

ABSTRACT
 This document is the update to the Western El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2017

WESTERN EL DORADO COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN UPDATE

February 15, 2022

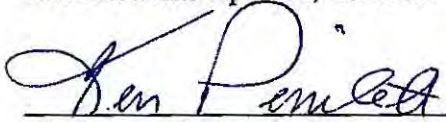
**RESOLUTION 2022-09
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED,

The Board of Directors of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council has reviewed and hereby adopts this El Dorado County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the benefit of the County of El Dorado for the purpose of increasing wildfire safety for its citizens while reducing the risk of loss of life and property.

SO RESOLVED.

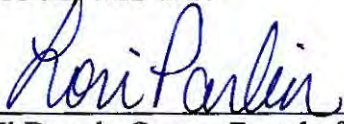
Executed this April 20, 2022 at Diamond Springs, California



Chairman, El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

04/20/2022
Date

ACCEPTED BY:



El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

5-24
Date

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Executive Summary

This update to the Western El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (ECCWPP) signed in February 2017 comes in the years after some of the most devastating wildfires in the recorded history of California.

• Thomas Fire,	December 2017	281,893 acres
• Carr Fire, J	July 2018,	229,123 acres
• Mendocino Complex	July 2018	459,123 acres
• SQF Complex	August 2020	167,766 acres
• North Complex	August 2020	318,930 acres
• LNU Lightning Complex	August 2020	363,220 Acres
• SCU Lightning Complex	August 2020	396,424 Acres
• August Complex	August 2020	1,029,605 Acres
• Creek Fire	September 2020	341, 722 Acres ¹
• Dixie Fire	August 2021	963,276 (9/21)
• Caldor Fire	August 2021	219,101 (9/21)

These fires contain five of California’s six largest fires in modern history² In addition to the acres of resource damage losses from the fires in 2017 through 2020 has been more that acres lost.³

Year	Fatalities	Structure Loss
<i>2017</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>10,280</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>100*</i>	<i>24,226*</i>
<i>2019</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>732</i>
<i>2020</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>10,488</i>
<i>2021</i>		1003 Caldor

TABLE 1: LIVES LOST AND STRUCTURES LOST 1,329 Dixie

* 85 fatalities, 18,804 structures lost, and 153,336 acres burned in the Camp Fire that burned through the Butte County City of Paradise and other communities within the fire perimeter.

These grim statistics and the growth of the number of local Fire safe councils associated with the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council from 17 in 2017 to 25 in 2020 and the desire by the County

¹ California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, January 2021, <https://fmtf.fire.ca.gov/>

²

³ CAL FIRE <https://www.fire.ca.gov/>

Board of Supervisor, Cal Fire Amador El Dorado Unity and the County FSC to incorporate the needs of the associate Fire Safe Councils into one document have made it necessary to update the 2017 ECCWPP.

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.2 Plan Objectives

The Update to the 2017 ECCWPP Provides the communities an opportunity to update their previous projects and plans as well as input from the stakeholder, local fire protection districts, CAL Fire and Federal Land management agencies to give input and recognize the needs of the communities that surround their property responsibilities for protecting their land as well as the homes and private properties adjacent to them. This update does not replace the 2017 Plan it only modifies it and brings it up to date. The 2017 CWPP is still in effect and can still be used to identify the problems that have not changed and does not update the Fire behavior assessment.

1.22 Consistency with state and federal Guidelines

CAL FIRE has provided us with several documents that are important to the CWPP Update.

1. State of California, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Strategic Plan 2019 [Strategic Plan 2019 \(ca.gov\)](#)
2. 2020 Unit Strategic Fire Plan Amador-El Dorado Unit <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/j0zbdecg/2020-aeu-fire-plan.pdf>
3. Maps of CAL Fire priority Roads are attached

1.2.2.1 Cal Fire Amador El Dorado Unit (AEU)

Has a new unit Fire Plan Dated May 2020 and contains the following objectives in priority order.

1. Support project work (fuels reduction) and planning efforts that encourage the development of safe ingress and egress routes for emergency incidents.
2. Continue to provide operational training that will support safe and successful suppression operations.

3. Utilize CAL FIRE and community resources to mitigate large and damaging wildfires with defensible fuel zone/fuels reduction (prescribed fire) projects at critical operational locations.
4. Continue to support the implementation of fire safe clearance around structures.
5. Support implementation of the new 2008 WUI Building standards through cooperation with local government planning departments.
6. Conduct incident analysis to evaluate Unit success in achieving the 95% threshold of keeping fires less than 10 acres in size.
7. Continually educate the community on their role in the wildlands and support Resource Conservation Districts and Fire Safe Council activities.
8. Utilize prevention operations to reduce ignitions within the Unit.
9. Nurture and build relationships with local public and private industries to develop cooperative project plans.
10. Continually reassess local mitigation projects and update this Fire Plan⁴.

AEU Fire plan location is:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/j0zbdecg/2020-aeu-fire-plan.pdf>

State of California Task Force

A newly formed group created by the Governor which will make it easier to coordinate activities, the group is *California Forest Management Task Force* Which is made up of State, local, tribal, and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations that play critical land management or permitting roles for forest management and restoration project. This group has the following:

Management Goals

1. Implement the forest practices called for in the Forest Carbon Plan.
2. Take all necessary steps to double the total statewide rate of forest treatments within 5 years to at least 500,000 acres per year.

⁴ 2020 Unit Strategic Fire Plan Amador-El Dorado Unit, May 2020

3. Increase new landowner agreements and memoranda of understanding, such as Good Neighbor Authority agreements, to accelerate forest restoration thinning and prescribed fire projects across jurisdictions.
4. Integrate fire prevention activities into landscape forest restoration efforts in and near WUI areas.
5. Integrate the goals of the Executive Order in fish and wildlife habitat restoration programs, mitigation- related land conservation, and conservation planning.
6. Build local capacity by promoting and expanding regional forestry collaboratives.

More information go to the following link <https://fmtf.fire.ca.gov/>

The group has created a document California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan

<https://fmtf.fire.ca.gov/media/cjwfpckz/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf>

1.2.2.2 Federal Agencies El Dorado National Forest, Bureau of Land management and the Bureau of Reclamation

The federal agencies direction remains the same as it did in the 2017 ECCWPP. New, particularly to El Dorado county, has been the creation of the group *South Fork of the American River Cohesive Strategy*

s

SOFAR South Fork of the American River Cohesive Strategy

[SOFAR Cohesive Strategy](#)

Has brought together numerous fire protection agencies, community organizations county wide fire safe councils, resource agencies such as the Resource Conservation Districts of El Dorado County and environmental concerns, that focus on the South Fork of the American River watershed. It’s purpose to implement the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. This has provided the forum to implement numerous projects through out the water shed.

SOFAR Collaborative charter signatories:

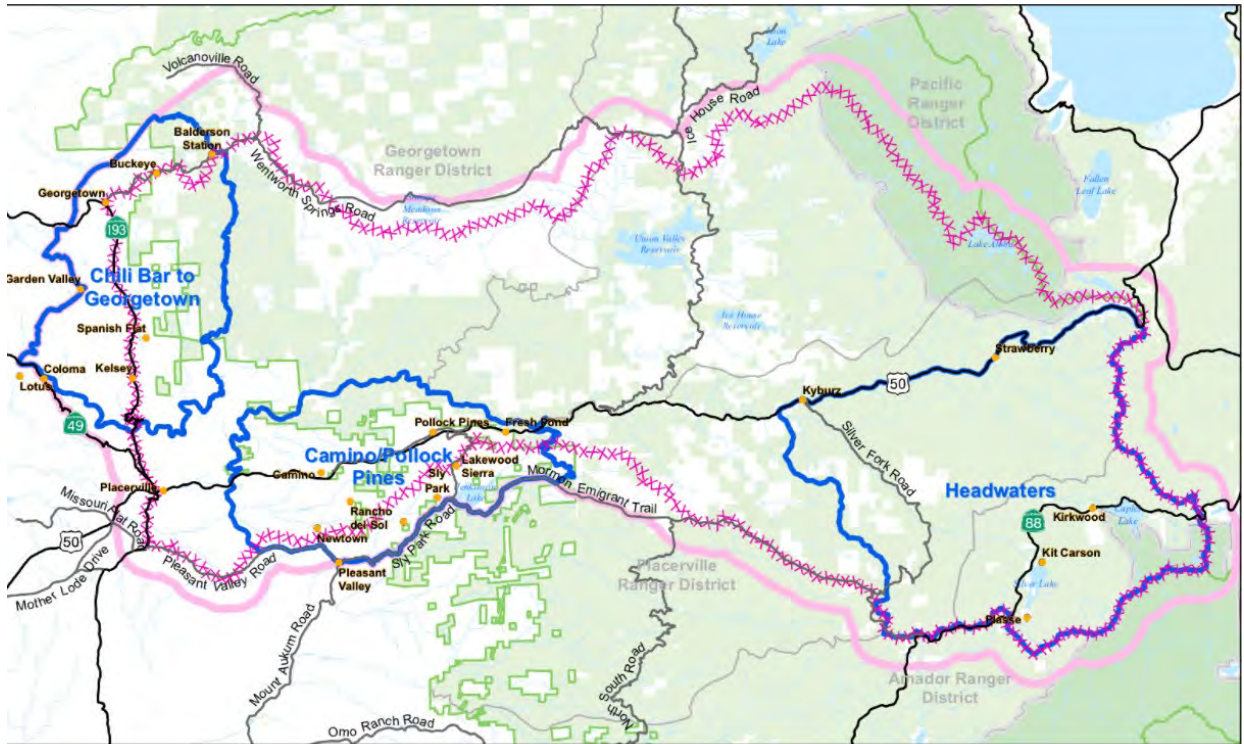
- [California Forestry Association](#)
- Catalytic Connections
- [California Native Plant Society](#)
- [El Dorado County and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts](#)

- [Eldorado Fire Chiefs' Association](#)
- [Eldorado National Forest](#)
- Fire Restoration Group
- [Georgetown Divide Firesafe Council](#)
- [National Wild Turkey Federation](#)
- [Northern Sierra Summer Home Association](#)
- [Pollock Pines-Camino Firesafe Council](#)
- Sierra Club
- [Sierra Forest Legacy](#)
- [Sierra Pacific Industries](#)

Partial list of SOFAR Collaborative partners:

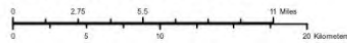
- [American River Conservancy](#)
- [Associated California Loggers](#)
- [Cal Fire](#)
- [California Off-Road Vehicle Association](#)
- [California State Assembly](#)
- [California State Parks](#)
- [Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation](#)
- [El Dorado County Sheriff](#)
- [El Dorado County Supervisor](#)
- [El Dorado Firesafe Council](#)
- [El Dorado Irrigation District](#)
- [El Dorado Northern Lumber Co](#)
- [Georgetown Fire Department](#)
- Integrated Natural Resource Management
- [Landmark Environmental, Inc](#)
- [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- Pacific Biocontrol Corporation
- [Pacific Gas and Electric](#)
- [Pacific Southwest Research Station](#)
- [Placer County Supervisor](#)
- [Placer County Water Agency](#)
- Private Citizens
- Recreation Residences Area Rep.
- [Sacramento Municipal Utility District](#)
- [Sierra Business Council](#)
- [Sierra Nevada Conservancy](#)
- [Sierra-At-Tahoe](#)
- Spatial and Thematic Group
- [Tenso Barterre Group](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy](#)
- [Tree Mortality Task Force](#)
- [UC Davis](#)
- [US Forest Service, Region 5](#)

The following maps are examples of those project focus areas within the western slope UCWPP. The SOFAR projects have brought new emphasis to areas of the county and project cooperation.



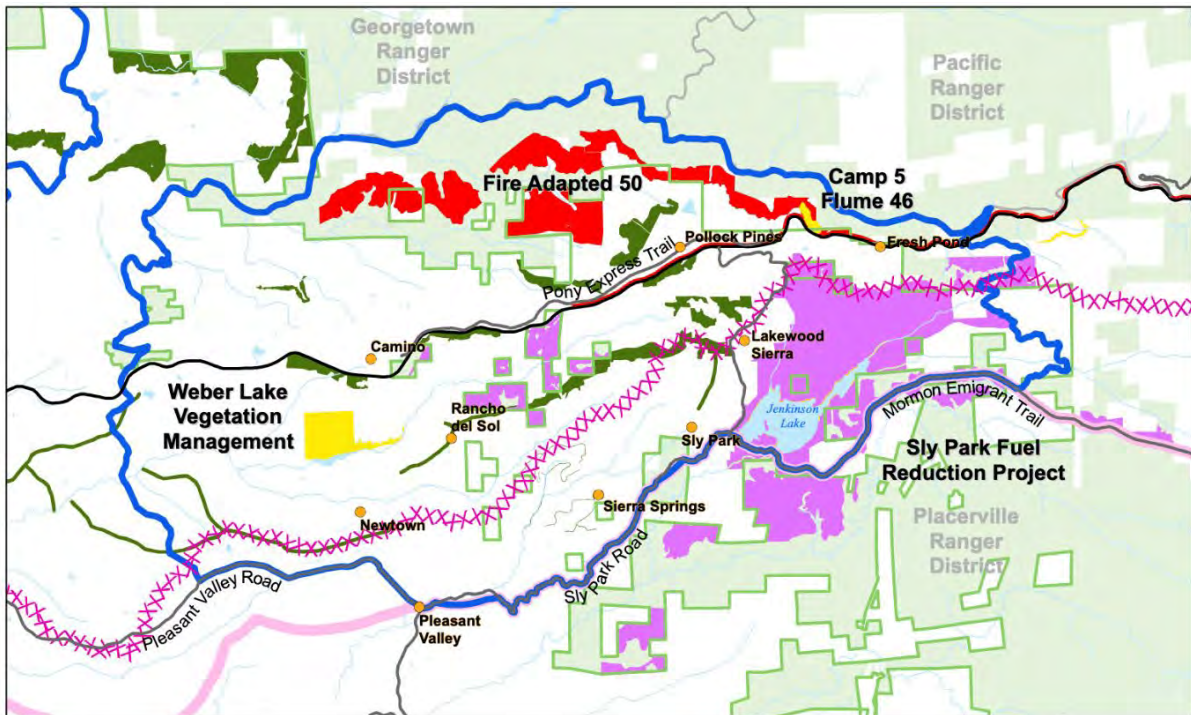
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Eldorado National Forest

**South Fork American River Watershed (HUC 8)
Cohesive Strategy Landscape Project
Focus Area Overview**



- Focus Area
- SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Project Area
- SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Analysis Area
- Community
- State or US Highway
- Other Public Roads
- Ranger District Boundary
- USDA Forest Service
- Non-National Forest

Date: 5/2/2019



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Eldorado National Forest

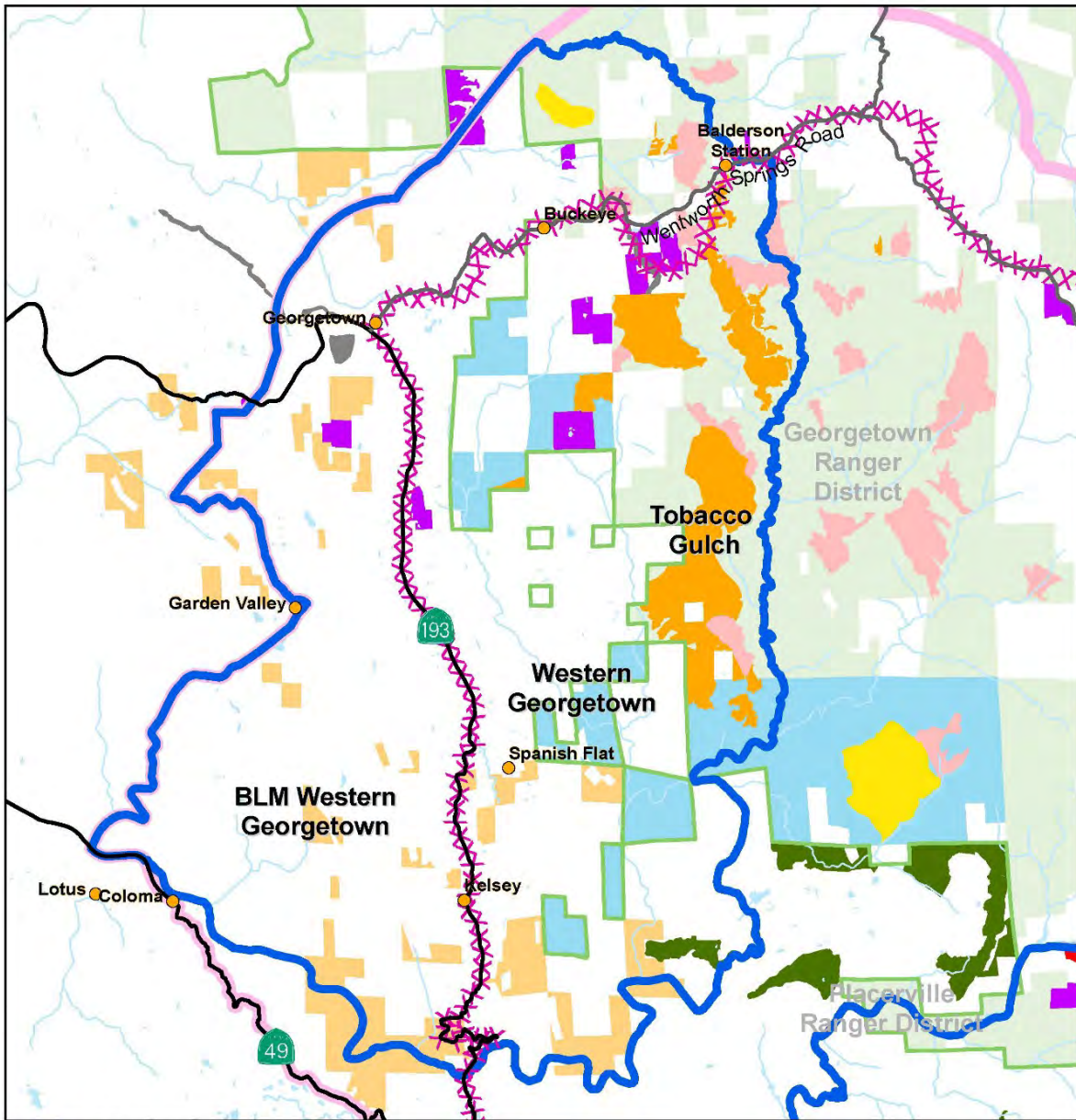
**South Fork American River Watershed (HUC 8)
Cohesive Strategy Landscape Project
Camino/Pollock Pines Focus Area**



- Focus Area
- SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Project Area
- SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Analysis Area
- Community
- State or US Highway
- Other Public Roads
- Ranger District Boundary
- USDA Forest Service
- Non-National Forest

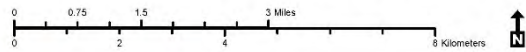
Date: 5/11/2020

FIGURE 1 CAMINO POLLOCK PINES AREA



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Eldorado National Forest

**South Fork American River Watershed (HUC 8)
Cohesive Strategy Landscape Project
Chili Bar to Georgetown Focus Area**



- Focus Area
- SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Project Area
- Community
- SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Analysis Area

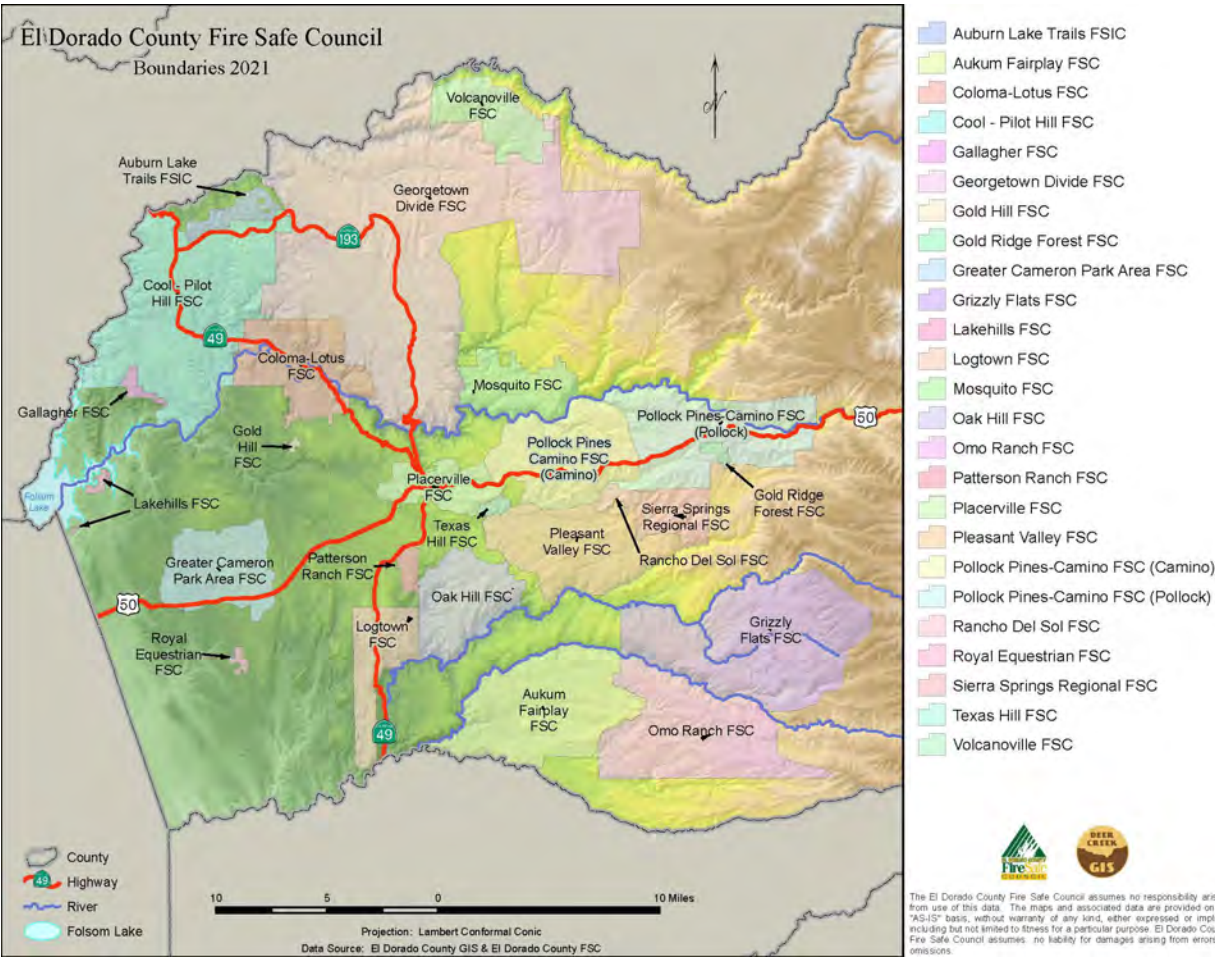
- Georgetown Maintenance Burn
- Chiquita Maintenance Burn
- Tobacco Gulch
- Western Georgetown
- Georgetown CWPP
- El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
- Sierra Pacific Industries/SMUD
- Projects by Other Owners
- BLM Western Georgetown

- State or US Highway
- Other Public Roads
- Ranger District Boundary
- USDA Forest Service
- Non-National Forest

Date: 5/21/2019

FIGURE 2 GEORGETOWN AREA

1.3 CWPP Planning Area Boundaries



1.5 Community and Agency Involvement

1.51 Public Meetings and Other Outreach

The community and public meetings were curtailed in March 2020. Up to that point there was a meeting held with the El Dorado County Fire Safe council in conjunction with their monthly meetings. A meeting with the Fire Safe Council stakeholders was also held in February 2020 to explain the update and to give opportunities to provide input. We were also able to have in person meetings with three fire safe councils’ boards before the COVID shut down. We then changed to live digital ZOOM meetings with the remaining councils that wished to participate. The participants really like the meetings and understood completely the necessity of the meetings. The meetings allowed more participation and easier scheduling.

Chapter 2 Defensible Space and Home Protection

2.1 Defensible Space

The Governor's Forest Task Force in the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan has recommended on page 29 key actions has recommended that CAL FIRE through a public process will assist the Board of Forestry with updating defensible space regulations to meet AB 3074 a five foot ember resistant zone around homes. It also recommends Increase defensible space Inspections, improve defensible space compliance, expand home hardening Programs and wok with the Department of insurance and implement the provision of SB 824 (2017).

An example of Harding can be found in *Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide*, (<http://ucanr.edu/HomeRetrofitGuide>)

Eldorado County amendment to Ordinance No. 5101

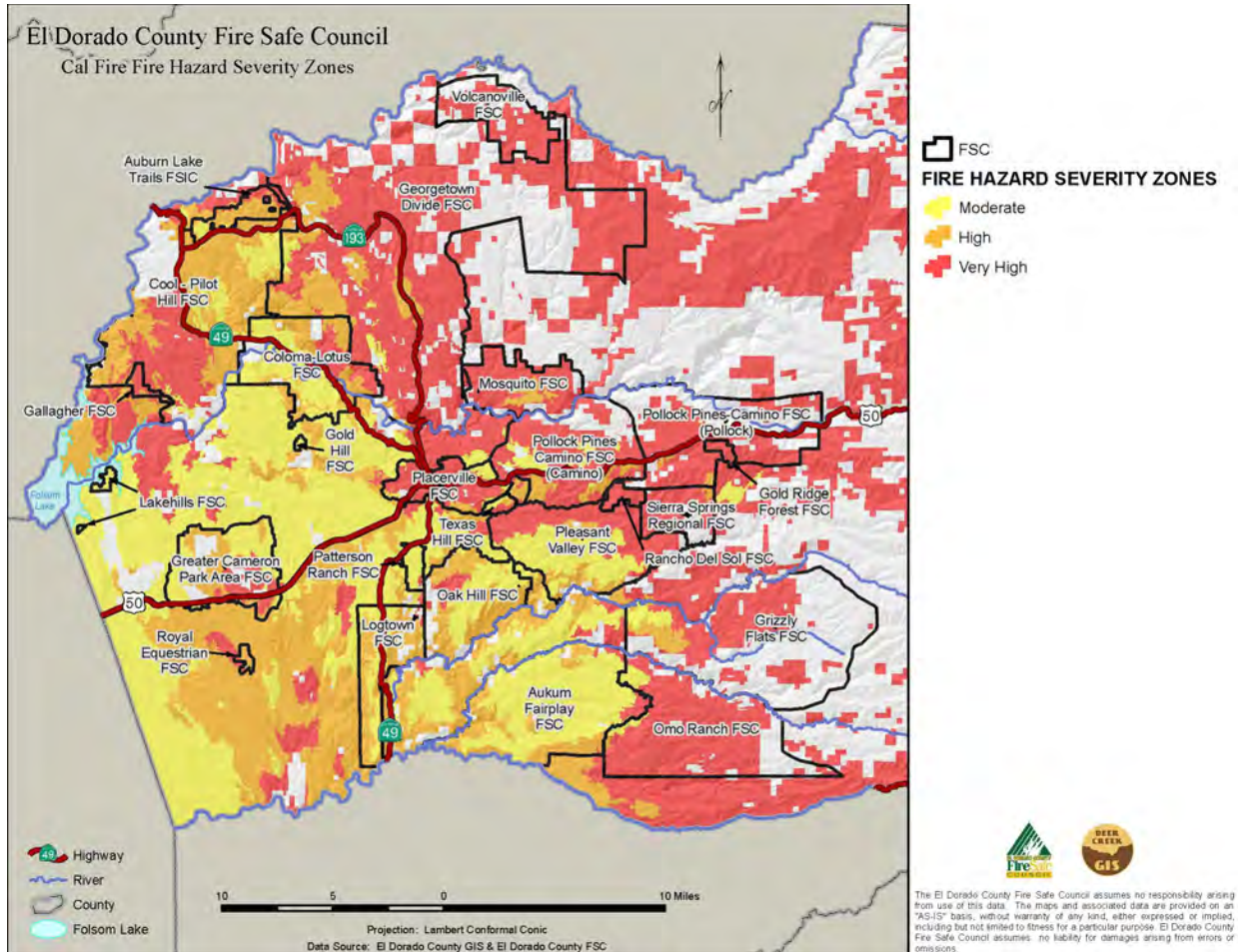
February 25, 2020 El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted the amendment to Ordinance 5101 adding Chapter 8.09 to Title 8 Public health and safety , vegetation management, and defensible space. This chapter is to provide for the removal of hazardous vegetation and combustible materials situated in the unincorporated areas of the county.

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/CAO/VegetationManagement>.

This document adds more enforcement to weed abatement and defensible space regulations and allows for collection of costs for abatement

Chapter 3 Fire Risk and Fire Behavior

3.1 CAL FIRE, Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Many of the communities have used the CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity to identify the risks of wildfires to their community. A very extensive analysis of Fire Risk was done in Chapter 3 of the Western El Dorado County CWPP, 2017 and those risks and fire behavior has change very little since then. Also located in the Western El Dorado County CWPP Appendix 4 Modeled Flame Length, Appendix 5 Modeled Rate of Spread, And Appendix 6 Modeled Fire Type has not changed and take a very good look at fire behavior for the entire Western El Dorado County.

Chapter 4 Fire Risk Mitigation Strategies

This section of the update to the 2017 CWPP is meant to reemphasize what has already been documented in the 2017 CWPP. What follows is a summary of those sections, taken directly from the 2017 document.

4.1 Fire Risk Mitigation Strategies

- Improving road access, generally and specifically for emergency response and evacuation
- Improving water supply and water delivery infrastructure
- Enforcing defensible space regulations and generally reducing risks due to accumulations of trash and other flammable material on commercial and residential properties
- Reducing hazardous fuels
- Public education and fire prevention measures

Improving Road Access

There are many aspects to the issue of roads and adequacy of access, but at the community scale, facilitating emergency response and evacuation in the event of a fire is essential. Respondents to the on-line survey done as part of this CWPP raised this issue with respect to road width to simultaneously accommodate evacuees and incoming fire equipment, bridge width and strength (to support fire apparatus) and grown-over or brushed-in roads. Steep terrain and narrow, steep roads, poorly maintained roads, locked gates, and dense roadside vegetation can all impair the movement of equipment in to fight a fire and movement out by affected people. In the worst of cases, "traffic jams" caused by the combination of poor access and heavy traffic can contribute to the spread of fire and fatalities.

Improving Water Supply and Delivery Infrastructure

Rural communities in El Dorado County depend on a variety of water supplies and associated infrastructure. In many instances, water supply is the responsibility of the individual property owner who may or may not have a storage facility (e.g., tank, pond, or swimming pool) that can provide a source of water for fighting a fire. In other cases, communities and groups of properties depend on inherited water delivery systems such as flumes and ditches. Flumes and ditches are susceptible to failure and obstructions, particularly during large fires where they may be physically burned or impacted by falling trees. For example, in an evaluation of historic failures along the water conveyance facility associated with one of El Dorado Irrigation District's water supplies, numerous breaches due to excessive flow, landslides, and trees toppling into the open ditch were observed (Harris, personal observations). Water supply and infrastructure is considered a serious potential constraint on response to wildfire in El Dorado County. The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) is currently underway on a project to replace a 3-mile section of

a water supply ditch with a buried pipeline. Objectives of this project include; reduction of water loss due to seepage and vegetation water-use, protection of drinking water quality, and a reduction operations and maintenance costs.

Meeting these objectives will thereby contribute to EID’s overall water conservation efforts and protect the supply from impacts of wildfire and associated hazards. More info can be found at: <http://www.eid.org/about-us/project-updates/upper-main-ditch-piping-project>

4.11 Enforcing Defensible Space Regulations

Enforcement of policies, codes and ordinances can have an important impact on risk. For example, the extension of defensible space provisions from 30 feet to 100 feet from a structure had a positive effect that was triggered in part by the requirements of insurance companies. Strategies implemented in other counties, such as Placer County, include provisions for defensible space treatments beyond

a property line onto adjacent property. Consistently mentioned in the community survey was an overall concern of overgrown and un-managed vegetation on vacant lots owned by absentee landowners. Location of these lots and taking action to get them cleaned up is of great importance to many local community members.

Structure loss and Recommendations for reducing the impacts

Current situation

Fire Year	Number of Structures Damaged or Destroyed
2021	3,629
2020	10,488
2019	732
2018	24,226
2017	10,280

The losses have been the highest in California in the past 5 years than at any other time since the 19th century. The losses in the Caldor fire alone are staggering as of September 14th, 2021, were 782 Single Residences destroyed, 18 Commercial properties destroyed, and 203 minor structures destroyed. It has become a statistic that makes it difficult to predict loss. It is not if structures in the WUI will be damaged or destroyed but rather when.

A report has recently been published in the Journal of Fire Ecology titled “Housing arrangement and vegetation factors associated with single-family home survival in the 2018 Camp Fire, California” by Eric E. Knapp, Yana S. Valachovic, Stephen L. Quarles and Nels G. Johnson

<https://fireecology.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s42408-021-00117-0.pdf>

“Strong associations between both distance to nearest destroyed structure and vegetation within 100 m and home survival in the Camp Fire indicate building and vegetation modifications are possible that would substantially improve outcomes. Among those include improvements to windows and siding in closest proximity to neighboring structures, treatment of wildland fuels, and eliminating near-home combustibles, especially in areas closest to the home (0–1.5 m).....

.....While our data show a relationship between home loss and vegetative fuels (high pre-fire overstory canopy

cover likely associated with a greater litter and woody fuel abundance, as well as other wildland understory vegetation) that can contribute to fire intensity and ember generation, the WUI fire loss issue has been described as home ignition problem more so than a wildland fire problem (Cohen 2000; Calkin et al. 2014). The damaged home data were in line with this view, with few homes showing evidence of continuity with wildland fuels that would contribute to flame impingement, but numerous homes with near home fuels, both from manmade and natural sources, that led to direct or indirect ember ignitions.”

This document is well worth the read for all homeowners and those assessing risks to homes in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). It addresses issues of home hardening and vegetation in and near homes. Another source of information: Reducing the Vulnerability of Building to wild Fire: Vegetation and Landscaping guidance <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8695.pdf>

Jeff Dowling our RPF has made some recommendations about treatments

- The .25 mile defense and 1.25 mile threat zones should be increased to 1 mile and 2 miles.
- Stands in defense zones should be open and dominated primarily by larger, fire tolerant trees.
- Surface and ladder fuel conditions should be such that crown fire ignition is highly unlikely.
- The openness and discontinuity of crown fuels, both horizontally and vertically, result in very low probability of sustained crown fire.
- Move the project area toward a pre-Comstock era vegetative condition related to stand density, tree size class, and species composition that provides for healthy forest conditions resilient to disturbance such as fire, insects and disease, and drought, thereby decreasing the risk for widespread tree mortality during drought conditions. Pre Comstock era condition is open to interpretation. A basal area standard of 75 square feet for tree stocking is necessary to lower crown bulk density and increase crown base height. Where stand conditions allow, a quadratic mean diameter of at least 16 inches should accomplish this goal. If this can be adjusted for existing plantations.
- Improve forest health by thinning trees in areas where densities are high, leading to decreased potential for insect infestation, spreading of diseases, and density-dependent mortality. Improve forest health to increase the stability of the forest carbon sink (i.e. less potential for loss to catastrophic wildfire, insects/disease, density-dependent mortality), and quality of the carbon sink (i.e. more carbon in live versus dead pools, increasing sequestration rates due to healthy growing conditions versus decreasing sequestration rates due to intense competition).
- Continuous brush fields require mastication to create a mosaic of 1 acre openings between groups of plants. Discontinuity in the fuels can be achieved while providing travel corridors for species that use these sites.
- Trees less than 6 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH)t should be made horizontally and vertically disconnected from surrounding overstory vegetation. Depending upon the site, trees less than 18 inches (DBH) should have crown base height of 20 feet and crown spacing of at least 10 feet. All larger diameters need to be well spaced as stated above.

Recommended improvements to California Public Resources Code 4291

Remember that the code makes recommendations that are a minimal requirement. Those minimal requirements are up to interpretation of the landowner and or the agency tasked with enforcement or inspection. The following are thoughts about what should be considered in the aftermath of structure fire loss over the past 5 years addressed in the previously recommended paper by Knapp et al.

When 4291 was conceived, it was meant to keep fire from leaving the structure and entering the wildland. The revision circa 2006 was meant to do the opposite.

Current PRC 4291 is insufficient to prevent fire spread from vegetation to a structure. Current fire behavior indicates the distances in these diagrams should be increased by at least a factor of 1.



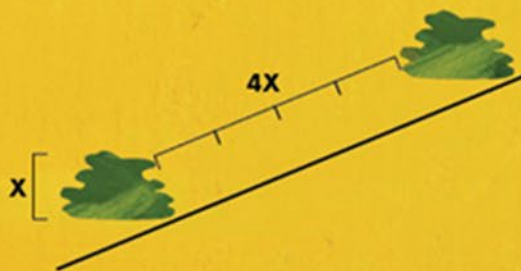
MINIMUM HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE

SHRUBS

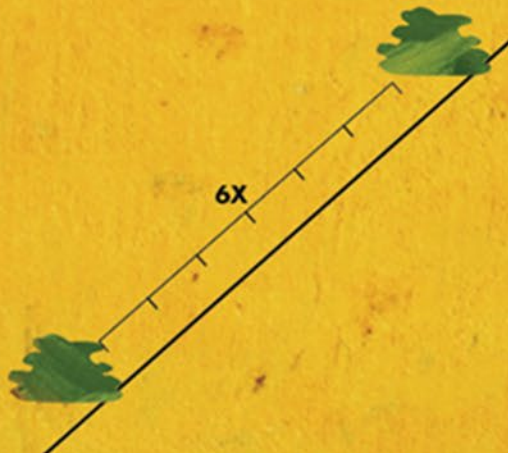
TREES



FLAT TO MILD SLOPE (LESS THAN 20%)



MILD TO MODERATE SLOPE (20%-40%)



MODERATE TO STEEP SLOPE (GREATER THAN 40%)

4.12 Reducing Hazardous Fuels

Projects aimed at reducing fuels and creating community fuel breaks are described in section 4.3 of this CWPP. Several communities such as Logtown, Grizzly Flats, Auburn Lake Trails and others have been aggressive about seeking funding and implementing fuel treatments to reduce risk in their communities. One of the goals of this CWPP is to increase awareness among communities that have not been as active in this regard and to encourage increased efforts to reduce hazardous fuels.

4.13 Public Education and Fire Prevention Measures

Public education on wildfire risk and prevention is carried out in El Dorado County by the Fire Safe Councils, Fire Districts and Departments, Office of Emergency Services, Resource Conservation Districts, University of California Cooperative Extension, U.S. Forest Service, and CAL FIRE. There is an abundance of information on wildfire risk and prevention, though it can be difficult to filter and distribute it to the public in a way that encourages them to use on their property. A list of resources is available in Appendix 8; some of them include:

- EL Dorado County Fire Safe [Council](http://www.edcfiresafe.org/) <http://www.edcfiresafe.org/>
- Community fact sheets for fire prevention (http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/communications_factsheets)
- Child-focused activities (http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/communications_justforkids)
- PreventWildfireCA.org
- Firewise communities (<http://www.firewise.org/usa/index.htm>)
- California Wildland Coordinating Group (preventwildfireca.org)
- Other publications, webinars, and fact sheets (<http://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/Wildfire/>)

There are several events at which wildfire awareness and prevention are showcased. These include the National Fire Prevention Week held annually in October (<http://www.nfpa.org/fpw>), Firewise workshops, and Community Wildfire Preparedness Day usually held in May.

One relatively new program is Ready, Set, Go! (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/>) managed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, which was launched in 2011. In this program, being “ready” means doing as much as possible to reduce risk on your property. Getting “set” for evacuation during a fire means preparing emergency items and staying in touch with local media. “Going” when there is a fire means following your personal plan, which may include evacuation, sheltering in place, and/or other actions.

There are Firewise communities in El Dorado County that have met the standards of the program for being relatively aware of fire risk.

Preventing fire starts is an important mitigation strategy that is applied at the community scale. Since 1980, CAL FIRE's "volunteers in prevention" program has engaged many people in making classroom presentations, disseminating information on preventative measures to the public, and

developing procedures for reducing ignitions in areas where they have been historically common. During periods of high to extreme fire danger, signs may be used to inform people of the danger. There may also be bans on open burning and adjustments in fire agency personnel schedules. There are many instances where extensive wildfires have been caused by accidental ignitions due to campfires or trash burning during prohibited weather conditions.

As previously noted, there is no lack of information available on reducing community risk of wildfire. The greater issue is whether this information is reaching potentially affected community members in meaningful ways that catalyze action for readiness. Recommended ways to effectively engage the public in the educational process include workshops, media campaigns, informational booths at local fairs and events, and person-to-person dialogue. Effective information transfer is a critical challenge and experience shows that a "one size fits all" approach doesn't work. Seizing opportunities when they arise demands skill and attentiveness on the part of service providers.

For mitigation strategies such as improving emergency access and roads generally, improving water supply, enforcing regulations, and implementing fuel treatments there must be concerted and sometimes costly efforts spearheaded by local agencies and entities such as the county Fire Safe Council. Public education can play a role in rallying support for projects that reduce risk. Ultimately, prioritization of projects will be constrained by the availability of funding and/or assistance programs that can provide financial support.

.2 Fire Risk Mitigation Strategies for Individual Property Owners

There are three general classes of property in El Dorado County: land that is developed with residential, commercial, or industrial uses; agricultural land (e.g., crop fields, pasture, vineyards); and undeveloped land. The focus of this CWPP is on protecting and defending developed land and infrastructure from wildfire and facilitating safe evacuation of residents through identified community ingress and egress routes. It should be acknowledged, however that unmanaged undeveloped land can contribute very significantly to community risk. The options for reducing fuel on public lands will not be addressed in this document but is being considered through other planning processes.

Confining the discussion to developed land, there are numerous factors affecting risk of ignition and losses during a wildfire. These include lot size, density and set-backs between buildings, the age of the structure and building materials, and defensible space. Some of these factors are unalterable, at least until a fire occurs. Therefore, the focus of mitigation strategies is on those things that an individual property owner can do to reduce risk. These include:

- Implementing defensible space measures
- Providing adequate access for emergency vehicles
- Providing signage to identify the property.
- Ensuring that structures are compliant with current building codes.

El Dorado County Fire Stations and Staffing

The following table is a list of the fire stations, Agency and staffing. The seasonal staffing of the stations is usually limited to the start and the end of wildfire season as determined by the agencies responsible for their opening and closing. The engines are dispatched through the CALFIRE and US Forest Service Dispatch center in Camino, Calif.

Agency	Station	Location	Staffing Level
Cal Fire	5	South Lake	Seasonal
Cal Fire	20	Camino	Staffed
Cal Fire	43	El Dorado	Staffed
Cal Fire	50	Garden Valley	Staffed
Cal Fire	70	Pilot Hill	Seasonal
El Dorado County Fire	15	Strawberry	Unstaffed
El Dorado County Fire	16	Kyburz	Unstaffed
El Dorado County Fire	17	Pollock Pines	Staffed
El Dorado County Fire	18	Sierra Springs	Unstaffed
El Dorado County Fire	19	Pleasant Valley	Staffed
El Dorado County Fire	21	Camino	Staffed
El Dorado County Fire	23	Oak Hill	Unstaffed
El Dorado County Fire	25	Placerville	Staffed
El Dorado County Fire	26	Placerville	Unstaffed
El Dorado County Fire	27	Gold Hill	Unstaffed
El Dorado County Fire	28	Shingle Springs	Staffed
El Dorado County Fire	72	Cool	Staffed
El Dorado County Fire	73	Pilot Hill	Unstaffed
El Dorado County Fire	74	Coloma/Lotus	Unstaffed
Pioneer	31	Willow Springs	Unstaffed
Pioneer	32	Sand Ridge	Unstaffed
Pioneer	35	Grizzly Flat	Unstaffed
Pioneer	37	Omo Ranch	Unstaffed
Pioneer	38	Mt. Aukumn	Staffed
Diamond Springs Fire	44	Logtown	Unstaffed
Diamond Springs Fire	46	El Dorado	Unstaffed
Diamond Springs Fire	47	Sleepy Hollow	Unstaffed
Diamond Springs Fire	48	Missouri Flat	Unstaffed
Diamond Springs Fire	49	Diamond Springs	Staffed
Garden Valley	51	Garden Valley	Staffed
Garden Valley	52	Kelsey	Unstaffed
Garden Valley	53	Greenwood	Unstaffed
Georgetown	61	Georgetown	Staffed
Georgetown	62	Balderston	Unstaffed
Georgetown	63	Volcanoville	Unstaffed
Georgetown	64	Sliger Mine	Unstaffed
Georgetown	65	Quintette	Unstaffed
Mosquito	75	Mosquito	Part Time Staffed

Rescue	81	North Rescue	Unstaffed
Rescue	83	South Rescue	Staffed
El Dorado Hills	84	North EDH	Staffed
El Dorado Hills	85	Central EDH	Staffed
El Dorado Hills	86	East EDH	Staffed
El Dorado Hills	87	South EDH	Staffed
Cameron Park	88	North Cameron	Staffed
Cameron Park	89	South Cameron	Staffed
Latrobe	91	South Latrobe	Staffed
Latrobe	92	North Latrobe	Unstaffed
Mosquito	75	Mosquito	Part Time
USFS		Pacific	Seasonal
USFS		Pacific Helicopter	Seasonal
USFS		Sly Park	Seasonal
USFS		Georgetown	Seasonal
USFS		Silverfork	Seasonal
USFS		Grizzly Flat	Seasonal

Chapter 5 Community Specific Wildfire Protection Plans

Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Council



Update to the Western El Dorado County CWPP

September 2021

Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safety and Improvement Council

Auburn Lake Trails is a 2628 acre gated subdivision containing 1,106 buildable lots ranging in size from .33 acre to 14 acres and established in 1970 in the small foothill community of Cool. Currently there are over 1,000 completed homes in Auburn Lake Trails (ALT) with a population of approximately 2,800 residents.

ALT is located at the 1360 to 2125 foot elevation in the foothills of northern California about 36 miles northeast of Sacramento. It is situated on the rim of the American River Canyon which holds the Middle Fork of the American River and is immediately adjacent to Bureau of Reclamation land, an area currently by the California State Parks as the Auburn State Recreation Area. ALT is a community of residents with a wide range of interests from horseback riding to golfing, to tennis, to hiking, and to swimming all of which is demonstrated by its numerous committees, clubs, and organizations. Within ALT are 22.5 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails, maintained by the ALT Property Owners Association (POA), which connect to hundreds of miles of trails on the adjacent Auburn State Recreation Area and nearby Eldorado National Forest.

The vegetation (fuels) within and adjacent ALT is a mosaic of fuel types and much of which was rated by the Calif. Department of Forestry as located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The community of Cool is listed in the Federal Register as a Community At-Risk. The steep terrain coupled with the composition, density, structure and heavy fuel loading of the vegetation, adjacent to ALT in the federal lands include all of the elements for a catastrophic wildfire which would engulf ALT. Portions of the subdivision are fractured by drainages, saddles, ridges and steep side slopes. This combination of existing fuels and topography can cause erratic and catastrophic fire behavior.

ALT is a “World Class WUI” trying our best to mitigate our internal fuel load condition and help the adjacent Federal Land become a Healthy Neighbor.

Thus, it is clear that Auburn Lake Trails needs to take action to prevent a disastrous fire from destroying the homes and lifestyles that its residents enjoy.

A Plan (“Auburn Lake Trails Fuel Safe and Fire Reduction Plan”) was developed by two Registered Professional Foresters. This Plan prioritized the actions that needed to be undertaken in order to make ALT safe from a catastrophic Wildfire. This Plan was endorsed by fire agencies at all levels and was signed as agreement by the ALT Board of Directors.

The Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safety and Improvement Council (FSIC) was formed in 2005 by the ALT residents. The FSIC is a recognized Fire Safe Council (FSC) by the California State FSC and the El Dorado County FSC.

- In 2005, a Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break (150 to 300 feet wide) was initiated by a series of Grants through the Calif. Dept. of Forestry, the Bureau of Land Management, The National Forest Foundation, the US Forest Service, the California State Fire Safe

on the Canyon edge of the subdivision and is scheduled to continue until completed, all subject to funds and work crews being available.

- Fuel reduction was completed in the ALT campground area and numerous lots, comprising a total of 172.5 acres owned in common by the ALT POA for the members' enjoyment. These holdings are used for recreational purposes and will remain as fuel-treated Greenbelts.
- ALT's Recycling Area, which was located in an extremely dense fuel area, was closed due to fire danger and is now a fuel break area.
- The POA has deeded property that is used for the 34.6 miles of roadway within ALT. ALT's roadways are continuously cleared of brush and trees to enable residents to evacuate safely, if necessary.
- Common areas with heavy grasses are mowed repeatedly in preparation for the fire season, and maintained as necessary during the fire season.
- The POA provides free Roadside Chipping to all of its residents through a program which is monitored by the FSIC. The POA also sponsors Centralized Chipping Days are held to enable residents to bring slash to be chipped. When funds are available, the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council also provides Free Roadside Chipping to residents. A limited number of Green Waste vouchers are provided by El Dorado Disposal to residents for disposing of leaves, needles, and other small clippings.
- A subdivision requirement was passed in 2004 which required all property owners to create 100' of Defensible Space around all structures.
- ALT resident-volunteers ("Volunteers in Prevention") inspect every ALT property to ensure compliance of the 100' requirement.
- A Fire Compliance Officer was hired to follow up on all non-compliant properties. Deadlines for compliance were established and if properties are still not cleared, Contractors are hired to clear the non-complying properties, and a Lien placed on the property for the cost of the clearing.
- Numerous community meetings are held to provide residents with important information about creating their Defensible Space, FireWise Landscaping techniques, Home Hardening, and other fire safety efforts.
- A "Fire Safety" column has been instituted in the monthly residents' newspaper, "The Trail Views" featuring fuel reduction information, FireWise Landscaping ideas, fire danger cautions, and other relevant fire safety information.
- Brochures on numerous Fire-Safe practices are made available to residents through FireWise community outreach programs.
- Collaboration has been established, and continues, with local, regional, and state fire agencies to maximize fire safety efforts and to maximize fire safety education.
- Representative ALT residents are actively involved in the County and State level Fire Safe Councils.

- Auburn Lake Trails has been designated a “Firewise USA®” community by the NFPA. ALT was the third community in California to receive this award, and has continuously maintain this designation since 2005.

There are several types of landholdings within ALT, which present varying wildfire risks:

- Developed Lots – These are privately owned lots that have homes constructed on them. They represent a high value-add to the community and are all protected by the 100’ defensible space requirements.
- Vacant and Undeveloped Lots – These are privately owned lots that have not been developed. The property owners are required to maintain a defensible space of 100’ from neighboring habitable structures.
- POA Owned Common Areas and Lots – These lots are owned and maintained by the POA. They must also maintain a defensible space of 100’ from neighboring habitable structures.
- Land Inholdings – There are four parcels of privately held land, totaling 60 acres, within ALT. Three of these parcels are contiguous. These properties could constitute a wildland threat to ALT.

The ALT members enjoy many amenities, including a recreation lake, athletic fields, a golf course, a campground, several meeting facilities, a competition swimming pool, and 22.5 miles of equestrian/hiking trails.

ALT is provided water by GDPUD, and incorporates a water treatment plant, two head tanks and over 170 hydrants. ALT is provided electric power by PG&E, through a 21kV pole-mounted distribution system. Many homes have solar panels to augment PG&E’s supply.

Treatment Prescriptions

Treatment is best accomplished mechanically via mastication or thinning from below with a harvester. Hand treatment is viable and necessary on the steep slopes. A combination of the two techniques may be necessary in some areas. Fire is an option, but in most cases pretreatment will be necessary. Mechanical treatment will be the most quick and yield results that will not require pile burning. The carbon benefit of not burning and allowing more rapid growth in the remaining vegetation is maximized in this case.

Treatment Area Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Note: tons per acre of fuel - dead and live load ranges from 5->20 tons per acre depending upon whether the area has been treated before or is having a first treatment. The generic fuel structure modification suggestions have been taken from 14 CCR 1299 and PRC 4291. Please see the drawing taken from the California Forest Practice Rules on page 4 of this document.

Change vertical and horizontal continuity through fuel structure modification. Changing fuel structure is accomplished through horizontal and vertical spacing. Horizontal separation should be 10-30 feet depending upon slope and vegetation size and type.

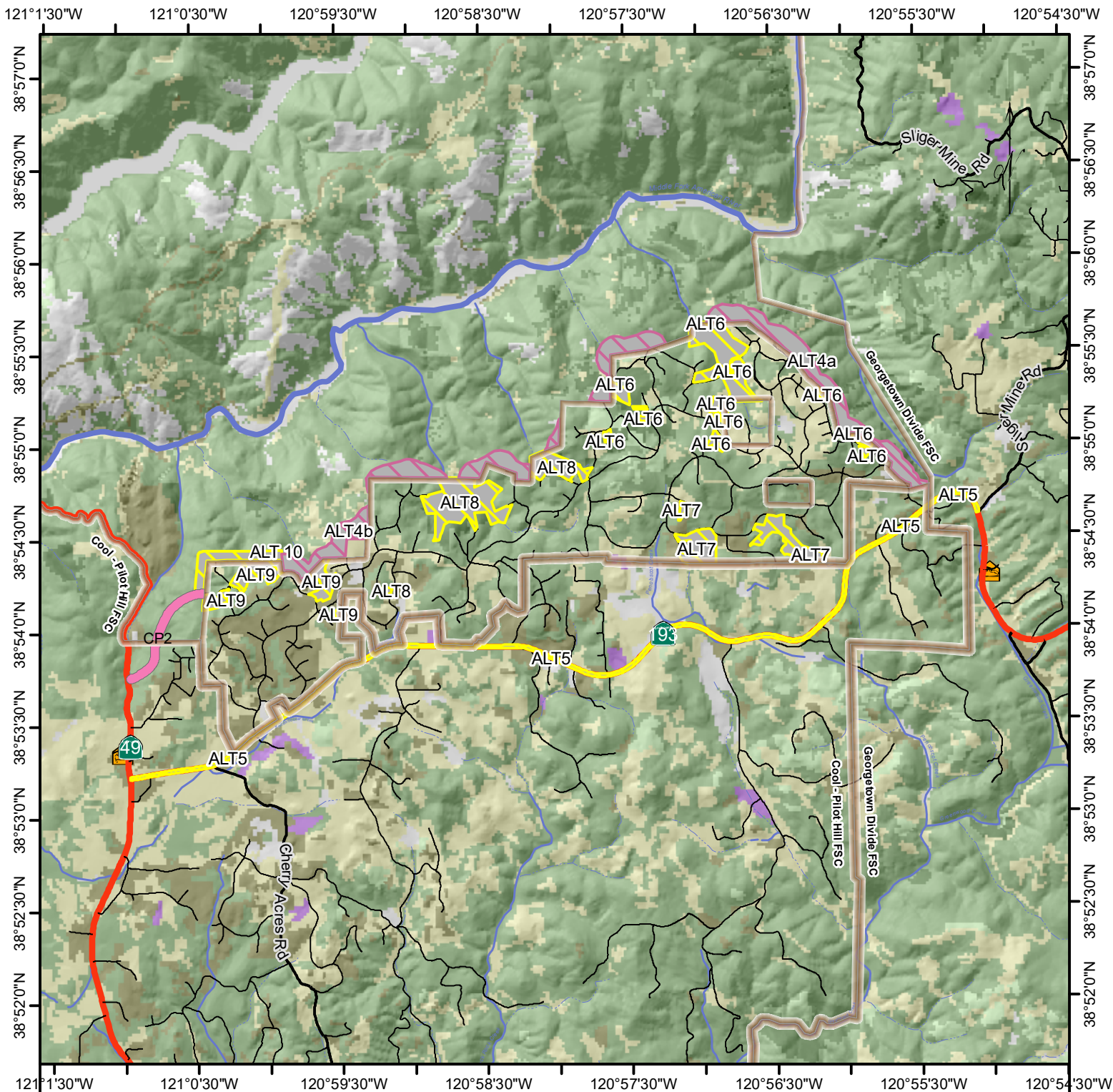
Vertical separation should be 4-40 feet depending on slope and vegetation size/type.

Note: Prescribed fire with either pile and let creep or broadcast is recommended for all project areas when smoke and escape issues can be mitigated.

Auburn Lake Trails #10 and #4a Shaded Fuel Breaks:

ALT # 10 and #4a – Chaparral and oak with conifer overstory (Ponderosa, Grey pine and Douglas fir) – Remove brush via mastication, hand cut and chipping or hand pile and burn. Mastication can be used where slope steepness allows – trees should be spaced to obtain a minimum of 15 feet between crowns. Due to the density of the vegetation, only trees greater than 12 inches in DBH should be left where feasible.

Mastication via advanced methods such as tethering equipment should be considered for this project. There are “spider” type machines with mastication heads which can be used for steep terrain as well. Even though cost may be high for this type of work, the result is better than hand piling and yields a chipped product which will mitigate erosion. The fuel left in place with mastication tends to decompose more rapidly due to the size of the chip and prescribed broadcast fire is an option.



Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Council

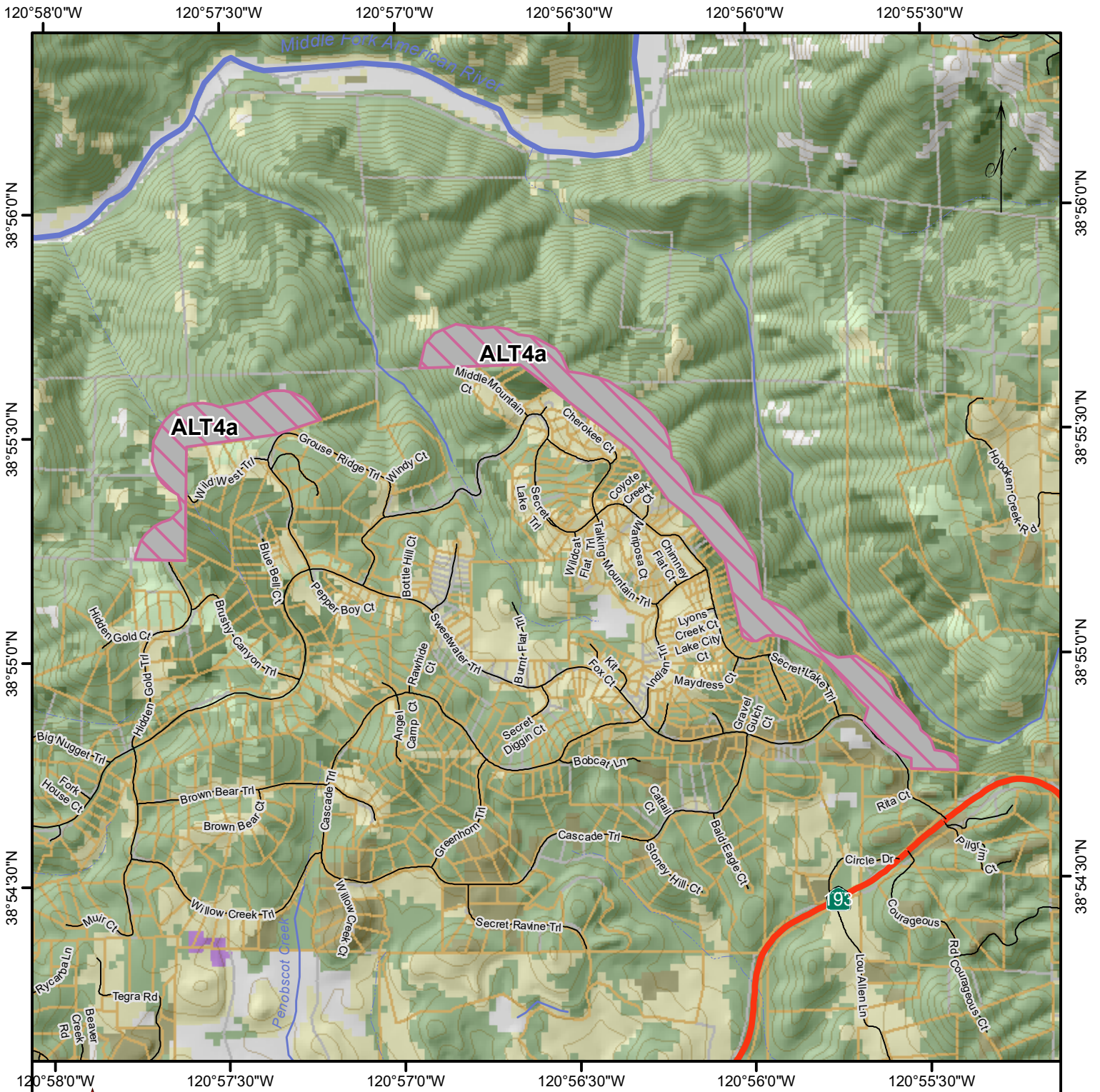


- | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------------|--|------------|
| | Planned Treatment | | Grassland | | Forest | | Highway |
| | Planned Treatment Under BOR NEPA | | Shrub | | Agricultural | | Major Road |
| | Waterbody | | Oak and Mixed Wood | | Barren or Urban | | Minor Road |
| | River | | Perennial Stream | | Intermittent Stream | | |

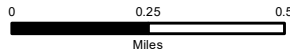
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx

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Auburn Lake Trails (ALT4a Under BOR NEPA)

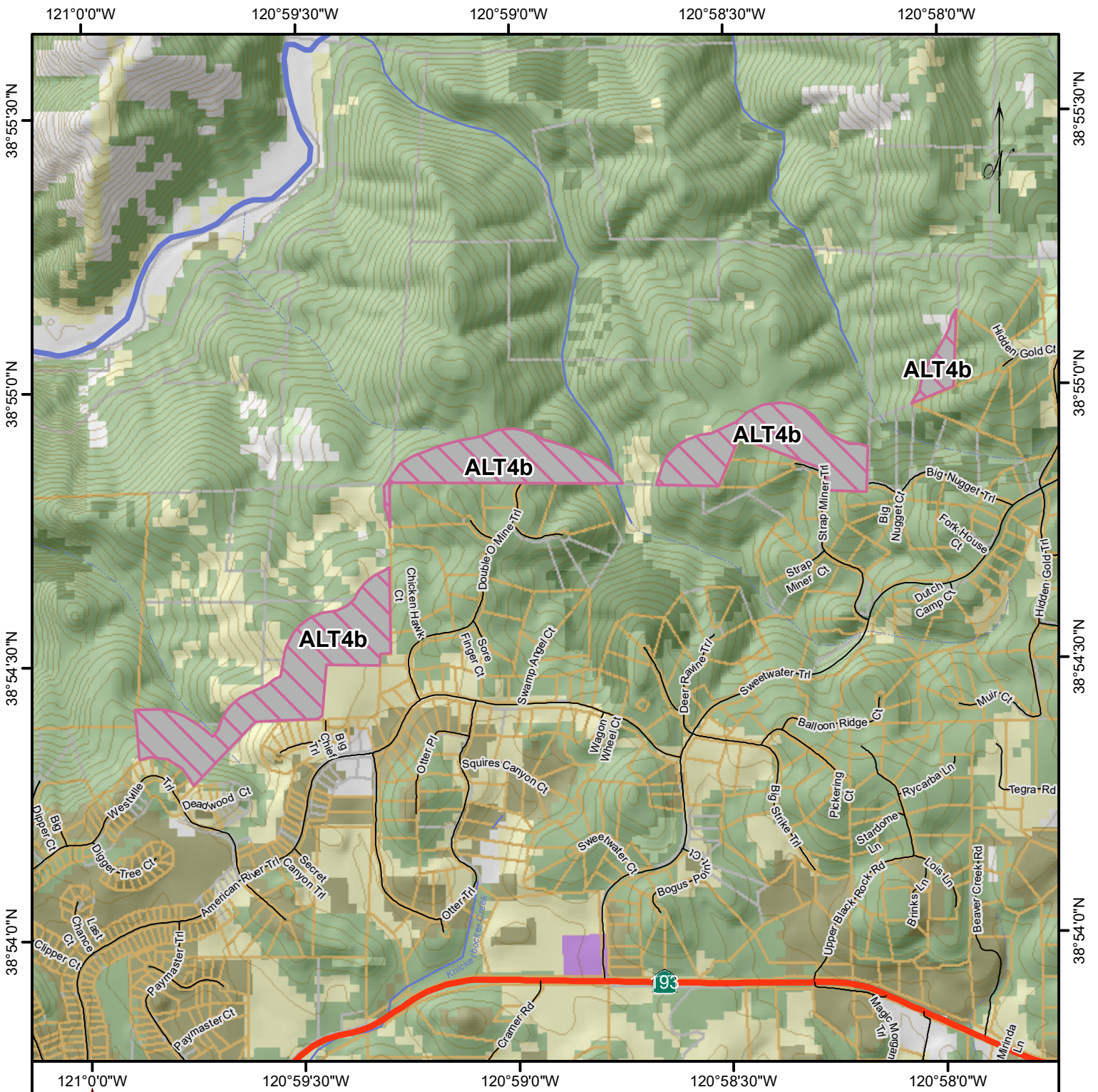


- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Planned Treatment Under BOR NEPA | Grassland | Forest | Highway |
| Developed Parcel | Shrub | Agricultural | Major Road |
| Waterbody | Oak and Mixed Wood | Barren or Urban | Minor Road |
| River | Perennial Stream | Intermittent Stream | |

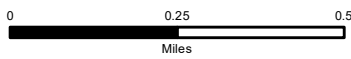
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx

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Auburn Lake Trails (ALT4b Under BOR NEPA)

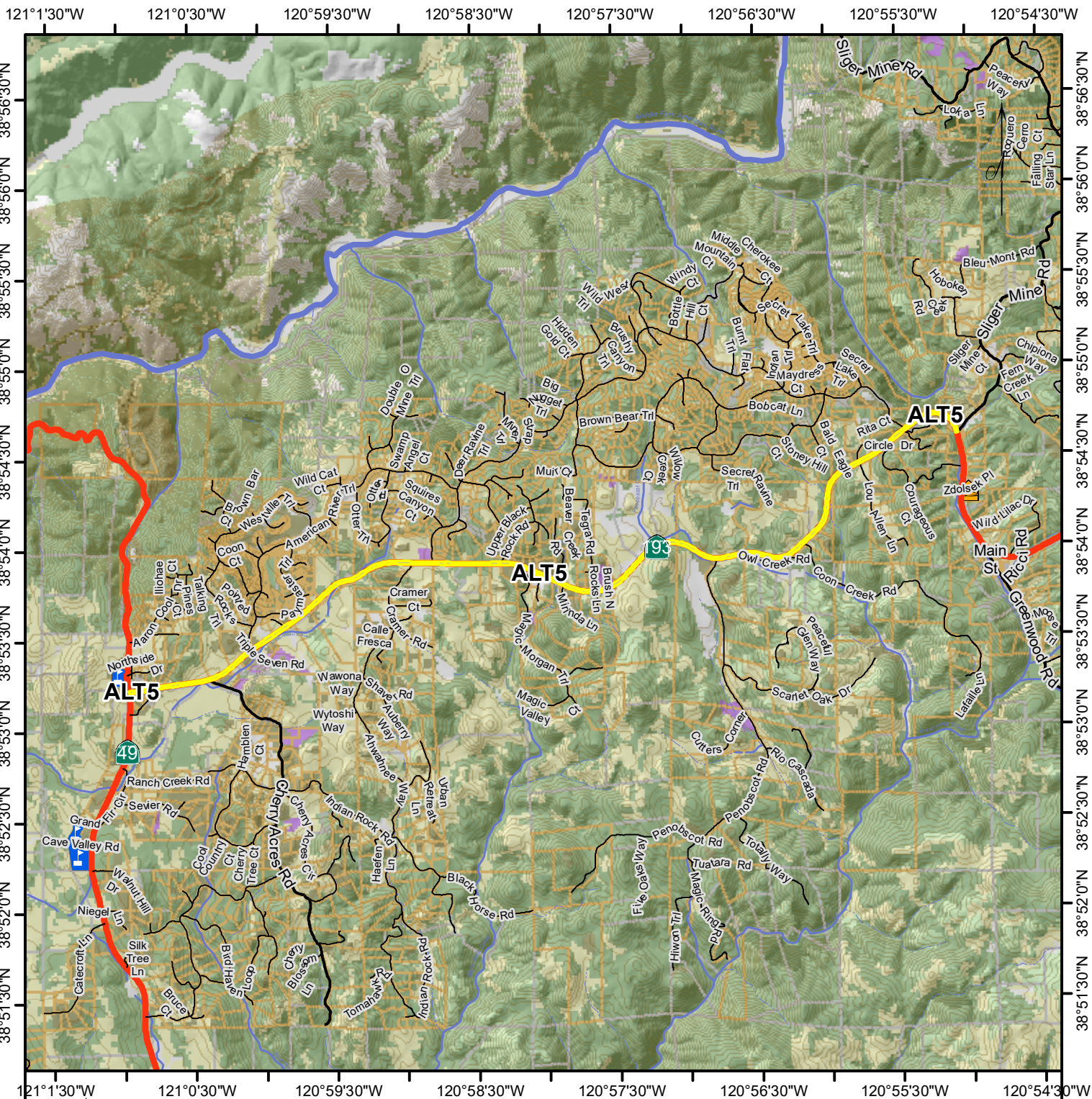


- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Planned Treatment Under BOR NEPA | Grassland | Forest | Highway |
| Developed Parcel | Shrub | Agricultural | Major Road |
| Waterbody | Oak and Mixed Wood | Barren or Urban | Minor Road |
| River | Perennial Stream | Intermittent Stream | |

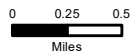
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx



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Auburn Lake Trails (ALT5)

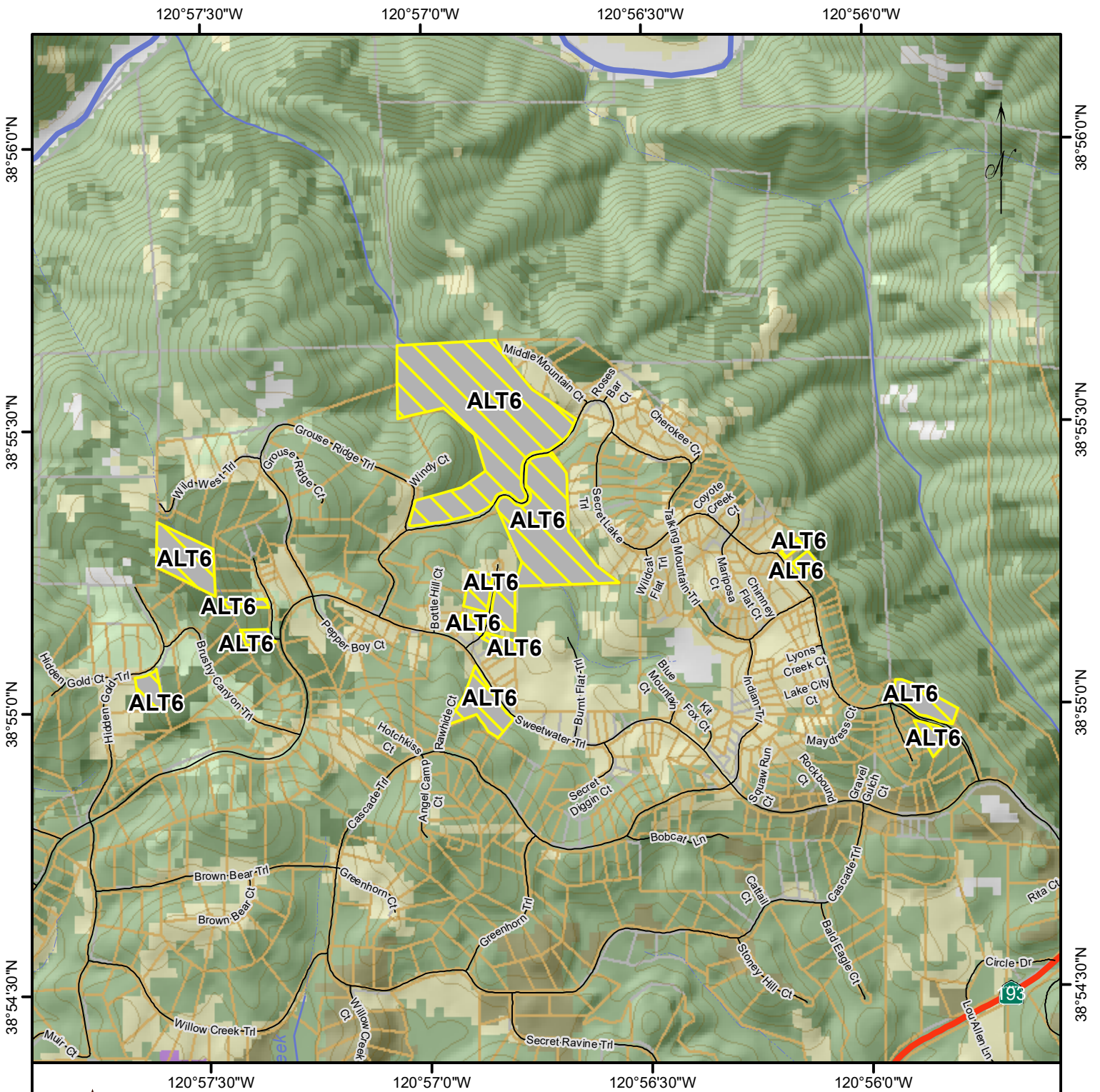


- | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------------|--|------------|
| | Planned Treatment | | Grassland | | Forest | | Highway |
| | Developed Parcel | | Shrub | | Agricultural | | Major Road |
| | Waterbody | | Oak and Mixed Wood | | Barren or Urban | | Minor Road |
| | River | | Perennial Stream | | Intermittent Stream | | |

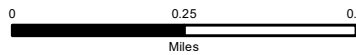
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx

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Auburn Lake Trails (ALT6 Under POA Vegetation Mangement)

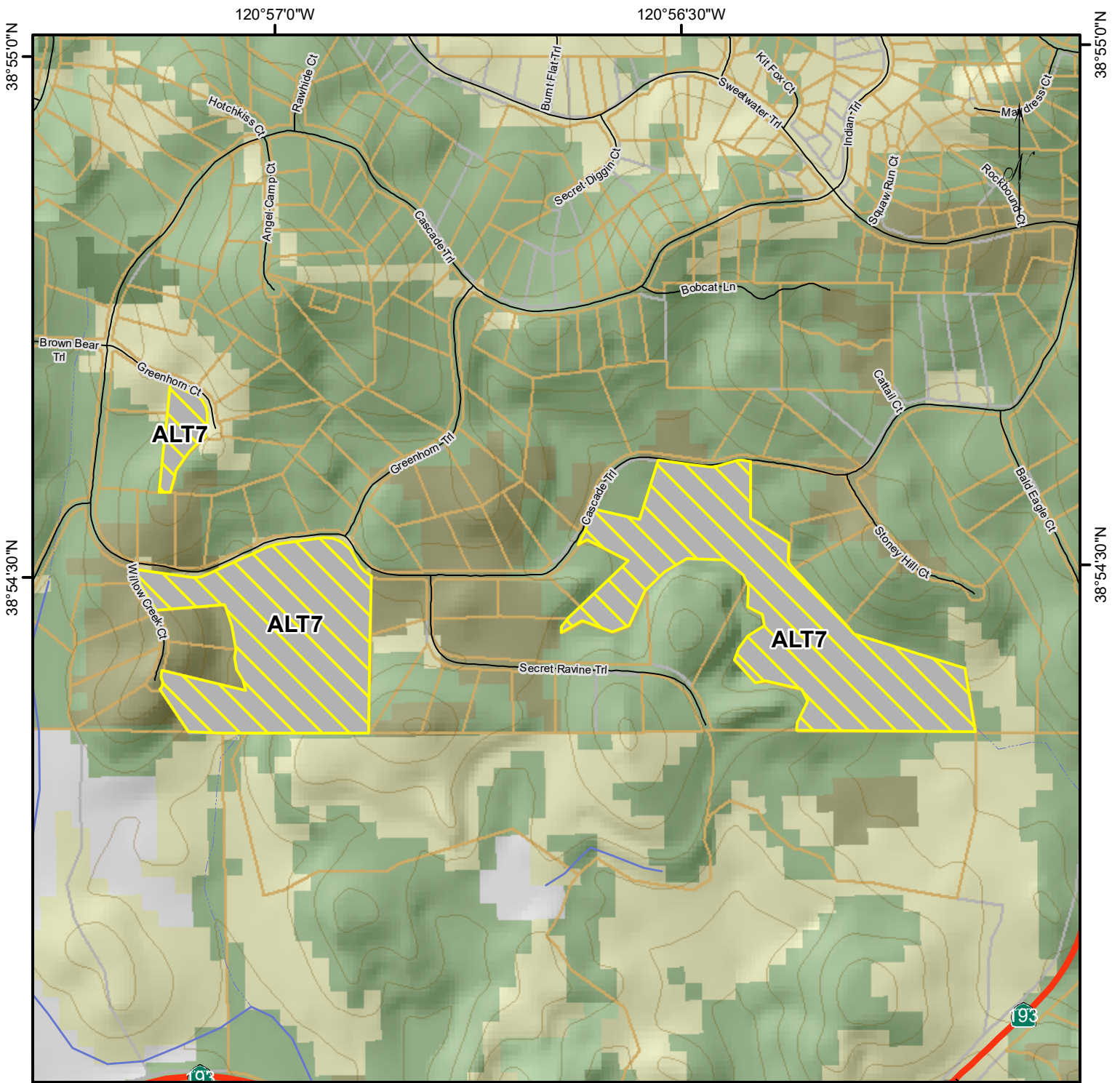


	Planned Treatment		Grassland		Forest		Highway
	Developed Parcel		Shrub		Agricultural		Major Road
	Waterbody		Oak and Mixed Wood		Barren or Urban		Minor Road
	River		Perennial Stream		Intermittent Stream		

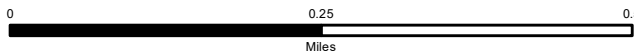
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx
















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Auburn Lake Trails (ALT7 Under POA Vegetation Mangement)



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  Planned Treatment |  Grassland |  Forest |  Highway |
|  Developed Parcel |  Shrub |  Agricultural |  Major Road |
|  Waterbody |  Oak and Mixed Wood |  Barren or Urban |  Minor Road |
|  River |  Perennial Stream |  Intermittent Stream | |

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx



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120°59'0"W

120°58'30"W

120°58'0"W

38°55'0"N

38°55'0"N

38°54'30"N

38°54'30"N

38°54'0"N

38°54'0"N

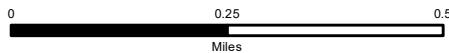
120°59'0"W

120°58'30"W

120°58'0"W



Auburn Lake Trails (ALT8 Under POA Vegetation Mangement)



- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Planned Treatment | Grassland | Forest | Highway |
| Developed Parcel | Shrub | Agricultural | Major Road |
| Waterbody | Oak and Mixed Wood | Barren or Urban | Minor Road |
| River | Perennial Stream | Intermittent Stream | |

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx



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121°0'30"W

121°0'0"W

120°59'30"W

38°54'30"N

38°54'30"N

38°54'0"N

38°54'0"N

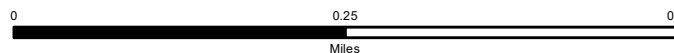
121°0'30"W

121°0'0"W

120°59'30"W



Auburn Lake Trails (ALT9 Under POA Vegetation Mangement)



- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Planned Treatment | Grassland | Forest | Highway |
| Developed Parcel | Shrub | Agricultural | Major Road |
| Waterbody | Oak and Mixed Wood | Barren or Urban | Minor Road |
| River | Perennial Stream | Intermittent Stream | |

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx



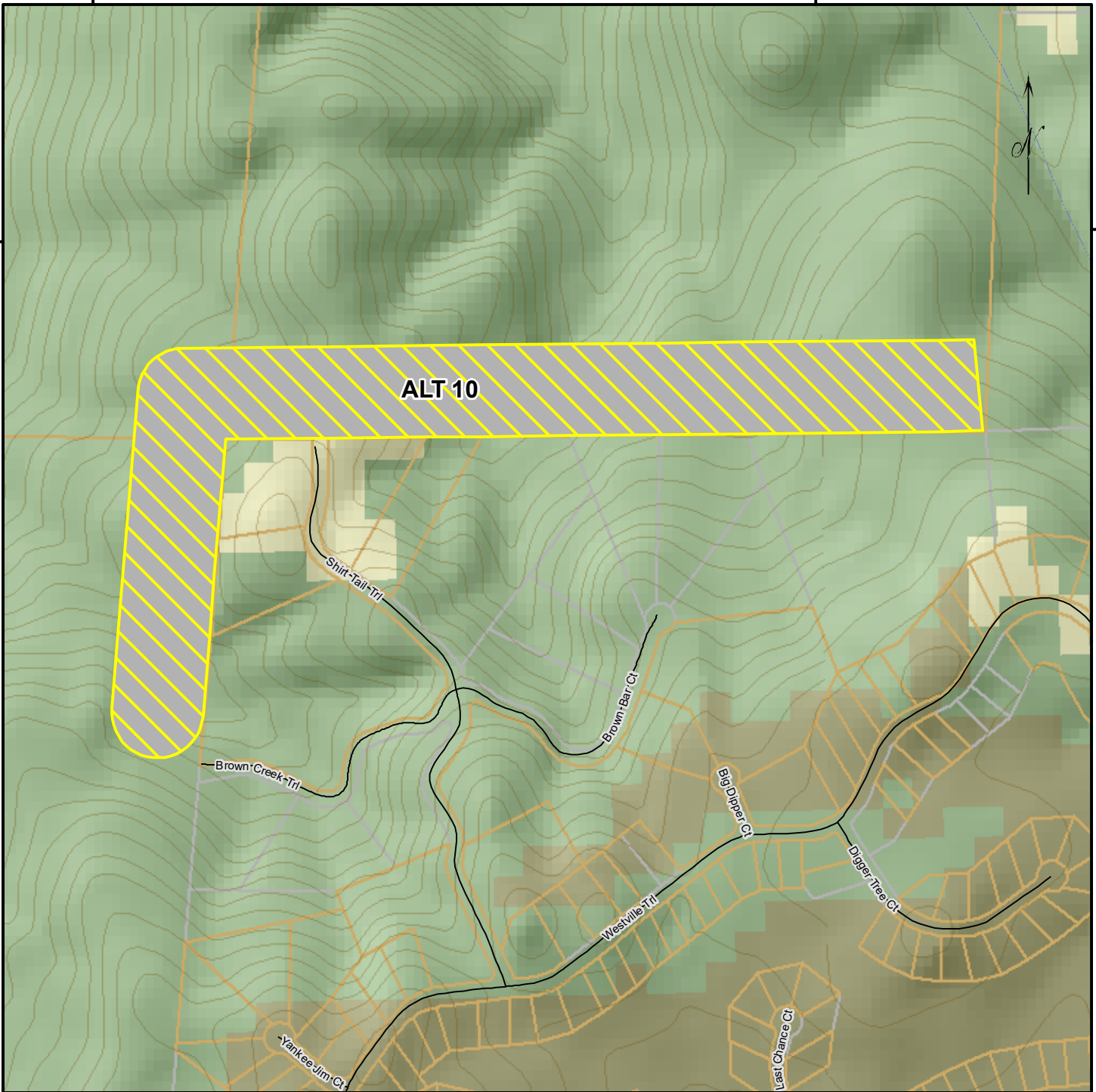
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121°0'30"W

121°0'0"W

38°54'30"N

38°54'30"N

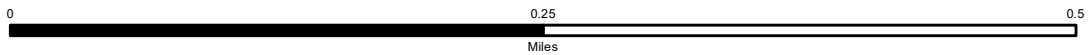


121°0'30"W

121°0'0"W



Auburn Lake Trails (ALT 10)



- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Planned Treatment | Grassland | Forest | Highway |
| Developed Parcel | Shrub | Agricultural | Major Road |
| Waterbody | Oak and Mixed Wood | Barren or Urban | Minor Road |
| River | Perennial Stream | Intermittent Stream | |

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Data Source: El Dorado County GIS & Wildland Rx



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Auburn Lake Trails FSIC Community Projects

PROJECT NAME	PRIORITY	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TREATMENT TYPE	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST
		Alt 3	Fuel Break also CP 2	Shaded Fuel Break/Vegetation Management	29	
ASRA PSFB East	2	ALT 4 a	Fuel break On Bureau of Reclamation East sections	Shaded Fuel Break/Vegetation Management		
ASRA PSFB West	3	Alt 4 b	Fuel Break on Bureau of Reclamation West sections	Shaded Fuel Break/Vegetation Management		
Highway 193 HazardReduction	4	Alt 5	Roadside Hazard reduction CP 7along Hwy 193	Roadside Hazard Reduction 100feet		
POA Land East	6	ALT 6	Fuel break maintenance	Shaded Fuel Break/Vegetation Management		
Campground SteeverRanch	5	ALT 7	Fuel break maintenance	Shaded Fuel Break/Vegetation Management		
POA Land Central	7	Alt 8	Fuel break maintenance	Shaded Fuel Break/Vegetation Management		
POA Land West	8	ALT 9	Fuel break maintenance	Shaded Fuel Break/Vegetation Management		
Cool Cave QuarryPSFB	1	ALT 10	Fuel Break between ALT & CoolQuarry	Shaded Fuel Break/Vegetation Management		

