Santa Cruz North – Interior

The Santa Cruz North – Interior planning area includes the area commonly referred to as the San Lorenzo Valley. The greatest amount of development occurs in the communities of Boulder Creek, Ben Lomond and Felton. There is also considerable development in the communities of Zayante and Lompico. Outside of the urbanized areas, there are a considerable amount of homes within the WUI. Indian Trails, Las Cumbres, Deer Creek and homes along the Hwy 35 corridor also account for a large number of homes in the WUI. Major roadways found in the planning areas include Hwy 9, bisecting the planning area, Hwy 236 in the northwest, and Hwy 35, separating the planning area with Santa Clara County.

There were fires in the Newell Creek watershed during the 1950’s and 1960’s burning more than 1400 acres. In 2008 a 20 acre, difficult to access fire, occurred within the Castle Rock State Park.
The following fire protection agencies have jurisdiction within the planning area:

- Santa Cruz County Fire
- CAL FIRE
- Ben Lomond Fire Protection District
- Boulder Creek Fire Protection District
- Felton Fire Protection District
- Zayante Fire Protection District

The following volunteer companies respond to emergencies within the planning area:

- South Skyline

Other agencies with large properties within this planning area include:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- City of Santa Cruz Water Department
- San Lorenzo Valley Water Department
- Big Basin Water Department

Additional landowners within the planning area include:

- Private residences
- Managed Timberland
- Undeveloped private ownerships

**Assets at Risk – As identified through stakeholder meetings**

Communities/Neighborhoods

- Life and property are always considered the dominant asset at risk.
- Braemoor
• Indian Trails
• Las Cumbres
• Boulder Creek
• Ben Lomond
• Zayante
• Lompico Canyon
• Empire Grade Corridor
• Deer Creek
• Bear Creek Canyon
• Whalebone Gulch
• Harmon Gulch
• Mt Hermom

Other – Non-environmental
• Communication Facilities
• Corporate Retreat Centers
• Religious Retreat Centers
• Schools
• Transmission Lines

Environmental
• Protection of Parkland (all agencies)
• Watershed Protection
  o Lexington Dam
• Managed timberland
• Wildlife

Project Priority
In addition to those areas identified above, more specific HIGH priority areas were identified at public and agency meetings. Those areas have been highlighted in “Green” on the following map. Those areas not currently identified as HIGH priority on the map should still be considered priority areas in terms of recommendations proposed by this plan. The Highlighted areas are those areas stakeholders consider the priority areas for fuel reduction projects.

Of the areas highlighted, fuel reduction projects needed include:

- Roadside fuel reduction
  - Improved ingress/egress for emergency responders
  - Improved ingress/egress for citizens
  - Strategic fuel breaks for fire fighting
- Shaded fuel breaks
  - Defensible space for communities
  - Strategic placement for wildland fire operations
- Fuel reduction around homes
  - Creation/Improvement/Maintenance of defensible space
Santa Cruz North - Coastal

Planning Area Description
The Santa Cruz North – Coastal planning area covers the area north from the Santa Cruz City limits to the San Mateo County line. The southeast border of the planning area follows the major ridgeline separating the San Lorenzo Valley with the coast. Although there are no major urban centers in this planning area, there are numerous homes found throughout. The greatest amount of development occurs in the communities of Bonny Doon, Davenport, and Swanton. Major roadways found in the planning areas include Hwy 1, North and South along the coast.

Recent significant fire history in this planning area includes the Martin Fire in 2008 and the Lockheed Fire in 2009. Prior to these fires, the only other fire of significance was the Pine Mountain Fire in 1948. State Parks have successfully completed prescribed burns in both Big Basin and Wilder Ranch State Parks.
The following fire protection agencies have jurisdiction within the planning area:

- Santa Cruz County Fire
- CAL FIRE

The following volunteer fire companies respond to emergency incidents in the planning area:

- Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire Department
- Davenport Volunteer Fire Department

Other agencies with large properties within this planning area include:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Santa Cruz County Parks
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Department of Fish and Game

Additional landowners within the planning area include:

- Private residences
- Managed Timberland
- Industrial Facilities
- Undeveloped private ownerships
- Ranchland
- Agriculture

**Assets at Risk – As identified through stakeholder meetings**

Communities/Neighborhoods

- Life and property are always considered the dominant asset at risk.
• Bonny Doon
• Pine Ridge
• Ben Lomond Camp
• Davenport
• Swanton
• Lockheed area

Other – Non-environmental
• Transmission Lines
• PG&E substation
• Communications

Environmental
• Protection of Parkland (all agencies)
• Watershed Protection
  o City of Santa Cruz Water Supply
  o Davenport Water Supply
• Managed timberland
• Farmland/Agriculture
• Wildlife
  o Big Creek Fish Hatchery

Project Priority
In addition to those areas identified above, more specific HIGH priority areas were identified at public and agency meetings. Those areas have been highlighted in “Green” on the following map. Those areas not currently identified as HIGH priority on the map should still be considered priority areas in terms of recommendations proposed by this plan. The Highlighted areas are those areas stakeholders consider the priority areas for fuel reduction projects.
Of the areas highlighted, fuel reduction projects needed include:

- Roadside fuel reduction
  - Improved ingress/egress for emergency responders
  - Improved ingress/egress for citizens
  - Strategic fuel breaks for fire fighting

- Shaded fuel breaks
  - Defensible space for communities
  - Strategic placement for wildland fire operations

- Fuel reduction around homes
  - Creation/Improvement/Maintenance of defensible space
The Santa Cruz South – Interior planning area covers the south the southern interior section of Santa Cruz County, from the Santa Clara County line at Hwy 17 southeast to the southern boundary of the county line where it meets with Monterey County. This planning area borders Santa Clara County to the north. Although most of the planning area has seen residential development, higher population densities are found in communities such as Corralitos and Pajaro Valley. However there are also many people residing in homes located along major intersecting roadways such as Soquel-San Jose Road, Freedom Blvd, and Eureka Canyon Road.

Recent significant fire history in this planning area includes the Summit Fire in 2008 and the Loma Fire in 2009. Prior to these fires, the Summit Road corridor, running between Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties was impacted by the Lexington Fire in 1985 and the Croy in 2002. Because of this, the Summit Road corridor is, and continues to be a high priority area for fuel reduction projects.

Fuels within the planning area differ throughout the landscape. In the northern portion of the planning area, fuels are composed of primarily mixed conifer, with a brush component near the ridges. In the southern portion of the planning area, the dominant fuels are hardwood and grasses, with a smaller mixed conifer component.
The following fire protection agencies have jurisdiction within the planning area:

- Santa Cruz County Fire
- CAL FIRE
- Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District
- Aromas Fire Protection District

The following volunteer companies respond to emergencies within the planning area:

- Ormsby Fire Brigade
- Corralitos Volunteer Fire Department

Other agencies with large properties within this planning area include:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- CAL FIRE – Demonstration State Forest
- Santa Cruz County Parks

Additional landowners within the planning area include:

- Private residences
- Managed Timberland
- Undeveloped private ownerships
- Ranchland
- Agriculture

**Assets at Risk – As identified through stakeholder meetings**

Communities/Neighborhoods

- Life and property are always considered the dominant asset at risk.
- Corralitos
• Loma Prieta
• Mt. Modonna
• Trout Gulch
• Fern Flat
• Summit Road Corridor
• Smith Road Corridor
• Redwood Drive
• Olive Springs

Other – Non-environmental
• Religious Retreat Centers
• Schools

Environmental
• Protection of Parkland (all agencies)
• Watershed Protection
• Managed timberland
• Wildlife

Project Priority
In addition to those areas identified above, more specific HIGH priority areas were identified at public and agency meetings. Those areas have been highlighted in “Green” on the following map. Those areas not currently identified as HIGH priority on the map should still be considered priority areas in terms of recommendations proposed by this plan. The Highlighted areas are those areas stakeholders consider the priority areas for fuel reduction projects.

Of the areas highlighted, fuel reduction projects needed include:
• Roadside fuel reduction
- Improved ingress/egress for emergency responders
- Improved ingress/egress for citizens
- Strategic fuel breaks for fire fighting

• Shaded fuel breaks
  - Defensible space for communities
  - Strategic placement for wildland fire operations

• Fuel reduction around homes
  - Creation/Improvement/Maintenance of defensible space
Santa Cruz Central

The Santa Cruz Central planning area covers the southern interior section of Santa Cruz County, encompassing both incorporated and unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz, Scott’s Valley, Branciforte, and Soquel. The planning area extends north to the Santa Cruz city limits, and south to Aptos.

Within this planning area the more developed areas of Santa Cruz City are not considered WUI, however, once you leave the city limits, the remainder of the planning area is the WUI. With the exception of Henry Cowell State Park, residential homes are found throughout the WUI. The three major highways that interconnect are found in this planning area include Hwy 1, Hwy 17, and Hwy 9.

Although there has been an absence of large conflagrations in this planning area, there are numerous roadside and debris fires found year long.

Fuels within the planning area differ throughout the landscape. In the northern portion of the planning area, fuels are composed of primarily mixed conifer, with a brush component near the ridges. In the southern portion of the planning area, the dominant fuels are hardwood and grasses, with a smaller mixed conifer component.
The planning area is home to various fire jurisdictions including:

- Santa Cruz County Fire
- CAL FIRE
- Branciforte Fire Protection District
- Santa Cruz City Fire Department
- Central Fire Protection District
- University of California Santa Cruz Fire Department

Other agencies with large properties within this planning area include:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- City/County Parks

Additional landowners within the planning area include:

- Private residences
- Managed Timberland
- Undeveloped private ownerships

**Assets at Risk – As identified through stakeholder meetings**

Communities/Neighborhoods

- Life and property are always considered the dominant asset at risk.
- City of Scotts Valley
- Paradise Park
- Soquel San Jose Corridor
- Glen Canyon Road Corridor
- Glenwood Acres
- Lockhart Gulch Corridor
- Westons Road Corridor
- Graham Hill Road Corridor
• Pilkington Road Corridor
• Laurel Glen

Other – Non-environmental
• Communications
• Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall

Environmental
• Protection of Parkland (all agencies)
• Watershed Protection
• Managed timberland
• Wildlife

**Project Priority**
In addition to those areas identified above, more specific HIGH priority areas were identified at public and agency meetings. Those areas have been highlighted in “Green” on the following map. Those areas not currently identified as HIGH priority on the map should still be considered priority areas in terms of recommendations proposed by this plan. The Highlighted areas are those areas stakeholders consider the priority areas for fuel reduction projects.

Of the areas highlighted, fuel reduction projects needed include:

• Roadside fuel reduction
  o Improved ingress/egress for emergency responders
  o Improved ingress/egress for citizens
  o Strategic fuel breaks for fire fighting
• Shaded fuel breaks
  o Defensible space for communities
  o Strategic placement for wildland fire operations
• Fuel reduction around homes
  o Creation/Improvement/Maintenance of defensible space
Santa Cruz South - Coastal

The Santa Cruz South – Coastal planning area covers the south westernmost section of Santa Cruz County, from Aptos south to the City of Watsonville and the Monterey County Line. The entire planning area is home to high population densities. The largest are found in the developed communities of Aptos, La Selva and City of Watsonville. There are also many residences located in the undeveloped areas along major intersecting roadways such as Freedom Blvd, Corralitos and Pleasant Valley Road.

Recent significant fire history in this planning area includes the Trabing Fire in June of 2008. In that fire, 630 acres were consumed and 26 residential structures were destroyed.

Fuels within the planning area differ throughout the landscape. In the northern portion of the planning area, fuels are composed of primarily mixed conifer, with a brush component near the ridges. In the southern portion of the planning area, the dominant fuels are hardwood and grasses, with a smaller mixed conifer component.
The planning area is home to various fire jurisdictions including:

- Santa Cruz County Fire
- CAL FIRE
- Aptos La Selva Fire Protection District
- Watsonville Fire Department
- Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District

The following volunteer companies respond to emergencies within the planning area:

- Corralitos Volunteer Fire Department

Other agencies with large properties within this planning area include:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- CAL FIRE – Demonstration State Forest
- Santa Cruz County Parks
- Department of Fish and Game
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Additional landowners within the planning area include:

- Private residences
- Managed Timberland
- Undeveloped private ownerships
- Ranchland
- Agriculture

**Assets at Risk – As identified through stakeholder meetings**

Communities/Neighborhoods

- Life and property are always considered the dominant asset at risk.
- Trabing
• La Selva Beach
• Day Valley
• Aptos Hills
• Redwood Drive

Other – Non-environmental
• Schools

Environmental
• Protection of Parkland (all agencies)
• Watershed Protection
• Managed timberland
• Wildlife

**Project Priority**
In addition to those areas identified above, more specific HIGH priority areas were identified at public and agency meetings. Those areas have been highlighted in “Green” on the following map. Those areas not currently identified as HIGH priority on the map should still be considered priority areas in terms of recommendations proposed by this plan. The Highlighted areas are those areas stakeholders consider the priority areas for fuel reduction projects.

Of the areas highlighted, fuel reduction projects needed include:
• Roadside fuel reduction
  o Improved ingress/egress for emergency responders
  o Improved ingress/egress for citizens
  o Strategic fuel breaks for fire fighting
• Shaded fuel breaks
  o Defensible space for communities
- Strategic placement for wildland fire operations
  - Fuel reduction around homes
    - Creation/Improvement/Maintenance of defensible space
Santa Cruz South - Coastal CWPP Planning Area 2010

Adjacent Planning Areas

Fuel Rank Hazard

Santa Cruz County CWPP

Moderate
High
Very High