

SWIFT

SouthWest InterFace Team



"A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP SINCE 1999"

Southwest Interface Project **WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION**

Program of Work
C.Y. 2007 & 2008



SouthWest InterFace Team
SWIFT

Leadership – Commitment – Dedication – Team Work
Tuolumne and Mariposa County, California
MARCH 2007

Southwest Interface Project
Program of Work
C.Y. 2007 & 2008
TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Executive Summary</i>	1
<i>The Team</i>	2
<i>Project Location</i>	3
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	4
<i>Strategic Fire Protection</i>	5
<i>Project Accomplishments</i>	6, 7
 <i>Activity Status</i>	
Fuel Breaks	8
Prescribed Burning	9
Roadside Corridor Hazard Reduction	10
Mechanical Mastication	11
Miscellaneous Fuel Treatments	12
 <i>The Program of Work C.Y. 2007 & 2008</i>	
The Fuel Breaks	13, 14
The Prescribed Burns	15, 16
The Miscellaneous Project Activities	17 - 19
The Road Corridor Hazard Reduction Projects	19
The Long Shanahan Fuel Reduction & Forest Health	20
The Fire Safe Council Coordination	20 – 21
 <i>Program of Work – Project Activity Summary</i>	22 – 24
 <i>Wildland Fire Suppression – Success Cases</i>	25 - 30



**California Fire
Safe Council**

Mariposa County

South West InterFace Team

SWIFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For over 8 years the collaborative partnership called SWIFT has worked to mitigate the wildland fire problems in southern Tuolumne and northern Mariposa County. Utilizing strategic fire protection planning, and many different methods of implementing protection systems in the field, the work continues. Of the 132,000 acres within the project area over 13,500 acres have been treated. Primary efforts have been aimed at strategic fire defense system implementation, and development of a comprehensive pre-attack map.

The team made up of 7 agencies and 2 fire safe councils has worked in a collaborative manner since its start in March of 1999. Public involvement has been by direct agency contacts and through Fire Safe Council activities. Many presentations have been given to County Boards of Supervisors, agency leaders, at conferences, and to the public dealing with SWIFT activities over the years.

Every 2 years the team develops a Program of Work. This program of work is a coordinated effort that is approved by the team, and indicates what will be done over the next 2 year period. Timing, locations, responsibilities, coordination, support, and other factors are considered in the program of work. As budgets and programs change, so does the program of work.

The 2007 through 2008 Program of Work has a heavy commitment to maintenance of fire defense systems that were constructed during the first few years of the project. Our efforts in this case are to not loose our investments completed in prior years.

Thanks to agency leaders, boards of supervisors, the public and others that have supported the Southwest Interface Project for so many years.

The Team

AGENCIES & COUNCILS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
Tuolumne/Calaveras Ranger Unit
Madera/Mariposa/Merced Ranger Unit

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Folsom Resource Area

FOREST SERVICE
Groveland Ranger District-Stanislaus National Forest

MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Mariposa County California

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Tuolumne County California

CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Hetch Hetchy Water & Power

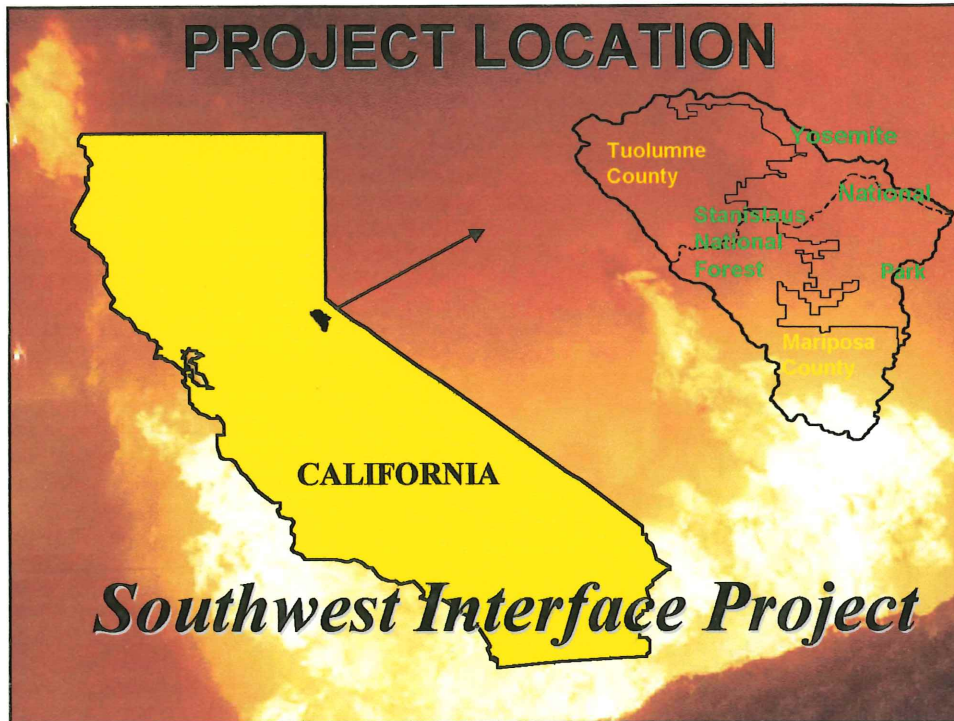
CENTRAL SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
Mariposa County California

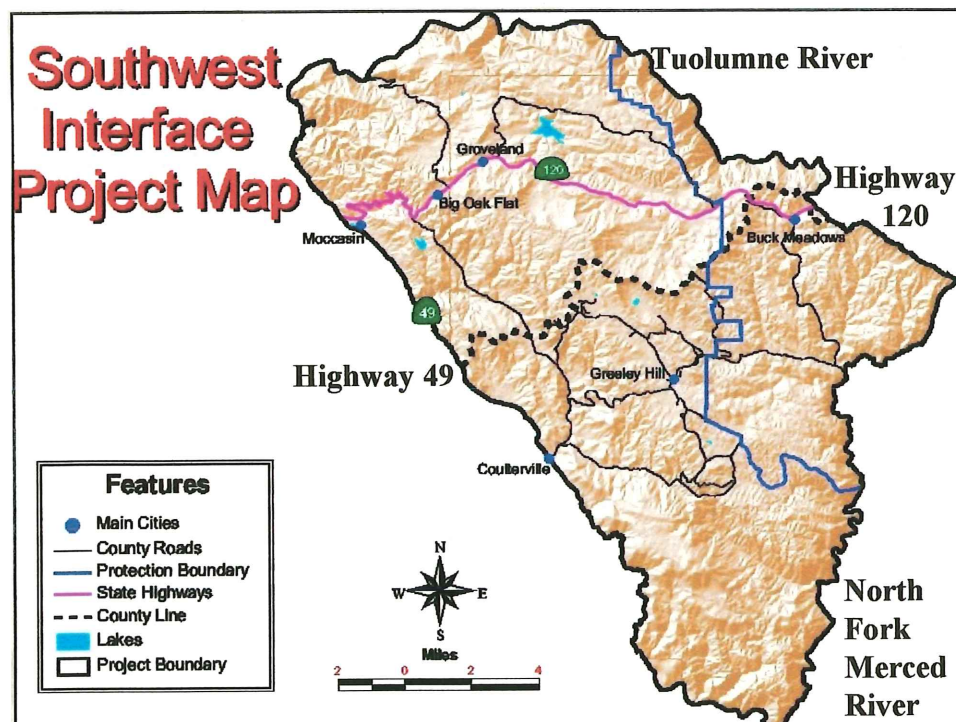
YOSEMITE FOOTHILLS FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
Tuolumne County California

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in central California on the west side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. It lies in the northwest corner of Mariposa County, and the southeast portion of Tuolumne County.



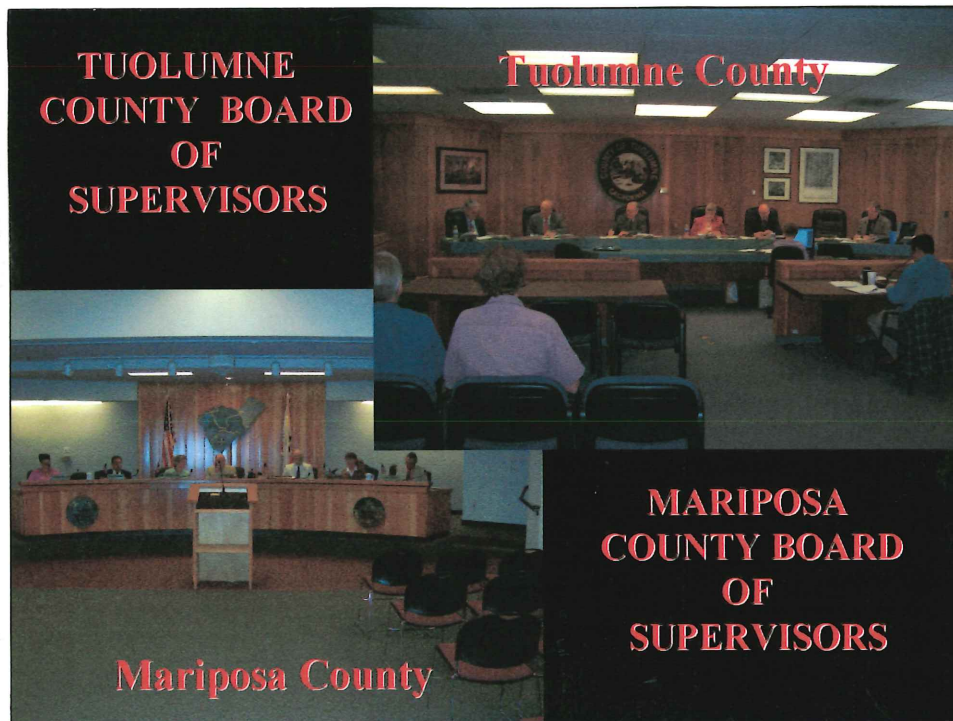
The main Tuolumne River is the boundary on the north of the project. Highway 49 is on the west and south, and the North Fork of the Merced River serves as the boundary to the east. Ten small communities are within the project area.



Acknowledgments

Firefighting budgets decrease, record fire seasons, forests become more flammable, homes are being built in record numbers in fire-prone areas, potentials for global warming exists, and more people are not acting to protect their property in responsible ways. Fire numbers, acres burned, and property and lives lost are at record levels.

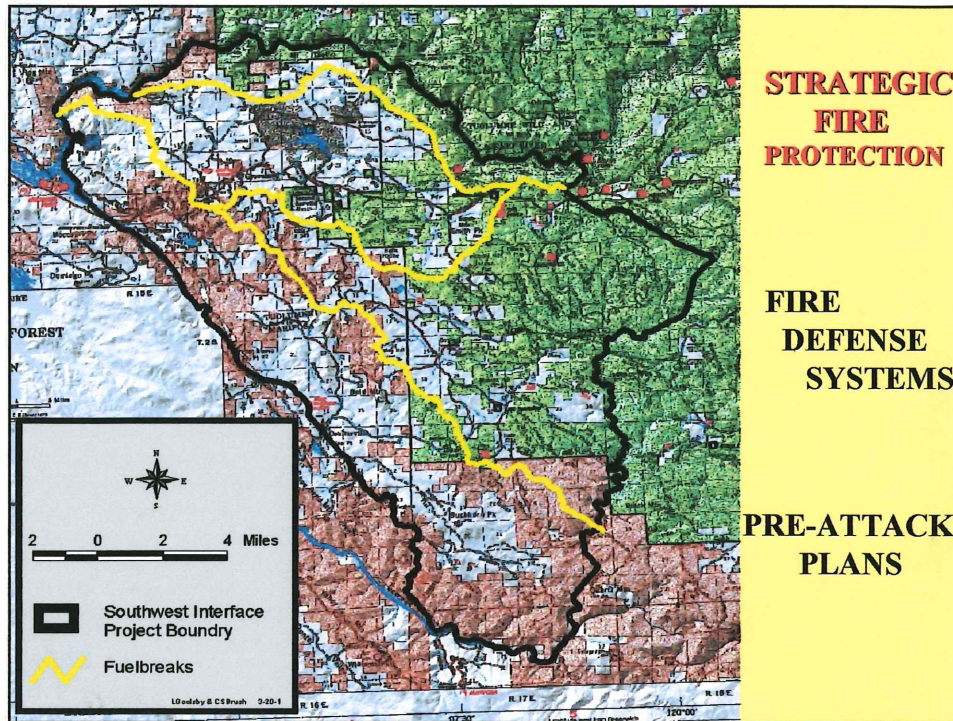
SWIFT sees these threats and continues to try and mitigate wildfire losses by utilizing a strategic fire planning and implementation strategy in the project area. Supported by the Board of Supervisors from Mariposa and Tuolumne County, a Resource Advisory Committee, Fire Safe Council personnel, agency leaders, and various members of the public and other organizations, the team continues with its efforts.



Thanks to not only the representatives working directly on the team, but those that have supported the team indirectly for over 7 years. A special thanks to Hetch Hetchy Water & Power for hosting the group with a meeting room and refreshments for many years.

*Thomas E. James
SWIFT Coordinator*

Strategic Fire Protection



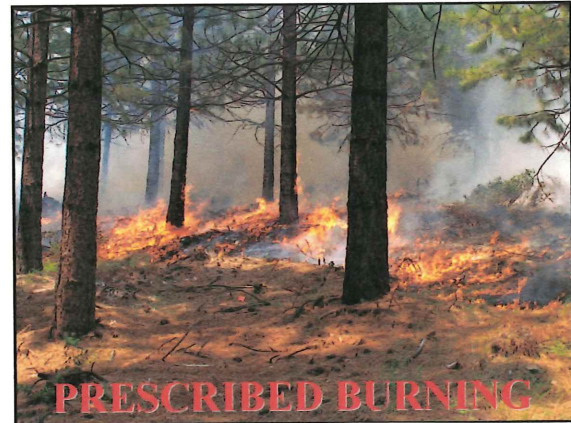
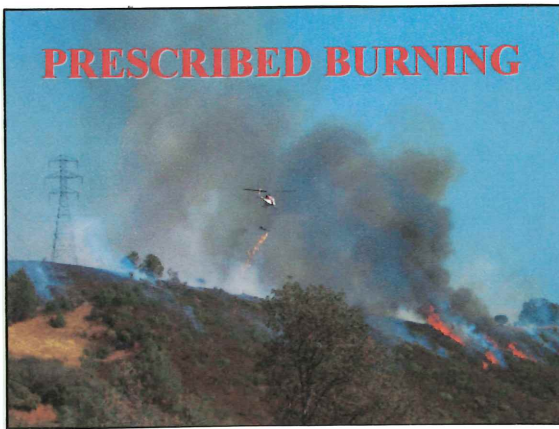
From the beginning, the Southwest Interface Project has been to implement a strategic fire protection plan and develop fire defense systems, and a pre-attack plan. The pre-attack plan has been completed. The fire defense systems require a long-term effort followed by timely system maintenance.

Fire history in the area indicates that the majority of the more serious fires occur in August and September. Many of the fires burn from the southwest towards the northeast, due to topography and local wind directions. Fire defense systems in the area that are identified as “strategic”, generally run in east to west or west to east directions. Past fire suppression activities in the area have given a good indication of many of the most safe and defensible locations at which to take a stand. Primary ridgelines and key road corridors have been pre-identified by priority for various fuel reduction treatments. As mentioned, over 60 miles of hazardous fuel reduction has occurred in these areas.

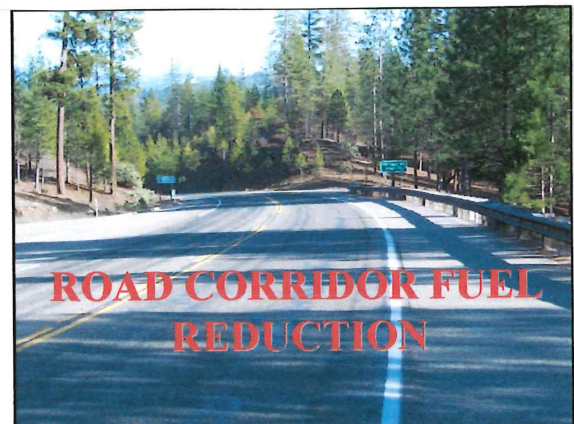
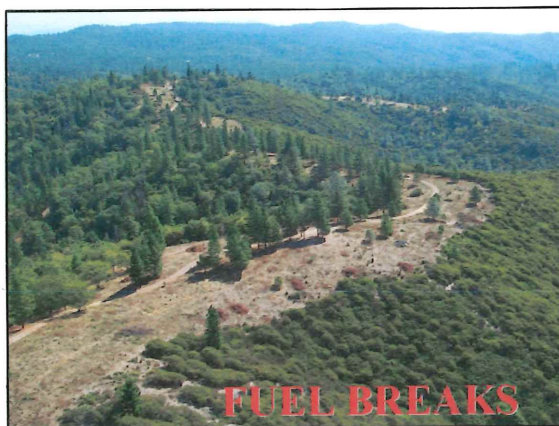
PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over 13,600 acres treated

PREScribed BURNING – Using both broadcast and pile burning 4,250 acres have been treated within the project.



FUEL BREAKS AND ROADSIDE HAZARD REDUCTION – 42 miles of shaded fuel break has been constructed in strategic locations throughout the area. In addition, over 17 miles of roadside hazard reduction has been completed on primary road systems.



MECHANICAL MASTICATION (SHREDDING) – Significant acreage within the project has been treated with mechanical masticators. This accounts for 6,902 acres. This shredding has been done on both agency, and private lands.

MISCELLANEOUS TREATMENTS – Use of goat grazing, pruning, mowing, and other types are identified as “miscellaneous”. These account for 2,471 acres.



Accomplishments

Prescribed Burning	4,250 Acres
Fuel Breaks	43 Miles
Roadside Hazard Reduction	17 Miles
Mechanical Mastication (Shred)	6,902 Acres
Miscellaneous Treatments	2,471 Acres
	60 MILES
	13,623 ACRES

MAY 2007
4,461 211

2693 222

13,623
433
14,056

ACTIVITY STATUS

FUEL BREAKS

There are over 56 miles of primary fuel breaks designated for treatment and long-term maintenance within the project area. These key fuel breaks are located in strategic locations in three specific areas. All can be found in areas where previous systems existed. Their locations are strategic based on topography, fuel types, weather factors, firefighter safety, suppression capabilities, and their ability to provide maximum protection during wildfire events.



Fuel Break Treatment Status

Fuel Break Identification	Total Miles	Miles Completed	Miles To Treat
Ponderosa Fuel Break (Mariposa System)	13 miles	11 miles	2 miles
Ponderosa Fuel Break (Tuolumne System)	13 miles	12 miles	1 miles
Rim Truck Fuel Break	15 miles	10 miles	5 miles
Wagner Fuel Break	15 miles	8 miles	7 miles
Totals	56 miles	41 miles	15 miles

ACTIVITY STATUS**PRESCRIBED BURNING**

Prescribed burning has been used throughout the project area on large helitorch operations to small pile burning activities. The burns have been directed at reducing fuel loads in areas that support strategic fire protection measures. Watershed and property protection have been the main objectives of the helitorch burning, and the pile burning has mainly been in support of road corridor and fuel break efforts.

**Prescribed Burning Status**

Prescribed Burn Name	Type of Burn	Acres Treated	Planned Acres	Timing
Coulterville VMP	Helitorch	1,230 acres		1999
Greeley Hill VMP	Helitorch		1,600 acres	2007
Roadside Piles (HY-120)	Pile Burning	140 acres	160 acres	On-going
Hetchy-Anker (#1)	Helitorch & Hand Fire	650 acres	450 acres	2002 & 2007
Crook Ranch VMP	Hand Fire	40 acres		2006
Miscellaneous (FB, etc.)	Hand Fire	2,190 acres		99-2006
	Totals	4,250 acres	2,210 acres	

ROADSIDE CORRIDOR HAZARD REDUCTION

ACTIVITY STATUS

A number of primary road systems can be found within and adjacent to the project area. Depending on their locations many are considered as strategic fire defense systems. The effort by SWIFT is to place high emphasis on the reduction of hazardous fuels along these corridors. As with the fuel breaks the goal is to establish a defendable fire suppression zone where firefighter's can safely apply sound fire suppression techniques.



Hazard Reduction on Road Corridors

Road System Name-#	Treated Acres/miles	Planned Treatment	Timing
Highway 120 (Eastern Corridor)	Est. 3 miles/144 acres	1 mile	on-going
Highway 120 (Western Corridor)		Est. 2 miles	on-going
J132	Est. 2 miles		
Highway 49	Est. 2 miles		
Ferretti Road	Est. 3 miles		
Dogtown	Est. 1 ½ mile		
Misc. FB's/Other	5.5 miles	Est. 5 miles+	on-going
Totals	17 Miles	8 Miles	

ACTIVITY STATUS MECHANICAL MASTICATION

The use of large mechanical masticators that shred various types of vegetation have been used extensively over the last few years. Refinements in the type of cutting heads used on the equipment have greatly improved the type of fuel beds that remain after treatment. Thousands of acres have been treated with this method to include fuel breaks, plantations, roadside corridors, transmission lines, and other areas on both public and private lands.



Mechanical Mastication

Treatment Area Identification	Estimated Acreage
Fuel Breaks	3,168 acres
Plantations	1,632 acres
Road Corridors	721 acres
Transmission Lines	329 acres
Miscellaneous Areas	1,052 acres
Estimated total Acres	6,902 acres

MISCELLANEOUS FUEL TREATMENTS

ACTIVITY STATUS

Various other types of fuel treatment methods have been used within the project area to reduce the fuel hazard in specific areas. Goat grazing, crush and burn, dozer and hand pile to burn, chipping, and various other methods are used depending on cost, availability, topography and other factors. In many areas a combination of treatment types is used to accomplish the objective.



Miscellaneous Treatments

Estimates were made on the amounts of acres treated in many isolated activities on both public and private lands. The acreage considers the following types of fuel treatments applied:

**Hand Pile & Burn
Dozer Pile & Burn
Goat Grazing
Chipping
Crushing
Crush & Burn
Hand-Fire Broadcast Burning
Pruning**

Total estimated acres 2,471 acres

SOUTHWEST INTERFACE PROJECTS

Program of Work 2007 & 2008

The Fuel Breaks:

There are 3 primary fuel breaks within the project area that have been identified as strategic fire defense systems. Considerable effort has been made by the team to identify, construct, and maintain these three systems. They include the Ponderosa, Wagner, and Rim Truck Fuel Breaks. Approximately 56 miles of these systems remain in the program of work for 2007 & 2008. These shaded fuel breaks are found on the predominant ridgelines running through the project area. Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and private lands make up the ownership patterns. The California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection has "Direct Protection Authority" (DPA) over much of the area where the fuel breaks exist. Work by all the managing and protecting agencies, in addition to grant support through the Fire Safe Councils has allowed over 41 miles of these systems to be completed. Major efforts at this point are to maintain the work that has been done and complete any areas that need actual fuel break construction. Ponderosa, Wagner, and Rim Truck Fuel Breaks have the highest priority for completion based on their strategic fire defense system values. Construction and maintenance activities are, when possible, guided by these priorities.

*The **Ponderosa Fuel Break** is the first line of defense from fires originating along Highway 49, that move north or northeasterly based on topography, weather, and fuel types. The majority of the residential concentrations within the project are located just to the northeast of the ridgeline where the fuel break is being constructed and maintained. This system was an essential part of the strategic wildfire protection plan for the project. The system runs northwesterly from the North Fork of the Merced River to Lake Don Pedro. Approximately 26 miles of fuel break of which 23 miles have been completed, and 3 miles remain to be constructed. Maintenance of the areas done in past years are of the highest priority.*

*The **Wagner Fuel Break** was identified as the second most important fuel break system, and ties into the Ponderosa system near Big Oak Flat. It is a second line of defense from fires that may breach the Ponderosa system or start in areas that lie between the two predominant ridge lines. The system runs westerly from the Smith Station Road (J132) to its tie with the Ponderosa system south of Big Oak Flat. The old existing part of the fuel break was used extensively during the 2001 Creek Fire. The system is approximately 15 miles in length of which about 8 miles have been completed. Certain areas just need piles burned that were left after the Creek Fire.*

*The **Rim Truck Fuel Break** is the third priority. In 1987 and 1996 many local residents in the Groveland area would have said it should be top priority. The Stanislaus Complex, and the Rogge Fire indicated the threat that existed in the main Tuolumne River Canyon.*

This system is being developed to mitigate the canyon threat from fires that either jump the river from the north side or originate in the canyon bottom on the south side of the river. Fires coming out of this canyon would definitely be a serious threat to the many communities that lie to the south of the canyon rim. The system runs westerly from the South Fork of the Tuolumne River to near Tip Top Peak and a tie with the Ponderosa system in Big Oak Flat. Approximately 15 miles of fuel break of which 10 miles have been completed. Field layout is still being done for a portion of the system.

RIM TRUCK FUEL BREAK



Near South Fork of the Tuolumne River on the canyon rim

PONDEROSA FUEL BREAK



Western portion of Bandarita Ridge near private corner

WAGNER FUEL BREAK



Near the corner of Garrottee And Wagner Ridges

The Prescribed Burns:

Many acres of prescribed burning have occurred within the project using both aerial and ground firing methods. Objectives have been varied based on different agency and cooperator needs. Use of a helitorch occurs on the larger acreage areas with complex fuel and topography situations. Pile burning is a common treatment, and usually is ongoing during the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Based on the burn and environmental plan requirements of many of the large broadcast prescribed burns some are cancelled in the later stages of the operation. Four large Vegetation Management Projects (VMP) have been completed or planned within the project area. The Coulterville, Greeley Hill, Hetchy-Anker, and Crook Ranch VMP's.

SWIFT does not establish priorities on any of the burns planned or conducted. The burn is done when approvals, dollars, and resources are available, and the agency is ready to commit. Burning is conducted to remove hazardous fuels on fuel breaks, along road corridors, in thinned areas, adjacent to private lands, and for many various resource benefits. Most of the projects treated with prescribed burning within the SWIFT area have multiple benefits.

*The **Coulterville (Boneyard) VMP** was completed in the Fall of 1999. Approximately 2,100 acres were treated by broadcast burning, using a combination hand firing and helitorch operation. The burn was located just north and west of Coulterville between the Priest-Coulterville Road and Highway 49. The objectives were range improvement and hazard reduction. MMMU-CDF was the lead agency.*

*The **Greeley Hill VMP** is planned for the Fall of 2007. It is located to the west of Greeley Hill, and southwest of the Ponderosa Fuel Break which serves as the northeast boundary for the burn. It is estimated to be 1,600 acres, and the fuel is heavy mixed brush. Bill Hodson the Coulterville Battalion Chief with MMMU-CDF is the project coordinator. Most of the fire lines needed to burn the area have already been established. Treatment of this area will be a very key part of the protection plan for Greeley Hill and other small communities to the east and north of the project.*

*The **Hetchy-Anker VMP** was initially planned for approximately 1,100 acres of prescribed burning by both hand firing and use of a helitorch. Half of the area was treated in the Fall of 2002. The rest of the area will most likely not receive treatment based a number of factors. The objective was to reduce fuel on both public and private lands including those of Hetch-Hetchy Water & Power. Treatment for the protection of the water quality in Priest Reservoir was a primary consideration for doing the burn.*

*The **Crook Ranch VMP-CFIP** includes an area of approximately 793 acres. 56 acres were burned in the Fall of 2006. This is an area on the Crook Ranch just northwest of Groveland where different treatments are being conducted for hazard reduction and range improvement. It is anticipated that this will be a long-term project over many years, and be very favorable to both fire protection efforts and improvement of the range for cattle. Prop 40 dollar support.*

*The **Wagner/Gookin VMP-CFIP** is northerly from Pine Mountain Lake and on the rim of the Tuolumne River Canyon. Acres are not known at this time, but the objectives include hazard reduction which will benefit PML, and many of the other communities south of the river canyon. The area is accessed by use of Clements Road to the north. Work completed in the area will support the Rim Truck Fuel Break which runs east and west along the rim. Prop 40 dollar support.*

BONEYARD VMP



*Northwest of Coulterville
along Highway 49*

*The **Pile Burning** effort has been substantial with hundreds of acres completed on numerous projects. Burning along road corridors, in plantations, on fuel breaks, under power lines, and in many areas has continued since the SWIFT project was started. Almost all agencies on the team have had personnel assigned to various types of burning projects. It is anticipated that the pile burning efforts will continue for many years in support of the projects identified within the SWIFT area.*

PRIEST RESERVOIR AREA



*West side of Priest Reservoir
with CDC crews pile burning*

The Miscellaneous Project Activities:

SWIFT continues to implement a number of different project activities that support the wildfire protection objectives for the area. Based on the need to maintain many actions under a long term posture, the team works to ensure agencies keep the maintenance on specific projects a top priority. The following list of projects existing or planned are key to the overall strategic wildfire protection objectives within the project area:

Fire Effects Research Project

Pre-Attack Mapping

Priest Reservoir Water Quality Protection

HHW&P Transmission Line Hazard Reduction

SWIFT Power Point Awareness Programs

Defensible Space PPT

Highway 120 Demonstration Project

*The **Fire Effects Research Project** was initiated following the 2001 Creek Fire within the SWIFT area. The intent was to look at fire frequency effects on soil organic matter, vegetation, and runoff in chaparral shrub lands of the Sierra Nevada Foothills. This was a University of California Cooperative Extension-Tuolumne County project through the University of California, Davis, Department of Land, air, and Water Resources. Various grants supported the project research operations. A number of plots in the Priest Reservoir area need to be lined and burned at different times. SWIFT will work with the researchers in the future to help meet the project objectives.*

*The **Pre-Attack Mapping** was a critical element of the overall strategic fire protection plan. The team worked for many years to determine what would provide emergency service personnel the pre, during, and post fire information they may need in the best format. The result was a single map that was easy to maintain and distribute, economic, very easy to interpret, and contained all pertinent information. The information on the map will continue to be reviewed and up-dated on a semi-annual basis.*

*The **Priest Reservoir Water Quality Protection** was aimed at reducing some of the heavy fuel loading that existed around the reservoir. Protection of this reservoir from the effects of wildfires in the area was critical. Use of goats, prescribed fire both ground and aerial, piling and burning, and combinations of all were used to reduce the fuel loading. Approximately 260 acres were treated over a number of years. The maintenance of the area from re-sprouting will be an on-going effort if HHW&P chooses to maintain the reduced fuel areas.*

*The **HHW&P Transmission Line Hazard Reduction** has continued over many years. This is a wildfire prevention tool, but also has the potential for stopping the spread of wildfires under certain conditions. The fuels under these high voltage lines are reduced in such a way that canopy fires may well drop to the ground in specific areas during wildfire incidents. Fires with moderate or low spread rates could be suppressed under these lines under approved, safe conditions. They are also useful in some prescribed burning operations for holding and firing. It is anticipated that work will continue with regard to the initial hazard reduction, and long term maintenance under these transmission lines.*

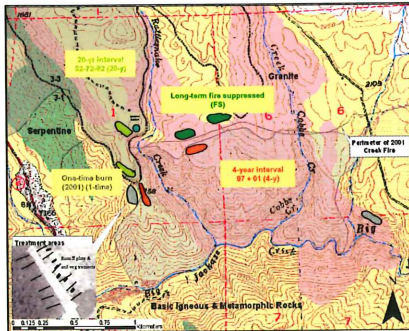
*The **SWIFT Power Point Awareness Programs** were developed to use in a multitude of information and awareness contacts both to agency personnel, and with the public. There are currently two programs that are self running, last approximately 10 minutes, and have background music. The first program was completed in 2002, and another was just developed in 2006. Over 30+ presentations have been given using the programs from local Fire Safe Councils to National Fire Conferences. The first program was developed for basically any type of audience, and the second program is geared more to boards of supervisor's, agency personnel, and those with some knowledge of wildfire and conservation. These programs will continue to be used, as needed.*

*The **Defensible Space PPT** was recently developed to help explain the requirements of the new "Reduced Fuel Zone" regulations that will become law in July of this year. The program has 76 photos, and lasts about 6 minutes. The start of the program concerns some fire history and statistics followed by some specific details on the Defensible Space requirements. Other programs are also being developed that will most likely replace this one.*

*The **Highway 120 Demonstration Project** is located just on the west side of the town of Groveland on the north side of Highway 120. The project covers approximately 27 acres, and is expected to bring a great deal of interest to not only agency personnel, but many in the private sector. The project calls for mastication (mechanical shredding), followed by herbicide application. The equipment that will be used to shred the vegetation is from the southeastern United States, and has just recently been used on the west coast. The project is planned to be completed this spring. The project should generate much interest based on the equipment to be used.*

FIRE EFFECTS RESEARCH PROJECT

Study Site and Fire History



We overlaid digital fire history and soil map layers to identify sites with four different fire histories on two soil types.

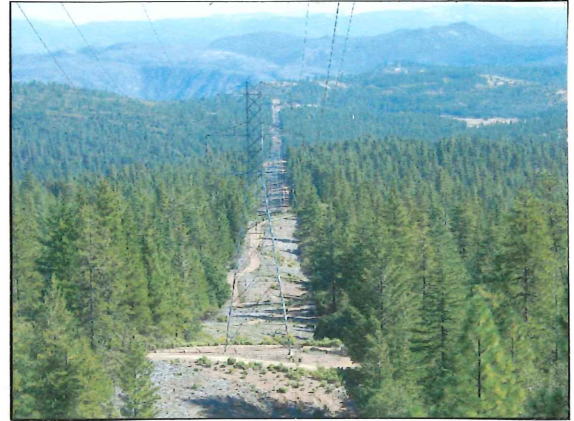
Our study site lies in a high fire-hazard zone where recurring catastrophic fires create overlaying recovery patterns and motivate fire management agencies to identify strategic fuel management approaches.



The 2001 Creek Fire burned 11,000 acres, destroyed 20 homes, and threatened four up-country communities.

*UC Davis-CE-TC frequency effects study
Moccasin area*

TRANSMISSION LINES



*HHW&P high voltage lines
Second Garrotte*

The Road Corridor Hazard Reduction Projects:

Major efforts continue to be placed on fuel treatments along pre-identified road corridors. When SWIFT began discussing a strategic fire plan for the area, a key consideration was the need to treat primary road system corridors as fire defense systems. Priorities were established with regard to which roads needed the highest attention. A number of road corridors have received treatments in specific areas. They include: Ferretti, Priest-Coulterville, Smith Station-J132, Highway 120, and along Highway 49 during the Boneyard VMP.

The main road system that was designated as the highest priority for treatment was Highway 120. This State Highway bisects the project area from east to west, and is a primary route into Yosemite National Park. Based on its location, topography, weather patterns, fire history, and potential fire suppression opportunities, the highway can very easily serve as a major fire defense system in the area.

The **Highway 120 Road Corridor Hazard Reduction Project** was initiated shortly after SWIFT was organized. It currently considers an area on both sides of the highway from the South Fork of the Tuolumne River to near Tenaya School just east of Groveland. There are plans to continue work in the future all the way to the Yosemite National Park boundary. The Park has done considerable work on their road corridors to the east. Generally work is done by hand, or in some cases with mechanical masticators for a distance of approximately 150 foot from the roadside edge. Work on both agency lands, and in some areas on private land, has been significant. This work is planned to continue with a number of agencies participating in the project. The Forest Service has done commendable work from the top of Second Garrotte east to the Hells Hollow area. CDF working with the Fire Safe Council is expected to treat the fuels from Second Garrotte west towards Groveland, using grant funding.

The Long Shanahan Fuel Reduction & Forest Health Project:

A significant project mainly aimed at fuel reduction is being proposed by the Forest Service on both sides of Highway 120 in the Shanahan Flat, Ferretti, Kassabaum Meadow, and Hells Hollow area. The area has an extensive fire history, and is highly susceptible to large, high intensity wildfires. SWIFT supports this project effort fully, and hopes that the project becomes a reality.

*The **Long Shanahan Project** has for decades been in an area with extreme fire potential for catastrophic fire. Homes, people, heavy fuels, and limited access, combined with numerous recent large fire events indicate the need for extensive fire protection measures. The Long Shanahan Project as proposed will not only reduce the risk for significant fire loss to life, property, and resources, but will enhance fire suppression activities to protect surrounding areas.*

This project supports the strategic wildfire protection plan identified under the Southwest Interface Project (SWIFT) in the following ways:

- *Improves wildfire suppression abilities on primary road systems in the area – Highway 120, Ferretti and Smith Station Roads.*
- *Improves wildfire suppression abilities on most secondary road systems in the area.*
- *Improves access and egress for emergency service activities, and public evacuations.*
- *Supports all primary, secondary, and tertiary fuel breaks in and adjacent to the area.*
- *Reduces fuel loading across the area limiting fire spread and high intensity fuel buildups.*
- *Initiates efforts to protect a “community at risk” within the WUI.*

The Fire Safe Council Coordination:

Personnel working on the Southwest Interface Project had immediate contacts with the newly formed Fire Safe Councils from both Mariposa and Tuolumne County. Kimberly Bullock became the Coordinator for the Mariposa Council, and Nancy Longmore served as Coordinator, and on the Board of Director's with the Yosemite Foothills Council. Council and agency people have continued to work together for years in making sure a coordinated program of work met all participants needs. Both Councils have obtained grants that provide funding for conducting various types of fire protection measures within the SWIFT project area. This coordination has allowed for field accomplishments in addition to out-year co-op protection plan development. The current Fire Safe Councils organizations are as follows:

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council
Director (Chair) – Jan Hamilton
Coordinator-Kimberly Bullock

Greeley Hill Fire Safe Committee-Dawn Leitzell

Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council
Director (Chair)-Kelly Bearden
Acting Coordinator-K. Bearden

ROAD CORRIDOR TREATMENTS



*Hazardous fuel treatments actions
along Highway 120*

LONG – SHANAHAN PROJECT



*Long – Shanahan Fuel Reduction
and Forest Health Project area*

FIRE SAFE COUNCILS



Mariposa County Fire Safe Council



Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council

PROGRAM OF WORK
Project Activity Summary
C.Y. 2007 & 2008

SouthWest InterFace Project

Project Identification	Planned Activity	Timing	Responsibility & Coordination
<i>Ponderosa Fuel Break (Total 26 miles)</i>	<i>Maintain 6 miles (Min 3/year) New Const. 2 Miles</i>	<i>2007 & 2008 By 2008</i>	<i>CDF-both Units, FS, BLM J132-1 mile(FS), Co. Line-1 mile(CDF)</i>
<i>Wagner Fuel Break (Total 15 miles)</i>	<i>Maintain 2 miles New Const. 1 mile</i>	<i>2007 2008 2008</i>	<i>South of HH-1 mile (CDF-FS) Big Oak - 1 mile (CDF) J132 tie (FS)</i>
<i>Rim Truck Fuel Break (Total 15 miles)</i>	<i>Maintain 2 miles Const. 2 miles</i>	<i>2007 & 2008 By 2008</i>	<i>4 miles (BLM) PML-FB(CDF)</i>
<i>Coulterville (Boneyard) (2,100 acres VMP)</i>	<i>No action</i>		
<i>Greeley Hill VMP (1,600 acres)</i>	<i>Planned prescribed burn</i>	<i>Fall 2007</i>	<i>Est. 1,600 acres by (MMU-CDF)</i>
<i>Hetchy-Anker VMP (1,100 acres)</i>	<i>Approximately half treated</i>	<i>Unknown Doubtful</i>	<i>Initial 3 party plan (HHW&P-TC-CDF- BLM)</i>
<i>Crook Ranch VMP- CFIP (793 acres)</i>	<i>Planned annual treatments</i>	<i>2007 & 2008 on-going</i>	<i>Est. 50 to 100 acres each Fall- (TC-CDF)</i>
<i>Wagner/Gookin VMP CFIP (Acres unknown)</i>	<i>Reduce fuel loads</i>	<i>Under consideration</i>	<i>(TC-CDF)</i>

<i>Pile Burning (Acres unknown)</i>	<i>Many support burn operations are done annually by all agencies on numerous projects</i>	<i>2007 & 2008 on-going</i>	<i>All agencies</i>
<i>Fire Effects Research Project (Est. 7 plots to burn)</i>	<i>Work with CETC Identify needs</i>	<i>2007 & 2008</i>	<i>Burn plots (TC-CDF, & Research group)</i>
<i>Pre-Attack Mapping</i>	<i>Maintain up-dates on semi-annual basis – see CDs</i>	<i>2007 & 2008 on-going</i>	<i>Core team members (all)</i>
<i>Priest Reservoir Water Quality Protection (260 acres)</i>	<i>Determined by HHW&P program of work – fuel reduction</i>	<i>As identified</i>	<i>(HHW&P)</i>
<i>HHW&P Transmission Line Hazard Reduction</i>	<i>As required</i>	<i>As identified 2007 & 2008 On-going</i>	<i>(HHW&P)</i>
<i>SWIFT Power Point Awareness Programs (Original ppt, follow-up, and 20 year history)</i>	<i>Utilize programs as identified on the presentation schedule</i>	<i>See schedule on-going 2007 & 2008</i>	<i>All agencies and FSC personnel</i>
<i>Defensible Space PPT</i>	<i>Continue work with CDF & others to develop a program that meets all needs</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>(SWIFT)</i>
<i>Highway 120 Demonstration Project (27 acres)</i>	<i>Support & learn from this demo project & get public involved to support fuel treatments on pvt. Land</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>(TC-CDF)</i>

*Highway 120 Road
Corridor Hazard
Reduction Project
(Est. 3 miles to complete
eastern corridor)*

*Continue efforts to
complete initial
segments*

*2007 & 2008
on-going*

*Est. 2 miles by (TC-
CDF, 1 mile by FS)*

*Long-Shanhan Fuel
Reduction & Forest
Health Project
(5,000+ acres)*

*Support efforts to
to have this project
come on-line*

Not identified (FS)

*Fire Safe Council
Coordination*

*Continue working
with the FSC's on the
Team. Implement
actions that support
FSC & agency project
Objectives*

2007 & 2008 (All agencies)



Southwest Interface Project

Wildland Fire Suppression *Success Cases*

February 2007

The Southwest Interface Project was initiated in March of 1999 as an effort to provide a higher level of wildfire protection in an area of repeated catastrophic wildfire history. The area is located in southern Tuolumne and northern Mariposa counties, where there have been significant losses not only to property and natural resources, but also to life. Six firefighters have lost their lives fighting wildfires in the area, the most recent occurring in 2004.

The project objective was to develop and implement a strategic wildfire protection plan for the area. Critical components of the plan were to implement and maintain strategic fire defense systems by treating the fuels on fuel breaks, road corridors, and other pre-identified areas. Developing a pre-attack plan was of equal importance. A great deal of this work has been completed.

Over the last 6 fire seasons a number of wildfire incidents have occurred, and indicators are that the work completed within the project area has been successful in mitigating wildfire losses. A number of success cases, described in some detail are as follows.

Creek Fire (2001 - 11,000+ acres) A large portion of the southeastern flank of this fire was contained by use of previous lines constructed for the Boneyard VMP, a prescribed burn completed in 1999. The burn project considerably reduced the fuels within the area and contributed significantly to the containment of the fire on this flank. Had the fire not been stopped in this area, the communities of Coulterville and Greeley Hill would have been under a considerably higher level of threat.

Creek Fire (2001 - 11,000+ acres) Approximately one and one-half miles of secondary fuel break which was established in previous years along the Mariposa-Tuolumne County line held a significant fire run on the northeast corner of this fire. Suppression efforts along this fuel break were effective in stopping the spread of the fire. Failure of containment of the fire along this fuel break could have resulted in significant property losses in the Hells Hollow area.

Big Creek Shaft-Creek Fire (2004 - Approximately 60 acres) The fire started near the base of a south-facing slope at the upper end of the Big Creek Shaft Road. It was during the early spring, and the fire made a significant run up-slope pushed by a 15 to 20 mile per hour westerly wind event. The fire was burning in the canopy of a large brush field, but dropped to the ground when it hit a secondary fuel break on the top of the ridge. The fuel break had been shredded in 1999. The fire did slop over the ridge, but was lined fairly quickly. Had the fire continued its northeasterly run, in a very short time it would have threatened Yosemite Estates, a retirement community with 60+ homes.

Converse Fire (2005 - Approximately 70+ acres) The fire started by a small lake and moved northeasterly and proceeded to burn up a southwest facing slope. The fire was contained on the ridgeline after it entered an area of the Wagner Fuel Break constructed in 2001 during the Creek Fire. Some spots occurred, but both ground and air resources were able to contain the fire on the ridge. Wagner Ridge is a primary fuel break within the SWIFT area. Had the fire continued its northeasterly run it would have quickly threatened both the Hells Hollow and Smith Station Road areas. Numerous homes are located in these areas.

Converse Fire (2005 - Pre-Attack Map Use) The Converse fire occurred just shortly after the pre-attack map for the project area was distributed for team member review. It was used on this fire very successfully, and indicated that the information on the map was of benefit to the responding fire agencies. A CD of the map and all technical data needed to make copies, up-date, and meet distribution needs, has been distributed to the various agencies.

As another fire season approaches, the Team will continue to monitor all fire activities that may be influenced by actions taken by SWIFT since its beginning in 1999.

Thomas E. James
SWIFT Coordinator

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The attached photos show the following:

- Project Location
- Project Objective
- Creek Fire of 2001
- Converse Fire of 2005
- (Big) Creek Fire of 2004

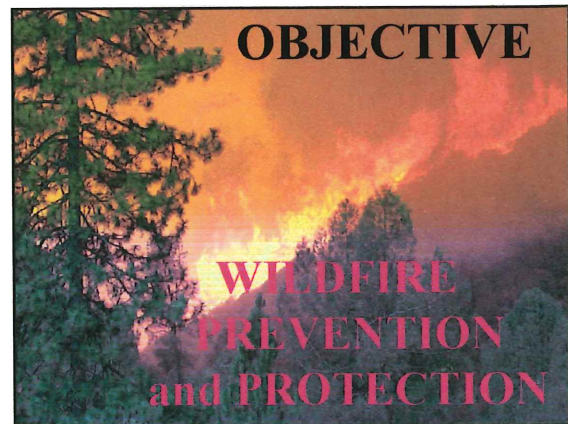
Photos indicate fire behavior, structure threat, and fuel treatments activities within the project that aided in the fire suppression effort on each of the three incidents.

Wildland Fire Suppression
Success Cases
on the
Southwest Interface Project

PROJECT LOCATION



PROJECT OBJECTIVE



The Creek Fire

August 2001

FIRE BEHAVIOR & STRUCTURES THREATENED



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT – VMP
and
FUEL BREAK
AID FIRE SUPPRESSION EFFORTS

BONEYARD VMP



Prescribed burning on 1,800 acres
in 1999 stop fire spread on southeast
flank of the Creek Fire.

CUNEO FUEL BREAK



Shaded fuel break stops significant
fire run on northeast corner of the
Creek Fire.

The Converse Fire

September 2005

FUEL BREAK HOLDS FIRE ON RIDGELINE



Fire starts in Wagner Valley and burns
towards the base of Wagner Ridge.



At the base of Wagner ridge the
fire makes a significant run up-
slope towards the ridgeline.



Fire continues up-slope spread through heavy timber.



Fuel break with road along the top of the ridge supported by both ground and air resources, stop the fire spread.

The (Big) Creek Fire

May 2004

FUEL BREAK DROPS CROWN FIRE TO THE GROUND



During May a fire pushed by a spring wind event moved up-slope in heavy fuels.



The fire moved to the top of the slope in the vegetation crowns.



The fuel type was heavy mixed brush on the lower slope with tree plantations near the top of the ridge.



Mechanical shredding had taken place on a fuel break along the top of the ridge. When the fire hit ridge it dropped out of the canopy to the ground. Fire suppression occurred easily on the backside of the ridge.

