

2016
SHASTA COUNTY
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

COTTONWOOD NORTH
PLANNING AREA



Covering the areas of:

- Cottonwood (northern)
- Gas Point
- Igo
- Ono
- Platina

COTTONWOOD NORTH PLANNING AREA (2016)

I. PROPOSED PROJECTS

A. THE PLANNING AREA

The Cottonwood North planning area is located approximately 10 miles south of Redding, California on the west side of the Sacramento River in southern Shasta County. It is bordered on the north by the Anderson Creek and Lower Clear Creek watersheds, on the south by the Tehama County line (Cottonwood Creek), on the east by the Sacramento River, and on the west by the Trinity County line. The main watercourses within the Cottonwood Creek Watershed are Beegum Creek and the North Fork, Middle Fork and South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, which flow in an easterly direction to the Sacramento River.

Population is concentrated in the eastern portion of the watershed in the town of Cottonwood, with approximately 3,293 residents. Smaller communities include Igo, Ono, Platina, Beegum, and Dibble Creek.

Generally, the climate of the Cottonwood Creek Watershed is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. The average temperature and precipitation vary greatly within the watershed due to elevation ranges from 350-7,000 feet. The average temperature range in July is from a low of 65°F to 99°F. The average temperature in December ranges from 35°F to 55°F. Snowfall is not common in the lower elevations; however, moderate to heavy amounts of snowfall is common above 3,000 feet. Relative humidity during the summer months is usually less than 30% during the day and rises to about 50% at night. Winter humidity usually exceeds 50%.

B. PROPOSED PROJECTS

COTTONWOOD NORTH PLANNING AREA FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS				
PROPOSED PROJECT	MAP NUMBER¹	TYPE	AREA (acres)	ESTIMATED COST²
Platina Road	1	Roadside	565	\$2,948,509
Stewart Ranch / Bland Road	2	Roadside	211	\$1,100,945
State HWY 36	3	Roadside	926	\$4,834,036
Rainbow Lake Road	4	Roadside	121	\$632,727
Lower Gas Point Rd South	5	Roadside	36	\$189,818
Clear Creek Rd West	6	Roadside	51	\$265,745
Monastery / Hughes	7	Roadside	29	\$151,855
Harrison Gulch Rd	8	Roadside	73	\$379,636
Bully Choop	9	Off-road	625	\$3,264,873
North Platina / Deaton	10	Roadside	58	\$303,709
Deaton / Mills	11	Roadside	19	\$101,236

The identified fuel reduction projects fall into two categories:

1. defensible space for homes and structures, and
2. roadside and ridgeline shaded fuelbreaks intended to create safe ingress and egress for fire personnel and escape routes for residents.

Projects were prioritized based on need and factors such as the following:

- Protection of private residences and properties;
- Access or escape route for the public and fire suppression forces;
- Identification of staging areas in conjunction with the fuelbreak development to provide fire suppression forces strategic locations for planning fire management and suppression actions.
- Connections to other fuelbreaks or areas of lower risk.

¹ Proposed projects are numbered on the map according to priority.

² Estimated costs of the projects are for planning purposes only. More accurate costs will be determined for the preparation of project proposals.

Landowners and residents are strongly encouraged to develop defensible space or maintain the fuels reduction projects on their properties to keep the integrity of the work done and to show project sustainability which could lead to additional future projects.

COTTONWOOD CREEK PLANNING AREA BASIC ASSUMPTIONS³	
Estimated cost of fuelbreak (roadside)	\$5,220 per acre
Estimated cost of fuelbreak (ridgetop or off-road)	\$7,310 per acre
Estimated cost of defensible space (hand labor)	\$600 per dwelling (<1 acre)
Standard fuelbreak width	200 feet
Population	2.6 per dwelling
Property Value (~ \$201,250 - \$475,000 per dwelling)	\$260,000 per dwelling
Schools	\$145,000,000
Commercial Structures Value ⁴	\$415,500 – \$23,900,000

³ Estimated costs of the projects are for planning purposes only. More accurate costs will be determined for the preparation of project proposals.

⁴ County assessed values, 2010

#1 – Platina Road

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects residential and rural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.

Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near Platina Road from Watson Gulch west to Platina.

23.3 miles x 200 feet across = 565 acres



Platina Road – note the large amount of brush and trees to edge of road

#2 – Stewart Ranch / Bland Road (see picture for Ball Road)

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects residential and rural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.

Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near Bland Road from Middle Fork Cottonwood Creek to Platina Road.

8.7 miles x 200 feet across = 211 acres

#3 – State Route 36

- Road is maintained by Caltrans. This is a major transportation route.
- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects residential and rural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.



State Hwy 36 @ Cannon Rd

Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed along Route 36.

38.2 miles x 200 feet across or the right-of-way = 926 acres

#4 – Rainbow Lake Road

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects residential and rural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.

Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near Rainbow Lake Road, avoiding riparian areas.

5.0 miles x 200 feet across = 121 acres



Rainbow Lake Road – note heavy tree and brush growth to edge of road.

#5 – Lower Gas Point Road South

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects residential and rural properties;
- Provides emergency ingress/egress; and
- Connects to area affected by the Clover Fire (2013) for a continuous fuelbreak.

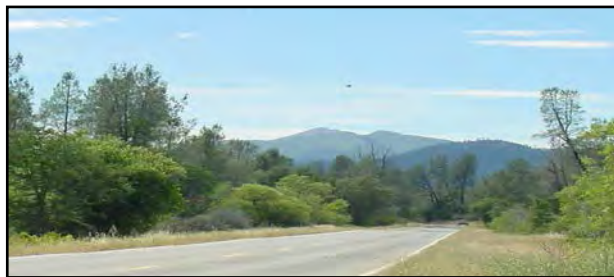
Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near Lower Gas Point Road.

1.5 miles x 200 feet across = 36 acres

#6 – Clear Creek Road West

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects residential and rural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.



Clear Creek Road

Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near Clear Creek Road from Cloverdale Road to Gas Point Road.

2.1 miles x 200 feet across = 51 acres

#7 – Monastery / Hughes

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects residential and rural properties, including a monastery; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.

Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near Beegum Gorge Road.
1.2 miles x 200 feet across = 29 acres

#8 – Harrison Gulch Road

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects rural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.



Harrison Gulch Road

Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near Harrison Gulch Road.

3.0 miles x 200 feet across = 73 acres

#9 – Bully Choop Road

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects rural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.



*Bully Choop Road.
Note thick vegetation to sides of road*

Proposed Solution:

Construct shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near Bully Choop Road.

25.8 miles x 200 feet across = 625 acres

#10 – North Platina / Deaton

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects rural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.

Proposed Solution:

Maintain shaded fuelbreak and brush clearance as needed near the northern part of Platina Road.

2.4 miles x 200 feet across = 58 acres

#11 – Deaton / Mills

- Vulnerable to northerly wind-driven wildfires, dense fuels, and steep terrain;
- Protects residential and agricultural properties; and
- Provides emergency ingress/egress.

Proposed Solution:

Maintain fuelbreak as needed north of the intersection of Platina Road and SR-36W.

0.8 miles x 200 feet across = 19 acres

C. ADDITIONAL FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS

Efforts to Extend Fuel Treatments Developed by the Resource Conservation of Tehama County North from Patina to the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Since 2008, the RCD of Tehama County has developed almost 50 miles of fuelbreaks and other fuel treatments within the chaparral and low elevation conifer forests of Western Tehama County. At the present time this network of mechanically and hand developed fuel treatment projects extends from just north of Thomes Creek in southwestern Tehama County north to the community of Platina and State Route 36E. In order to continue the development of landscape scale fire control infrastructure, the RCD of Tehama County is working with a coalition of watershed stakeholders including landowners, resource agencies and fire management entities in developing future routes for fuel breaks and other vegetation treatments that will connect those completed by the RCDTC with the large network of fuel treatments that are being developed or are already in place within Whiskeytown National Recreation area. In addition to developing routes for fuel treatments, multiple potential funding sources are being developed in order to finance this initiative.

II. COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

A. OVERALL COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

COTTONWOOD CREEK PLANNING AREA OVERALL COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT										
Community, structure or area at risk	Map Number	Fuel Hazard	Wildfire Occurrence Risk	Structural Ignitability	Preparedness Capability	Overall Risk	Fire Hazard Severity Zone Rating	WUI		
Platina Road	1	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
Stewart Ranch / Bland Road	2	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
HWY-36	3	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
Rainbow Lake Road	4	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
Lower Gas Point Rd South	5	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
Clear Creek Rd West	6	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
Monastery / Hughes	7	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
Harrison Gulch Road	8	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
Bully Choop	9	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
North Platina / Deaton	10	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		
Deaton / Mills	11	High	High	High	Low	High	Very High	Yes		

B. OVERALL COMMUNITY HAZARD REDUCTION ASSESSMENT

COTTONWOOD CREEK PLANNING AREA OVERALL COMMUNITY HAZARD REDUCTION ASSESSMENT					
Community, structure or area at risk	Map Number	Overall Risk	Cultural Value	Treatment Type	Treatment Method
Platina Road	1	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
Stewart Ranch / Bland Road	2	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
HWY -36	3	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
Rainbow Lake Road	4	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
Lower Gas Point Rd South	5	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
Clear Creek Rd West	6	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
Monastery / Hughes	7	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
Harrison Gulch Road	8	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
Bully Choop	9	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
North Platina / Deaton	10	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning
Deaton / Mills	11	High	Low	Fuelbreak	Brush and tree removal, pruning

COMMUNITY

On the western side of the planning area, the community of Platina is most at risk because it is surrounded by dense chaparral and woodland, which poses a serious fire danger. On the eastern side of the planning area, the communities of Igo and Ono are also located in close proximity to chaparral. The assets or values at risk from fire are the many homes located throughout this area. Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) canals supply irrigation water to numerous ranches in this eastern portion of the watershed and are accordingly emergency water sources for these residential areas.

Two major fires have occurred in the planning area recently. The Bully Fire in 2014 consumed over 12,000 acres near Platina Road and Bully Choop Road. The 2013 Clover Fire consumed over 8,000 acres in southern Igo. It caused one death and six injuries and destroyed 68 residences and 128 other structures. Damages are estimated at \$65 million. The fire was stopped just short of the Northern California Veterans Cemetery.



Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo



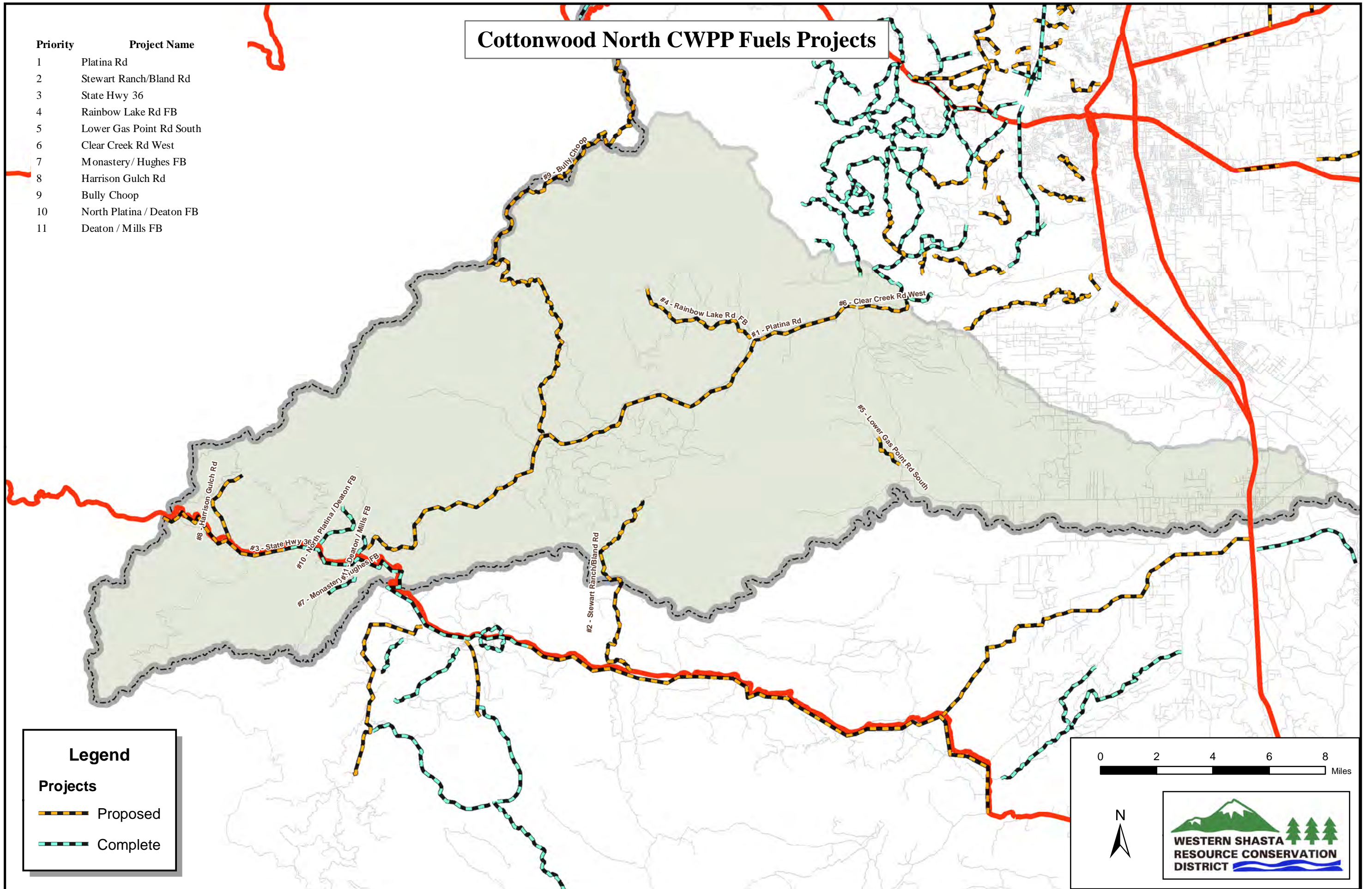
Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) aqueduct is a Historical Place of Interest

MAPS OF COTTONWOOD NORTH PLANNING AREA

- 1. COTTONWOOD NORTH PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PLANNING AREA**
- 2. COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED FIRE SEVERITY RATING**
- 3. COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GENERALIZED VEGETATION**
- 4. COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES AND HABITAT**

Cottonwood North CWPP Fuels Projects

Priority	Project Name
1	Platina Rd
2	Stewart Ranch/Bland Rd
3	State Hwy 36
4	Rainbow Lake Rd FB
5	Lower Gas Point Rd South
6	Clear Creek Rd West
7	Monastery/ Hughes FB
8	Harrison Gulch Rd
9	Bully Choop
10	North Platina / Deaton FB
11	Deaton / Mills FB



Legend

Projects

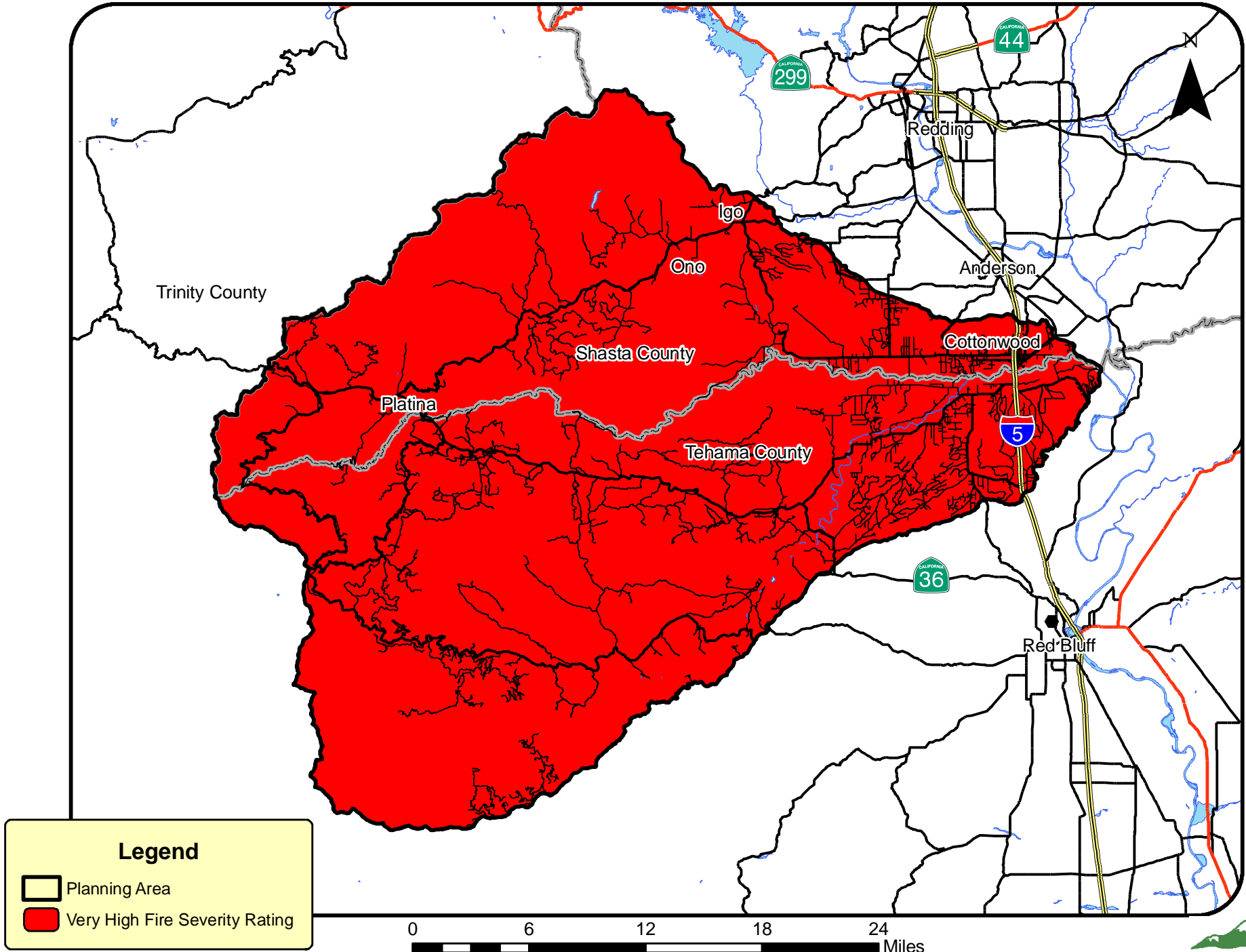
- Proposed
- Complete

0 2 4 6 8 Miles

N

WESTERN SHASTA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

FIRE SEVERITY RATING



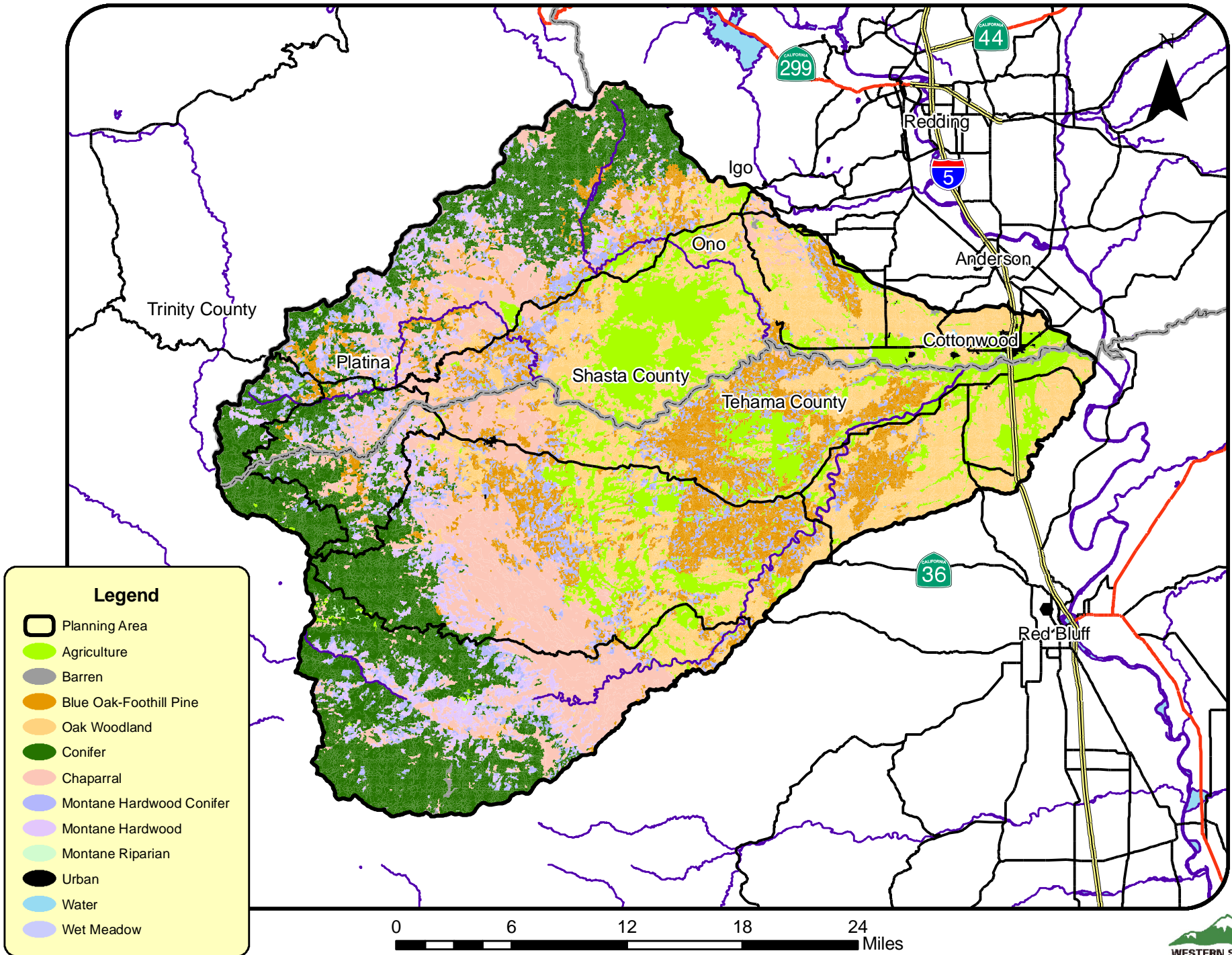
Legend

- Planning Area
- Very High Fire Severity Rating

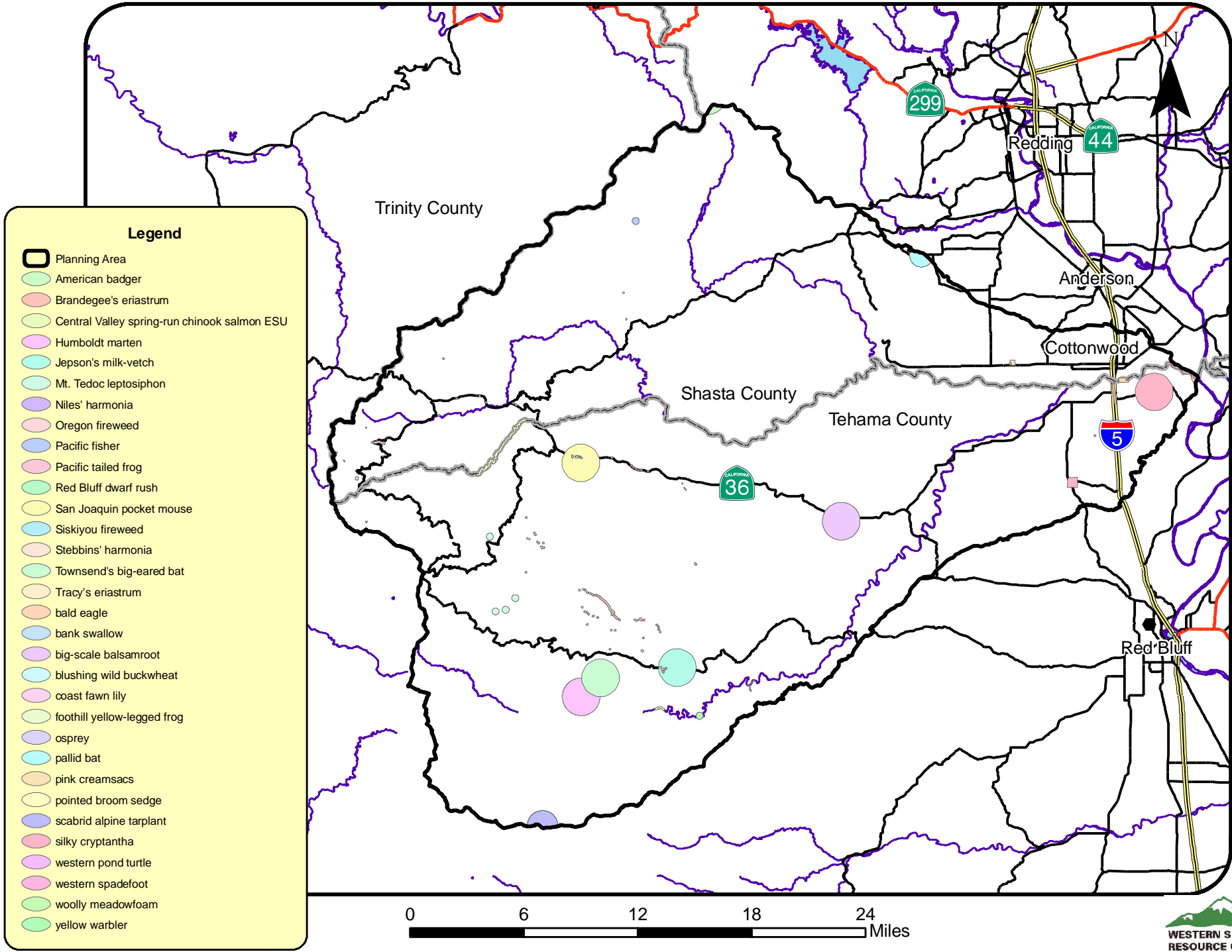
VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE as Recommended by CAL FIRE



VEGETATION MAP



SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE AND PLANT SPECIES



Department Name: Shasta County Board of Supervisors
Agreement Number: FAF-040020
Dollar Amount: \$53,500