GIS mapping data was collected for 16 SRA vegetation fires within the unit and submitted to the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) for fire history data sets.

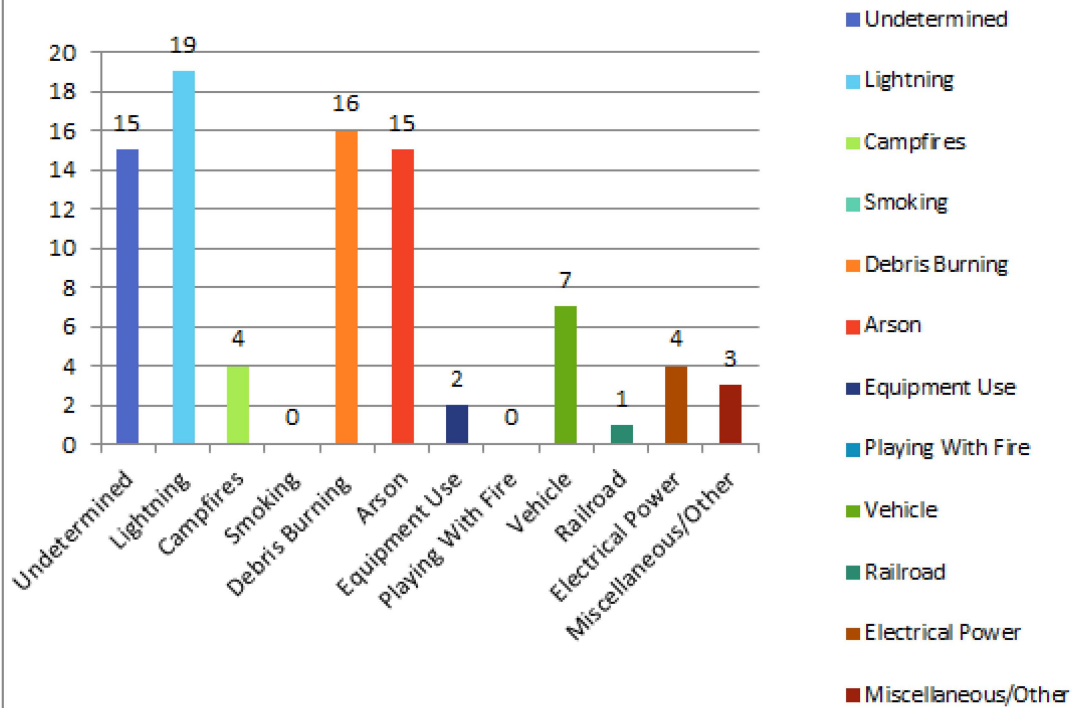
In addition to the 86 fires originating in State DPA, there was one Federal DPA fire that burned onto State DPA totaling 709 (State DPA Burned) acres. In 2022 the Siskiyou Unit was able to contain about 92 percent of the fires in State DPA to less than 10 acres, nearly meeting the Department's goal of 95 percent.

In 2023 the Siskiyou Unit will continue to focus on enforcement of fire laws, fire prevention education, fuel reduction, pre-fire planning, training, and aggressive initial attack to meet the goals of this Fire Plan.

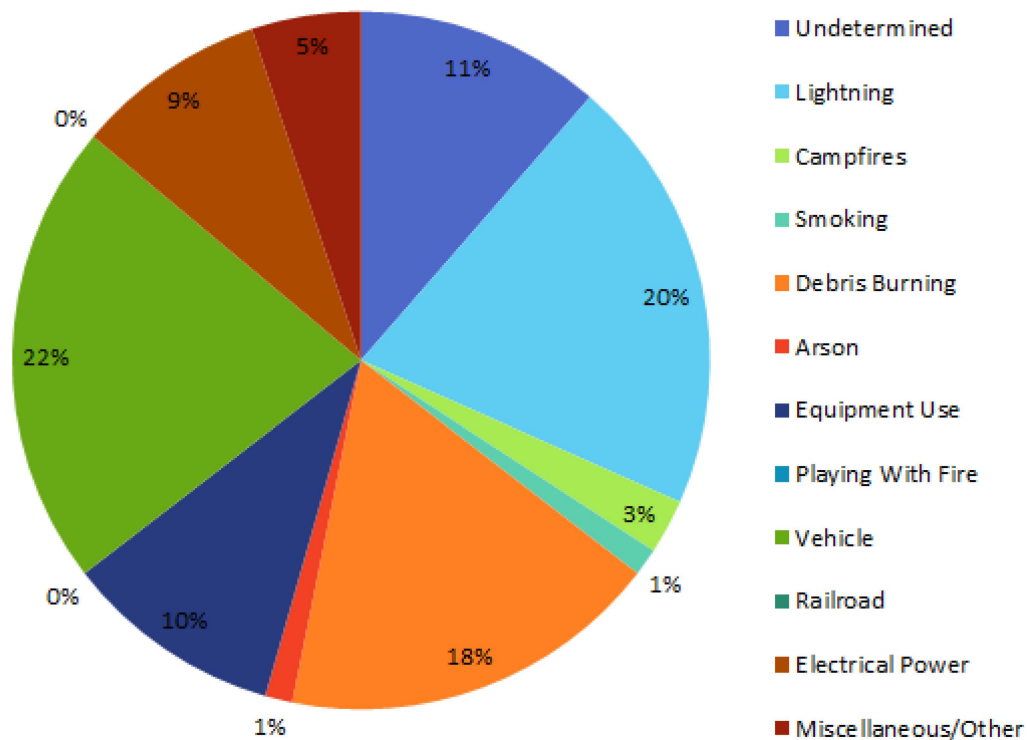
SKU 2022 Causes	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	15	3.62
Lightning	19	394.31
Campfires	4	0.82
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	15	131.41
Arson	15	18.04
Equipment Use	2	0.23
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	7	13465.28
Railroad	2	9.46
Electrical Power	4	0.87
Miscellaneous/Other	3	3939.11
<b>Total:</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>17963.15</b>

SKU 5-Year Averages	Average by Causes	Average Acres
Undetermined	12.8	31.66
Lightning	31.2	173.66
Campfires	2.8	1.01
Smoking	1.4	3.57
Debris Burning	14.8	7666.62
Arson	6.6	9.1
Equipment Use	5.8	6.29
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	10.6	2806.56
Railroad	1	2.55
Electrical Power	6.6	33.54
Miscellaneous/Other	6.6	793.02
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>11527.58</b>

## 2022 Siskiyou Unit - Total Ignitions By Cause



## 2022 Siskiyou Unit Ignitions - Cause Percentages



## **Scott Valley Battalion 2022 Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### **Achievements:**

In 2022, battalion personnel worked throughout Siskiyou County on unit fuel reduction projects. The successful completion of these critical projects can be attributed to the personnel and equipment of the battalion. These projects will help protect Siskiyou County, Scott Valley communities, and first responders from the damaging effects of catastrophic wildfires. Battalion personnel worked with local landowners and cooperators within Scott Valley to educate and assist with fuel reduction projects utilizing broadcast burning to enhance agriculture production and fire safe landscapes. Opening and maintaining fire access roads continued to be a priority in the battalion. Work continued through cooperation with private timber companies and landowners to open fire access roads that were previously impassable.

Private timber companies have continued fuel reduction efforts from Patterson Creek to the Crystal Creek, accounting for about 11 miles of treatment varying in width from 600 feet to half a mile. They have also thinned along Sniktaw Road above Shackleford Creek, and continue to work on improving ingress and egress routes. These projects seek to bolster and extend the Etna Fuel Break to protect other stakeholders on the west side of Scott Valley from wildfires. Local fire safe organizations have received grant funding to complete fuel reduction projects for the communities of Seiad Valley, Partridge Pines, and Quartz Valley with treatments that focus on ingress and egress, defensible space for the disabled and elderly, and building continuity with other local fuel treatments.

The Scott River Water Shed Council and the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association have submitted grants for education and fuels reduction projects in Scott Valley that connect previously completed fuel breaks and proposed Fire Safe Council grant fuel breaks.

The Scott River Ranch VMP project in the McConaughy Gulch area of Scott Valley is in year 4 of a 10-year contract and will improve habitat and range land as well as reduce potential ignitions and spread of catastrophic wildfires in the area. There have been several different treatments completed utilizing mechanical thinning, mechanical piling, hand thinning, hand piling, pile burning, and broadcast burning. Future efforts will utilize the same treatment methods.

CAL FIRE personnel are currently in the implementation phase of the new Spencer VMP project adjacent to the Scott River VMP that will have similar goals and treatment objectives.

Battalion personnel continued to foster cooperative relationships with local and federal counterparts, participating in local and multi-agency training exercises. The battalion worked with the unit's Fire Prevention Bureau participating in local events. This created direct contact with community members for public education. Fire Prevention education topics included the leading causes of fires within the battalion and unit. Scott Valley Battalion personnel completed over 150 LE-100 fire safety inspections within Scott Valley in 2022 to help ensure the safety of residents and first responders.



### Ignition Analysis:

In 2022 the number of total fires in the Scott Valley were down, however, the area was impacted by two large fires. The McKinney fire started on the Klamath National Forest and burned into the north end of Scott Valley. The Mountain Fire started east of Callahan and burned into the east side of Scott Valley. The total number of fires in the battalion was 11, down from 16 the previous year, and nearly half the yearly average of 21. A contributing factor is a decrease in lightning caused fires and focused fire prevention efforts. There were 3 arson caused fires which was the leading fire cause in 2022. Lightning caused fires were twenty-five percent of normal with only two fires. Debris burning caused fires were half of the annual average at only 2. All other fire causes were at or below historical averages.

Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public while issuing burn permits, complete burn pile inspections, and continue education efforts at local events. Personnel will also work closely with Prevention Bureau staff to increase fire origin and cause investigation skills to better identify future problems in order to develop fire prevention strategies.

In 2023 the Scott Valley Battalion will continue to look for opportunities to work with the community, cooperators, and stakeholders on fuel breaks in and around populated areas. The focus of these fuel breaks will be to improve ingress and egress routes within the battalion as well as protecting communities, critical infrastructure, and timber lands. The battalion will also continue to identify locations for the implementation and completion of fuel reduction projects within these strategic locations. The goal for these projects will be to reduce available fuel for fire ignitions, improve ingress and egress, improve continuity of fuel breaks, and reduce the spread of wildland fires within Scott Valley. Fire prevention efforts will continue to focus on debris burning safety as this is historically the second leading cause of fires behind lightning caused fires.

<b>Batt I 2022</b>	<b>Number by Causes</b>	<b>Acres Burned</b>
Undetermined	2	0.32
Lightning	2	93
Campfires	1	0.1
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	2	2.01
Arson	3	6.11
Equipment Use	0	0
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	1	13440
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	0	0
Miscellaneous/Other	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13541.54</b>

## **Shasta Valley Battalion 2022 - Achievements and Ignition Analysis**

### **Achievements:**

In 2022, the Shasta Valley Battalion was successful in keeping all battalion fires to less than 10 acres. Decreased lightning activity, based on a seven-year average, had a part in this. Another contributing factor was a large Federal DPA fire to the west and two large SRA fires located in the neighboring battalion to the south. These fires were a constant reminder to the public to be fire safe.

Once again, the augmentation of an additional bulldozer, a type one helicopter, and a 40-person firefighter hand crew aided with aggressive initial attack, and helped keep most of the new fire starts from developing into extended attack fires.

The Yreka Fire Safe Council continued its efforts to collaborate and educate the public through in person meetings in the area, and sought more citizen involvement along with identifying funding for additional Fire Safe projects. The Fire Safe Council hopes to tie in past and current projects with the USFS Craggy Fuel Break project. The Craggy project will provide a fuel break on Humbug and Gunsight ridges helping to protect the city of Yreka and surrounding communities. Future projects are being discussed to protect all sides of the Yreka area.

Shasta Valley Battalion personnel, in conjunction with other CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit personnel successfully burned 610 acres on the Bogus project, located in the northern half of the battalion. The battalion has plans to burn approximately 83 acres on the Newton project in the fall of 2022.

Currently, CALFIRE is in the early planning phases with several fuel reduction projects around the Yreka area. Most of these projects are expected to tie into the USFS Craggy Fuel project and past Fire Safe Council fuel reduction efforts.

### Ignition Analysis:

In 2022, the Shasta Valley Battalion saw an almost 50 percent decrease in total ignitions. This reduction in the total number of fires can most directly be associated with a below average amount of lightning caused fires and a heightened sense of awareness from the public due to three significant fires in the area throughout the summer.

The leading cause of fires in the battalion for 2022 was lightning caused fires, with six fire starts. Lightning caused fires are typically the highest fire cause in the battalion, However, only six lightning starts is a rare occurrence. All other ignitions were below the historical averages.

Large, fast-moving fires are becoming more of a trend throughout the state. Fuel reduction efforts within the Shasta Valley Battalion, will continue to focus on improving ingress and egress for communities, protecting critical infrastructure, and creating a fire resilient environment while protecting natural resources.

Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public through the burn permit process including burning regulations, site inspections and public outreach in conjunction with the Prevention Bureau. Battalion personnel will work closely with the Prevention Bureau to gain more education and experience in preserving fire scenes along with conducting origin and cause investigations. The results of this will help decrease the number of undetermined fires in the battalion.

<b>Batt II 2022</b>	<b>Number by Causes</b>	<b>Acres Burned</b>
Undetermined	2	2.41
Lightning	<b>6</b>	<b>3.64</b>
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	3	0.63
Arson	3	0.32
Equipment Use	1	0.1
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	1	0.24
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	1	0.6
Miscellaneous/Other	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7.94</b>

## **Butte Valley / Weed Battalion 2022- Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

Battalion personnel assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service with burning approximately 1,400 acres in the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge near Tule Lake. Participating in these prescribed burns encourages interagency cooperation, area orientation, and provides valuable training and experience to battalion and unit personnel.

The Butte Valley / Weed Battalion continues to focus on improving emergency ingress and egress routes for at-risk communities. Weed and Macdoel station personnel continued with local chipping projects in coordination with the Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council in Mt Shasta Vista and the Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council. The focus of the chipping projects is to improve ingress and egress of easements in subdivisions where vegetation has built up and impedes civilian evacuation and emergency responder access. Ingress and egress as well as fuel reduction remain concerns for the Mt. Shasta Vista subdivision. This area is at high risk due to local wind patterns, extended response times, narrow winding roads, and a high concentration of people. In Feb 2020, the Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council received a CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention Grant for \$812,000 to complete 433 acres of fuel reduction (100ft each side along the roads in the Mount Shasta Vista subdivision. The project will utilize mastication and chipper/chainsaw work to provide valuable ingress, egress, and defensible space for the citizens in that area. Work on this project began in 2021 and will be an ongoing project. Additional fuel reduction projects will continue to be evaluated and planned to protect the communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources in the battalion.

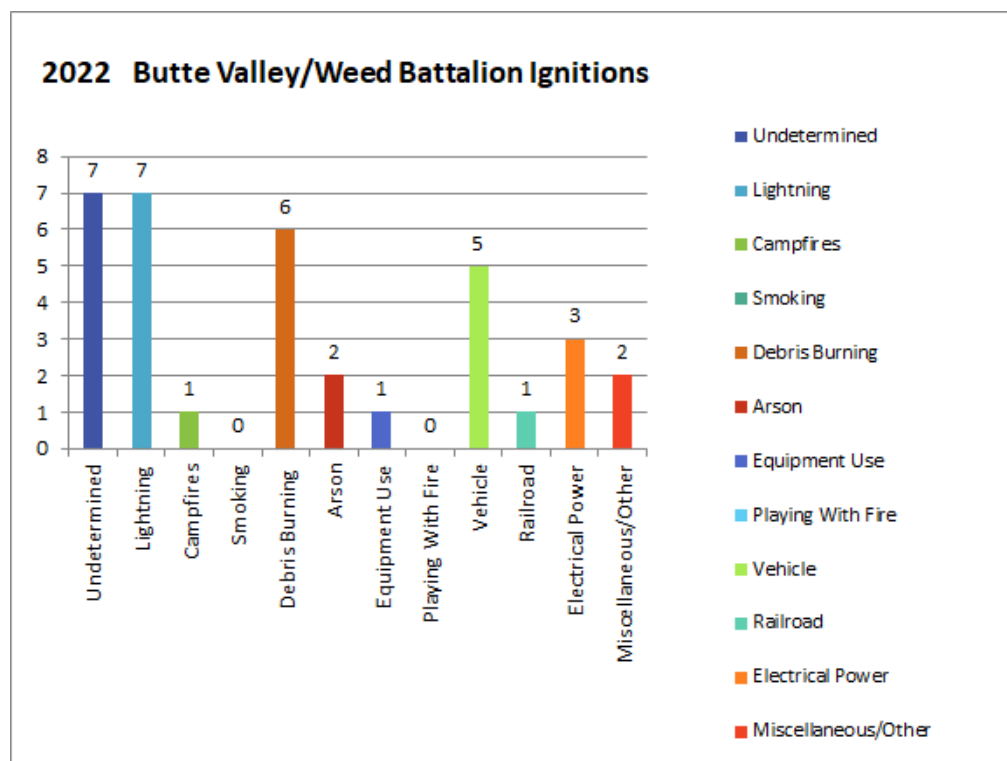
### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2022 there were 35 ignitions in the battalion, compared to 21 ignitions in 2021 and 20 ignitions in 2020. This is up 5 from 2019 and up 14 from 2021, 5 above the 7-year average for the battalion. This is mainly the result of an increase in undetermined, debris burning, arson, vehicle, and electrical power caused fires. In 2022 the total acreage burned in the battalion was 4,389 acres, which is well above average due to two larger fires that burned in the battalion: The Mill and the Highway 97 fires. Resource availability, early detection, aggressive initial attack aided in quick-fire suppression keeping most fires within less than 10 acres. The leading causes for 2022 were undetermined fires, lightning caused fires, and vehicle caused fires. Lightning fires were well under the historical average, whereas all other ignitions were near or below average. Historically, lightning caused fires are the number one cause of fires in the unit and battalion. For this reason, work will continue with landowners and cooperating agencies to improve ingress and egress for areas with high lightning occurrence to aid in quick fire detection and suppression. In 2022, debris burning was slightly above the 7 year average. Battalion personnel will focus on increasing public education on safe burning, and will work with the PIO to increase prevention efforts as this is historically the leading type of human caused fires. The battalion had six fires that were undetermined, which is three from last year. To better understand the fire problem in the battalion, it is important to reduce the number of undetermined fires to better target prevention efforts. Battalion personnel will work with the Prevention Bureau to get additional training and experience with cause and origin investigations.

Vehicles were determined as the cause of 5 fires which burned 25 acres. Vehicle caused fire acres increased from 2021 to 2022 which will also be a focus of fire prevention in 2023.

The Butte Valley/ Weed Battalion will continue to focus on preventing and reducing the number of all vegetation fires through public education events, media, fuel reduction, pre-planning and any other means that are feasible. All other ignitions were near or below historical averages.

<b>Batt III 2022</b>	<b>Number by Causes</b>	<b>Acres Burned</b>
Undetermined	7	0.29
Lightning	7	297.24
Campfires	1	0.27
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	6	126.76
Arson	2	0.35
Equipment Use	1	0.13
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	5	25.04
Railroad	1	0.26
Electrical Power	3	0.27
Miscellaneous/Other	2	3939.01
<b>Total:</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4389.62</b>



## **McCloud Battalion 2022 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

In 2022, the McCloud Battalion achieved many accomplishments including working with Dunsmuir's Disaster Planning Advisory Committee board and the Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council to receive a grant for planning, completing fire prevention and fuel reduction work in the City of Dunsmuir, and furthering fuel reduction efforts on the Highway 89 Fuel Break and the Squaw Valley Fuel Break with work continuing into 2023. Additionally, the battalion completed fuels reduction and day lighting on the Esperanza road which leads into the Mount Shasta Forest Estates. Maintenance work also continued for fuel reduction projects at Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery and at the Mt. Shasta sewer ponds. The battalion prioritized collaboration between CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service, local Timber Companies, Fire Safe Councils, and local Fire Departments for pre-fire planning and fire prevention. Defensible space inspections in the battalion continued with an emphasis on compliance and public education. Timber companies continued to add fuel breaks while also maintaining existing fuel breaks and roadways. Collaboration with cooperators remained a critical asset in pre-fire planning and fire suppression.

Personnel from the McCloud Battalion remain actively engaged in local fire prevention programs and outreach events aimed at educating the public about wildfire awareness, the Ready Set Go program, the Zone Haven evacuation system, the Code Red evacuation system, and the defensible space program. Additionally, the McCloud Fire Safe Council is currently working on a grant-funded project to create a shaded fuel break around the town of McCloud, which is expected to continue through 2022.

The Siskiyou Unit is collaborating with CAL TRANS, Shasta Valley RCD, and the Mount Shasta Fire Safe Council on the Azalea fuel break project on Interstate 5, from Dunsmuir to Azalea road. This initiative aims to treat fuels on both sides of the Interstate within the CAL TRANS right-of-way. The project is in the first phase of a three-part effort to treat fuels along the Interstate 5 Right-of-Way from Dunsmuir to Edgewood road. Planning is underway for future fuels reduction projects, including phase 2 of the Interstate 5 project from Azalea road to the Truck Village exit, which is state-funded. The Highway 89 fuels project is ongoing, with funding secured to complete the CEQA process.

### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2022, the McCloud Battalion experienced a significant increase in the number of ignitions, totaling 23 compared to 13 the previous year. The increase was largely due to arson and lightning-caused fires. Causes of fires varied, including arson, debris and open burning, recreation and ceremony, natural, and undetermined. Arson and debris burning were the most common causes in the battalion. However, there were no equipment, vehicle, exposure, other, railroad, misuse of fire by minor, or power-caused fires. Thanks to early detection and prompt initial response, all fires were contained to 24.05 acres, a modest increase of 21.42 acres from the previous year.

Targeted messaging and education programs will address all types of human-caused fires, through the use of fire prevention signs, education outreach, and social media campaigns. The battalion personnel will closely collaborate with the Prevention Bureau to gain more experience and education in preserving fire scenes, as well as conducting origin and cause investigations.



<b>Batt IV 2022</b>	<b>Number by Causes</b>	<b>Acres Burned</b>
Undetermined	4	0.6
Lightning	4	0.43
Campfires	2	0.45
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	5	11.21
Arson	7	11.26
Equipment Use	0	0
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	0	0
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	0	0
Miscellaneous/Other	1	0.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24.05</b>

## ***ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2022***

### **Fire Planning:**

In 2022, several CAL FIRE and Fire Safe Council projects prioritized fuel reduction work, including the BLM Yreka Project, Azalea Fuel Break, Squaw Valley Fuel Break, Scott River Ranch VMP, Castle Crags Project, the Craggy GNA, Siskiyou County Flood Control, Bogus Creek VMP, Greenhorn Park, and multiple USFS (KNF & SHF) projects. Siskiyou Unit Personnel contributed to reviewing and editing various Community Wildfire Protection Plans, including the Yreka Area CWPP Update.

The Siskiyou Unit acknowledges the importance of maintaining multiple fuel breaks within the unit, as they are essential for fire resilience. However, acquiring maintenance grants has been challenging for the Siskiyou County Fire Safe Councils. Instead of constructing fuel breaks in non-strategic areas, the unit would benefit from constructing and maintaining strategically located fuel breaks.

### **Investigations and Enforcement:**

In 2022, the Siskiyou Unit's law enforcement officers received 459 calls for service and investigated 69 vegetation fires in SRA, 20 structure fires, and 114 other types of fires. The analysis of ignition sources revealed that arson was the primary preventable cause of fires last year. The unit's personnel and bureau law enforcement officers also focused on investigating illegal burning, particularly related to marijuana cultivation. The Prevention Bureau took enforcement actions to include, 18 custodial arrests and misdemeanor citations, and issued five infraction citations. CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officers supported other law enforcement agencies about 88 times throughout the year. Additionally, a total of 36 LE-38 notices of fire hazard inspection were issued due to illegal burning within the unit.

### **Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:**

The Siskiyou Unit processed a total of 111 building permit applications and conducted 67 plan reviews in 2022.

## **Education and Information:**

Fire prevention and education programs were conducted throughout the year. These accomplishments included: 31 fire prevention signs that were displayed on major roadways, fire prevention messaging to over 20,000 people daily via social media, and 22,000 contacts with students through virtual school programs. The Prevention Bureau processed 8,035 defensible space inspections. Unit Forestry Aids (DSI) were instrumental in completing these inspections. There were 167 media contacts made for fire information and/or prevention education. Numerous hours of staff time were spent with outreaches to local and federal government cooperators and fire safe councils, assisting with fire prevention efforts.

## **Vegetation Management:**

Fuel reduction work continues to be a priority within the Siskiyou unit. In 2022 many fuel reduction projects were completed as well as new projects planned. Prescribed fire burn preparation continued on the 1400-acre Bogus Creek VMP, and in the fall of 2022 over 600 acres were broadcast burned. 70 acres of bulldozer crushed and piled brush were burned on the Scott River Ranch VMP. Planning has begun for several other VMP and fuel reduction projects including the KNF Lovers Canyon, Spencer VMP, phase 2 of the Azalea fuel break in Dunsmuir, the Squaw Valley fuel break in McCloud, as well as several smaller VMP's in the Yreka area.

## **Volunteerism:**

Volunteers in Prevention put in 1150 hours of Fire Prevention activity. Volunteer hours were mostly Honor Guard related.

## **Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation:**

New Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for the SRA were rolled out in November of 2022. The new maps may be significantly different from the previous versions in some areas because new data was used. The most impactful change is that burn probability has increased as the area burned in California has increased. The new draft map uses fire history data in California through 2020. In addition, local climate data for the years 2003–2018 were used to adjust the estimated flame length and to model dispersion of blowing embers into urban areas. The FHSZ maps are being updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire. The hazard mapping process will incorporate new science in local climate data and improved fire assessment modeling in determining hazard ratings. Local Responsibility Area FHSZ mapping should begin in the fall of 2023. Fuel reduction projects to be conducted throughout Siskiyou County continue to be considered short term mitigations for fire hazard severity.

## **Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA:**

Numerous hours of staff time were spent assisting local and federal government cooperators with combined fire prevention efforts. Staff hours were also spent aiding fire safe councils in their fuel reduction and fire prevention education efforts.

## 2023 Siskiyou Unit Ignition Analysis

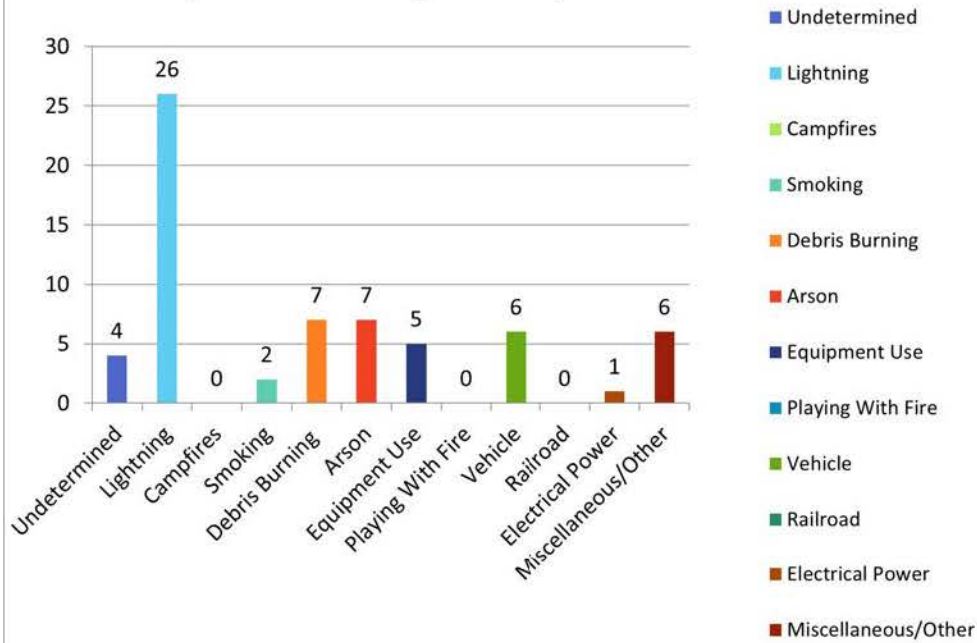
In 2023, the Siskiyou Unit had 64 vegetation fires that started in State DPA. These fires burned 900 acres within State DPA. This was down by 22 fires from the previous year, and down approximately 29 from the average number of fires per year. The decrease in ignitions from 2022 to 2023 can be attributed to a decrease in arson, debris burning, and undetermined caused fires. Lightning was the number one cause of ignitions within the unit at 26, which is just below the Siskiyou Unit 5 year average for lightning caused fires. The ignition analysis showed that debris burning and arson caused fires were the two major preventable cause of fires last year, however, all ignitions in the unit were near or below the 5-year average. 2023's total acreage for fires in State DPA was only a quarter of the 5-year average. GIS mapping data was collected for 3 SRA vegetation fires within the unit and submitted to the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) for fire history data sets.

In 2023 the Siskiyou Unit was able to contain 96 percent of the fires in State DPA to less than 10 acres, meeting the Department's goal of 95 percent.

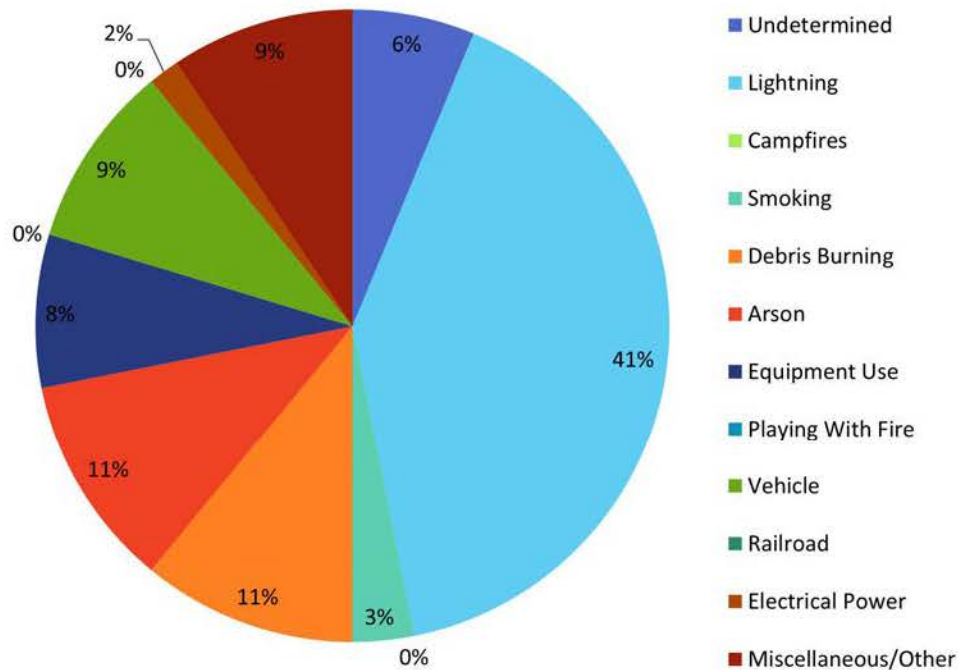
In 2023 the Siskiyou Unit will continue to focus on enforcement of fire laws, fire prevention education, fuels reduction, pre-fire planning, training, and aggressive initial attack to meet the goals of this Fire Plan.

SKU 2023 Causes	Number by Causes	Acres Burned	SKU 5-Year Averages	Average by Causes	Average Acres
Undetermined	4	0.22	Undetermined	11.8	27.14
Lightning	26	885.07	Lightning	30.6	273.42
Campfires	0	0	Campfires	2	0.54
Smoking	2	0.15	Smoking	1	2.25
Debris Burning	7	8.98	Debris Burning	12.2	46.6
Arson	7	1.41	Arson	7.8	4.18
Equipment Use	5	1.35	Equipment Use	6	4.84
Playing With Fire	0	0	Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	6	1.53	Vehicle	10	2806.58
Railroad	0	0	Railroad	0.4	0.09
Electrical Power	1	0.87	Electrical Power	6.4	33.59
Miscellaneous/Other	6	0.92	Miscellaneous/Other	5	789.7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>900.5</b>	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>3988.93</b>

### 2023 Siskiyou Unit - Total Ignitions By Cause



### 2023 Siskiyou Unit Ignitions - Cause Percentages



## **Scott Valley Battalion 2023 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### **Achievements:**

In 2023, battalion and unit personnel worked throughout Scott Valley on fuel reduction projects. Of those projects, we were successful in conducting a 500 acre broadcast burn on the Scott River Ranch VMP, and extensive fuel reduction work was completed on the Spencer VMP. The ongoing completion of these critical projects is an essential step in working towards a more resilient and fire adapted landscape. These projects will help protect Siskiyou County, Scott Valley communities, and first responders from the damaging effects of catastrophic wildfires. Battalion personnel worked with local landowners and cooperators within Scott Valley to educate and assist with fuel reduction projects utilizing broadcast burning to enhance agriculture production and fire safe landscapes. Opening and maintaining fire access roads continued to be a priority in the battalion. Work continued through cooperation with private timber companies and landowners to open fire access roads that were previously impassable.

Private timber companies have continued fuel reduction efforts from Patterson Creek to Crystal Creek, accounting for about 11 miles of treatment varying in width from 600 feet to half a mile. They have also thinned along Sniktaw Road above Shackelford Creek, and continue to work on improving ingress and egress routes. These projects seek to bolster and extend the Etna Fuel Break to protect other stakeholders on the west side of Scott Valley from wildfires. Local fire safe organizations have received grant funding to complete fuel reduction projects for the communities of Seiad Valley, Partridge Pines, Quartz Valley, and Fort Jones with treatments that focus on ingress and egress, defensible space for the disabled and elderly, and building continuity with other local fuel treatments.

The Scott River Water Shed Council and the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association have submitted grants for education and fuels reduction projects in Scott Valley that connect previously completed fuel breaks and proposed Fire Safe Council grant fuel breaks.

The Scott River Ranch VMP project in the McConaughey Gulch area of Scott Valley is in year 4 of a 10-year contract and will improve habitat and range land as well as reduce potential ignitions and spread of catastrophic wildfires in the area. There have been several different treatments completed utilizing mechanical thinning, mechanical piling, hand thinning, hand piling, pile burning, and broadcast burning. Future efforts will utilize the same treatment methods.

CAL FIRE personnel are currently in the implementation phase of the new Spencer VMP project adjacent to the Scott River VMP that will have similar goals and treatment objectives.

Battalion personnel continued to foster cooperative relationships with local and federal counterparts, participating in local and multi-agency training exercises. The battalion worked with the unit's Fire Prevention Bureau participating in local events. This created direct contact with community members for public education. Fire Prevention education topics included the leading causes of fires within the battalion and unit. Scott Valley Battalion personnel completed over 150 LE-100 fire safety inspections within Scott Valley in 2023 to help ensure the safety of residents and first responders.

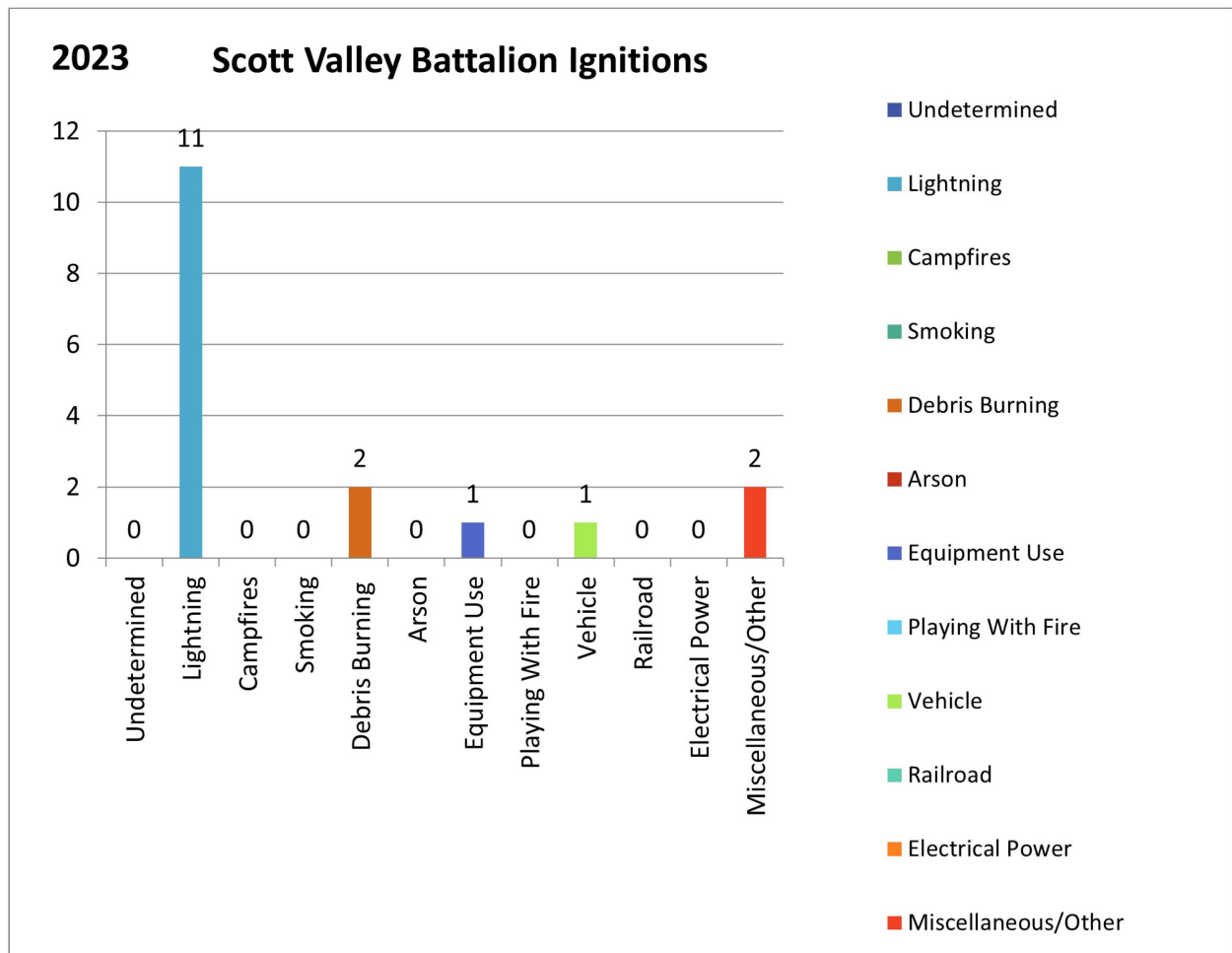
#### Ignition Analysis:

In 2023 there were a total of 17 fires in the Scott Valley Battalion. This was up from the previous year but still under the average of 20 fires a year. The top fire cause was 11 naturally caused fires from lightning. This was slightly above average and all other fire cause types were at or below their historical average. The most important action to limit the damage and severity of naturally caused fires is early detection and aggressive initial attack of new fires. In 2023, the Scott Valley Battalion received two additional fire detection camera systems making a total of three in the area. To bolster this early detection resource, battalion personnel will look for new opportunities and locations to install future fire detection cameras.

Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public while issuing burn permits, completing burn pile inspections, and continued education efforts at local events. Personnel will also work closely with Prevention Bureau staff to increase fire origin and cause investigation skills to better identify future problems to develop fire prevention strategies.

In 2024 the Scott Valley Battalion will continue to look for opportunities to work with the community, cooperators, and stakeholders on fuel breaks in and around populated areas. The focus of these fuel breaks will be to improve ingress and egress routes within the battalion as well as protecting communities, critical infrastructure, and timber lands. The battalion will also continue to identify locations for the implementation and completion of fuel reduction projects within these strategic locations. The goal for these projects will be to reduce available fuel for fire ignitions, improve ingress and egress, improve continuity of fuel breaks, and reduce the spread of wildland fires within Scott Valley. Fire prevention efforts will continue to focus on debris burning safety as this is historically the second leading cause of fires behind lightning caused fires.

Batt I 2023	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	0	0
Lightning	11	1.27
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	2	7.56
Arson	0	0
Equipment Use	1	0.01
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	1	0.66
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	0	0
Miscellaneous/Other	2	0.13
<b>Total:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9.63</b>





## **Shasta Valley Battalion 2023 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### **Achievements:**

In 2023, the Shasta Valley Battalion effectively contained all battalion fires to under 22 acres, with reduced lighting activity playing a significant role. The addition of a type one helicopter and a 40-person firefighter hand crew facilitated aggressive initial attacks, preventing most new fire starts from escalating into extended attacks.

The Yreka Fire Safe Council continued its outreach efforts, engaging in-person meetings to educate the public and encourage citizen participation while seeking funding for additional Fire Safe projects. Collaborative efforts aim to integrate past and ongoing initiatives with the USFS Craggy Fuel Break project, which will establish a protective fuel break on Humbug and Gunsight ridges to safeguard Yreka and its neighboring communities.

Ongoing projects such as Yreka Ridge and Osgood are underway to fortify all sides of the Yreka area. Furthermore, Shasta Valley Battalion personnel, working alongside other CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit members, successfully executed controlled burns on 600 acres as part of the Big Springs project in the southern half of the battalion's jurisdiction.

CALFIRE is currently in the initial planning stages for several fuel reduction projects in the Yreka area, including Collins, Newton, Rolling Hills, Kilgore Hills, and Butcher, many of which are expected to complement the USFS Craggy Fuel project and previous Fire Safe Council initiatives.

### Ignition Analysis:

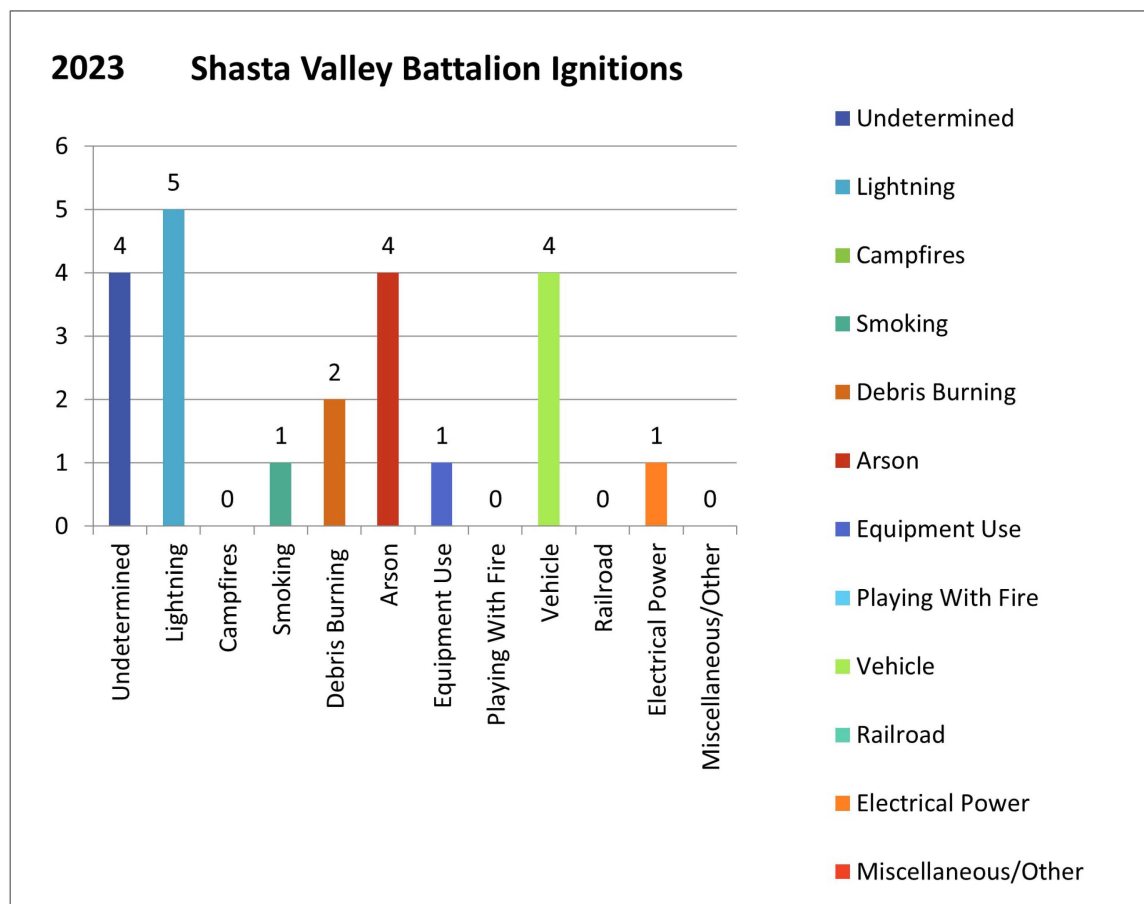
In 2023, the Shasta Valley Battalion saw an increase of total ignitions. Lighting caused fires and a heightened sense of awareness from the public due to multiple significant fires in the area throughout the last four years, continue to keep the public engaged and receptive to prevention measures.

The leading cause of fires in the battalion for 2023 was lightning caused fires, with five fire starts. Lightning caused fires are typically the highest fire cause in the battalion, However, only five lighting ignitions is still a rare occurrence. All other ignitions were near or below the historical averages.

Large, fast-moving fires are becoming more of a trend throughout the state. Fuel reduction efforts within the Shasta Valley Battalion will continue to focus on improving ingress and egress for communities, protecting critical infrastructure, and creating a fire resilient environment while protecting natural resources.

Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public through the burn permit process including burning regulations, site inspections and public outreach in conjunction with the Prevention Bureau. Battalion personnel will work closely with the Prevention Bureau to gain more education and experience in preserving fire scenes along with conducting origin and cause investigations. The results of this will help decrease the number of undetermined fires in the battalion.

Batt II 2023	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	4	0.22
Lightning	5	16.23
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	1	0.14
Debris Burning	2	0.99
Arson	4	1.2
Equipment Use	1	0.23
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	4	0.86
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	1	0.87
Miscellaneous/Other	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20.74</b>



## **Butte Valley / Weed Battalion 2023 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

Battalion personnel assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service with burning approximately 1,400 acres in the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge near Tule Lake. We have maintained an ongoing partnership with the United States Forest Service, specifically with the Klamath National Forest. Whenever the forest undertakes fuel management projects, we have been supplying personnel and equipment to aid in these endeavors. Participating in these prescribed burns encourages interagency cooperation, area orientation, and provides valuable training and experience to battalion and unit personnel.

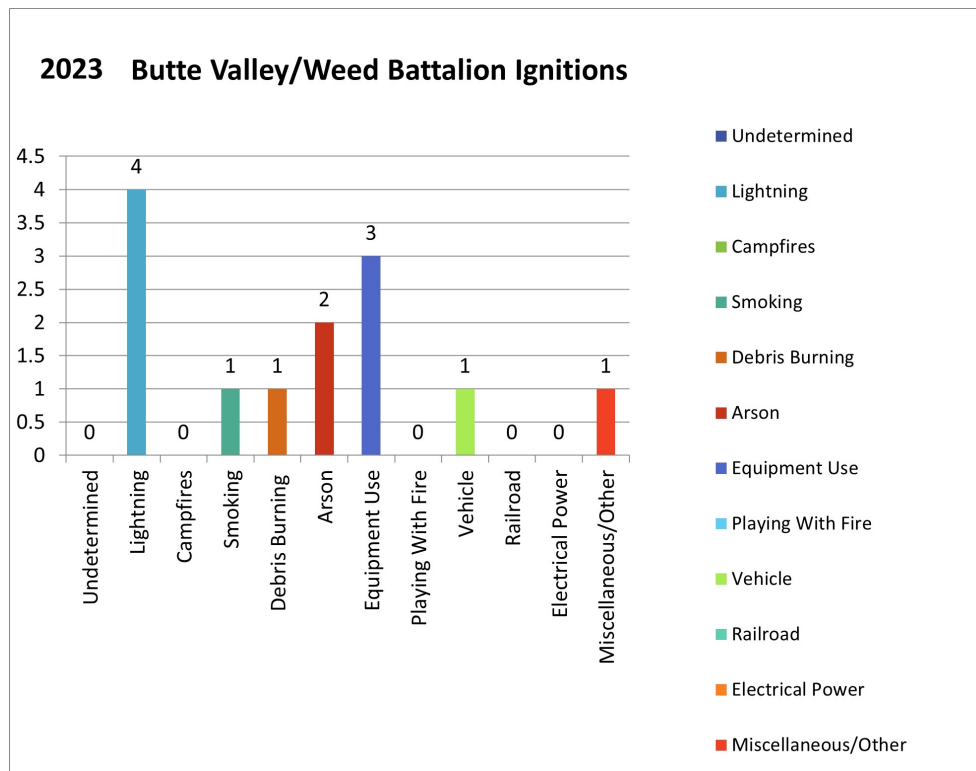
The Butte Valley / Weed Battalion continues to focus on improving emergency ingress and egress routes for at-risk communities. Weed and Macdoel station personnel continued with local chipping projects in coordination with the Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council in Mt Shasta Vista and the Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council. The focus of the chipping projects is to improve ingress and egress of easements in subdivisions where vegetation has built up and impedes civilian evacuation and emergency responder access. Ingress and egress as well as fuel reduction remain concerns for the Mt. Shasta Vista subdivision. This area is at high risk due to local wind patterns, extended response times, narrow winding roads, and a high concentration of people. In Feb 2020, the Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council received a CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention Grant for \$812,000 to complete 433 acres of fuel reduction (100ft each side along the roads in the Mount Shasta Vista subdivision). The project will utilize mastication and chipper/ chainsaw work to provide valuable ingress, egress, and defensible space for the citizens in that area. Work on this project began in 2021 and was completed February 2024. Additional fuel reduction projects will continue to be evaluated and planned to protect the communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources in the battalion.

### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2023, there were 13 ignitions in the battalion, a significant decrease from previous years, with 35 ignitions in 2022, 21 in 2021, and 20 in 2020. The total acreage burned was 2.05 acres, less than half of the 7-year average. This decline is primarily due to decreases in undetermined, lightning, debris burning, and vehicle-caused fires. Notably, lightning fires were below the historical average, despite historically being the leading cause of fires. Efforts will continue to improve ingress and egress for areas prone to lightning to enhance fire detection and suppression. Debris burning, historically a primary cause of human-caused fires, was slightly below average in 2023. Public education on safe burning will be intensified, along with prevention efforts coordinated with the Public Information Officer. Eliminating undetermined fires is crucial for targeted prevention; therefore, personnel will undergo additional training and collaborate with the Prevention Bureau on cause and origin investigations.

The Butte Valley/ Weed Battalion will continue to focus on preventing and reducing the number of all vegetation fires through public education events, media, fuel reduction, pre-planning and any other means that are feasible.

Batt III 2023	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	0	0
Lightning	4	0.15
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	1	0.01
Debris Burning	1	0.16
Arson	2	0.11
Equipment Use	3	1.11
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	1	0.01
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	0	0
Miscellaneous/Other	1	0.5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2.05</b>



## **McCloud Battalion 2023 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

In 2023, the McCloud Battalion achieved many accomplishments, including working with Cal-Trans to further fuel reduction efforts on the Highway 89 Fuel Break from Azalea to the town of McCloud on both sides of the highway right-of-way. Additionally, the battalion completed fuel reduction and daylighting on the Esperanza road, which leads into the Mount Shasta Forest Estates. Maintenance work also continued for fuel reduction projects at Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery and at the Mt. Shasta sewer ponds. The battalion prioritized collaboration between CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service, local Timber Companies, Fire Safe Councils, and local Fire Departments for pre-fire planning and fire prevention. Defensible space inspections in the battalion continued with an emphasis on public education and safety compliance, with over 300 inspections completed in the battalion by engine personnel from McCloud and Pondosa. Timber companies continued to add fuel breaks while also maintaining existing fuel breaks and roadways. Collaboration with cooperators remained a critical asset in pre-fire planning and fire suppression.

Personnel from the McCloud Battalion remain actively engaged in local fire prevention programs and outreach events aimed at educating the public about wildfire awareness, the Ready Set Go program, the Zone Haven evacuation system, the Code Red evacuation system, and the defensible space program. Additionally, the McCloud Fire Safe Council is currently working on a grant-funded project to create a shaded fuel break around the town of McCloud, which is expected to continue through 2024.

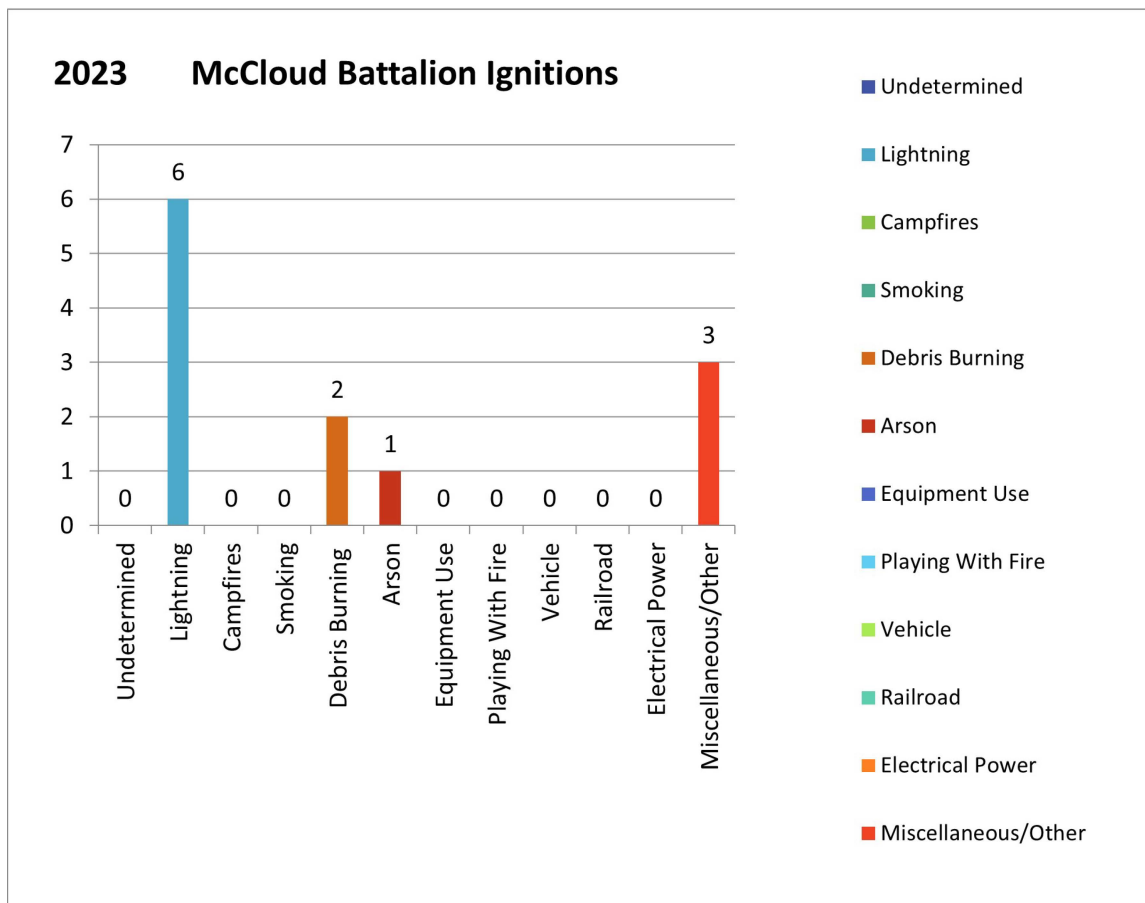
The Siskiyou Unit is collaborating with CAL TRANS, Shasta Valley RCD, and the Mount Shasta Fire Safe Council on the Azalea fuel break project on Interstate 5, from Dunsmuir to Azalea road. This initiative aims to treat fuels on both sides of the Interstate within the CAL TRANS right-of-way. The project is in the first phase of a three-part effort to treat fuels along the Interstate 5 Right-of-Way from Dunsmuir to Edgewood road. Future fuels reduction projects in 2024 include Phase 2 of the Interstate 5 project from Azalea Road to the Truck Village exit, which is state-funded. The Highway 89 fuels project was completed with Cal-Trans within the right-of-way along Highway 89 from Azalea to McCloud.

### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2023, the McCloud Battalion experienced a significant decrease in the number of ignitions, totaling 12 compared to 23 the previous year. Fire causes varied, including lightning, debris and open burning, arson, and miscellaneous other causes. Lightning was the most common cause in the battalion. However, there were no equipment, vehicle, exposure, other, railroad, misuse of fire by minor, or power-caused fires. Thanks to early detection and prompt initial response, all fires were contained to less than 1 acre with the exception of the 6 lightning fires totaling 867.42 acres.

Targeted messaging and education programs will address all types of human-caused fires, through the use of fire prevention signs, education outreach, and social media campaigns. The battalion personnel will closely collaborate with the Prevention Bureau to gain more experience and education in preserving fire scenes, as well as conducting origin and cause investigations.

Batt IV 2023	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	0	0
Lightning	6	867.42
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	2	0.27
Arson	1	0.1
Equipment Use	0	0
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	0	0
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	0	0
Miscellaneous/Other	3	0.29
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>868.08</b>



## ***ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2023***

### **Fire Planning:**

In 2023, several CAL FIRE and Fire Safe Council projects prioritized fuel reduction work, including the Modoc Nation RX Assist, Yreka Ridge Fuel Break, Mount Shasta H.S., Azalea Fuel Break, Long Gulch Assist, North Shore RX, Scott River Ranch VMP, Spencer Ranch VMP, Red Rock VMP, White Rock Assist, Castle Crags Project, Big Springs FR, the Craggy GNA, Siskiyou County Flood Control, Shasta Valley Wildlife, Greenhorn Park, and multiple USFS (KNF & SHF) projects. Siskiyou Unit Personnel contributed to reviewing and editing various Community Wildfire Protection Plans, including the Happy Camp Area CWPP Update.

The Siskiyou Unit recognizes the critical role of maintaining multiple fuel breaks within its jurisdiction for enhancing fire resilience. Despite the acknowledged importance, securing maintenance grants has posed significant challenges for the Siskiyou County Fire Safe Councils. To address this, the unit is intensifying efforts to plan and build fuel breaks in strategically advantageous locations, while also including additional treatment options to ensure the long-term sustainability of these crucial fire mitigation measures.

### **Investigations and Enforcement:**

In 2023, CAL FIRE law enforcement officers in SKU received 474 calls for service and investigated 62 vegetation fires, 13 structure fires, and 69 other type fires. The analysis of ignition sources revealed that debris burning was the primary preventable cause of fires last year. Officers also focused on investigating arson caused fires which occurred throughout the unit in both CAL FIRE and local fire district responsibility areas. Officers took enforcement actions to include 30 custodial arrests and issued 87 infraction / misdemeanor citations. Officers supported other law enforcement agencies approximately 47 times throughout the year. A total of 17 LE-38 notices of fire hazard violations were issued due to illegal burning within the unit. SKU officers were one of the busiest units in the state in 2023 for total number of enforcement contacts, arrests and citations issued.

### **Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:**

The Siskiyou Unit processed a total of 117 building permit applications and conducted 31 plan reviews in 2023. The Siskiyou Unit reviews all applications and makes recommendations to Siskiyou County regarding Public Resource Code 4290.



**Education and Information:**

Fire prevention and education programs were conducted throughout the year. These accomplishments included: 30 fire prevention signs that were displayed on major roadways, fire prevention messaging to over 21,500 people daily via social media, and 20,000 +/- contacts with students through virtual school programs and over 150 hours of Juvenile Fire Setter intervention. The Prevention Bureau processed 4,649 defensible space inspections. Unit Forestry Aids (DSI) were instrumental in completing these inspections. There were 167 media contacts made for fire information and/or prevention education. Numerous hours of staff time were spent with outreaches to local and federal government cooperators and fire safe councils, assisting with fire prevention efforts.

**Vegetation Management:**

Fuel reduction work continues to be a priority within the Siskiyou unit. In 2023 many fuel reduction projects were completed as well as new projects planned. Prescribed fire burn preparation continued on the 1,393-acre Scott River Ranch VMP, and in the fall of 2023 over 500 acres were broadcast burned. 1,460 acres of grass were burned on the Lower Klamath RX. Planning has begun for several other VMP and fuel reduction projects including Red Rock VMP, Spencer Ranch VMP, several local landowner assists, as well as several smaller VMP's in the Yreka area.

**Volunteerism:**

Volunteers in Prevention put in 1050 +/- hours of Fire Prevention activity. Volunteer hours were mostly Honor Guard related.

**Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation:**

New Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for the SRA were rolled out in November of 2022. The new maps may be significantly different from the previous versions in some areas because new data was used. The most impactful change is that burn probability has increased as the area burned in California has increased. The new draft map uses fire history data in California through 2020. In addition, local climate data for the years 2003–2018 were used to adjust the estimated flame length and to model dispersion of blowing embers into urban areas. The FHSZ maps are being updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire. The hazard mapping process will incorporate new science in local climate data and improved fire assessment modeling in determining hazard ratings. Local Responsibility Area FHSZ mapping should begin in the spring of 2025. Fuel reduction projects to be conducted throughout Siskiyou County continue to be considered short term mitigations for fire hazard severity.

**Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA:**

Numerous hours of staff time were spent assisting local and federal government cooperators with combined fire prevention efforts. Staff hours were also spent aiding fire safe councils in their fuel reduction and fire prevention education efforts.

## 2024 Siskiyou Unit Ignition Analysis

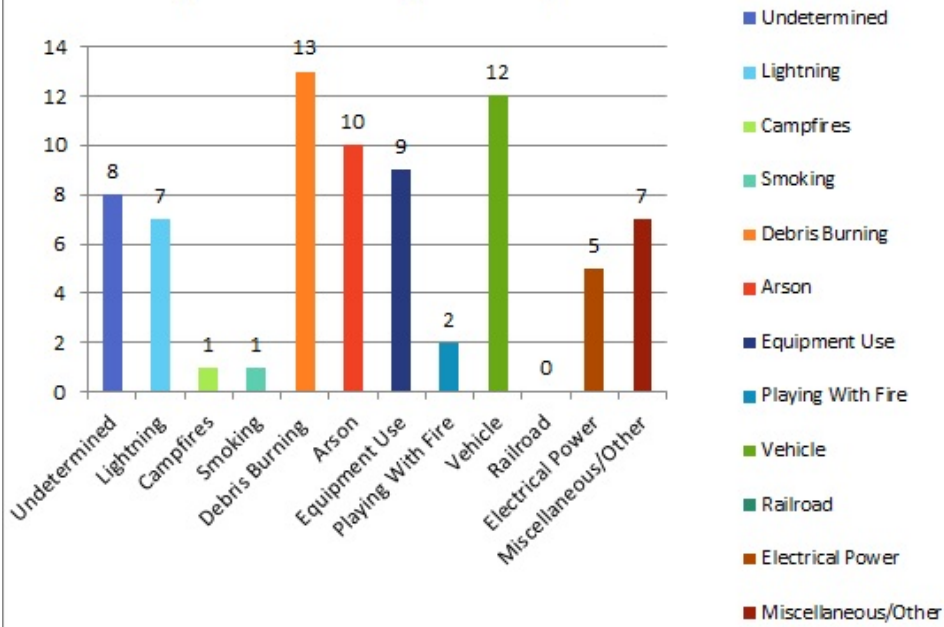
In 2024, the Siskiyou Unit had 75 vegetation fires that started in the State DPA. These Fires burned 628 acres within State DPA. This number was up by 11 fires from 2023 and below the 5-year average of 84 fires per year. There was a small increase in Arson and Vehicle caused fires. This increase can be attributed to the number of undetermined fires being cut in half from 2023. With the increase of training to the field on fire origin and cause the undetermined classification for fire cause was used much less. Debris burning and Vehicle caused fires were the highest cause of ignition starts in 2024. The largest fire in the unit was 411 acres and was equipment caused. Lighting caused fires were down 65 percent of the 5-year average and accounted for 135 acres burned in the unit, which is less than 50 percent of the average acreage burned due to lightning.

In 2024 the Siskiyou Unit was able to contain 94 percent of the fires in State DPA to 10 acres or less, nearly meeting the Department's goal of keeping 95 percent of fires contained at ten acres or less.

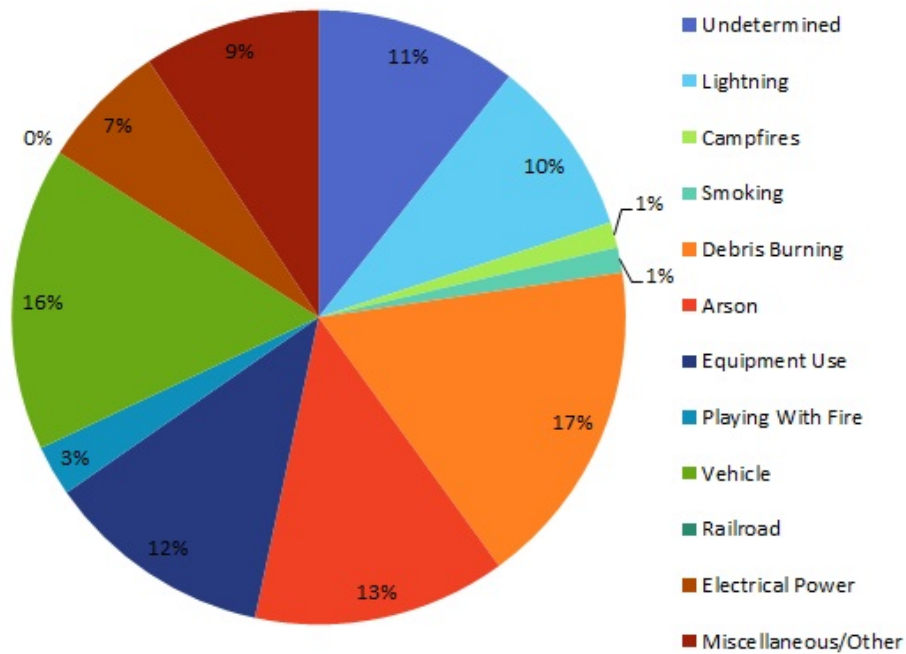
In 2025 the Siskiyou Unit will continue to focus on enforcement of fire laws, fire prevention education, fuels reduction, pre-fire planning, training, and aggressive initial attack to meet the goals of this Fire Plan.

SKU 2024 Causes	Number by Causes	Acres Burned	SKU 5-Year Averages	Average by Causes	Average Acres
Undetermined	8	15.62	Undetermined	11.4	29.08
Lightning	7	135.48	Lightning	20.2	289.76
Campfires	1	0.01	Campfires	2	0.53
Smoking	1	0.1	Smoking	1	0.33
Debris Burning	13	5.75	Debris Burning	12	43.59
Arson	10	4.29	Arson	8.4	4.9
Equipment Use	9	441.91	Equipment Use	6.2	91.87
Playing With Fire	2	0.11	Playing With Fire	0.4	0.02
Vehicle	12	8.58	Vehicle	11.2	2807.5
Railroad	0	0	Railroad	0.4	0.09
Electrical Power	5	2.58	Electrical Power	5.4	26.53
Miscellaneous/Other	7	14.15	Miscellaneous/Other	5	791.17
<b>Total:</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>628.58</b>	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>4085.37</b>

**2024 Siskiyou Unit - Total Ignitions By Cause**



**2024 Siskiyou Unit Ignitions - Cause Percentages**



## **Scott Valley Battalion 2024 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### **Achievements:**

In 2024, battalion and unit personnel worked throughout Scott Valley on fuel reduction projects. Of those projects, we were successful in conducting a 156 acre broadcast burn on the Scott River Ranch VMP, and extensive fuel reduction work was completed on the Spencer VMP. The ongoing completion of these critical projects is an essential step in working towards a more resilient and fire adapted landscape. These projects will help protect Siskiyou County, Scott Valley communities, and first responders from the damaging effects of catastrophic wildfires. Battalion personnel worked with local landowners and cooperators within Scott Valley to educate and assist with fuel reduction projects utilizing broadcast burning to enhance agriculture production and fire safe landscapes. Opening and maintaining fire access roads continued to be a priority in the battalion. Work continued through cooperation with private timber companies and landowners to open fire access roads that were previously impassable.

Private timber companies have continued fuel reduction efforts from Patterson Creek to Crystal Creek, accounting for about 11 miles of treatment varying in width from 600 feet to half a mile. They have also thinned along Sniktaw Road above Shackleford Creek, and continue to work on improving ingress and egress routes. These projects seek to bolster and extend the Etna Fuel Break to protect other stakeholders on the west side of Scott Valley from wildfires. Local fire safe organizations have received grant funding to complete fuel reduction projects for the communities of Seiad Valley, Partridge Pines, Quartz Valley, and Fort Jones with treatments that focus on ingress and egress, defensible space for the disabled and elderly, and building continuity with other local fuel treatments.

The Scott River Water Shed Council and the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association have submitted grants for education and fuels reduction projects in Scott Valley that connect previously completed fuel breaks and proposed Fire Safe Council grant fuel breaks.

The Scott River Ranch VMP project in the McConaughy Gulch area of Scott Valley is in year 5 of a 10-year contract and will improve habitat and range land as well as reduce potential ignitions and spread of catastrophic wildfires in the area. There have been several different treatments completed utilizing mechanical thinning, mechanical piling, hand thinning, hand piling, pile burning, and broadcast burning. Future efforts will utilize the same treatment methods.

CAL FIRE personnel are currently in the implementation phase of the new Spencer VMP project adjacent to the Scott River VMP that will have similar goals and treatment objectives.

Battalion personnel continued to foster cooperative relationships with local and federal counterparts, participating in local and multi-agency training exercises. The battalion worked with the unit's Fire Prevention Bureau participating in local events. This created direct contact with community members for public education. Fire Prevention education topics included the leading causes of fires within the battalion and unit. Scott Valley Battalion personnel completed over 150 LE-100 fire safety inspections within Scott Valley in 2024 to help ensure the safety of residents and first responders.

#### Ignition Analysis:

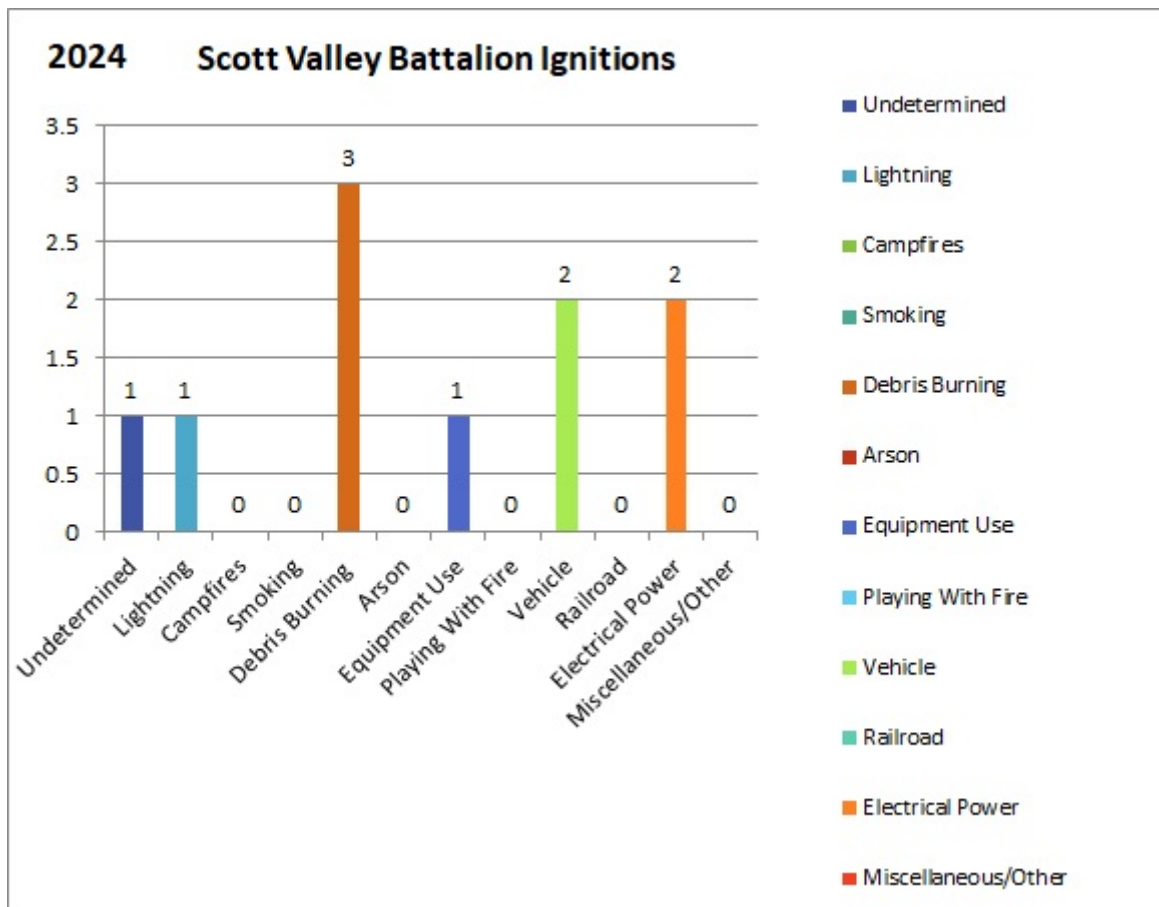
In 2024 there were a total of 10 fires in the Scott Valley Battalion. This was fewer than 2023, which had 17 fires. The top fire cause in 2024 was escaped debris or open burning caused fires with 3 of the 10 fires being from that cause class. The total number of fires in the battalion was about average and all other fire cause types were at or below their historical average. There will be a continued focus on education with burn permits and fire prevention signs. Educating people on how and when to burn is crucial. Working with fire safe counsels is also a way of connecting and communicating with the public about fire safety.

Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public while issuing burn permits, completing burn pile inspections, and continued education efforts at local events. Personnel will also work closely with Prevention Bureau staff to increase fire origin and cause investigation skills to better identify future problems to develop fire prevention strategies.

Lightning-caused fires remain a significant concern within the battalion. The Shelly fire which burned 15,530 acres, started on the Klamath National Forest and burned significantly into SRA DPA. This fire footprint now has significantly available fuels for fire spread and regularly receives strikes during thunderstorms. Three fire detection camera systems in the area along with staffed USFS and CALFIRE lookouts will contribute to early detection of fires in this area.

In 2025 the Scott Valley Battalion will continue to look for opportunities to work with the community, cooperators, and stakeholders on fuel breaks in and around populated areas. The focus of these fuel breaks will be to improve ingress and egress routes within the battalion as well as protecting communities, critical infrastructure, and timber lands. The battalion will also continue to identify locations for the implementation and completion of fuel reduction projects within these strategic locations. The goal for these projects will be to reduce available fuel for fire ignitions, improve ingress and egress, improve continuity of fuel breaks, and reduce the spread of wildland fires within Scott Valley. Fire prevention efforts will continue to focus on debris burning safety as this is historically the second leading cause of fires behind lightning caused fires.

Batt I 2024	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	1	0.25
Lightning	1	0.1
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	3	0.3
Arson	0	0
Equipment Use	1	0.03
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	2	0.02
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	2	0.05
Miscellaneous/Other	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.75</b>



## **Shasta Valley Battalion 2024 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### **Achievements:**

In 2024, the Shasta Valley Battalion actively engaged in fourteen fuel reduction projects, which include planned, ongoing, and assist efforts. These projects reflect a strategic and collaborative approach to wildfire mitigation, involving partnerships with local agencies, private landowners, and state and federal organizations. The strong partnerships have led to many achievements, including the introduction of new equipment to the area, all aimed at improving wildfire protection.

As part of the 682-acre Osgood project, CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Program Grant funding was approved for the acquisition of a 19-ton excavator to support the Osgood Project. Siskiyou County General Fire was awarded this equipment to enhance fuel reduction efforts within the project area. The excavator will serve as a critical asset in the removal and piling of hazardous fuels, mastication, and contributing to overall wildfire mitigation strategies.

In 2024, the City of Yreka, in partnership with CAL FIRE through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, secured funding to acquire an air curtain burner to support fuel mitigation efforts, reduce wildfire risk, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. This equipment will be instrumental in safely and efficiently disposing of vegetative debris from within the City of Yreka and surrounding communities. This program will reduce the need for open burning and significantly lessen smoke and particulate emissions. The burner's acquisition aligns with ongoing wildfire prevention strategies, enhancing air quality while promoting sustainable land management practices.

Current ongoing fuel reduction projects, such as Newton, Outsen Road, Bogus Creek Ranch, Soap Creek Ridge, and the Shasta Valley Wildlife Refuge, involve maintaining previous fuel reduction work completed in past years. Additionally, Shasta Valley Battalion personnel, in collaboration with other CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit members, successfully conducted controlled burns on 600 acres as part of the Big Springs project in the southern half of the battalion's jurisdiction. Looking ahead to 2025, planned projects include Osgood, Kilgore, Rockin M Ranch, Butcher Hill, Greenhorn Park, Mill Creek, and the Karuk Tribe. These fuel reduction efforts build upon past treatments and Fire Safe Council initiatives to further enhance wildfire resilience and community protection.

### Ignition Analysis:

In 2024, the Shasta Valley Battalion saw an increase in total ignitions. This year, vehicle-related incidents were the leading cause of fires in the battalion, accounting for seven ignitions. Vehicle-caused fires continue to be a concern, reinforcing the need for ongoing fire prevention efforts and public education. Residents and motorists must remain aware, take preventive measures, and report hazards to reduce fire risks and protect the community.

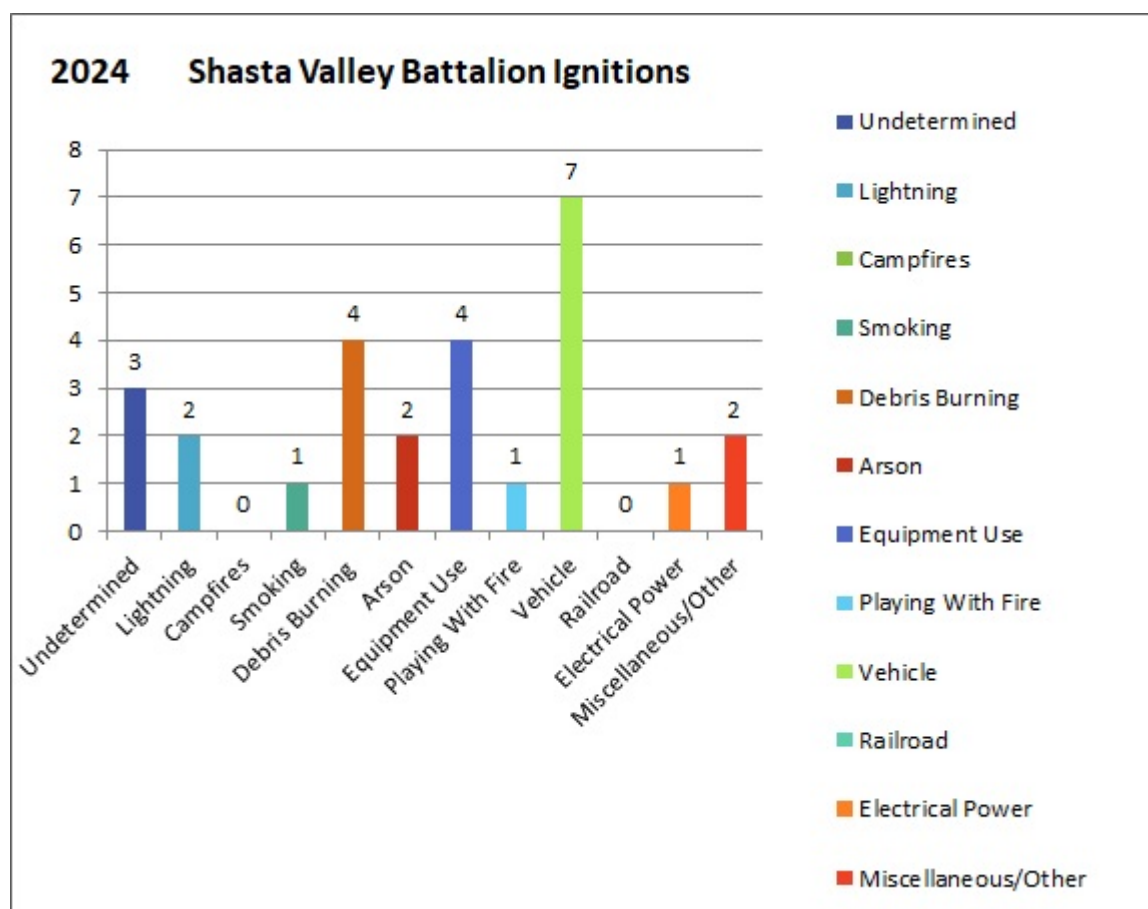
Historically, lightning has been the leading cause of wildfires in the Shasta Valley Battalion, however, there were only two lightning-caused fires this calendar year. Another key figure to highlight is that equipment-caused fires resulted in the highest number of acres burned, contributing to 404 acres. This highlights the crucial role the public plays in safely using equipment and vehicles while remaining proactive in preventing future fires.

Large, fast-moving fires are becoming more of a trend throughout the state. Fuel reduction efforts within the Shasta Valley Battalion will continue to focus on improving ingress and egress for communities, protecting critical infrastructure, and creating a fire resilient environment while protecting natural resources.

Battalion personnel will continue to educate the public through the burn permit process including burning regulations, site inspections and public outreach in conjunction with the Prevention Bureau. Battalion personnel will work closely with the Prevention Bureau to gain more education and experience in preserving fire scenes along with conducting origin and cause investigations. The results of this will help decrease the number of undetermined fires in the battalion.



Batt II 2024	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	3	15.07
Lightning	2	109.01
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	1	0.1
Debris Burning	4	3.32
Arson	2	0.02
Equipment Use	4	440.59
Playing With Fire	1	0.1
Vehicle	7	6.63
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	1	2.36
Miscellaneous/Other	2	2.59
<b>Total:</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>579.79</b>



## **Butte Valley / Weed Battalion 2024 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

Annually, battalion personnel assist the US Fish and Wildlife Service with burning in the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge near Tule Lake. We have maintained an ongoing partnership with the United States Forest Service, specifically with the Klamath and Shasta Trinity National Forests. Whenever the forest undertakes fuel management projects, we have been supplying personnel and equipment to aid in these endeavors. Participating in these prescribed burns encourages interagency cooperation, area orientation, and provides valuable training and experience to battalion and unit personnel.

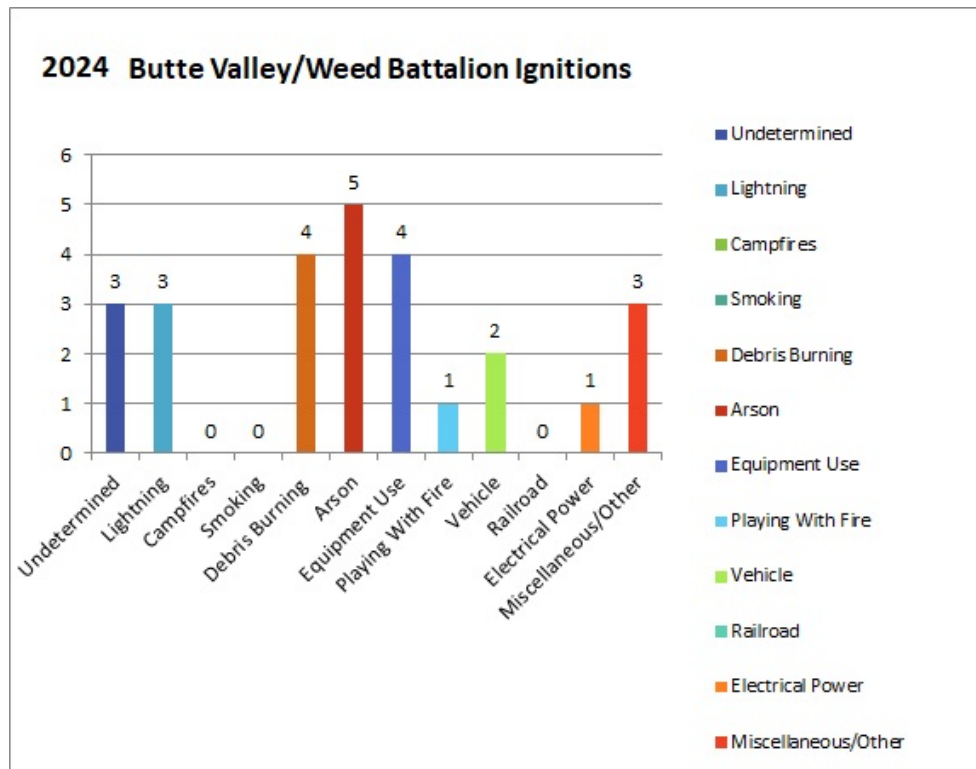
The Butte Valley / Weed Battalion continues to focus on improving emergency ingress and egress routes for at-risk communities. Weed and Macdoel station personnel continued with local chipping projects in coordination with various landowner associations within the battalion. The chipping projects focus on improving subdivisions where vegetation has built up and impedes civilian evacuation and emergency responder access. Ingress and egress, as well as fuel reduction, remain concerns for the Mt. Shasta Vista and Hammond Ranch subdivisions. This area is at high risk due to local wind patterns, extended response times, narrow winding roads, and a high concentration of people. In Feb 2020, the Juniper Flat Fire Safe Council received a CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention Grant for \$812,000 to complete 433 acres of fuel reduction (100ft each side along the roads in the Mount Shasta Vista subdivision). The project will utilize mastication and chipper/ chainsaw work to provide valuable ingress, egress, and defensible space for the citizens in that area. Work on this project began in 2021 and was completed February 2024. Additional fuel reduction projects will continue to be evaluated and planned to protect the communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources in the battalion.

### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2024, the battalion experienced a significant rise in fire ignitions, with 26 incidents compared to 13 in 2023, 35 in 2022, and 21 in 2021. Despite this increase, the total acreage burned was 29.51 acres—less than half of the seven-year average. The surge in ignitions was largely driven by an uptick in arson fires. Notably, lightning-caused fires, historically the leading cause, were below the long-term average. Efforts will continue to improve ingress and egress for areas prone to lightning to enhance fire detection and suppression. Debris burning, historically a primary cause of human-caused fires, was slightly below average in 2023. Public education on safe burning will be intensified, along with prevention efforts coordinated with the Public Information Officer. Eliminating undetermined fires is crucial for targeted prevention; therefore, personnel will undergo additional training and collaborate with the Prevention Bureau on cause and origin investigations.

The Butte Valley/Weed Battalion will continue to focus on preventing and reducing the number of vegetation fires through public education events, media, fuel reduction, pre-planning, and other effective strategies.

Batt III 2024	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	3	0.2
Lightning	3	11.57
Campfires	0	0
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	4	2.02
Arson	5	3.21
Equipment Use	4	1.29
Playing With Fire	1	0.01
Vehicle	2	1.9
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	1	0.01
Miscellaneous/Other	3	9.3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29.51</b>



## **McCloud Battalion 2024 - Ignition Analysis and Achievements**

### *Achievements*

In 2024, the McCloud Battalion achieved many accomplishments including working with local and state cooperators furthering fuel reduction efforts on the Highway 89 Fuel Break from Azalea to the town of McCloud on both sides of the highway right-a-way. Additionally, the battalion completed fuels reduction and prescribed burning on the North Shore of Lake Siskiyou. Maintenance work also continued for fuel reduction projects at Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery and at the Mt. Shasta sewer ponds. The Battalion prioritized collaboration between CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service, local Timber Companies, Fire Safe Councils, and local Fire Departments for pre-fire planning and fire prevention. Defensible space inspections in the battalion continued with an emphasis on compliance and public education and over 300 inspections completed in the Battalion by engine personnel from McCloud and Pondosa. Timber companies continued to add fuel breaks while also maintaining existing fuel breaks and roadways. Collaboration with cooperators remained a critical asset in pre-fire planning and fire suppression.

Personnel from the McCloud Battalion remain actively engaged in local fire prevention programs and outreach events aimed at educating the public about wildfire awareness, the Ready Set Go program, the Zone Haven evacuation system, the Code Red evacuation system, and the defensible space program. Additionally, the McCloud Fire Safe Council is currently working on a grant-funded project to create a shaded fuel break around the town of McCloud, which is expected to continue through 2024.

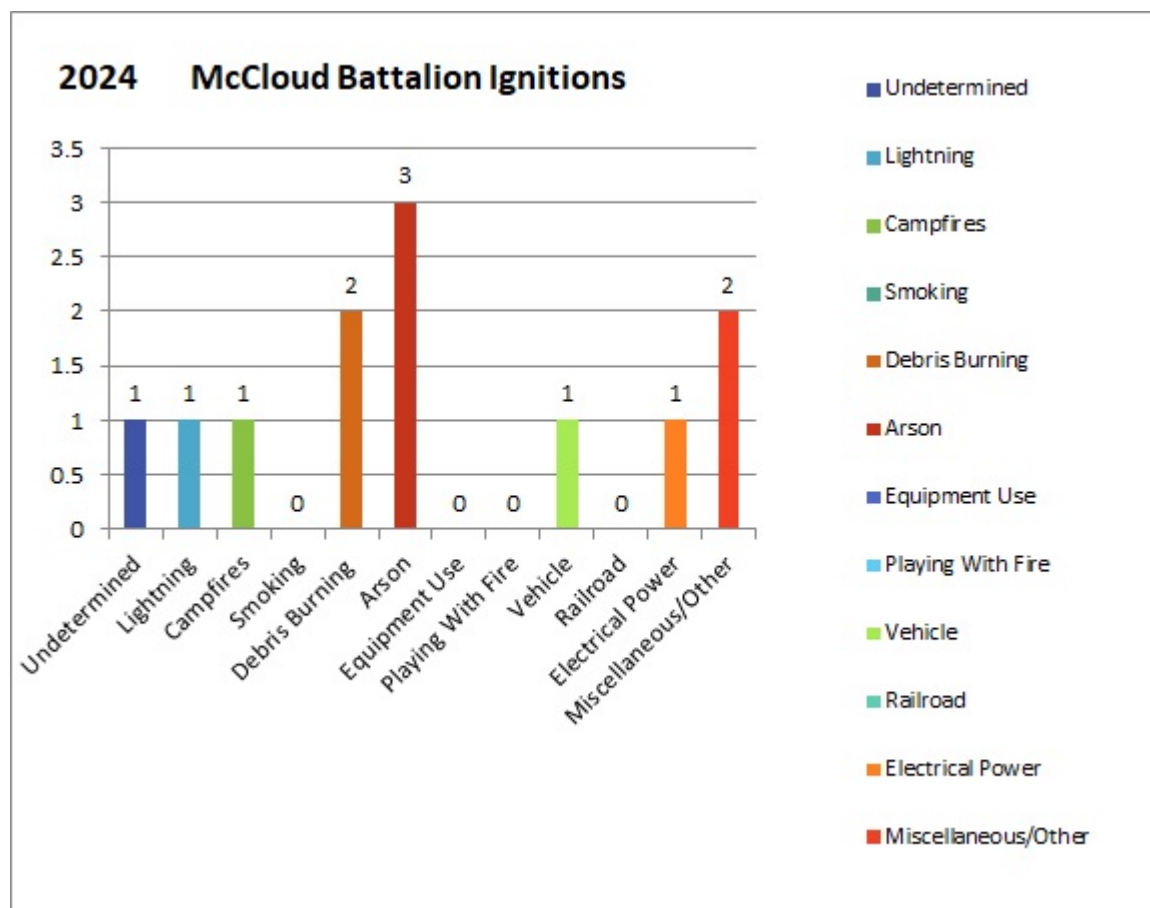
The Siskiyou Unit is collaborating with CAL TRANS, Shasta Valley RCD, and the Mount Shasta Fire Safe Council on the Azalea fuel break project on Interstate 5, from Dunsmuir to Azalea road. This initiative aims to treat fuels on both sides of the Interstate within the CAL TRANS right-of-way. The project is in the first phase of a three-part effort to treat fuels along the Interstate 5 Right-of-Way from Dunsmuir to Edgewood road. Future fuels reduction projects in 2024 include phase 2 of the Interstate 5 project from Azalea Road to the Truck Village exit, which is state-funded. The Highway 89 fuels project was completed with CAL-TRANS within the Right-of-Way along Highway 89 from Azalea to McCloud.

### *Ignition Analysis*

In 2024, the McCloud Battalion experienced a significant decrease in the number of ignitions, totaling 12 compared to previous years. Causes of fires varied, including lightning, debris and open burning, arson, and miscellaneous other causes. Arson caused fires were the most common cause in the battalion with a total of 3 fires. However, there were no equipment, vehicle, exposure, other, railroad, misuse of fire by minor, or smoking-caused fires. Thanks to early detection and prompt initial response, all fires were contained to less than 1 acre with the exception of the 1 lightning fire totaling 14.8 acres.

Targeted messaging and education programs will address all types of human-caused fires, through the use of fire prevention signs, education outreach, and social media campaigns. The battalion personnel will closely collaborate with the Prevention Bureau to gain more experience and education in preserving fire scenes, as well as conducting origin and cause investigations.

Batt IV 2024	Number by Causes	Acres Burned
Undetermined	1	0.1
Lightning	1	14.8
Campfires	1	0.01
Smoking	0	0
Debris Burning	2	0.11
Arson	3	1.06
Equipment Use	0	0
Playing With Fire	0	0
Vehicle	1	0.03
Railroad	0	0
Electrical Power	1	0.16
Miscellaneous/Other	2	2.26
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18.53</b>



## ***ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2024***

### **Fire Planning:**

In 2024, several CAL FIRE and Fire Safe Council projects prioritized fuel reduction work, including the Deadwood D-Space, Yreka Ridge Fuel Break, Osgood VTP, Long Gulch Assist, North Shore RX, Scott River Ranch VMP, Spencer Ranch VMP, Red Rock VMP, White Rock Assist, Castle Crags Project, Big Springs FR, the Craggy GNA, Tauhindauli Park, Siskiyou County Flood Control, Shasta Valley Wildlife, Dunsmuir Fuel Reduction, Siskiyou Land Trust, Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery, Butte Valley Wildlife, Greenhorn Park, and multiple USFS (KNF & SHF) projects. Siskiyou Unit Personnel contributed to reviewing and editing various Community Wildfire Protection Plans, including the Happy Camp Area CWPP update.

The Siskiyou Unit recognizes the critical role of maintaining multiple fuel breaks within its jurisdiction for enhancing fire resilience. Despite the acknowledged importance, securing maintenance grants has posed significant challenges for the Siskiyou County Fire Safe Councils. To address this, the unit is intensifying efforts to plan and build fuel breaks in strategically advantageous locations, while also including additional treatment options to ensure the long-term sustainability of these crucial fire mitigation measures.

### **Investigations and Enforcement:**

In 2024, CAL FIRE personnel investigated 75 fires in the Siskiyou Unit. Law Enforcement officers took the lead on 31 investigations leading to 9 arson arrests and 32 misdemeanor citations of forestry and fire law violations. CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers made a total of 28 custodial arrests and issued a total of 68 infraction / misdemeanor citations in the Siskiyou Unit during 2024. A total of 34 LE-38 notice of fire hazard violations were issued.

### **Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:**

The Siskiyou Unit processed a total of 101 building permit applications and conducted 58 plan reviews in 2024. The Siskiyou Unit reviews all applications and makes recommendations to Siskiyou County regarding Public Resource Code 4290.

## **Education and Information:**

Fire prevention and education programs were conducted throughout the year. These accomplishments included: 30 fire prevention signs that were displayed on major roadways, fire prevention messaging to over 21,500 people daily via social media, and 20,000 +/- contacts with students through virtual school programs, and over 300 hours of Juvenile Fire Setter intervention. The Prevention Bureau processed 6,653 defensible space inspections. Unit Forestry Aids (DSI) were instrumental in completing these inspections. There were 167 media contacts made for fire information and/or prevention education. Numerous hours of staff time were spent with outreaches to local and federal government cooperators and fire safe councils, assisting with fire prevention efforts.

## **Vegetation Management:**

Fuel reduction work continues to be a priority within the Siskiyou unit. In Battalion I, the Scott River Ranch and Spencer Ranch VMPs are ongoing through 2025, with the Etna Fuel Break scheduled for 2026 and beyond. Battalion II completed pile burning at Big Springs CDFW in 2024 and has several ongoing and planned projects in 2025, including the Osgood, Kilgore, and Rockin M VTPs, as well as prescribed burns at Shasta Valley Wildlife Refuge and Big Springs CDFW. Future projects include county-wide communication infrastructure protection and Good Neighbor Authority projects with the USFS. Battalion III completed homeowner chipping projects in 2024 and will assist the College of the Siskiyous with thinning projects in 2025, while also planning to revisit past fuels projects in the coming years. Battalion IV completed multiple roadside clearing and herbicide application projects in 2024 and has several ongoing and planned projects in 2025, including work in McCloud, Dunsmuir, Castle Crags, and North Shore. Future efforts will focus on projects at Soda Spring Resort, Lake Siskiyou, and McCloud Mill, as well as reopening past fuel reduction sites.

## **Volunteerism:**

Volunteers in Prevention completed 1500 +/- hours of Fire Prevention activity. Volunteer hours were mostly Honor Guard related.

## **Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation:**

New Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for the SRA were rolled out in November of 2022. The new maps may be significantly different from the previous versions in some areas because new data was used. The most impactful change is that burn probability has increased as the area burned in California has increased. The new draft map uses fire history data in California through 2020. In addition, local climate data for the years 2003–2018 were used to adjust the estimated flame length and to model dispersion of blowing embers into urban areas. The FHSZ maps are being updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire. The hazard mapping process will incorporate new science in local climate data and improved fire assessment modeling in determining hazard ratings. Local Responsibility Area FHSZ mapping should begin in the spring of 2025. Fuel reduction projects to be conducted throughout Siskiyou County continue to be considered short term mitigations for fire hazard severity.

## **Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA:**

Numerous hours of staff time were spent assisting local and federal government cooperators with combined fire prevention efforts. Staff hours were also spent aiding fire safe councils in their fuel reduction and fire prevention education efforts.