Plumas County Standard Strategic WUI

Plumas County has a favorable spatial arrangement of homes due to the limited amount of sprawling wildland urban intermix, resulting in a series of Cluster Communities, making it feasible to create and identify <u>Community</u> <u>Encompassing Fire Lines</u> - an integral component to the Plumas County Standard Strategic WUI - A plan that immediately increases our community's wildfire resiliency, and at the same time creates infrastructure supporting the reintroduction of frequent landscape scale prescribed fire - capable of preventing catastrophic wild fire. The intent is to protect communities first and simultaneously work towards solving the forest health crisis.

Standard Strategic WUI – Three tiered WUI designation - segments the WUI to a defined and manageable size suitable for private land owners and Cal Fire, while maintaining a robust WUI for Categorical Exemptions and grant funding opportunities. The title of each segment (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary) alludes to the prioritization of efforts.

Plan Prioritization- 1) Fire Lines / constructing and identifying (Fuel breaks) around Plumas County communities.
2) Fuels Reduction / prescribed fire in and around our communities.
3) Restoration / reintroducing frequent fires in between Plumas County towns and communities. Inter-Community - the greater landscape between our communities.

- **Community Encompassing Fire Line** - Cluster communities, will need encompassing fire line (fuel breaks) that follow the contour of the land for fire line suitability rather than along property boundaries. Some preexisting fuel breaks that fit this description already exist around communities in the appropriate distance for small scale private land owner management (Example of preexisting fuel breaks: roads, railroads, powerlines, dozer lines, etc.) they need to be identified and where they are nonexistent will need to be constructed.

Benefits- 1) Provides Immediate pre-wildfire suppression infrastructure, protection. 2) Reduces risk for prescribing fire within the WUI. 3) Community cohesion: "we are in this together" 4) Separates communities from the greater landscape fuel continuum, allowing for landscape scale inter-community prescribed fire.

- **Primary WUI**- This is where the actual WUI begins, and is defined by the area within the Community Encompassing Fire Line. The size of the Primary WUI fluctuates depending upon the topography, and preexisting Community Encompassing Fire Line. The Primary WUI mostly consists of private land, but will also have portions of public land.

Benefits- 1) Smaller "tighter" WUI designation allowing private land owners (PUC, Cal Fire, etc.) the ability to frequently prescribe fire with less risk. 2) Special designation of the Primary WUI would receive VIP grant funding to maintain sparse fuel accumulation. 3) Well defined Primary WUI confirmed with GPS and mapped with GIS.

- Secondary WUI- Defined as the portion outside of the Primary WUI, one step further away from our communities. The Secondary WUI is the portion of land beyond community encompassing fire line, and the edge of the greater landscape. Mostly Public land but will also have some private lands. The size can be 1-mile GIS buffer from the Primary WUI

Benefits- 1) Prioritizes program of work around the community encompassing fire line reinforcing pre-suppression efforts to protect communities. 2) Preparing for Inter-Community landscape - scale reintroduction of fire.

- Tertiary WUI- Extends deeper in to the greater landscape. Mostly public lands. Size can be 2 miles from Primary WUI.

Benefit - 1) Maintains a large WUI designation for Categorical Exclusions and grant funding opportunities 2) Further reinforces the prioritization of the USFS program of work, concentrating fuels reduction around communities and encompassing fire lines 3) Preparing for Inter-Community landscape - scale reintroduction of fire.

- **Grant funding**- Tying the Standard Strategic WUI plan into the "big picture" landscape scale solution is immensely beneficial when applying for grants and especially "Block Grants". Granters want to see how the Fire Safe Council's Strategic Plan ties into and supports the "big picture" landscape scale solution.

This is a strategic plan with immediate multi beneficial outcomes for the Primary WUI, and real landscape scale solutions capable of replacing catastrophic fire, by restoring the frequent fire, critical ecological processes of the western fire prone biosphere.



-The Community Encompassing Fire Line breaks up the Inter Community Landscape fuel continuum.

-The Community Encompassing Fire Line draws Operational Boundaries, with Cal Fire leading the Primary WUI unified command prescribed fire, and USFS leading the Secondary, Tertiary and the Inter Community Landscape scale unified command prescribed fire.