SEIAD VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN
JANUARY 2015
Funding provided by

U.S. Forest Service
Through the
California Fire Safe Council
And
The Grants Clearinghouse
The following entities mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

_______________________________ _________________________
U.S. Forest Service, Klamath National Forest     Date

_______________________________ _________________________
County of Siskiyou, California        Date
Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council

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1. Objectives of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Introduction:
This document provides an overview of the Seiad Valley/Hamburg community areas regarding vulnerability to destructive wildfire, and identification of opportunities and measures to significantly reduce that vulnerability. The document will describe the current setting, the historical factors that have influenced the current setting, the current risk factors, actions to address and reduce risks, and measures to enhance fire readiness and safety.

This plan is a collaborative effort involving the Seiad Fire Safe Council (SFSC) with varying levels of collaboration with the Klamath National Forest (KNF), the Klamath National Forest’s Happy Camp Ranger District (HCRD), the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department (SVVFD), Siskiyou County (SisCo), Cal Fire (formerly California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or CDF), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Northern California Resource Center (NCRC).

A review of the most critical needs of the community by the Fire Safe Council with the help of the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service settled on water access as being the number one issue followed by fuel reduction and residence location identification. The initial plan called for up to ten 5,000 gallon water supply tanks, a pump with trailer for filling the tanks during a fire and development of access to existing water sources on private land such as the Klamath River, irrigation ditches, creeks, and ponds.

Population/Demography
According to the 2000 census (www.census.gov) the Seiad Valley community is listed as having a population of 324 people and 221 housing units with many new residences appearing as retirees move to the county side. The community of Hamburg is estimated to have 80 residences. The 2000 census combines Hamburg with Klamath River and Horse Creek with a population total of 467 and 325 housing units. Up until the early 1990’s the population of the area stood at 350. With the rapid decline of logging and sawmills and their supporting operations, the population fell to the present level. A high proportion of the current population is made up of retired people, some elderly. Also, a high proportion of the population are unemployed or underemployed and on public assistance. Indicators of this condition are that 50-60% of the elementary school population show low family incomes, at or near the poverty level, and about 50-60% of the patient population of the local medical clinic are treated under the Medi-Cal assistance program for low income people.

Infrastructure

Access/Roads

The communities of Hamburg and Seiad Valley sit on California State Route 96, the Klamath River Highway. This is a two-lane, often winding paved highway that is generally well maintained. Highway 96 provides access to the east to Yreka, the Siskiyou County Seat, and to Interstate 5, the main north-south artery for northern California. I-5 is a distance of 45 miles and Yreka is 50 miles.
It takes about 60 minutes driving time to get to Yreka and about 2 hours driving time to arrive in Medford, Oregon, the nearest large town east of Seiad Valley. The communities between Seiad Valley and Yreka, namely Hamburg and Klamath River are small, dispersed communities centered around a store and Post Office. Downriver to the west, Highway 96 goes through Happy Camp, Somes Bar and Orleans, 20, 55, and 62 miles distant, all small communities, ending at Willow Creek where it joins U. S. Highway 299, one hundred miles distant. Willow Creek is a community slightly larger than Happy Camp and is about 21/2 driving hours away. An additional hour plus of travel on 299 brings you to Eureka, the nearest large town west of Seiad Valley. In addition to Highway 96, The Grayback road along Indian Creek and over Grayback Summit serves Seiad Valley to U. S. Route 199, the Redwood Highway. The Grayback Road is a 2-lane paved route following the Siskiyou County Indian Creek Road initially then connecting to a Forest Service Road over Grayback Summit, which then connects to the Josephine County, Oregon Page Mountain Road which connects to Route 199. This route is closed in winter (approximately mid-November through late May) due to no snow removal on the Forest Service section over Grayback Summit. Grants Pass, Oregon on I-5 is about 21/2 hours driving time from Seiad Valley and Crescent City, California on U. S. Highway 101 is also about 21/2 hours away.

Since both Hamburg and Seiad Valley are unincorporated communities, the street and road systems are maintained by Siskiyou County with the exception of State Highway 96. The system is a mixture of two–lane paved roads and single lane or lane and one-half roads that are mostly paved. Maintenance of the roadbeds is adequate, but shoulder maintenance is limited since most right-of-ways are prescriptive (consist of the traveled way), rather than surveyed rights-of-ways of a width adequate for the roadway plus shoulders. Consequently, it is common for brush, trees, blackberries, and etc. to form a dense stand right to the edge of the pavement. Private driveways are commonly narrow and often have rough surfaces and/or steep pitches. It is common for a given driveway to serve multiple residences.

**Utilities/communications**

Electricity for Hamburg and Seiad Valley is provided by Pacific Power Corp. The main feed comes over Grayback Summit and along Indian Creek. A secondary feed is along the Klamath River and Highway 96. The entire system is on wood poles as is nearly all the distribution system around town. Periodically Pacific Power initiates clearing on and adjacent to their lines. To date, they have focused on preventing line damage from winter snowfalls and have not invested much effort to treat the slash from their clearing. Often this fuel accumulation presents a serious hazard. There are no community provided services for water and sewer. Water is obtained from individual wells and sewage is disposed of in septic tanks. Each residence/establishment provides their own heat. Oil, propane and electrical systems are common, but many homes use wood as their primary or supplementary source of heat. The use of wood as a heating fuel has been known to be a source of structure fires and is used with caution. Most heating systems currently in use except wood require electricity to function properly.

Telephone communication in Hamburg and Seiad Valley is provided by Siskiyou Telephone, a small but progressive local company. The system is largely above ground on poles serving both the power and telephone systems. Some work has been done to bring underground fiber optic service to the Happy Camp area. Wireless phone service is provided locally by Verizon Wireless through a
mountaintop unit on Slater Butte above Happy Camp, but service is quite limited because of the mountainous terrain. The AT&T Company installed an underground fiber-optic line through the area in the mid 1990’s for connection to transcontinental communications with no local service to the Seiad Valley area. California Highway Patrol, Klamath National Forest, Cal Fire and Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department all maintain and utilize short-wave radio systems in the area for emergency and administrative use. These systems all use the Slater Butte mountain top facility plus multiple mountaintop repeaters to provide adequate coverage.

**Schools/Hospitals**

Seiad Valley is served by an elementary school. Current enrollment is 38.

Medical service is provided by a local clinic operated by the Karuk Tribe. The clinic is in Happy Camp. The service is made up of a physician, a family nurse practitioner and supporting staff. The Seiad Valley area itself is also served by an emergency response team that is part of the SVVFD and by the Happy Camp Volunteer Ambulance Service that provides 24-hour service through a staff of volunteers and two vehicles. The nearest hospital is in Yreka. Two air ambulance services are also available to this area. One is based in Medford, Oregon and the other is based in Redding, California. Redding and Medford have the nearest full-service hospitals.

**Highway/road maintenance**

California State Transportation Dept. maintains a fully equipped maintenance yard at Seiad Valley with responsibility for State Highway 96 maintenance both upstream and downstream from Seiad Valley.

The Siskiyou County road maintenance yard is located at Happy Camp and is responsible for streets and access roads around Seiad Valley.

**Community Legal Structure/Jurisdictional Boundaries**

The communities of Hamburg and Seiad Valley are unincorporated so most local governmental functions are carried out by Siskiyou County. Streets other than Highway 96 are operated and maintained by the County Road Crew. Four Sheriff’s Deputies based in Happy Camp provide law enforcement for the community and the large surrounding area. One or two officers from the California State Highway Patrol are generally assigned to this area.

**Emergency Services**

Emergency services include four County Deputy Sheriffs, two California State Highway Patrol Officers, one State Fish and Game Warden and one Federal Forest Service Officer for law enforcement and assistance. All law enforcement personnel live in Happy Camp with the exception of one Highway Patrolman who lives at Seiad Valley.

Fire emergency services consist of the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department (SVVFD) with one engine, one water tender and one emergency response vehicle. One Forest Service Fire engine and
tender are assigned to the Seiad Station and are available when not on other assignments. The nearest backup equipment is the Happy Camp Volunteer Fire Department and the Forest service units assigned to the Happy Camp Station when available. During summer months, July through September, The Forest Service bases a fire fighting helicopter and crew plus a 20 person hand crew in Happy Camp.

Wildfires during summer months are principally caused by dry lightning storms and often numerous fires may be ignited simultaneously. Backup for local resources in those instances may take anywhere from a few hours to several days.

Outside the fire district, Cal Fire (formerly known as CDF) is the lead agency for all fire suppression, and has contracted with the Forest Service to provide fire protection on private lands in addition to the adjacent National Forest lands protected by the Forest Service. The Klamath National Forest commonly has mutual aid agreements with local fire departments and such is the case with the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department. The two agencies agree to provide assistance to each other on request without charge for initial attack. In extended attack, the requesting agency pays for the assistance. The common practice in Seiad Valley is that both agencies respond to residential fires that are within both the core area and the extended community area. If the fire is of any consequence, usually the Forest Service forces will focus on suppressing any fire spread into vegetation and SVVFD will focus on dealing with the structure fires. The formal lead agency role is normally based on the fire being inside or outside the fire district.

One factor that colors the situation is that while SVVFD maintains a continuous level of readiness, the Forest Service has a high level of readiness during the summer months. During winter months, the level of readiness by the SVVFD is much reduced and may only consist of one engine and a small number of personnel that may not be easy to contact for emergency response. Cal Fire will respond with engines and personnel when requested, but their nearest facilities are in Hornbrook and Yreka which involves a response time of about 2 hours. Seiad Valley VFD, Klamath River VFD and Happy Camp VVFD support each other on request and response time is 30-40 minutes.

**Land Use/Development Trends**

The land supports a broad array of wildlife and birds from deer, bear, elk and mountain lion to the more obscure animals such as raccoons, otter and fisher, along with Salamanders, frogs, etc. Birds vary from geese, ducks, osprey, eagles and hawks to various song birds, woodpeckers, and owls (including the northern spotted owl).

Suitable habitat for threatened and endangered animal species is generally lacking in and around the community and residence sites. The Klamath River, Grider Creek and certain other tributary streams provide habitat for the listed Coho salmon and/or the sensitive summer steelhead. Seiad Creek is not locally considered to be a Coho stream because normal flow in the creek at the time of the Coho Fall run is extremely low or nonexistent in the lower reaches of the creek.

With public lands administered by the Klamath National Forest being the largest holder lands in the Seiad Valley area and throughout much of the Klamath River corridor west of Interstate 5, activities on these lands sets the tone for the area. Since the late 1980’s, vegetation management and logging activities on National Forest lands declined. By the mid 1990’s, all management activities were sharply
curtailed. Coupled with effective suppression of most wildfires, the low levels of management are producing forests that are becoming ever more dense and more susceptible to drought, and insect mortality, and high intensity catastrophic wildfires. During this same period, private lands with commercial timber were heavily managed with limited to no effort to treat slash or reforest with conifers. At present, the private lands in the Seiad Valley area are nearly all cut-over from entries made during the 50’s, 60’s or 80’s. These lands now commonly support a very dense stand of naturally regenerated hardwoods and brush with some conifer stocking, and a heavy loading of slash residue. These lands form the edge of the core area of the Hamburg and Seiad Valley communities, and are common in the community extensions along Seiad, Grider and Walker Creeks. These lands generally abut directly on the densely forested National Forest lands around the perimeter of the community.

Residential development in the Seiad Valley area is basically stable. Residential growth has been slow for many years and does not show any indication of increasing. Several new homes are added each year, and are mostly replacements for old aging structures. Given the combination of economics and physical restraints imposed by the terrain and dominant National Forest ownership, the slow to no growth trend is likely to continue far into the foreseeable future.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, there appears to be a detectable trend in the community for property and residence acquisition by new arrivals that have the financial means (and desire) to upgrade and improve their property. So even though the community is not expanding, it is not stagnant.

**About the FSC**

The Seiad Fire Safe Council came into existence December of 2002 as a result of a series of community meetings. Assistance from the KNF and other local Fire Safe Councils such as the Happy Camp Fire Safe Council during the formation was a key factor.

The mission of the Seiad Fire Safe Council is to protect and preserve our natural and man-made resources through collaboration, cooperation, education and mobilization of local citizens to make our homes, neighborhoods, and community more fire safe. Implementing and monitoring an ecologically sound and sustainable fire regime primarily through strategic fuel reduction, vegetation management, cooperation with other organizations, agencies, and volunteers is the heart of the mission.

The Seiad Fire Safe Council’s gross boundary matches that of the U. S. Forest Service “Thom Seider” Project. That Project includes the entire drainage area of the streams entering the Klamath River.

The boundaries, starting on the east, begin at the junction of the Klamath and Scott Rivers, going northerly to Copper Butte, west to Red Butte, Kangaroo Mountain, Desolation Peak, Rattlesnake Mountain, Goff Butte, Pyramid Peak and Tanned Mountain. Southward down the Thompson Ridge, past Jackson Peak, Slater Butte, Cade Mountain and crossing the Klamath River at Williams Point, then meandering eastward to Lake Mountain, Tom Martin Mountain then north to the point of beginning.

The primary responsibility of the Seiad Fire Safe Council, in this large area, is the private property and residences within the corridor beginning on the west and meeting the Happy Camp Fire Safe Council boundary then extending up the Klamath River through the Thompson Creek, Fort Goff, Seiad Valley and Hamburg communities.
**Decision makers**

The decision makers for this Community Wildfire Protection Plan are members of the Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council:

- Bill Chace
- Debbie Meyer
- Claudia McLeash
- Al Durazo
- Ed Prather
- Glen Briggs
- Bill Taylor
- Bill Burns
- Bill Stender
- Terrisa Green

These decision makers were brought together in 2002 as part of a community meeting to establish a Fire Safe Council and develop a CWPP and are willing to participate in the Fire Safe Council activities and planning. All Fire Safe Council records are kept at the fiscal sponsor office (Northern California Resource Center) and all decision makers/representatives have access.

**Federal and Tribal Agencies**

The representatives of the federal agencies managing land in the vicinity of the communities are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Date Invited to Participate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service, Happy Camp</td>
<td>Alan Vandiver</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sue Daniels</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don Hall</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ken Harris</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tom Mutz, District Ranger (new)</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service, Seiad</td>
<td>Arnold Durazo</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alonzo Jackson</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Conservation Service</td>
<td>Mark Horney (past)</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Patterson (present)</td>
<td>2013</td>
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**State/Local Agencies**

The representatives of the state/local agencies that have jurisdictional responsibilities in the vicinity of the communities are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Date Invited to Participate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Happy Camp Fire Safe Council</td>
<td>George Harper D. Meyers</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department</td>
<td>Tom Mopas Tim Pinkos Barry Mattson</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>2007</td>
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</table>

**Interested Parties**

The Klamath River corridor has a number of Fire Safe Councils. The Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council is the “oldest” and has a strong track record of good performance. Happy Camp FSC is several years “younger”, having started in 2002/2003. Seiad Valley and Klamath River Fire Safe Councils came into being slightly later than Happy Camp. Both are working on draft Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), and have competed successfully for grant funding for projects, and successfully completed multiple fuel reduction projects for implementation of their CWPP based on highest priority first.

The Seiad Fire Safe Council is sponsored by the Northern California Resource Center (NCRC) a 501c3 non-profit corporation. NCRC provides grant-writing and administrative services along with organizational mentoring, project management, and project implementation capabilities. The Fire Safe Council Board of Directors work with NCRC in collaboration with input from community members for activities such as project identification, application for grants, implementation of projects, and monitoring of on-site work.

Other interested parties are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interested Parties</th>
<th>Date Invited to Participate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department</td>
<td>2007</td>
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2. Fire Environment

**Topography, Slope, Aspect, Elevation**
In general, the area surrounding the communities of Seiad Valley and Hamburg can be characterized as having steep mountainous terrain that is densely forested with a mixture of coniferous, deciduous and evergreen hardwood trees and various brush species. Local mountainsides are generally steep, with 40 to 70 percent slopes common, and are dissected by numerous perennial and intermittent stream courses.

Seiad Valley is at approximately 1300 feet elevation and Hamburg is approximately at 1460 feet. The ridge tops immediately surrounding the communities are commonly in the range of 3,500 to 6,400 feet. North and east facing slopes are commonly more densely vegetated with a higher stocking of conifers, often dominated by Douglas Fir. South and west facing slopes are somewhat less dense with a greater proportion of Ponderosa and Sugar Pine conifers. All aspects support moderate to high densities of hardwood trees and brush. Dense stands of blackberries are common at lower elevations in and around residences.

**Meteorology, Climate, Precipitation**
Annual precipitation averages 55 inches per year, which mostly falls as rain or snow during the months of November through March. Summers are normally hot and dry.

**Hydrology**
The Klamath River and numerous tributaries support runs of anadromous salmon and steelhead. Chinook and Coho salmon along with steelhead enjoy-summer and winter runs. Elevations along the Klamath River vary from approximately 1200 feet at Seattle Creek to 1520 feet at Scott River (KNF contour map).

**Past Fire Environment**
Heavy fire years on the KNF in the last century occurred in 1910, 1926, 1951, 1955, 1977, 1987, 1994, and 1997. Locally, notable fires in more recent years include the Slinkard (374 acres), Three Devils (10,478 acres), Fort/Copper (30,949 acres), Gulch (8,269), Thompson (8901 acres), Lake (18,218 acres), and Goff-aka The Fort Complex-(22,283 acres). The 1966 Indian Ridge fire not mentioned here burned just above the Thompson Creek community. The 1951 Three Devils and the Fort/Copper fires burned adjacent to the Seiad Valley community north of the Klamath River and west of Seiad Creek. The highest percentage of fire starts locally have been lightening. Numerous other starts in the past have been by debris burning and smoking. Seiad Valley has not experienced major loss of structures to wildfires, but the potential is high.

**Present Fire Environment**
The current fire environment in and around Seiad Valley area is heavily influenced by circumstances and forces that were present many years ago. Recent events and actions also play a significant role.
Research by the Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station and various affiliated universities indicate that prior to the mid-1800’s, the forests of the area were quite open compared to present conditions. They (Carl Skinner, et al) suggest that the forest consisted of today’s old mature trees, 200+ years old, with the intervening spaces taken up largely by grass, scattered shrubs and young trees. They point out that this “picture” is consistent with the journals of early trappers, explorers, miners and settlers plus photos from the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. They believe this open condition was maintained by frequent low intensity wildfires that originated from lightning strikes and Native American burning. The research indicates that fires of sufficient intensity to cause scaring of large trees occurred every 10-20 years with a high likelihood that fires of lesser intensity occurred in some intervening years. This pattern of fires caused only moderate mortality in large, thick barked trees with their green crowns often 40 feet or more above the ground. On the other hand, this pattern was quite effective in severely limiting the survival of small conifers hence the open, park-like appearance of much of the forest.

The interruption of this pattern and condition, established over centuries of repetition, took place with the arrival of white miners and settlers. Initially, they disrupted the Native American burning practices and then began to alter the forest through timber harvest and livestock grazing. By the 1920’s and 1930’s, the young federal agency called the Forest Service, was becoming effective in suppressing wildfires and, as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came into being, this effectiveness increased dramatically. Annual burned acreage steadily declined with a few exceptions into the late 1980’s. Around this time, the trend in the Western U.S. and in the KNF and Seiad Valley area faltered and large fires became more frequent. Currently, there is widespread agreement between researchers, land managers, and lay people that forests have become too dense and are highly vulnerable to large, high intensity, destructive wildfires. This entire scenario is a major factor in the current fire environment in and around the Hamburg and Seiad Valley communities.

Private lands in the fire safe council area have largely been cut through with repeated entries since the early days of settlement. In contrast to the adjacent National Forest lands, the private lands are commonly stocked with younger, smaller trees and usually with a greater proportion of hardwood. If logged within the past 20 years, these private lands, often have elevated levels of dead fuel from untreated logging slash. Around residences where the tree canopy is often very open or absent, blackberries and/or low brush form dense thickets unless aggressive action is taken and maintained to control the vegetation.

U.S. Forest Service “threat zones” and “defense zones” are utilized when possible in project planning and implementation. For more detailed information about these zones and additional USFS fire management plan information, go to:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/klamath/landmanagement/resourcemangement/?cid=stelprdb5407281
Future Fire Environment

A description of fuels in the Hamburg and Seiad Valley areas could be divided into leaf litter and fine fuels on the ground, dead fuels both standing and down, and green or live fuels.

Fine Fuels
Fine fuels on the ground normally consist of needles, leaves, twigs and sometimes grasses and forbs. The general dense tree cover in the area provides a constant, annual replenishment of needles and leaves. Commonly, if an area is raked or under-burned clean in the spring, it will remain relatively clean throughout the summer, but leaf and needle drop in the Fall will create a new blanket of fines that will carry fire the next summer.

Periodic reduction or removal of fine fuels definitely reduces the intensity and flame height. Commonly, an area with tree cover and with long-term accumulation of fine fuels will produce 2-4 foot flame heights in August or September. That same area with periodic treatment at 1 to 3 year intervals could be expected to produce 1-2 foot flame heights during the same period. Flame heights of 4 feet produce intensities that are at the upper limit of practical control by direct attack with hand tools.

Dead Fuels
Dead fuels always increase the burn intensity. The degree of increase is roughly proportional to the amount present, but the character of that fuel is significant. In the Seiad FSC area, the forest produces a steady stream of dead branches, tree tops and small stems in the 3-6 inch diameter range. Also, depending on the stand condition and logging history, there can be significant amounts of 6 to 36 inch diameter material on the ground or in the form of standing, large dead trees. If the site has continuous layers or frequency of dead 3 to 6 inch fuels, fire intensity, flame heights and rate of spread in August/September conditions can easily exceed levels that can be controlled with direct attack with hand tools. Larger dead fuels are slower to ignite, but once ignited, they add greatly to intensity and resistance to control.

In their “natural”, untreated condition, any of these stands will burn with great vigor and intensity. The low branches and foliage are ladder fuel that rapidly heat from the ground fire, then burst into flame and carry the fire to the upper crowns. Whether the stand is a four foot tall, dense stand of blackberries or a 40 foot stand of hardwoods and conifers with a brush understory, the result is a fire with intensities and flame lengths that cannot be controlled by direct attack with hand tools.

Natural Fire Breaks
In the Seiad FSC area, natural firebreaks are limited, consisting of the Klamath River and larger field openings south of the community (the Grider Ranch) and smaller field openings scattered throughout the valley. Elsewhere, the vegetative cover is continuous from the canyon bottoms to the ridge tops. Ridge tops will slow fire spread, but in August and September, fires often spread downhill at nearly the same rate as uphill due to burning material rolling down hill and igniting fuels which then burn upslope with great vigor and creates more rolling material, etc.
Wildfire Problem Definition

For the communities of Hamburg and Seiad Valley and their surrounding area, the wildfire problem may be defined as: A situation and environment where wildfire occurrence through natural or man-caused ignitions is assured. High levels of loss are likely under the current fuel conditions. Losses from these ignitions can be significantly reduced through fuel treatments and timely suppression actions even under very difficult conditions. Since ignitions cannot be eliminated, investments in measures to minimize loss are the prudent thing to do. It must be kept in mind that despite prudent investment, the most severe conditions may still result in losses.

Climate Change, Restoration & Fire

The west side of Siskiyou County has a Mediterranean-style climate with cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Annual precipitation in Seiad Valley and surrounding area is about 55-inches which mostly fall from November through March as rain and snow. Persistent snow line during winter months is commonly at about the 3000-foot level. Seiad Valley is at 1300-foot elevation. Summer thunderstorms are common and most bring enough rain to retard the spread of fires ignited by the lightening for 4 to 12 hours. Occasional storms are dry and fires ignited by these fires spread rapidly. Most noteworthy fire events around Hamburg and Seiad Valley have been the result of dry lightning storms that simultaneously started numerous fires, some of which escaped initial attack and became large. The 1987 event repeatedly threatened the communities plus many of the outlying residences and is the best known example.

The combination of little or no rainfall and long, hot summer days create the most severe burning conditions during August and September. Most of the difficult and destructive fires have occurred during this period.
3. Establish a Community Base Map
4. Evacuation Sites

EVACUATION SITES AS LISTED BY SISKIYOU COUNTY

Note: Elderly, invalids and animals must evacuate outside the Seiad Valley area, see tables below for locations.
Disclaimer: This is a changing document maintained by Siskiyou County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<td>Mailing Address: P.O. Box 467</td>
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<td>Richard Hahn, Head Custodian</td>
<td>Day:493-2267 Eve:493-2815 W/E:493-2815</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frank Sanchez, Head Maintenance</td>
<td>Day:493-2697 Eve:496-3330 W/E:496-3330</td>
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<td>Assembly of God</td>
<td>Physical Address: 727 Indian Meadows Rd</td>
<td>Happy Camp</td>
<td>Pastor Bill Estes or wife, Sherry</td>
<td>Day:493-2630 Eve:493-2630 W/E:493-2630</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>YES</td>
<td>Dutra Guest House</td>
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<td>Montague</td>
<td>Lynelle Dutra</td>
<td>Day: 459-3266</td>
<td>**</td>
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<td>Full</td>
<td>** Determined by Available Beds</td>
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<td>Laurel Crest Manor</td>
<td>Physical Address: 201 Eugene Avenue 96067</td>
<td>Mt Shasta</td>
<td>Dan Dimapilis</td>
<td>Day:926-5410</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>* Depends on Availability of Space</td>
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<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Shasta Healthcare</td>
<td>Physical Address: 3550 Churn Creek Rd. 96002</td>
<td>Redding</td>
<td>Jeremy Pantovich</td>
<td>Day:530/222-3630</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>24 Hours Phone Coverage. * Availability of space will determine if they can take patients in an emergency</td>
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<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Northern California Rehab. Hospital</td>
<td>Physical Address: 2801 Eureka Way 96001</td>
<td>Redding</td>
<td>Chris Jones, Administrator</td>
<td>Day:530/246-9000</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>24 Hours Phone Coverage. NO LONG TERM CARE. * Availability of space will determine if they can take patients in an emergency</td>
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<td>H/CAP</td>
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<td>NO</td>
<td>Larry &amp; Frances Stidham</td>
<td>Physical Address: 321 Payne Lane</td>
<td>Gazelle</td>
<td>Larry &amp; Frances Stidham</td>
<td>Day: 842-4161</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Call first. They will put animals up--have room for horses and have capability of making cages for dogs on-site. They would be willing to help with dog food. Areas: Yreka, Grenada, Gazelle, Hornbrook, Ft. Jones, Montague.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dogs:</td>
<td>321 Payne Lane</td>
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<td>24-Hr:</td>
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<td>Horses:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Eve and 24 Hrs:</td>
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<td>11820 &amp; 11822</td>
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<td>Old Hwy 99</td>
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**ANIMALS**
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<tr>
<td><strong>NO</strong></td>
<td><strong>Siskiyou Humane Society, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>1208 N. Mt. Shasta Blvd 96067</td>
<td>Mt Shasta</td>
<td>Cathy Chastain</td>
<td>Day:926-4052</td>
<td>Eve:</td>
<td>W/E:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Animal Pound</td>
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<td><strong>NO</strong></td>
<td><strong>Siskiyou Co Animal Control</strong></td>
<td>550 Foothill Dr 96097</td>
<td>Yreka</td>
<td>Ron Fisher</td>
<td>Day:841-4028/841-4025</td>
<td>Eve: 841-1596</td>
<td>W/E:841-1596</td>
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<td>Animal Control Shelter</td>
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<td><strong>NO</strong></td>
<td><strong>Loving Care Pet Motel</strong></td>
<td>201 Greenhorn Rd 96097</td>
<td>Yreka</td>
<td>L.S. Friedman</td>
<td>Day:842-5710</td>
<td>Eve:459-5732</td>
<td>W/E:459-5732</td>
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<td>Animal Motel</td>
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</table>
5. Develop a Community Risk Assessment

A risk assessment questionnaire about access, fuel conditions outside the structure, and the structure itself was developed and provided to each private landowner (appendix D) where structures were present and asked for it to be completed and returned. It is the Fire Safe Council’s intention that completion of this form would not only provide an educational experience for each recipient (it becomes evident to the respondent when completing the form whether their structures and surroundings are fire safe and what measures would make them more so) but also provide the FSC more information to use for fire safe project development.

This section identifies and evaluates the assets at risk in the Hamburg and Seiad Valley communities and surrounding area. The discussion utilizes this plan’s division of the community into the core area, the Walker/Grider Creek extension, the Upriver/Highway 96 extension and the Downriver/Highway 96 extension.

Structure/Density

Presently, most structures in the Seiad Valley/Hamburg communities are wood frame, single story buildings. About 75% have metal roofs with the rest being composition except for a few isolated old structures with wood shake or shingle roofs. Many buildings are 30 years old or older. A large portion could be considered substandard by current Building Codes due to old electrical wiring, plumbing materials, heating systems, exterior siding and/or lack of maintenance and failure to maintain adequate defensible space.

A new factor which must be addressed especially as homes are remodeled or new homes built are the new building codes coming out of the recent southern California fires which modified not only the defensible spacing requirements (now 100 feet) but the materials used for construction to make homes more fire resistant. These new codes are part of the Public Resources Codes (PRC) which the legislature required and the county largely adopted.

Core Area

Within the Seiad Core Area, structures are relatively dense from approximately ¼ mile east of the Post Office/Store to the Wildwood Inn and Trailer Park approximately ½ mile west along State Highway 96. Also, there are concentrations of residences in the Ladd Road, Seiad Oaks and Seiad Oaks Road areas.

Within the Hamburg community residences, including a few old abandoned structures, are dense starting on the east, at Sara Totten campground following Highway 96 to a point on the west about a half mile past the Steelhead Lodge.

The greatest risk present in these areas involve islands or patches of wildland vegetation in close proximity to concentrations of structures. Outside of the Seiad Core area, the Seiad Creek neighborhood has some concentrated residence areas mixed with areas of dispersed residences. The greatest risks occur from the intermingling of wildland vegetation, residential structures and roadways.
Walker/Grider Creek extension

In this area, structures occur in either clusters or as single units and are dispersed along County Roads on the South side of the Klamath River. These roads include the Walker Creek Road, The Grider Road that departs from the Walker Creek Road and the Grider Creek Road. Vegetation commonly occurs close to many of the structures along these roads and driveways. There are also several expanses of open fields interspersed with residences and forest vegetation. The greatest risks in this area come from intermingling of forest vegetation, residence structures and roadways.

Upriver/Highway 96 Extension

This area extends upriver along Highway 96 from Walker Creek Bridge to the mouth of Scott River and includes the areas draining into the Klamath River both North and South of the River. Residences encountered in this area include a combination of residence clusters and individual structures to the west edge of Hamburg, a distance of about 8 miles. From that point east to Sarah Totten Camp Ground, a distance of approximately 1 mile, residences and associated structures, including a Lodge and a combination Lodge/Store, form the core area of Hamburg. Structures are fairly dense along both sides of the Highway through this area. There are a few residences south of the Highway accessed by narrow driveways. Most throughout the Upriver Area have maintained yards, but are surrounded closely by heavy vegetation. Access roads and driveways are narrow with dense vegetation right to the edge of the roadway. The greatest risk in this area again comes from the intermingling of forest environs with human habitations.

Downriver/Highway 96 Extension

No residences exist from slightly west of the Wildwood building to just west of Portuguese Creek, a distance of approximately 2 miles. Then from Portuguese Creek to Seattle Creek, a distance of about 7 miles, residences occur mostly as clusters with a few isolated individuals. The greatest risks in this area come again from the intermingling of forest environs with human habitations including access roads.

Business: Commercial and recreational

Core Area

Commercial, primarily service oriented business establishments, located within the community of Seiad Valley include one grocery market, one restaurant, one card-lock fueling station, one Laundromat, two RV Parks, a realty office, the home office and servicing facility for a logging company and one self serve storage facility. Similar business establishments in Hamburg include a fishing lodge and a combination grocery store/lodge facility. Also included in both areas are the electric power and telephone distribution systems. Recreational businesses include a whitewater rafting firm, a fishing guide service and recreational gold dredging services.

Government facilities include the U.S. Post Office, a Forest Service Guard Station, the State Highway (Cal-Trans) maintenance yard, the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Dept. facility and an
elementary school all in Seiad Valley and a Forest Service Camp Ground on the East edge of Hamburg. Other Forest Service Campgrounds include:

- FT Goff
- Grider Trailhead
- O’Neal Creek
- Sara Totten

**Walker/Grider Creek Extension**

The only commercial establishments in this area include the home office and yard for a logging firm and a small, inactive sawmill.

**Upriver/Highway 96 Extension**

There are no commercial establishments in this area until the community of Hamburg, approximately 8 miles to the east. Within the community of Hamburg there is a Fishing Lodge/Trailer Park and a Grocery Store/Lodge enterprise.

**Downriver/Highway 96 Extension**

A lodge, a realty office and a fiber-optics cable booster station are situated within this area in the vicinity of Thompson Creek and a book keeping, tax consulting firm is located near Savage Rapids.

**Cultural Resources**

Seiad Valley is believed to have been the site of what was possibly a border community or a community that was alternately inhabited by either the Karuk Indians or the Shasta Indians. Limited archeological excavations on the May property which is a part of the original Grider Ranch were reported in 1988. Conclusions were not definitive due to the limited extent of the study but seemed to indicate that the area was not a major settlement for either tribe. Thompson Creek, eight miles downstream is also believed to have been the site of temporary hunting camps with no permanent settlement.

Intrusion by gold miners in the early 1850’s into the Seiad Valley communities’ expanded area displaced whatever Indian settlements existed at the time, and any obvious remnants of Indian culture were pretty well obliterated. Activities carried on by the White settlers included farming, mining, and logging. Extensive farming and ranching was carried on during early days of White settlement in order to furnish provisions to the miners in this remote area where all supplies had to be brought in by pack train. Motorized transport did not become available until after the start of the 20th century. After most of the paying placer mining locations had been exploited by hydraulic mining or by large floating dredges, mining gave way to logging as the primary economic activity. Environmental restrictions imposed over the past 30 years have severely limited the logging activity so that the main employer in the region is now the State of California and the U.S. Government.
Periodic severe flooding along with a long period of inactivity has pretty well done away with cultural resources associated with mining and the early pioneer settlement days.

**Ecologically Sensitive Areas**

The primary concern with sensitivity in and around Hamburg and Seiad Valley is with water quality. With no major manufacturing or processing plants in the area, chemical pollution is not a problem. Sediment carried to the streams by runoff, however seems to be a major concern. Considerable emphasis has been put on surfacing roadways where ever possible in order to hold down soil disturbance. That, along with the major reduction of logging activity is believed to have resolved the problem at this time. A major wildfire in the area could create a major potential sediment runoff problem thus contaminating both the river and tributary streams.

The character of existing habitat in and around the Seiad Valley/Hamburg communities is not attractive to Federal and State listed terrestrial species of animals and birds. Private land habitat does support numerous species of animals and birds, but none of them are on the endangered list at this time. Modification of vegetation as would occur while establishing shaded fuel breaks around residences and structures and along roadways is not expected to be harmful to existing species. Some expanses of National Forest land adjacent to certain segments of the communities are considered suitable habitat for the Northern spotted owl. Activities in these areas are the responsibility of the Forest Service and any activity on private land adjacent to these areas will have to take into account precautions necessary to protect the owl habitat.

**Water and Watersheds**

Water quality and watershed health are especially important to the Klamath River, its tributaries and its surrounding area. The watershed damage from moderate and high intensity wildfire in the greater Seiad Valley area is serious, and the ill effects last for decades. Destruction of desirable vegetation complexes, destruction of late seral habitat, elevated levels of sediment production, damage to aquatic habitat and the long period of time to heal these effects are major reasons for investing effort and funds in reducing the occurrence of destructive wildfire.

Watershed effects from sediment production need to be avoided in the course of fuel treatment activities. Generally, activities associated with the creation of shaded fuel breaks have no adverse effects, particularly when the activity does not include heavy equipment use. In and around Hamburg and Seiad Valley, there are areas where slope instability and highly erosive soils exist.

Modification of vegetation in these areas can successfully be accomplished, but work efforts need to be designed to suit the particular circumstance. Stream courses also warrant special attention during this type of activity.

**Air Quality**

Air quality in the Hamburg and Seiad Valley area is generally quite good. Bad air quality in this area is nearly always due to large wildfires. In the 1987 fire event, particulate matter in the air at Seiad Valley
was many times that allowed by OSHA in industry. The smoke was so thick that the streetlights burned day and night and air temperature beneath the smoke layer never exceeded mid to high 50’s even though mid-day air temperature above the smoke layer often exceeded 90 degrees Fahrenheit. These conditions continued for about 2 weeks thus exposing local residents to very poor air quality both night and day.

6. Develop the overall community priority

Following items spell out Seiad Fire Safe Council’s (SFSC) perception of where the Seiad Valley/Hamburg communities should be going and steps the SFSC is currently taking and steps they can take over the next 3 to 5 years to help the community achieve an effective level of safety in the event of a wildfire.

A. Collaborate with other entities and organizations in the area such as Klamath National Forest/Happy Camp Ranger District, the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Klamath River Fire Department and other State and local governments to provide the needed wildfire protection.

B. Design and implement high priority fuel treatment projects. Assure that SFSC projects complement and support those of other organizations such as Happy Camp Ranger District.

C. Make sure that key infrastructure within the communities is given high priority. This infrastructure to include key access routes within and adjacent to Seiad Valley.

D. Instill within the communities a high level of awareness and commitment to the principals and practices that will make the community fire safe.

7. Community Hazard Reduction Priorities and Prescriptions

Recommended Prescriptions

The following steps recommended by the SFSC correlate well with the Happy Camp Ranger District’s Fire Protection Plan.

A. Vegetation and fuels around the perimeter of the communities and their extensions are treated and managed to such an extent that fire suppression forces can safely and effectively prevent an approaching wildfire from encroaching into the communities or, prevent a fire originating in the communities from escaping into the surrounding countryside.

B. Vegetation and fuels adjacent to roads, streets and driveways within the communities are treated and managed to such an extent that the road system is useable for egress and ingress for both residents and suppression forces.
C. Islands and expanses of forest vegetation along with residential yards within the communities are treated and maintained in order to prevent internal fires from becoming destructive and unmanageable.

D. Private property owners accept responsibility to treat and maintain their property in a manner that will insure the best possible protection from fire for their own property and for the communities.

E. Private landowners, public land managers, the local fire department, and other public and private organizations work in concert for the treatment and maintenance of property, vegetation and infrastructure in a manner that effectively protects the communities and surrounding area from destructive wildfire.

F. Fire safe measures and practices become a way of life throughout the communities through educational efforts and through demonstration with projects and practices carried out by both private individuals, organizations and public agencies.

G. Activities undertaken will contribute to the communities’ economic health through improved employment and atmosphere.
## Priorities

Table #2  Seiad Fire Safe Council Potential Actions/Project, Priority, and Their Status 08/6/2013

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<th>Status</th>
<th>Lead Group</th>
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<th>Responsible Person</th>
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<td>Ice House Behind private Residences ¼ mile above Road P11</td>
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<td>Hwy 96 across from Wildwood behind residences, Gosharian P5</td>
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<td>From Fort Goff to Feeley Residence P7</td>
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<td>NEPA Proj Adj</td>
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**STATUS NUMBERS DEFINED**

1. Project is an identified need;
2. Project is in the development stage;
3. Funding has been applied for;
4. Project is being implemented/in progress;
5. Project is completed; moving to maintenance schedule
6. Partner/Collaborator with Agencies/Lead Group
7. Funding applied for, never funded

**TYPE OF PROJECT: EXPANDED**

1. **SSFB/ ERD** = STRATEGIC SHADED FUEL BREAK (RIDGES, ETC) / ESCAPE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT (For ingress and egress)
2. **DS/ SI** = DEFENSIBLE SPACE / STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY
3. **H20** = WATER SOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR USE BY LANDOWNER/ FIRE DEPARTMENT/ CALFIRE
4. **OTHER** = PROJECT NOT FITTING ANY OF THE ABOVE DEFINITIONS
8. Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

Action Plan

Initial analysis indicated that the greater Seiad Valley area, the area presently protected by the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department, was in desperate need of almost all measures that could be initiated to improve safety from wildfires. The same could be said of the community of Hamburg protected by the Klamath River Volunteer Fire Department with the aid of the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Of primary importance was the need for a dependable water supply closely followed by the need for fuels reduction and formation of a safe perimeter around private property. Also, there was a pressing need for gathering information on existing residences and formulating a data base for use by firefighting agencies in order to obtain data on conditions around the various homes or businesses. Along with this was the need to identify location of residences and driveways.

The most likely way to be able to achieve the necessary actions was identified as obtaining funding through available grant sources and through close collaboration with the local Forest Service office.

On-Going Projects

Initial funding was by means of a $15,500 grant through the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Council (RAC) on July 1, 2003. Three 5,000 gallon water tanks complete with piping, a 250 GPM portable pump with trailer to haul accessories were purchased with this grant. Also clearing and/or stabilizing access to facilitate direct pumping from local streams and the river at 4 locations on private property. The tanks are located where they can be readily refilled with the pump during a fire event or by the Fire Department tender after the fire event. A tank was placed at the Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department Station, another on the Nielson property about 3 miles up Seiad Creek Road from Highway 96 and the 3rd on the Hetherington Property adjacent to Seiad Oaks Road just off Seiad Creek Road about ½ mile from Highway 96. A river access was stabilized and graded on the Briggs property about ½ mile downstream from Thompson Creek bridge at Highway 96 mile post 51.98. An access was cleared on Walker Creek on the Crawford property, another was cleared and stabilized on Seiad Creek at the Nielson property and permission was obtained for access to an existing pond on the Meyer property on Grider Creek Road.

Funding in the amount of $14,819 was approved by the RAC for phase II of the water access program in 2005. Four additional 5,000 gallon water tanks with associated piping were purchased and installed. One tank was placed on the Purvis property approximately midway through the residential area of Seiad Creek Road, the second tank was placed on the Burns property about ¾ miles west of Walker Creek Road on Grider Road, the third was placed within the downstream extension on the Brophy property near Thompson Creek. The fourth tank was intended to be placed within the upriver extension; however, no suitable location could be found so the tank was temporarily placed on the Crawford property at Walker Creek. This tank is expected to be moved to Hamburg during 2009.
A residential survey in which residents were asked to complete and return a prescribed form requesting information about the property that would help firefighters to be aware of existing facilities and conditions. Approximately 60% return was obtained. These survey forms are being maintained by the SFSC.

Reflective residential address sign components in the form of green back plates, white stick on lettering and sign posts were obtained by the SFSC and made available at a reduced price. Members of the Seiad Volunteer Fire Dept. have assumed responsibility for making up signs for residents that request them.

Currently (Feb. 2009) two fuels reduction projects have been funded. One of the projects, administratively a portion of the Happy Camp Fire Safe Council program, calls for fuels reduction on private property from Seattle Creek to Fort Goff Creek. The second project calls for fuels reduction on private property along Seiad Creek and extends from the junction of Seiad Creek Road and Seiad Oaks Road along Seiad Creek Road northeast through the last private property before entering Forest Service administered land, a distance of about 3 mile.

**Future Projects**

The SFSC plans to proceed with fuels reduction programs within the Seiad/Hamburg area. This program will include fuels reduction project intended to remove hazardous conditions around residences where the owners are not capable of performing the work themselves and projects intended to form a fire safe condition around private property and adjacent to Forest Service land. Fuels reduction will be coordinated with the Happy Camp Ranger District (HCRD) of the Klamath National Forest. The Forest Service’s TomSider Project encompasses Forest Service administered land adjacent to private property in the Seiad Valley/Hamburg area. The following sequence of work areas has been discussed with Forest Service personnel and will proceed as funding becomes available.

A. Private property north and west of Seiad Creek along Seiad Creek Road, including Seiad Oaks. A portion of this area has been funded through the Clearinghouse during 2008 with work to be completed during 2009.

B. Private property south and east of Seiad Creek.

C. Private property in the Grider/Walker Creek area.

D. Private property in the Thompson Creek area. Funded through the Clearinghouse in 2008 under the Happy Camp Fire Safe Council program. Work to be completed during 2009.

E. Private property in the Hamburg area. The plan for this area as initially formulated will be to treat a swath adjacent to Forest Service land south of State Highway 96.

F. Planning for emergency situations including evacuation routes.

Other peripheral areas will be included as work progresses.
SFSC does not anticipate hiring a clearing crew with which to accomplish the fuels reduction work. It is the intent of this Fire Safe Council to use existing crews through cooperative agreements with other organizations such as the Happy Camp Fire Safe Council and Northern California Resource Center (NCRC).
9. Recommendations to Reduce Structural Ignitability

The general principle behind fire-safing an area (making it as safe as possible for when a wildland fire might eventually happen) is to reduce the amount of fuel that the fire can consume. Three factors dictate the extent and severity of fire: fuel, oxygen, and heat. If any one of these elements is missing, a fire won’t burn. Usually it is difficult to control the oxygen and heat available to a fire. We can’t control the weather. That leaves the option of controlling the fuel. When there is a lot of fuel, a fire can burn very hot, and move very quickly. When there is little fuel present, fires tend to slow down and to burn cooler. It is important to distinguish between fine, flashy fuels and larger (thinner, longer burning fuels). Fine, flashy fuels may not appear as threatening, but pose a greater risk to fire suppression efforts. It is in your best interest to reduce the amount of fuels around your home to reduce the risk of a wildland fire consuming it. That’s what it means to fire-safe your home: reduce the amount of fuels a fire could consume, as well as reduce other risks that increase fire, such as possible ignition sources.

**Defensible Space**

Defensible space is a buffer zone, a minimum 100-foot fire-resistive area around your house that reduces the risk of a wildland fire from starting or spreading to your home. Clearing all flammable vegetation a minimum of 100 feet around your home and other structures will not only provide you with the greatest chance for survival, it is also required by California law (Senate Bill 1369). If you live on a hill, you should extend this up to 200 feet, depending upon the steepness of the slope and the surrounding fuel. Defensible space not only helps protect your home in the critical minutes it takes a fire to pass, it also gives firefighters an area to effectively work in. During a large-scale wildland fire, when many homes are at risk, firefighters must focus on homes they can safely defend. This fuel reduction work will not keep a fire from starting but in most cases will change the dynamics of how a fire burns in an area. In addition to defensible space being important for your home’s survival, it may also help you keep your house insured. Many insurance companies offer insurance-based incentives for defensible space around homes. The following guidelines are just the beginning:

- Provide a minimum of 100 feet of clearance of flammable materials around your home.
- Landscape your defensible space zone with fire resistant plants. While these plants are not immune to fire, they can help slow the spread of fire.
- Keep your gutters and roofs clean of any debris and/or vegetation.
- Move all flammable materials—especially firewood, propane tanks, etc.—at least 30 feet away from your home and any structures.
- Contact Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council, or go to [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) for fire safe guidelines and information on creating a defensible space.
**Firewise Construction**

While the creation of defensible space is key in the protection of your home from fire, house construction is equally important. Firewise construction is also required by law for all new construction in communities identified by CDF as “Communities at Risk from Wildfires” (e.g. Hamburg, Seiad) where an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008. However, reroofing of existing structures will also require Class A roof assembly. The State Fire Marshal, CDF and other cooperators drafted new standards for fire safe building materials and construction.

The combined approach of both defensible space and fire-wise home construction will increase the chances that your home will survive a fire. Following is a list of a few guidelines for firewise home construction.

- The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home to wildland fires. Once your roof covering ignites, the rest of the home may soon follow. The best roofing material is metal or tile (with the tile ends capped). The second best is a composition roof covering. Beginning in 2008, all new homes and re-roofing will require class A roof assembly.
- Shake siding on your house is much more prone to ignite than stucco siding or ferrous cement.
- Decks sticking out from your house act as kindling to your house for fires. If you have a deck, make sure that you enclose the underside of it and your house if it’s a post-and-pier foundation. Do this either with solid building materials or with lattice and tight screen with green, fleshy plants. This will give you much more storage space as well, since it is unsafe to store anything (especially firewood or cardboard boxes) under your house if it’s open to the outside.
- Make sure you have three-eighths (3/8) to one-half (1/2) inch mesh screen on all chimneys.
- Use double-pane or safety glass on all large windows. Beginning in 2008, California Building Code will require one of the panes to be tempered.
10. Finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties including private landowners and federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council have been consulted.

- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect the various communities.

- Recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

This plan is the result of a long period of cooperative planning efforts by many people and various governmental agencies. In addition to the private landowners and the Northern California Resource Center some key contributors to this effort and the plan include:

**USFS.** The Klamath National Forest and especially the Happy Camp Ranger District has supported this FSC since its inception. Key personnel have been encouraged by the ranger to support the FSC efforts with technical support, technical training and expert counsel throughout.

**Siskiyou County F.S.C.** The Siskiyou County FSC continues to provide support with informational support and the development of a Siskiyou County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
Bibliography


Karuk Tribe of California, Department of Natural Resources. (1999). Karuk forest management
perspectives: Interviews with tribal members. USDA Forest Service, Klamath National Forest.


Lake, Frank. 2007. Traditional ecological knowledge to develop and maintain fire regimes in northwestern California, Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion: management and restoration of culturally significant habitats. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press.


WEBSITE REFERENCES:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/klamath/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5407281
Appendix A: Resource Materials and Additional References

COMMUNITY GUIDE to Preparing and Implementing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2008),


# Appendix B: List of Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAL FIRE</td>
<td>California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDF</td>
<td>California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (former acronym)</td>
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<td>CWPP</td>
<td>Community Wildfire Protection Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources (of the Karuk Tribe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRAP</td>
<td>Fire and Resource Assessment Program (of CAL FIRE)</td>
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<td>FRCC</td>
<td>Fire Regime Condition Class</td>
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<td>FSC</td>
<td>Fire Safe Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographic Information System</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>NQUAQMD</td>
<td>North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSW</td>
<td>Pacific Southwest Research Station (of the USDA Forest Service)</td>
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<td>SFSC</td>
<td>Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRA</td>
<td>State Responsibility Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEK</td>
<td>Traditional Ecological Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>United States Department of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>United States Forest Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>WUI</td>
<td>Wildland Urban Interface</td>
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Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

¼ Mile Buffers
This buffer extends one fourth of a mile from the property boundary, regardless of ownership. This buffer provides for larger fuelbreaks along property boundaries as funding becomes available.

Anchor point
An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing a fireline.

Aspect
Compass direction toward which a slope faces.

Assets at Risk
Assets at risk due to wildland fires in California include life and safety; timber; range; recreation; water and watershed; plants; air quality; cultural and historical resources; unique scenic areas; buildings; and wildlife, and ecosystem health.

Anthropogenic
Relating to or resulting from the impacts of human beings on nature.

Backfire
A fire set along the inner edge of a fireline to consume the fuel in the path of a wildland fire or change the direction of force of the fire’s convection column. See Burn Out.

Building
Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

Burn Out
Setting fire inside a control line to consume fuel between the edge of the fire and the control line.

Burning Index
A number related to how hard the fire is to contain. The Burning Index value is flame length X 10. To get the flame length, just divide the BI by 10.

Community Base Map
A map having essential outlines and onto which additional geographical or topographical data may be placed for comparison or correlation
Community Risk Assessment
Risk assessment is a step in a risk management process. Risk assessment is the determination of quantitative or qualitative value of risk related to a concrete situation and a recognized threat (also called hazard). For the purposes of this plan, structures, roads and other areas of community importance within the planning area are the values at risk from wildland fire.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
Address issues such as wildland fire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, or structure protection. The process of developing a CWPP can help communities clarify and refine their priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface (Source: Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. March, 2004).

Crown fire: A fire that advances from top to top of trees or shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire. Crown fires are sometimes classed as running or dependent to distinguish the degree of independence from the surface fire.

Crown bulk density
Canopy bulk density describes the density of available canopy fuel in a stand. It is defined as the mass of available canopy fuel per canopy volume unit.

Crown foliage ignition energy
The net energy content of the fuel. Varies primarily by foliar moisture content, although species differences in energy content are apparent.

Defensible Space
An area between an improved property and a potential wildland fire where combustible materials and vegetation have been removed or modified to reduce the potential for fire on improved property spreading to wildland fuels or to provide a safe working area for fire fighters protecting life and improved property from wildland fire.

By creating a fire safe landscape of at least 100 feet around your house, you will reduce the chance of a wildland fire spreading onto your property and burning through to your home. This is the basis for creating a "defensible space" - an area that will help protect your home and provide a safety zone for the firefighters who are battling the flames. Clearing all flammable vegetation a minimum of 100 feet around your home and other structures will not only provide you with the greatest chance for survival, it is also required by California law.

Diameter limits
Diameter limits in a forestry prescription specify the maximum diameter of tree that can be removed in an operation.

Extended WUI Areas
This buffer varies in width depending on the properties position on the slope – often extending to the nearest ridge feature. Not all properties with residences have an extended WUI area.
Fire and Resource Assessment Program
The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) provides a variety of products including the Forest and Range Assessment, a detailed report on California’s forests and rangelands. FRAP provides extensive technical and public information for statewide fire threat, fire hazard, watersheds, socio-economic conditions, environmental indicators, and forest-related climate change. Much of this information involves Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis, tables, maps, data and calculation tools that are available on this website.

Fire Environment
The surrounding conditions, influences, and modifying forces of topography, fuel, and weather that determine fire behavior

Fire Regime Condition Class
Fire regime condition classes measure the degree of departure from reference conditions, possibly resulting in changes to key ecosystem components, such as vegetation characteristics (species composition, structural stage, stand age, canopy closure, and mosaic pattern); fuel composition; fire frequency, severity, and pattern; and other associated disturbances, such as insect and disease mortality, grazing, and drought.

Fire Risk
For the purposes of this document, fire risk is based on fuel hazard, risk of wildland fire occurrence and firefighting capability.

Fireline
Part of a containment or control line that is scraped or dug to mineral soil.

Fuel Break
Fuel breaks are wide strips of land on which trees and vegetation has been permanently reduced or removed. These areas can slow, and even stop, the spread of a wildland fire because they provide fewer fuels to carry the flames. They also provide firefighters with safe zones to take a stand against a wildland fire, or retreat from flames if the need arises. Fuelbreaks need to be tailored to the terrain, fuels, historic fire regimes and expected weather conditions of the landscape in which they are placed. A fuelbreak may be natural (e.g., a talus slope, a river, or a deciduous stand) or man-made.

Fuel Continuity
The degree or extent of continuous or uninterrupted distribution of fuel particles in a fuel bed thus affecting a fire’s ability to sustain itself.

Fuel Hazard
A fuel complex, defined by volume, type condition, arrangement, and location that determine the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control

Fuel ladder
Flammable vegetation that helps a ground fire move into the canopy
**Height to live crown**
The vertical distance in feet from the ground to the base of the live crown, measured to the lowest live branch-whorl or lowest live branch excluding epicormics.

**Historic fire regime**
A fire regime includes the frequency of fire occurrence, fire intensity and the amount of fuel consumed. A natural fire regime is a general classification of the role fire would play across a landscape in the absence of modern human mechanical intervention, but including the influence of aboriginal burning.

**Improved Property**
A piece of land or real estate upon which a structure has been placed, a marketable crop is growing (including timber), or other property improvement has been made.

**Initial Attack**
Initial attack means the first attack on the fire. The number of resources sent on the first dispatch to a wildland fire depends upon the location of the fire, the fuels in the area (vegetation, timber, homes, etc) and current weather conditions. Municipal fire departments would call this the first alarm. Most fires are caught within the first burn period (the first two hours). Therefore, the vast majority of the fires CDF responds to are considered initial attack fires.

**Jackpot Fuels**
A large concentration of discontinuous fuels in a given area such as a slash pile.

**Municipal Watershed**
For the purposes of this plan, a municipal watershed is the watershed from which the runoff is used for drinking purposes for ten or more structures.

**Planning Area**
The Orleans/Somes Bar Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) planning area is in northwestern California in Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties. Specifically, this plan addresses the area in the Lower Mid Klamath Subbasin along the Klamath River from Swillup Creek to the north, Aikens to the south and west, and Butler Creek to the east. It includes the communities of Orleans and Somes Bar.

**Potential Control Features**
Landscape attributes that could be used to modify fire behavior (e.g. ridges, ridge roads, and major streams).

**Residence**
Any structure used or intended for supporting occupancy.

**Risk of Wildland fire Occurrence**
Determined by using a combination of the asset’s position on the slope (low, mid, upper) and how frequently the area has experienced fire in the past.
Snag
A standing, partly or completely dead tree, often missing a top or most of the smaller branches.

Stakeholder
Any person, agency or organization with particular interest - a stake - in fire safety and protection of assets from wildland fires.

State Responsibility Area (SRA)
The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection classifies areas in which the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is that of the state. These include: lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth or grass, whether of commercial value or not; lands which protect the soil from erosion, retard run-off of water or accelerated percolation; lands used principally for range or forage purposes; lands not owned by the Federal government; and lands not incorporated. By Board regulations, unless specific circumstances dictate otherwise, lands are removed from SRA when housing densities average more than 3 units per acre over an area of 250 acres. CDF has SRA responsibility for the protection of over 31 million acres of California’s privately-owned wildlands.

Surface fire
Fire that burns loose debris on the surface, which include dead branches, blowdown timber, leaves, and low vegetation, as contrasted with crown fire

Surface fuels
Loose debris on the surface, which include dead branches, blowdown timber, leaves, and low vegetation.

Understory burn
A controlled burn of fuels below the forest canopy, intended to remove fuels from on-coming or potential fires

Utility corridor
Parcel of land, either linear or aerial in character, that has been identified by law, Secretarial Order, the land-use planning process, or by other management decision, as being a preferred location for existing and future utility rights-of-way

Watershed
Any area of land that drains to a common point. A watershed is smaller than a river basin or sub-basin but larger than a drainage or site. The term generally describes areas that result from the first subdivision of a sub-basin, often referred to as a “fifth field watershed”

Water draw site
Any natural or constructed supply of water that is readily available for fire control operations.

Wild and Scenic River
A river or river segment designated by the National Park Service because of the outstandingly
remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values (16 USC 1271-1287).

Wildfire
An unplanned ignition caused by lightning, volcanoes, unauthorized, and accidental human-caused actions and escaped prescribed fires.

Wildland fire
Wildland fire can be either wildfire (unplanned ignitions) or prescribed fire (planned ignitions). “Use of wildland fire” is a term meaning the management of wildfire or prescribed fire to meet objectives in land and resource management plans.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
The wildland–urban interface (WUI) is commonly described as the zone where structures and other human development meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.
Dear Neighbor,

The Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council has been working hard with residents and agency representatives in the past months and we are pleased with the progress thus far in creating our CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan). The results of the CWPP will enable each of us to better understand how we can keep this beautiful area fire safe. Part of that plan includes an assessment of the interplay between property values and fire risks, leading to setting priorities for fire protection and enabling us to become a part of the county-wide CWPP. The attached voluntary survey is meant to be used as a tool for you to SELF evaluate your property. Additionally, this will help the council most accurately represent the real situation and complete a correct evaluation of the existing fire risk. Your input is essential!

For your convenience we developed a site for you to easily answer the survey or you can print out the survey and mail it to the address on the survey. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire. Results will be summarized in the CWPP.

If you have any questions regarding the survey questions or use of the information please feel free to call. If you do not wish to give us your name please let us know which sub-group area of the Rattlesnake Creek Area FSC area your residence is located. However, providing your name will enable us to not duplicate this survey in the future.

Thanks for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,

Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council

July 20, 2005
Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council Fire Safety Questionnaire

(Please complete by circling the correct answer.)

Access

1) Is there more than one road into and out of your property (more than one way out)?

Yes or No

2) Does your road have a metal reflective sign that can be read in the dark?

Yes or No

3) If you have a bridge on your access road does it have a posted weight capacity of at least 40,000 lbs.?

Yes, No, N/A, Not Sure?

4) Is your house address posted and visible (in both directions) from the road at the driveway entrance?

Yes or No

Outside Your Home

5) Is all brush (excluding maintained native or ornamental shrubbery) removed within 100’ of your structures?

Yes or No
6) Are small trees (those less than 8" diameter at breast height) spaced at least 20’ apart within 100’ radius of your structures?

Yes or No

7) Are the limbs of native trees within 100’ of your structures pruned to at least 8’ above the ground (or small tree canopy reduced to 50% of the bole)?

Yes or No

8) Are firewood piles and propane tanks (if any) 30’ or further from your home?

Yes or No

9) Do propane tanks or firewood piles have minimum 10’ clearance to mineral soil around them?

Yes or No

10) Do you have a 2000 gallon water supply tank with a 2 ½" male hydrant connection on your property or other similar water source available for fire suppression?

Yes or No

11) Would you give permission to use your water source for fire suppression?

Yes or No
12) Topographically, where is your structure located (choose most appropriate):
Ridge top; midslope; gully; or valley bottom

13) My roof materials are:
Flammable (wood shake or shingle) or flame resistant (metal, tile, composition).

14) My structures have roof eaves that are:
Boxed in, exposed, or don’t have eaves.

Your Home and Other Related Structures

15) My structure exterior walls are:
Wood or other flammable material ( _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ),
Stone, stucco, other flame resistant material ( _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ).

16) The underneath portion of my deck is:
Enclosed or Exposed;

17) My deck is constructed of?
Wood or Flame Resistant material
18) The underneath portion of my deck is overhanging a slope below?

Yes or No

19) Exterior vents on my structures are:

Screened with wire mesh or Unscreened/screened with plastic

20) Do you burn slash piles on your property?

Yes or No

21) **NAME:** (optional)

Fill out survey online or mail paper copy to:

NCRC (non-profit sponsor for the Seiad Valley Fire Safe Council)

P.O. Box 342

Fort Jones, CA 96032

Or Fax to: 530-468-4426

Questions? Please call: (530) 468-2888