



Date: 30 Nov 2010

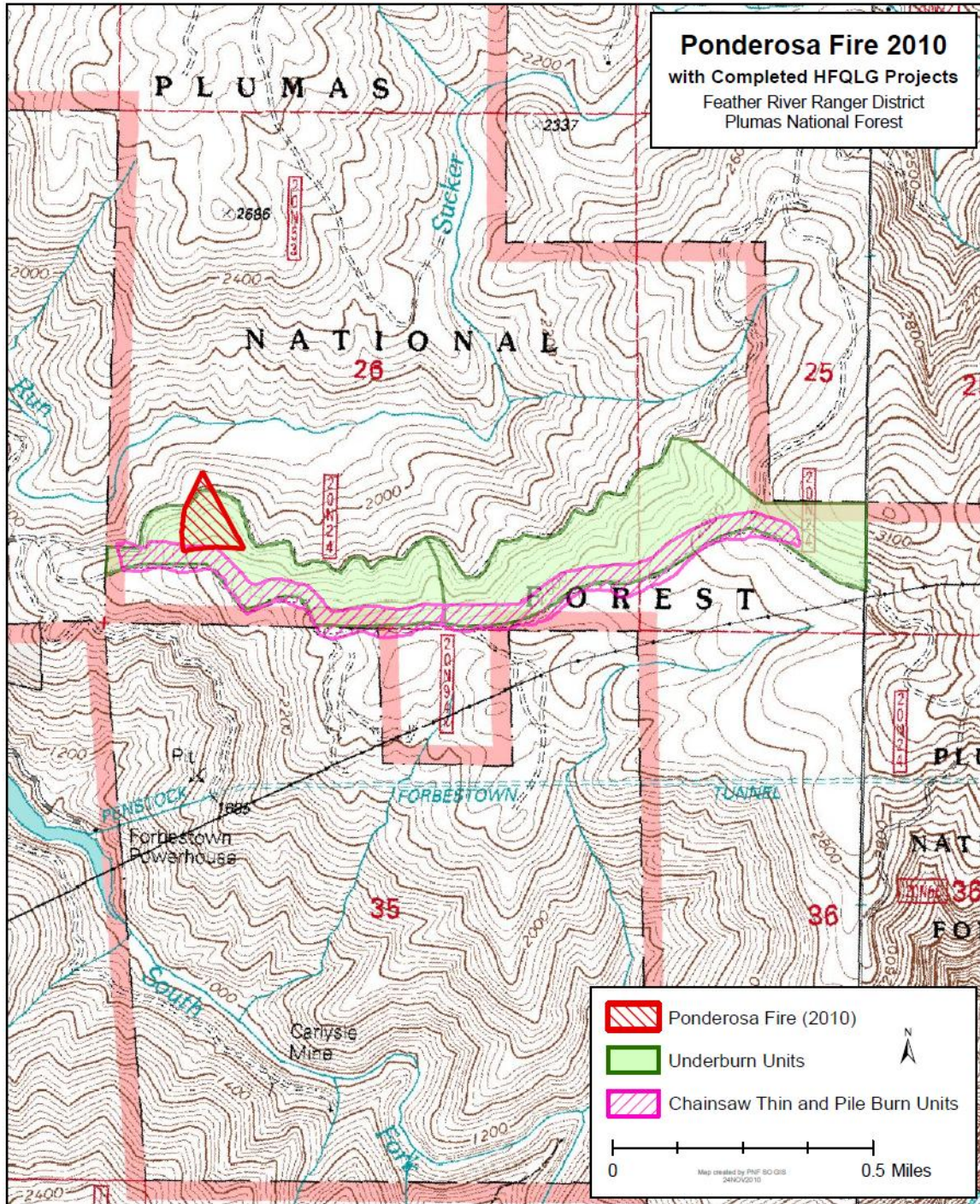
Ponderosa Wildfire And Slapjack DFPZ Fuel Treatment Effectiveness

Location Information			
Region: 5	Forest: Plumas	District: Feather River	Unit: Slapjack U-74
Wildfire Information (consistent with 5100-29)			
Fire Number: PNF 698, CA-BTU-9050		Fire Name: Ponderosa	
Date of Fire Start mm/dd/yr: 08/02/2010		Final Fire Size (acres): 6.3	
Date When Fire Entered Treatment: 08/02/2010			
Treated Area Burned (acres): 5.75		Date Fire Contained: 08/02/2010	
Fuel Treatment Information and Background:			
<p>The Slapjack project was completed to create a Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ), part of a shaded fuel break network completed across the Feather River Ranger District as part of the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group project. This project was planned as part of the Slapjack Environmental Impact Statement.</p> <p>Slapjack unit 74 was first treated by completing an understory prescribed burn to reduce surface fuels. In the fall of 2009 a follow-up precommercial (chainsaw) thinning project reduced ladder fuels on the roadside portion of the underburn unit. This area was piled and then burned in January 2010. These treatments combined to break up the continuity of vertical and horizontal fuels.</p>			

Treatment Type and Acres			
FACTS ID Project Name and Unit Number	Treatment Type - Total Size	Date Implemented	Acres Overlap with Fire
0511033040074000000 Slapjack Unit 74 0511033040075000000 Slapjack Unit 75	Underburn - 122 acres	April 2009	5.75
0511033040074001001 Slapjack (Golden) U74 0511033040075000001 Slapjack (Golden) U75	Chainsaw Thin and Pile And burn piles 42 acres	July 2009 to Jan 2010	0.23



Figure 1. Map of the Ponderosa Fire and overlap with the Slapjack Defensible Fuel Profile Zone.





Narrative of Fire Interaction with Fuel Treatment

The Ponderosa Fire was a lightning caused fire that started on National Forest system lands under Cal Fire/Butte County Fire Protection. The western foothills or “front country” of the Plumas National Forest was experiencing multiple lightning fires on the day of ignition of the Ponderosa Fire.

The fire started on the north side of an unnamed ridge which overlooks Sucker Run Creek, and the South Fork of the Feather River. To the north lies the community of Feather Falls, population 5,000, and to the south is the community of Forbestown, population 3,000, both lie within 3 miles of the fire.

Three fire lookouts reported the Ponderosa smoke at first as a “moderate build” which indicates that a fire is building. Based on the location and report of conditions from the lookouts, fire officers for Cal Fire made the requests for multiple air resources to respond to a possible large incident. After some time the fire lookouts updated the smoke build from moderate to a diminished smoke build. Knowing the remote location of the fire, the report of conditions did not seem to be accurate until fire resources arrived on scene.

Drive time from the Challenge Fire Station to the Ponderosa incident took one hour in a Type III Fire Engine on Forest Roads. Resources available at scene were Plumas Engine 32, Cal Fire Engine 2154 and Cal Fire Helicopter 205.

Once on scene fire fighting resources utilized the treated area to their advantage and were able to successfully anchor and flank the fire with a simple hose lay and handline construction. The resources on scene experienced such low fire intensity that once the fire had an anchor point established they were able to knock down the head of the fire and safely finish containment. Mop up ensued after containment and PNF Engine 32 was released at approximately 1400.

The treatment used for the Ponderosa Incident changed the fire behavior by reducing flame lengths from up to ten feet in untreated areas to flame lengths less than one foot. The change of flame lengths allowed the fire resources to flank and knock down the head of the fire. Without treatment the fire may have easily spotted to the south and into the South Fork of the Feather River.

The Ponderosa Incident was reported and controlled in one operational shift. Fires in the past that start in remote mountainous areas on the Plumas National Forest tend to progress and grow to very large difficult canyon wildfires. With the treatment in place for the Ponderosa Fire, the resources felt very comfortable to use direct attack for containment.



Conditions When Fire Entered Treatment			
Date and Source of Observations: On site observations			
ERC (value and percentile):		Windspeed and Direction: 2-5 mph from the north	
Temperature: 72 F		RH: 35%	
Fuel Model(s) Inside Treated Area: FM 9		Fuel Model(s) Outside Treated Area: FM 9, 10	
Flame Length Inside Treated Area: 0-2		Flame Length Outside Treatment: 4-10	
Fuel Moistures			
1 hr: %	10 hr: 7%	100 hr: %	1000 hr: %
Live Fuel Moisture: %		Measured or Estimated? Estimate	

Additional Documentation		
Recommend Additional Documentation? No		
Name and Title of Person Completing the Report		
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