

Wildfire Management in Auburn SRA and the Auburn Project Lands

A number of goals and guidelines were developed in the General Plan/Resource Management Plan (GP/RMP) to address wildfire risk and vegetation and fuel management. These broad goals and guidelines are extracted below in this hand out. The GP/RMP references the Auburn Fire Management Plan (FMP), which is a separate document specific to fire management that Reclamation has prepared for the Auburn Project Lands. The FMP will be revised and updated as needed. Additionally, Reclamation and State Parks have implemented and continue to implement a number of specific fuel management projects, including the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break. The two agencies have partnered with other agencies, including the City of Auburn, Calfire and the CCCs in implementing specific projects.

Wildfire Management Goals and Guidelines In the ASRA General Plan & APL Resource Management Plan

4.3.1 Resource Management and Protection

Wildfire Management

GOAL RES 8: Manage vegetation to reduce the risk of wildfire in adjacent populated areas and promote functioning and resilient ecosystems to protect significant resource values, visitor experiences, and public safety.

Guideline RES 8.1: Adopt and implement a Fire Management Plan for ASRA/APL consistent with Reclamation, CSP and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection policies and requirements. The federal Fire Management Plan will identify, integrate, and coordinate fire management guidance, direction and activities. The plan will include strategies related to:

- ◆ Wildfire suppression;
- ◆ Implementing prescribed fire;
- ◆ Non-fire fuel treatment;
- ◆ Protecting and assisting communities;
- ◆ Educating the public;
- ◆ Maintaining and restoring native vegetation communities;
- ◆ Controlling invasive species;
- ◆ Protecting natural and cultural resources;
- ◆ Surveying, assessing and documenting post-fire conditions; and
- ◆ Rehabilitating resources after a fire.

Guideline RES 8.2: As needed, prepare, adopt and implement a state Wildfire Management Plan or other relevant vegetation management plan for state fee title lands within ASRA.

Guideline RES 8.3: Maintain ongoing coordination, at least annually, between Reclamation, CSP, CAL FIRE, and other fire management agencies to assess, update, and prioritize wildfire management approaches.

Guideline RES 8.4: Manage vegetation to reduce fuel loads between ASRA/APL and adjacent residential areas. Maintain the Auburn Shaded Fuelbreak and implement additional shaded fuelbreaks that are critical to the protection of life or resources in ASRA/APL consistent with the Fire Management Plan and Reclamation and CSP policies, where applicable.

Guideline RES 8.5: Monitor and manage vegetation along roadways and trails consistent with the "Vegetation Management Guidelines for Trails and Roads in Units of the California State Park System".

Guideline RES 8.6: Monitor vegetation conditions, reduce excess fuel loading, and maintain appropriate defensible space surrounding existing recreation facilities including parking areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, and other sites with heavy visitation. Implement appropriate fuel reduction and defensible space treatments surrounding any new or expanded facilities or newly opened roads, prior to constructing or expanding the facility or opening the road for public vehicle access.

Guideline RES 8.7: Maintain fire safety standards within all campgrounds, including maintaining minimum nonflammable zones around all campfire rings and maintaining appropriate clearance and defensible space around campgrounds.

Guideline RES 8.8: Minimize the impacts of forestry and vegetation management actions on cultural and natural resources by avoiding or mitigating the impacts of forest treatments in sensitive areas, developing forestry prescriptions that address habitat considerations and fuel reduction, and implementing post-treatment monitoring and adaptive management.

Guideline RES 8.9: Develop forest and vegetation management planning strategies to identify and prioritize various forest and vegetation types, their current conditions and appropriate forest and vegetation management prescriptions. Efficiently implement forestry management and vegetation modification treatments by programmatically planning for and evaluating treatment programs or multiple projects, where appropriate.

Guideline RES 8.10: Implement post-fire resource surveys to identify previously unknown cultural resources and to assess impacts from fire activity.

Guideline RES 8.11: Respond to and work with communities, homeowner associations, and firesafe councils regarding boundary vegetation modification and clearance consistent with Reclamation and CSP policies and guidelines.

Guideline RES 8.12: Coordinate with Placer and El Dorado Counties, and the City of Auburn to review and provide input on development and infrastructure proposals, land use or zoning plans, and environmental review documents. Encourage strategies to minimize wildfire risk, and reduce potential fire threats to adjoining communities, in the planning and development of adjacent lands, including maintaining adequate setbacks and vegetation management on adjacent private lands.

Guideline RES 8.13: Coordinate with utility providers to ensure that existing and future utility corridors within and adjacent to ASRA/APL maintain fire-prevention standards.

GOAL RES 9: Minimize the risk of human-caused wildfires within ASRA/APL through effective education, enforcement, and management strategies.

Guideline RES 9.1: Enforce fire restrictions established in the California Code of Regulations (Title 14, Division 3, Sections 4311 and 4314) at all times. These restrictions require that within ASRA:

- ◆ Campfires may only be maintained in fire rings provided and maintained by CSP;
- ◆ Portable camp stoves may only be used in areas designated by CSP;
- ◆ Fires must be maintained in a safe condition that does not threaten any structure, person or natural feature; and
- ◆ No person shall possess or discharge any fireworks or similar devices.

Guideline RES 9.2: Enact and enforce additional restrictions on public use based on wildfire hazard conditions in order to provide for public safety and to protect resources. Additional restrictions on public use may be implemented based on wildfire hazard conditions including wind, temperature, time of year and other factors. These additional temporary restrictions could vary depending on the severity of wildfire hazard conditions. They may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Prohibiting campfires or open flames within ASRA/APL;
- ◆ Prohibiting smoking within ASRA/APL;
- ◆ Limiting portable stove use to designated campsites; and/or
- ◆ Temporary closure of portions of ASRA/APL to public use.

Guideline RES 9.3: Educate visitors about current fire restrictions, prohibition on fireworks, and general fire safety. Include fire safety information at campgrounds, parking areas, and other locations with heavy visitation.

Guideline RES 9.4: Coordinate with other land management and/or fire agencies to develop and implement public education campaigns to increase awareness of wildfire risks and prevention measures prior to visitors' arrival at ASRA/APL. Consider public service announcements in local media, social media campaigns, and/or public education opportunities at special events or in conjunction with fuel reduction projects.

Guideline RES 9.5: Enforce fire restrictions, prohibitions on fireworks, requirements for OHV spark arresters, and other fire-safety regulations as a law enforcement and public-safety priority.

Guideline RES 9.6: Where determined appropriate, make emergency fire suppression equipment or resources available, such as at campgrounds or special event locations. Train appropriate CSP staff in basic wildland fire response and safety.

GOAL RES 10: Provide for safe and effective emergency access and evacuation.

Guideline RES 10.1: Prepare and maintain an emergency access and evacuation plan for ASRA/APL. The plan should:

- ◆ identify emergency access and evacuation routes for all facilities,
- ◆ identify roadway or access improvements necessary to facilitate emergency ingress and egress, and
- ◆ include a map of roads, trails, and emergency helicopter landing sites.

Guideline RES 10.2: Coordinate with applicable fire agencies in the planning of new or expanded recreation facilities. Incorporate feasible emergency access recommendations prior to constructing or expanding facilities.

4.3.2 Visitor Experience and Opportunities

Special Events and Concessions

Guideline V 5.6: CSP will require event promoters to provide emergency resources, including fire suppression equipment and staff as determined necessary by CSP at special events, including during periods of high fire danger.

4.3.4 Interpretation and Education

Guideline I&E 4.6: Enhance and increase public understanding of changing wildfire conditions, the connection of increased wildfire hazard to climate change and the role visitors can play in helping to reduce some of these risks.

4.3.5 Operations

Public Safety and Law Enforcement

Guideline OP 3.4: Prioritize public contact and enforcement actions to minimize the risk of wildfire consistent with GOAL RES 9.