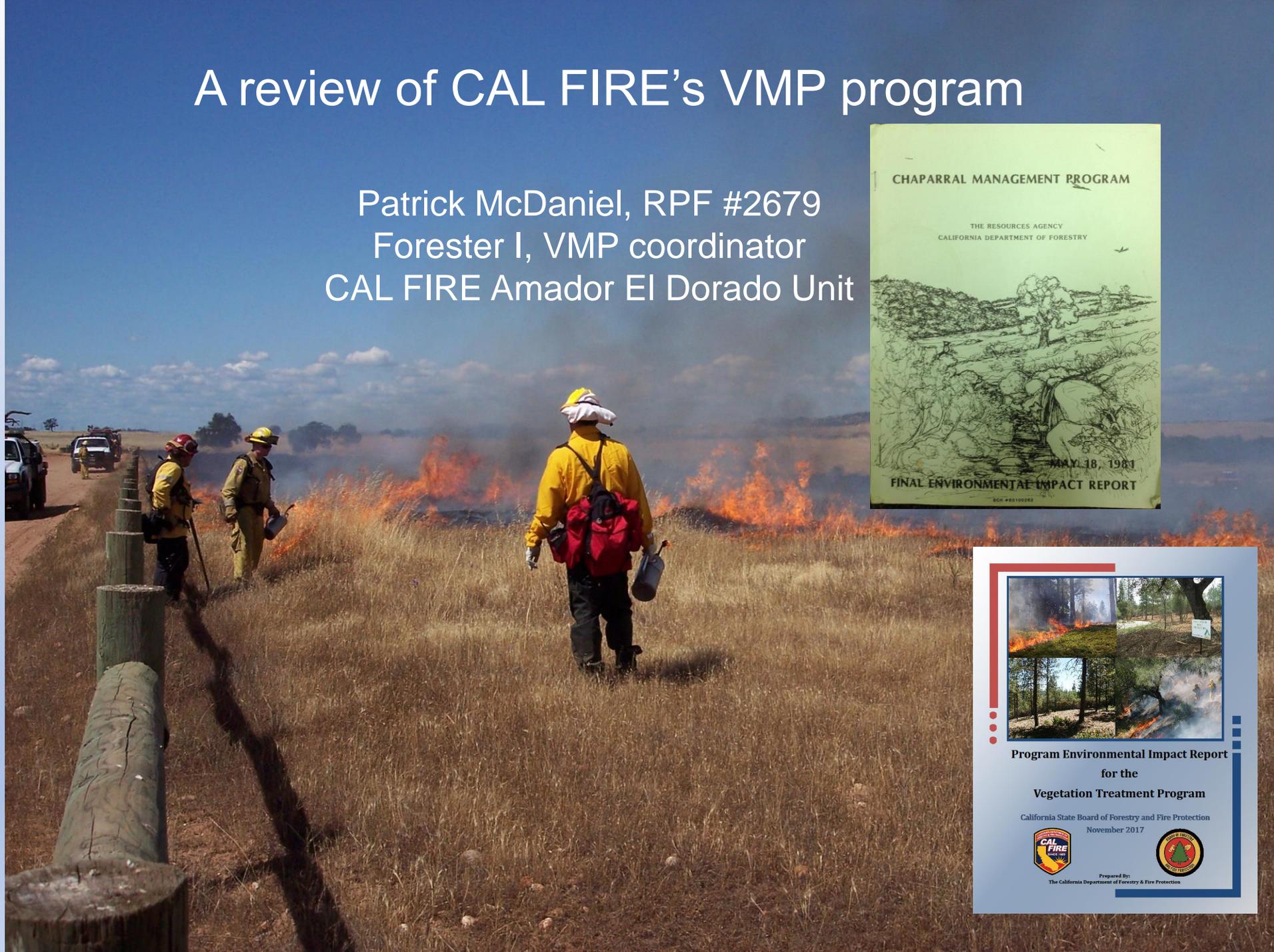
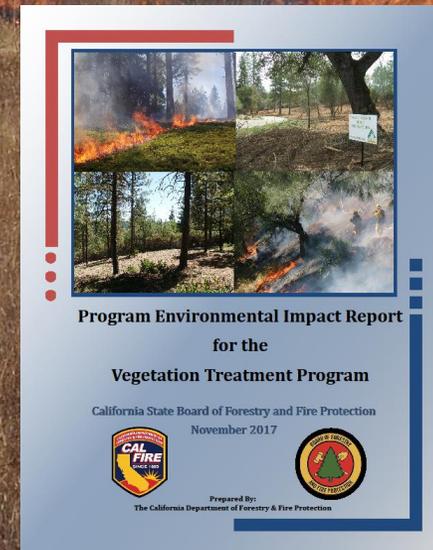
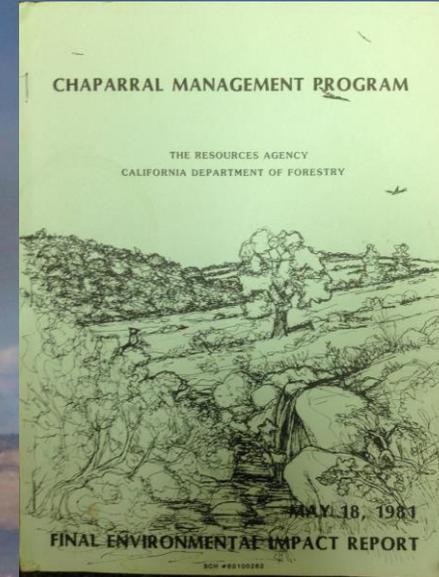


A review of CAL FIRE's VMP program

Patrick McDaniel, RPF #2679
Forester I, VMP coordinator
CAL FIRE Amador El Dorado Unit



- The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire, and some mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. The use of prescribed fire mimics natural processes, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.

- The Vegetation Management Program is derived from Senate Bill 1704, authored by then Senator Barry Keene, and ultimately signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on July 16, 1980. The original legislation established the basic processes and procedures consistent with the need to manage chaparral-covered and associated lands within California. The laws enacted in support of this program are found in Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 9.8 Chaparral Management, Sections 1560 to 1569.6. The program is further defined in the Public Resources Code Sections 4461 to 4473, 4475 to 4480 and 4491 to 4494.

- VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. Implementation of VMP projects is by CAL FIRE Units. The projects which fit within a unit's priority areas (e.g., those identified through the Fire Plan) and are considered to be of most value to the unit are those that will be completed. The Vegetation Management Program has been in existence since 1982 and has averaged approximately 25,000 acres per year since its inception.

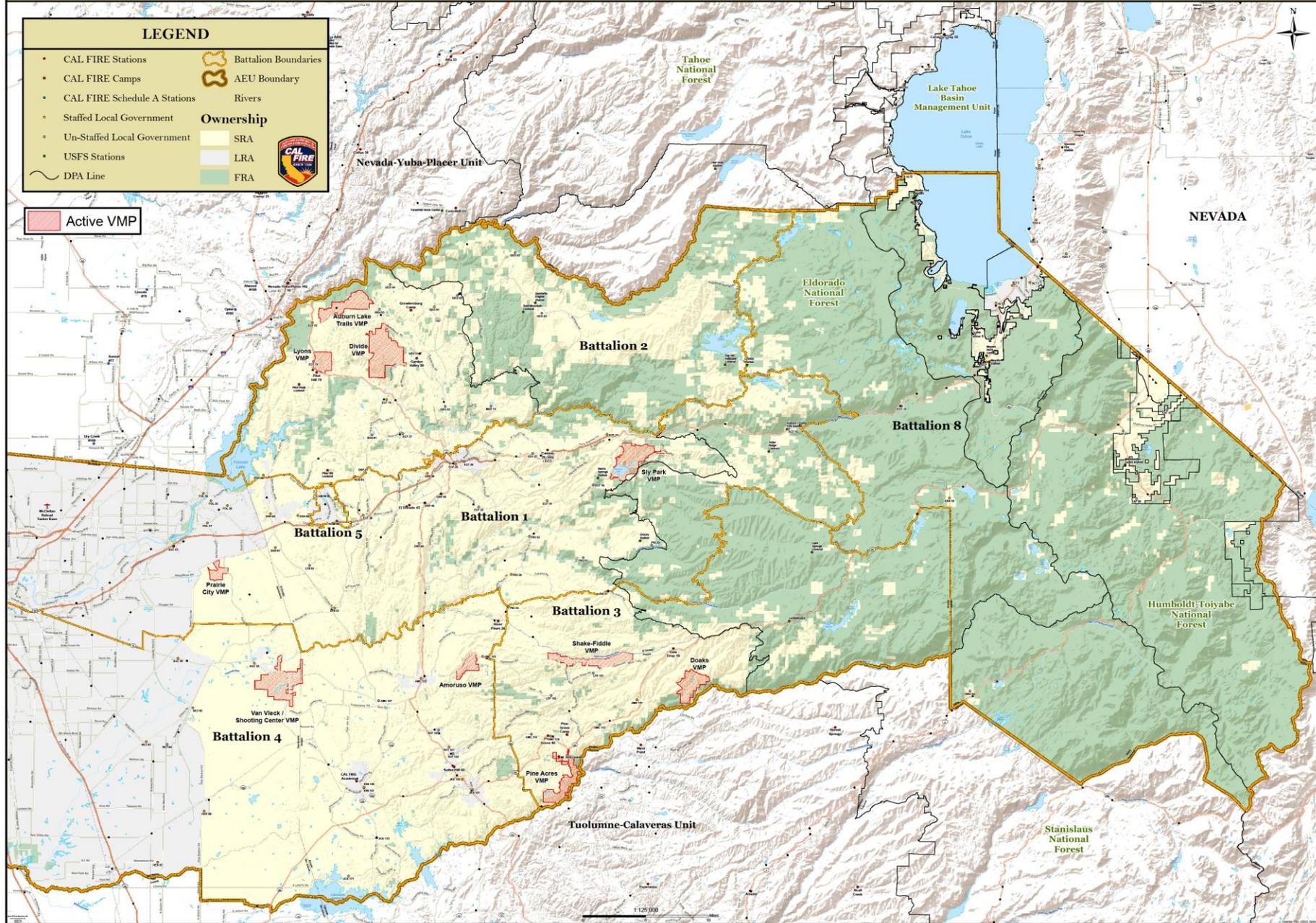
- CAL FIRE assumes the liability for conducting the prescribed burn on VMP projects.

- **VMP PROGRAM GOALS** (Board of Forestry and Fire Protection)
The goal of the Chaparral Management Program is to reduce the chance of large, damaging wildfires by reducing fire hazards on wildland in California. The Departments' intent is to realize the best 'mix' of natural resource benefits from these lands, consistent with environmental protection and landowner/steward objectives. This includes three broad goals, which encompass most Chaparral
 - 1. Reduction of conflagration fires.
 - 2. Optimization of soil and water productivity.
 - 3. Protection and improvement of intrinsic floral and faunal values.

Sub goals

- Reduce the number and intensity of large, damaging wildfires with corresponding savings of suppression costs.
- Increase public safety.
- Increase water quantity and maintain water quality from managed watersheds.
- Decrease the potential for damage from flooding and siltation.
- Protect and improve soil productivity, and decrease erosion over the long term.
- Improve wildlife and fisheries habitat.
- Improve oak woodlands through fire management and regeneration.
- Establish and maintain desired plant communities.
- Propagate rare or endangered species of plants, which are fire dependent.
- Improve air quality over the long term.
- Improve forage and browse for livestock.
- Increase opportunities for recreation and improve scenic vistas.
- Decrease the risk to firefighters and other responders during wildland fires.
- Provide training opportunities for personnel in incident organization, operations, fire behavior, firing methods and effects of weather influences.

AMADOR-EL DORADO UNIT ~ VMP



LEGEND

- CAL FIRE Stations
- CAL FIRE Camps
- CAL FIRE Schedule A Stations
- Staffed Local Government
- Un-Staffed Local Government
- USFS Stations
- ~ DPA Line

Ownership

- SRA
- LRA
- FRA

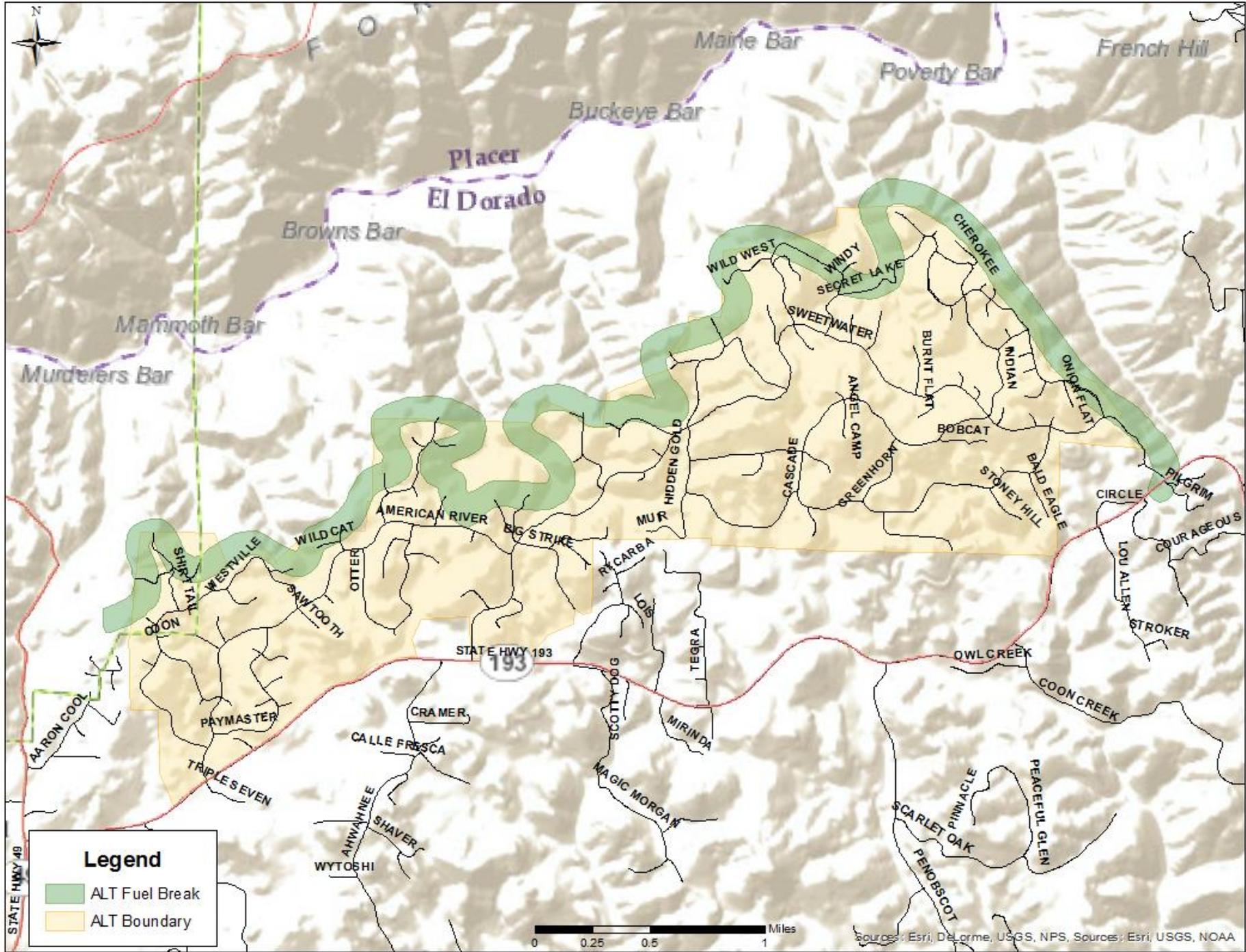


Active VMP

- Battalion Boundaries
- AEU Boundary
- Rivers

1:125,000













➤ Development Process

- AEU works with Fire Safe Councils and communities that have a Community Wildfire Protection Plan to identify areas where fuel modification / shaded fuel breaks would be beneficial.
- Training often occurs on large ranches, conservancies, or State Parks. The VMP coordinator and Battalion Chief in the area meet with and go for a field tour with the landowner(s) to discuss our objectives. If both parties believe its something they can use, its brought to a Unit operations meeting and discussed. Decision is made as to whether the VMP coordinator should devote time to developing the new project and the priority / timeframe.

Items that are part of the VMP development

- Scoping / Consultation – NDDDB, CDFW, RWQCB, Archaeologist, Native Americans.
- Plan components - Burn Plan, Maps, Cost Summary, Biological Assessments, BEHAVE Run, FOFEM Run, Environmental Checklist, Landowner Contracts, Archaeological Addendum.