

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council

June 2025



NAPAFIREWISE



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Executive Summary

The Soda Canyon Firesafe Council (SCFSC) has developed this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas within the SCFSC. A CWPP is a community-based plan focused on identifying and addressing specific local hazards and risks from wildfire. It determines what is at risk and provides a road map of actions for a community to address the wildfire threat. It may also open up funding opportunities to implement the plan. CWPPs are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), passed by Congress in 2003.

The area included within the SCFSC has had an active fire history, which brings focus to this plan. It is understood that not all fires can be prevented, but appropriate vegetation management and other mitigation practices can minimize the impact and destruction of wildfires.

Decision Makers

As noted above, the Loma Vista/Soda Canyon Community has had involvement with Napa County fire services, CAL FIRE, and the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation.

The following Community representatives collaborated in the development of the CWPP:

- SCFSC
- Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFE)
- CAL FIRE
- Napa County Fire Department
- Napa County Board of Supervisors

Community Evaluation

The SCFSC developed its original CWPP in 2012; this update was authorized and engaged by the NCFE. A draft was prepared by Carol Rice, a wildland fire manager specializing in fire risk issues, and includes input from the SCFSC community, including local government and local fire authorities. The Risk Assessment serves as a foundation for recommendations for projects to minimize threat from wildfire to life safety, damage to homes, and natural resources. It is based on a review of the terrain, weather, fuels, and fire history of the area, compared to the values at risk, and likely scenarios of fire ignition and spread.

Because the SCFSC is located in the interface between wildlands and developed areas, fire hazard is a special concern. Fires may spread from wildlands to homes and vineyards, threatening lives and developed property. Conversely, wildlands are subject to increased ignition potential from elevated levels of human activities.

Introduction

The 14,542-acre area covered by the Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council includes two specific regions, the Soda Canyon neighborhood and the Silverado Trail corridor. The approximate 12,548-acre area of the Soda Canyon community includes the areas along Loma Vista Drive, Shady Oaks Drive, Chimney Rock/Capps Road, and Wappo Hill Road, in Napa, California. The community is surrounded by Napa Valley to the west and south, the hilly Hennessey Rector FSC to the north, and Atlas Peak FSC to the south. It borders Rector Reservoir and contains a large portion of the Rector Reservoir Wildlife Area. It is located along a narrow canyon formed by Soda Creek and runs approximately 6 1/2 miles east and north from the intersection of Soda Canyon

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Road and Silverado Trail. There is a volunteer fire station approximately mid-way up Soda Canyon Road. The current Napa County CWPP has included in the Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council a 6.7-mile corridor on Silverado Trail starting at the intersection of Soda Canyon Road and Silverado Trail and continuing north to Yountville Cross Road. This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) plan has been developed to address wildfire danger to the Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council region and create a plan of action to mitigate fire danger to and in the area.

The Soda Canyon Road community includes approximately 662 residences (which include full-time and part-time residents) along Soda Canyon Road and its tributaries Feliz Ranch Road, Loma Vista Drive, Soda Springs Road, Ridge Road and Chimney Rock Road. This community, located in the wildland urban interface, also includes agricultural lands, specifically vineyards, wineries, and open space. The houses in this community are generally widely spaced, with long driveways and locked gates, with the following five higher density neighborhoods.

1. Approximately one mile up from the intersection of Silverado Trail and Soda Canyon Road
2. Along Loma Vista Drive
3. Approximately three miles up Soda Canyon Road near the fire station
4. North of Foss Valley, east of Stagecoach Vineyards
5. At the end of Foss Valley, by 3030 Soda Canyon Road

Although 118 private residences were destroyed and 16 significantly damaged within Soda Canyon as a result of the 2017 Atlas Fire, many homes have been rebuilt with current ignition resistant construction. However, there are still many older structures within the canyon with decks, siding, and vents that make these older homes prone to ignition.

The assets at risk in Soda Canyon are significant. In addition to private residences, there are agricultural related businesses, approximately 8146 acres of vineyards, and at least 19 wineries, which host tours, tastings, and special events. (Number of operating wineries is anticipated to increase.) Of historical significance are the ruins of the Napa Soda Springs Resort, which was originally opened in 1856 as a resort for wealthy vacationers. Known for its mineral water springs and bottling factory, the resort was eventually purchased by Colonel JP Jackson, with most of the buildings constructed with stone quarried from nearby mountains. Damaged by fires, only the stone ruins remain and have been designated by Napa County as a Landmark of Historical Significance. Silverado Vineyard's Borreo Ranch site once included a stone and redwood winery that was originally built by Felix Borreo in 1888. The winery was considered a ghost winery and partially destroyed in the 2017 Atlas Fire. Other assets include the Soda Canyon Volunteer Fire Department building located at 2368 Soda Canyon Road, which was constructed in 1964, White Rock Vineyard established 1870, and historic stone bridges, and walls built by immigrants.

Within the Soda Canyon Road community, environmental and natural resources assets are at high risk and have been negatively impacted as a result of past fires. The Rector Watershed is significant as a water source for the California Veterans Home and the city of Yountville. With the fire hazard high for most of the Rector Watershed, it is noted that following the 1981 fire, the ash from the fire contaminated the Rector Reservoir for several years. With increased vineyard and winery development pending, it is likely to result in more downstream pollution and silt in the Rector Reservoir. The Soda Creek Watershed is comprised of oak savanna and woodlands, with chaparral and shrub in the higher elevations. Soda Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for aquatic species, including steelhead trout. Soda Canyon also provides habitat for 27 species of mammals, including deer, wild pig, bear, rabbit, tree squirrel, mountain lion, coyotes, foxes, and lynx. It is also home to 40 species of birds, 14 species of reptiles and amphibians, that includes the yellow-legged frog which is a special status species. Of particular interest are both the prairie

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and peregrine falcon, Copper's and Sharp-shinned hawks, red-legged frogs, and northwestern pond turtles.

While access to the western portion of Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council is available from the Silverado Trail, the only road in and out of the Soda Canyon is Soda Canyon Road, which is a narrow, two-lane road with abundant roadside vegetation, nonexistent roadside shoulders, limited turnouts, narrow bridge, blind turns, and a one-mile grade. This 6.5-mile dead-end country road was originally built for the few residents that lived in the canyon and the limited agricultural concerns. However, life in Soda Canyon has changed, with the significant increase of private residences, vineyards, wineries, workers, and tourists. The number of people who use this road on a regular basis has also increased, along with more industrial type of vehicles and a heavy commuting schedule of vineyard workers and winery visitors. Of particular concern is the elevated risks associated with drivers who may have been drinking at the wineries and are unfamiliar with the road during the stress of an emergency evacuation. At the end of the paved county road, a private shared one lane chip-sealed road continues which access numerous private residences and vineyards. Areas surrounding the only evacuation route contain flammable and dying large stands of trees and dense vegetation, which can impact a safe evacuation and hinder emergency vehicles from accessing the area. For example, during the 2017 Atlas Fire evacuation, an oak tree limb fell and completely blocked Soda Canyon Road, the only evacuation route. It is noted the recent roadside fuel mitigation work completed in April 2022 (average 15 feet on each side of Soda Canyon Road) with funding from CAL FIRE and Napa Communities FireWise Foundation, on public and private property, will increase public safety during a future emergency evacuation. Additional resources will be needed to expand these efforts and maintain the work over the years to come.

The portion of the Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council region is adjacent to Silverado Trail (on both sides of the road), starting at the intersection of Silverado Trail and Soda Canyon Road and continuing north, fluctuating in width, up to Yountville Cross Road consists of approximately 50 private residences and wineries, vineyards, and agriculturally based businesses. The geography of this approximate 2,000-acre area is level with only slight elevation gains. The residences, wineries, and vineyards are important assets to the history and wine culture of the Napa Valley. The Silverado Trail, which is a well-maintained recently resurfaced road, is of significant importance to commercial and tourism ventures in Napa County. Silverado Trail is a major roadway with heavy traffic during peak commuting times. It is a popular and scenic route for visitors, bicyclists, and used as an alternative route to Highway 29 for travel up and down the valley.

There is an extensive history of devastating fires within the boundaries of the Soda Canyon Road community with the 2017 Atlas Fire was responsible for the death of two people, a total destruction of 118 residences and 82% of all residences in this community were damaged or destroyed. This fire is listed on the CAL FIRE 20 Deadliest Fires List. The Lightning Complex Fire encroached on Foss Valley in the northern part of Soda Canyon resulting in one home being destroyed and numerous homes threatened. Recently, the Old Fire which started on May 31, 2022, in northeast Napa on Old Soda Springs Road lead to an evacuation order. The fire impacted the eastern side of Soda Canyon, approximately two miles up the Soda Canyon Road, resulting in 570 acres burnt. Fortunately, no injuries or structures were lost. Historically fires within the Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council region have been documented back to the 1850s.

Figure 1. Area of Interest – SCFSC Community neighborhood boundary is shown outlined in red.

Values At Risk

The most important values at risk are life safety, followed by improvements to property (residences and vineyards), then natural resources.

Population: There has been no systematic count of the population in the entire area covered by this CWPP. According to the NCFE website, the population of SCFSC is estimated at 589.

Homes: The houses along Soda Canyon Road are generally widely spaced, with five exceptions of higher density homes that can be considered neighborhoods:

1. At the end of Foss Valley, by 3030 Soda Canyon Rd.
2. Around the fire station, in mid-canyon
3. Along Loma Vista Road
4. North of Foss Valley east of Stagecoach Vineyards
5. The first two miles up Soda Canyon Road from the intersection of Silverado Trail

The homes along Silverado Trail within the fire safe council boundaries are surrounded by vineyards and wineries, usually on large parcels of land and widely dispersed.

Wineries: Wineries and vineyards are located along Soda Canyon Road, with larger parcels of vineyards located near the top of the road and constitute a significant value at risk. Along Silverado Trail, the wineries and vineyards are visible from the road and also constitute a significant value at risk. While the vineyards themselves may moderate fire behavior and increase survivability of nearby structures, wildfire is a risk to vineyards from smoke taint in the summer, when the possibility of a fire is highest. The edges of vineyards that are adjacent to wildlands are apt to be damaged; this is especially true where patches of brush and woodlands break up the vineyards. In addition, vineyards on steep slopes may not till between vines; in these cases the grass/vine vegetation spreads fire rapidly and produces enough heat to damage the vines.

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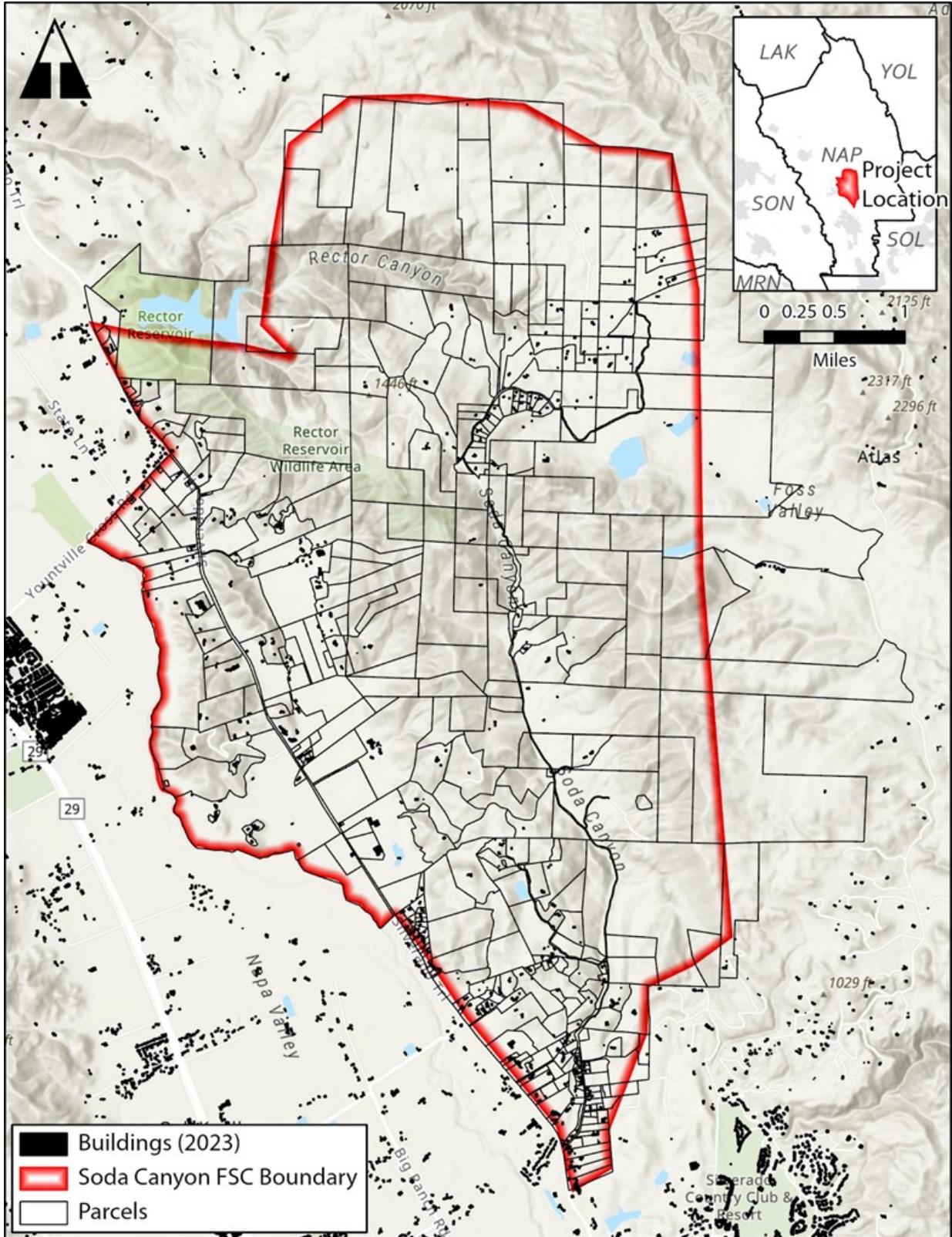


Figure 2. Structures (shown in black) within Soda Canyon community boundary.

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Land Use: Residential development on large lots is generally scattered following the winding road network of the area and also along Silverado Trail. Vineyards are located among residences, and some of these are newly developed large lots on the edge of the community.

The majority of the SCFSC is vacant land. Undeveloped wildlands account for a significant portion of the SCFSC. Almost all vacant lands are privately held and could change land use, likely to either residential or vineyards. Changes in land use would likely improve the fire safety of the area, provided any new residential area is constructed with ignition-resistant best practices. Any landscaping and vineyard development would need to follow strict defensible space ordinances, with hazardous vegetation removed, and the property regularly maintained to reflect fire safe and defensible space guidelines.

Residential parcels account for a portion of the SCFSC and are concentrated along roads. These lots are generally smaller than the vineyard or vacant lots, which are large enough that the landowners can influence fire behavior to protect their structures. Structures are rarely within 100 feet of the neighboring parcel.

Topography

Topographic features—such as slope and aspect (orientation with respect to sun and wind) and the overall form of the land—have a profound effect on fire behavior. Topography affects a wildfire's intensity, direction, and rate of spread. An area's topography also affects local winds, which are either "bent", intensified, or blocked by topographic features. Topographic features can also induce daily upslope and downslope winds. The speed, regularity, and direction of these winds (and other winds) directly influence the direction of wildfire spread and the shape of the flame front.

The terrain and sides of Soda Canyon are generally moderately steep to very steep. The slopes are fairly long, rising continuously up from the canyon floor to about 700 feet on the west, and to about 1800 feet on the east. If a fire starts at the bottom of the slope, there are few natural breaks in topography that are conducive to containment.

The valley floor rises from about 100 feet in elevation at the Soda Canyon Deli and along the Silverado Corridor to about 1500 feet in the northern part of the valley along Foss Valley. This difference in elevation, along with the steep canyon sides, results in a daily pronounced flow of winds down and up the valley and slopes. The northern part of Soda Canyon opens to a broad valley at the top of Rector Creek. The canyon also broadens out south of Soda Springs Road.

The Silverado Corridor is open to winds that blow from the north. The ridge to the west of Soda Canyon blocks normal westerly winds, however a few canyons can funnel winds from the west. The canyon is aligned with northerly winds, the kind that normally wreaks havoc in Napa. The canyon is apt to act as a chute, or funnel for the wind.

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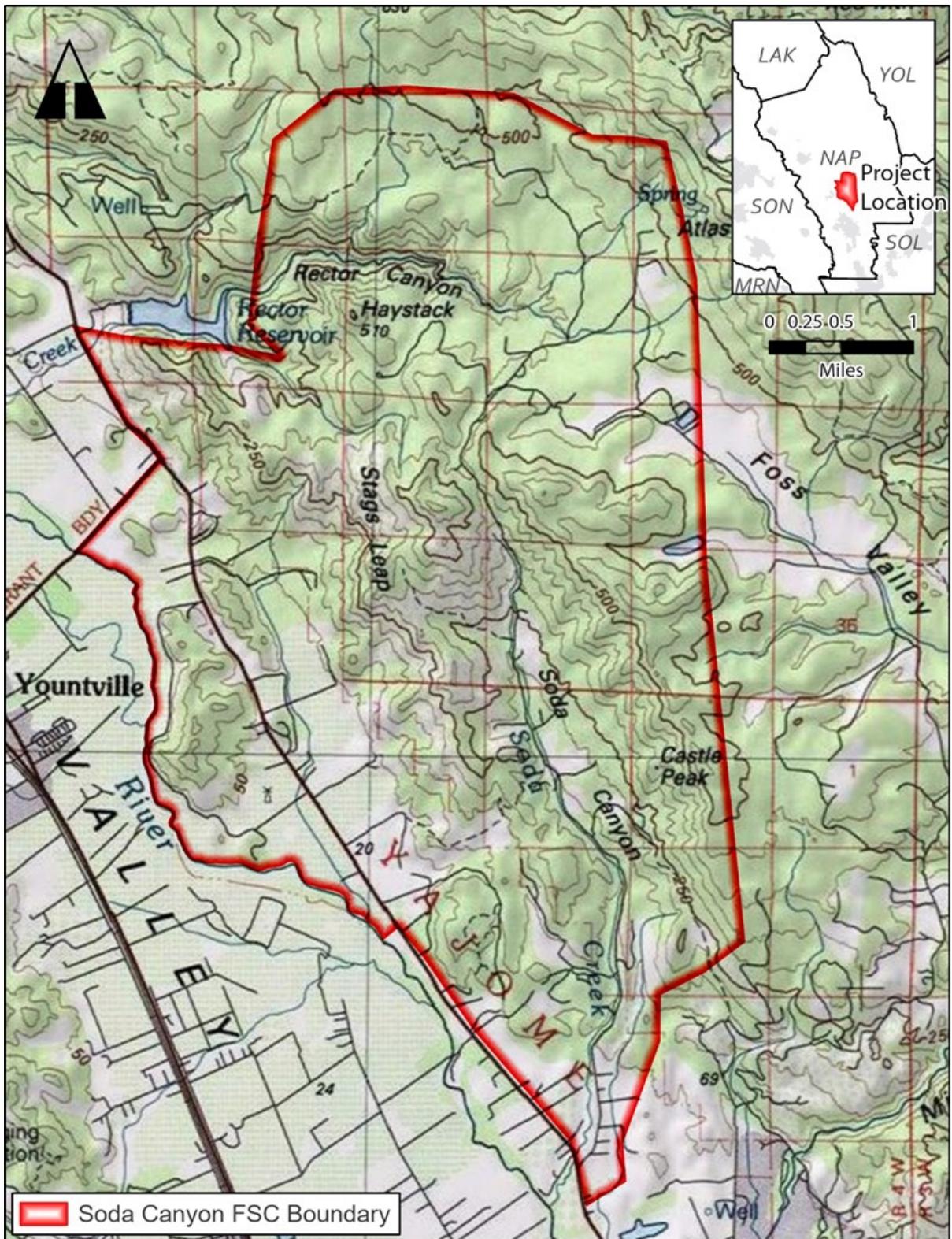


Figure 3. USGS Topographic map of the Soda Canyon area (boundary shown in red).

Weather

The weather consists of dry hot summers and cool wet winters. Winds flow up and down the Silverado Corridor area of the Soda Canyon FSC. Soda Canyon lies in a relatively protected area and would be subject to extremes in local climatic conditions, exacerbated by winds that funnel down Soda Canyon and side canyons. The canyon slopes produce pronounced daily up-canyon and down-slope winds caused by differential heating and cooling of air during the day.

The winds that create the most severe fire danger typically blow from the north, usually in October. Winds from the east and north bring low humidities and elevated fire, causing fire to spread downhill and to the south with speeds that equal uphillspread under normal windy conditions.

Temperature and Humidity: Summer days are usually comfortable; temperatures normally range from lows in the 40s to highs in the 90s, occasionally reaching over 100 degrees. Humidity can drop to the single digits in the summer and fall.

This overall weather pattern – characterized by continuous high temperatures and low relative humidity – enhances the possibility of ignition, extreme fire behavior and extreme resistance to fire control.

Winds: The most important influence on fire behavior is wind, which can greatly affect the rate of fire spread and output. Wind increases the flammability of fuels both by removing moisture and by angling the flames so that they heat fuels in the fire's path. The direction and velocity of winds can also control the direction and rate of the fire's spread. Winds can carry embers and firebrands downwind that can ignite spot fires ahead of the primary front. Gusty winds cause a fire to burn erratically and make it more difficult to contain.

Wind will tend to follow the pattern of least resistance and is therefore frequently deflected and divided by landforms. Canyon slopes produce pronounced daily up-canyon and down-slope winds caused by differential heating and cooling of air during the day.

The winds that create the most severe fire danger in Napa typically blow from the north, usually in October. Winds from the east and north bring low humidity and elevated fire danger and cause fire to spread to the south. These winds are the same ones that blew when the largest fires in Napa history occurred: the 1964 Hanley Fire, the 1981 Atlas Fire, and the 2017 Tubbs Fire, Nuns Fire and Atlas Complex.

Vegetation

The majority of the area is undeveloped, covered by oak woodlands, brush and grass. The Soda Canyon vegetation includes:

- Oak Woodland
- Oak Savanna (mapped as woodlands or grasslands)
- Riparian Woodland
- Grassland
- Brush

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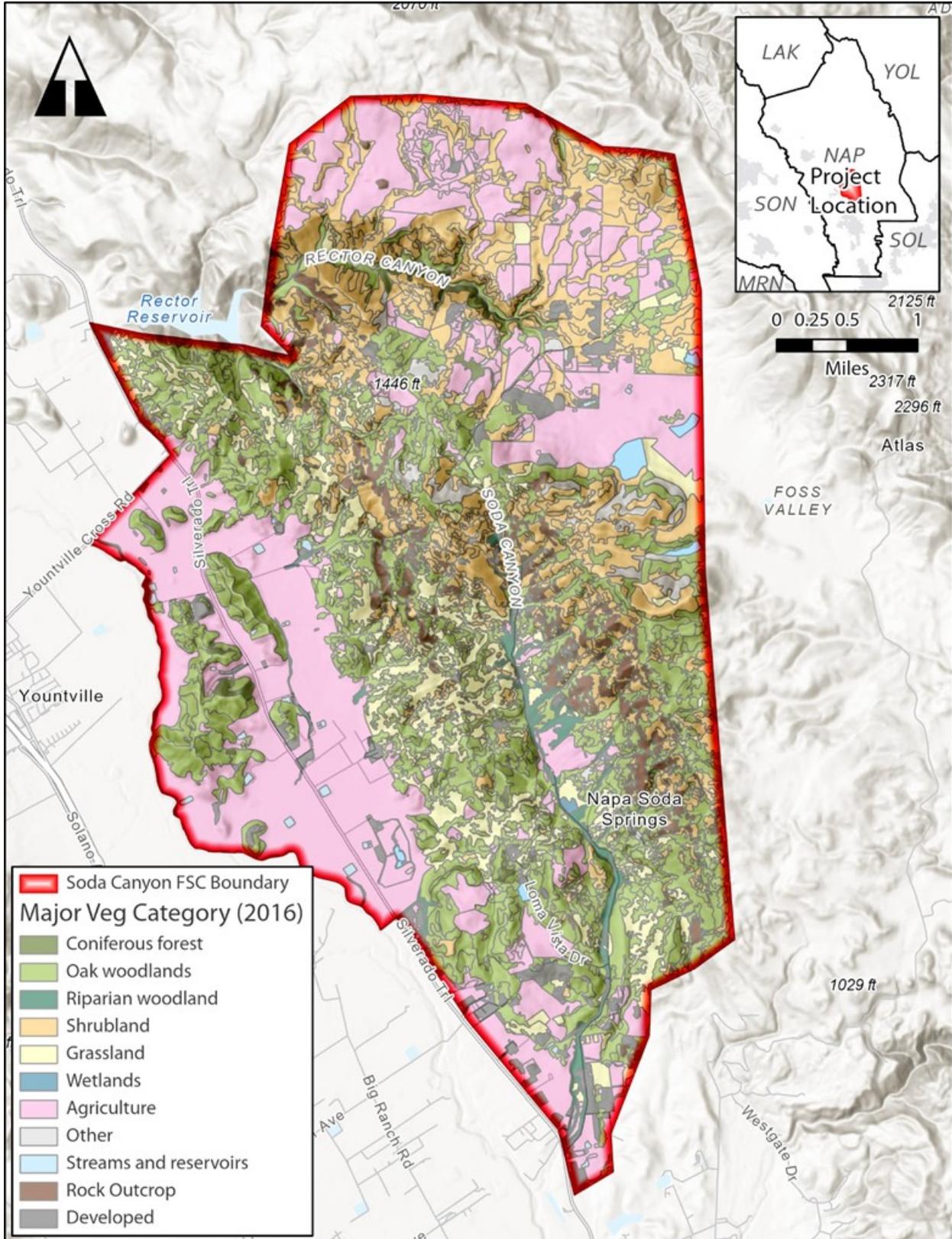


Figure 4. Vegetation map – Soda Canyon area (boundary shown in red) (Napa Vegetation Map, 2016).

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Landscaped areas, which are close to homes and other development, may have the greatest impact on the survivability of buildings. Landscaped areas either (1) are moist and thus will not likely burn; (2) contain large amounts of fuel which will burn with great intensity; or (3) are landscaped with fire resistant plants, and burn only slowly, with little heat release. Horizontal spaces between planting masses and the house are important components of a fire safe landscape. Landscaping in the SCFSC is generally consistent with fire safety principles, but a few residences in each neighborhood have abundant vegetation that can endanger adjacent and nearby residences, if they are within a few hundred feet of each other.

Predicted Fire Behavior

Flame lengths are expected to be long because of the combination of heavy fuels, especially in the shrubland and in the coniferous forests under especially dry conditions. Where a well-developed understory is present under the oak canopies, fires are also expected to burn with high intensity.

Fires can also be expected to burn fast when they are propelled by dry grass and shrubs. Vineyards can moderate both the fire intensity and fire spread but would not provide good suppression opportunities for safe evacuation because few border the road.

Predicted Flame Lengths: Long flame lengths can be expected in coniferous and oak forests where understory is present. Vineyards and areas of well-maintained defensible space can be expected to burn with low intensity even under the most extreme conditions. Flame length most directly relates to the ability of a firefighter to safely attack a fire: flames longer than eight feet prevent safe, effective direct attack. Flame length is also most closely related to structural damage: the higher the flame length, the more likely a structure loss.

Flame lengths over 20 feet are sprinkled throughout the firesafe council and cover a minority of the area. Long flame lengths are most pronounced to the northern portion of the FSC, on the upper reaches of Foss Valley.

Flame lengths were lowest surrounding the vineyards (where no fire was predicted due to its classification as agricultural land) and along the valley near the Silverado Trail. This indicates there is a stark difference between relatively low and high fuel areas.

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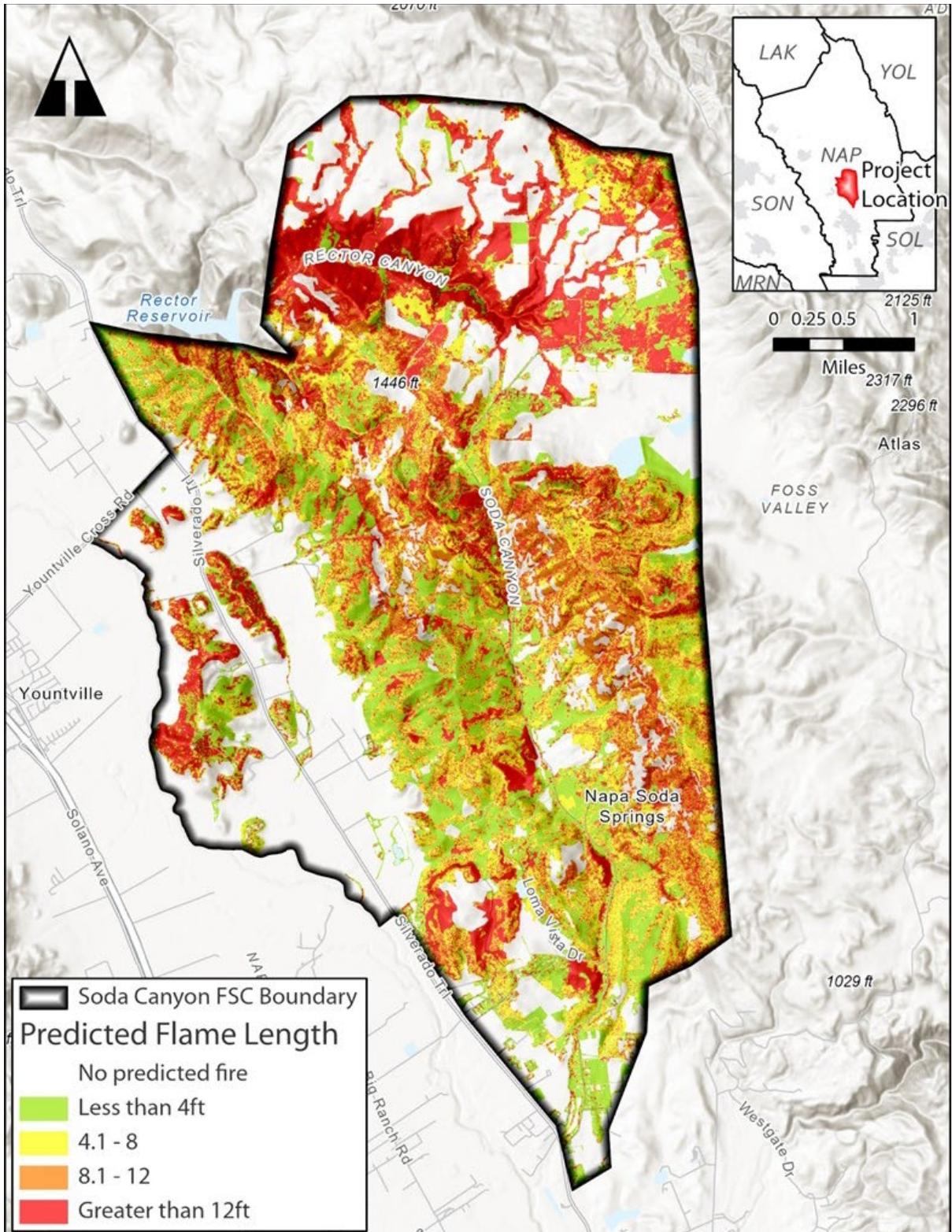


Figure 5. Predicted flame length (feet) map (based on Napa Veg Map-based landscape version 2-2021 with a Northeast wind at 15 mph with low fuel moistures). Soda Canyon area boundary (shown in black).

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Predicted Crown Fire Activity: While both the Coniferous and Oak forests can torch, hardwoods are less likely to have fire reach to the tree crowns unless vegetation is burning underneath. Crowning potential is crucial. When fires spread into crowns, thousands of embers are produced and lofted into ignitable fuels, often overwhelming fire suppression personnel.

A combination of no predicted fire and surface fire accounts for a minority of the SCFSC. These areas are scattered throughout but are most pronounced in the areas of vineyards. Surprisingly many areas of the and within the Oak Woodland vegetation type are predicted to torch. These locations should be targeted and evaluated for fuel reduction projects.

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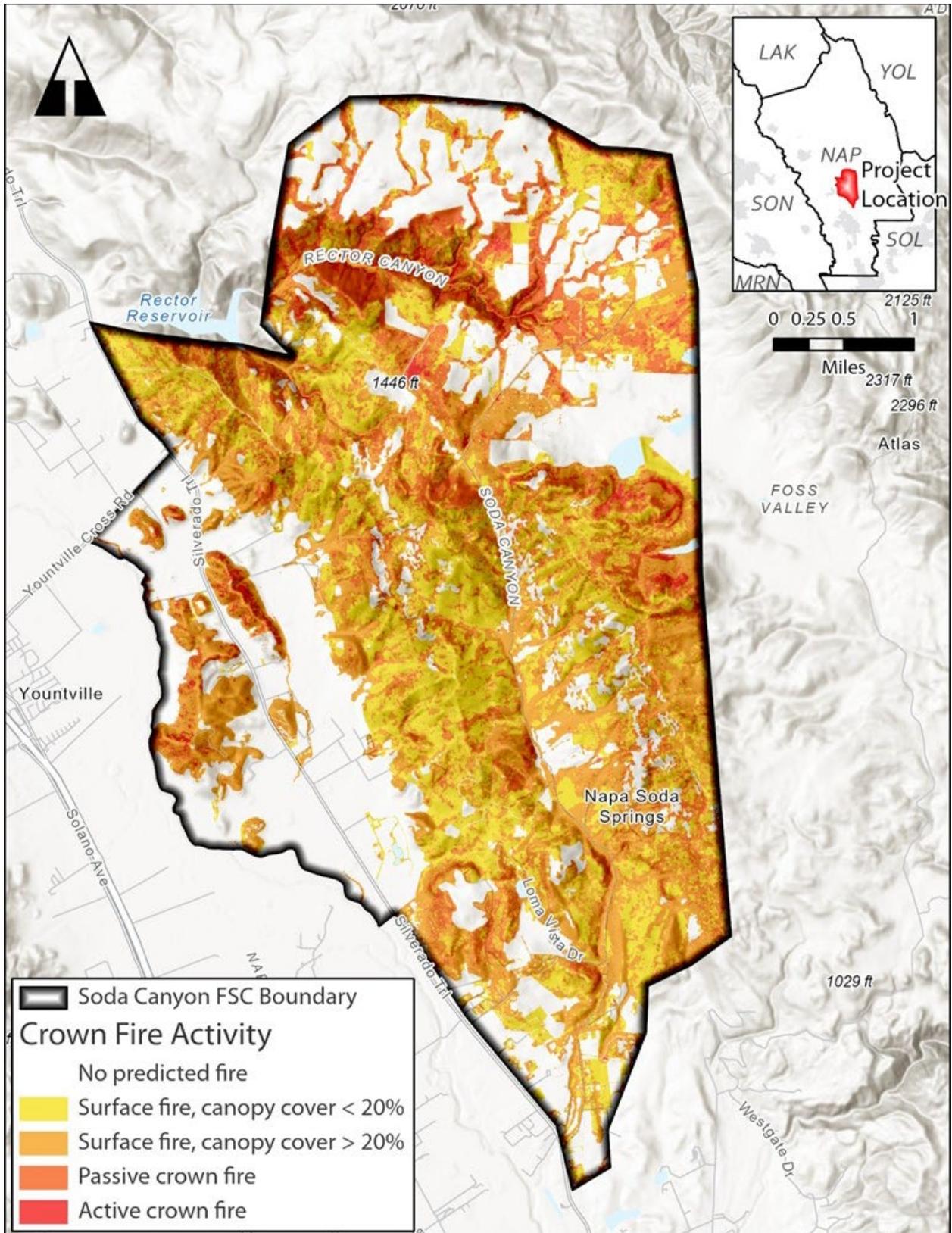


Figure 6. Predicted crown fire activity map (based on LANDFIRE landscape version 2.0 with a Northeast wind at 15 mph with low fuel moistures). Soda Canyon area boundary (shown in black).

Fire History

Large fires have visited the north and western portions of the SCFSC numerous times. Other smaller fires have occurred in those same areas.

The Napa Valley has a recurring history of large fires (over 10,000 acres in size), which typically burn for several days. In the past, fires did not involve large numbers of structures because of the historic rural nature of Napa County; however, structures are now a common concern whenever wildland fires of any size occur.

The cause of over 99% of the fires in Napa County is human activity. Almost one-third of the fires were caused by equipment use – such as workers abating weeds for fire hazard reduction which accidentally caused fires. Vehicles caused 17% of the fires; arson caused 3%. Other causes such as smoking, electrical power lines, and debris burning caused the remaining fires. The 2017 Atlas Fire, which tragically impacted the lives and property of residents of Soda Canyon, CAL FIRE investigators determined the cause to be PG&E electrical equipment. Historically, 80% of wildland fires in California have started within 10 ft of a paved road.

Structure Characteristics

The presence of ignition-resistant construction is closely related to the age of the structures. Structures built after 1996 have features that prevent ignition such as non-flammable roofs, double-paned windows, and stucco siding. However, many residential structures are mostly made of wood because of their age. They have wood porches and decks, though wood fences are a rarity. Many older structures have been remodeled, and a few property owners have installed personal fire suppression systems involving various water sprinkler strategies. Additionally, some fires that have burned in recent fires in the SCFSC have been rebuilt, with ignition resistant construction and design.

Many wineries and vineyards are located throughout the SCFSC and are ignition resistant due to construction material used and defensible space.

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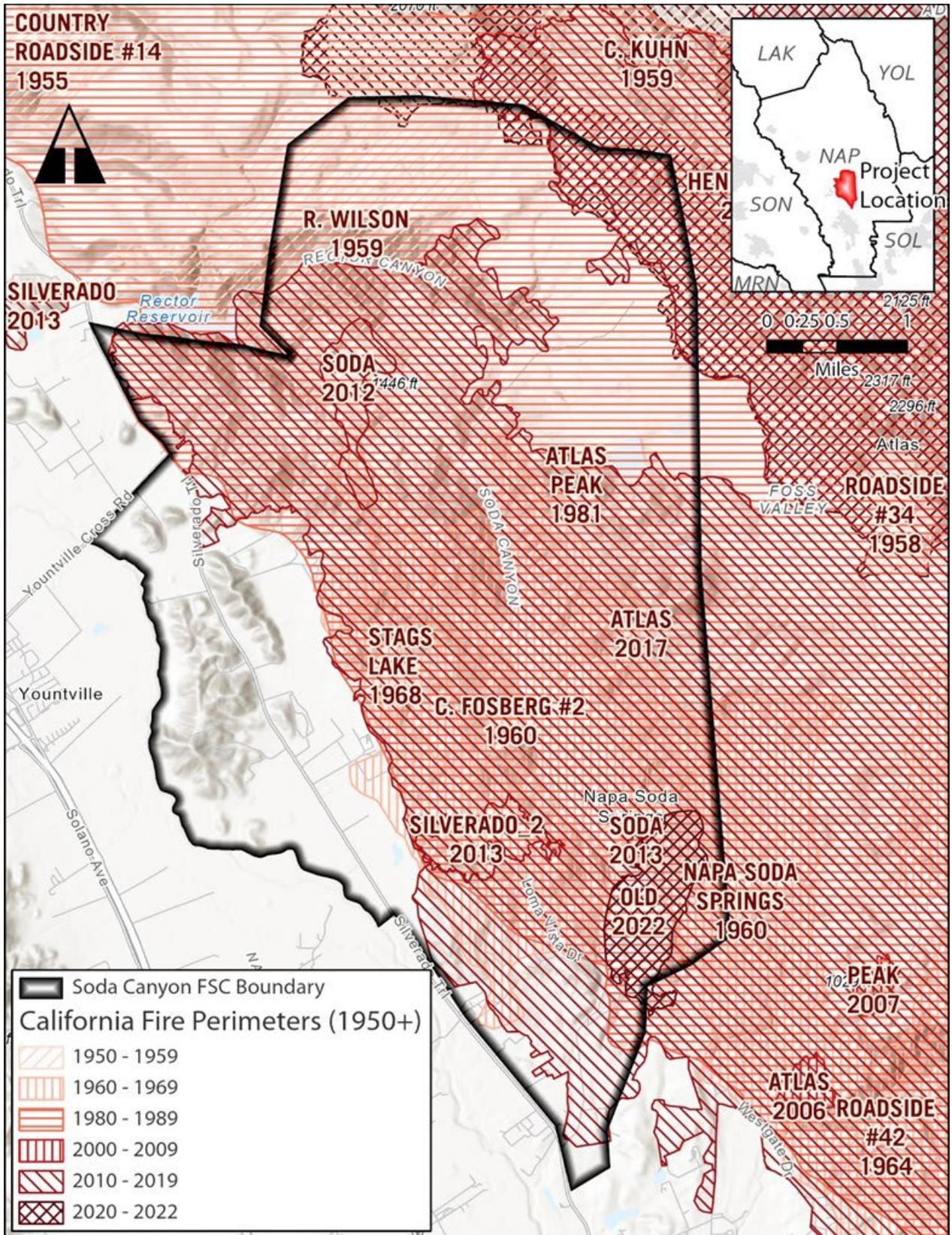


Figure 7. Fire perimeters/fire history map of Soda Canyon area (CALFIRE FRAP, 2019).

Access

Except for the valley floor, access to, from, and within the SCFSC is generally a concern. All neighborhoods within the Firesafe Council are accessed by Silverado Trail, Highway 128 or Highway 29. The only road into Soda Canyon is Soda Canyon Road and it is the only way in and out. This road is a narrow, two-lane road with abundant roadside vegetation. Loma Vista is also a narrow, 1 ½ lane road with dense roadside vegetation, and is the only way in and out of the Loma Vista area.

Congestion on these two-lane roads is expected to be significant during an evacuation. In addition, while roads are flat and wide in the city, the Napa River blocks east-west travel.

Access throughout the FSC is challenged by topography. Most lengths of the road are barely two lanes with no shoulders. Some curves are simultaneously sharp and steep. The road surface is in good shape for approximately two miles up Soda Canyon Road to the intersection of Soda Canyon Road and Loma Vista, as a result of the county's road improvement efforts in 2021. However, the remainder of the paved road would be considered substandard by the majority of residents and workers who travel it on a regular basis.

Most roadsides have abundant roadside vegetation. This vegetation could block the road while burning, and after, as trees fall (a common event during a fire). Roadside vegetation has been maintained throughout many lengths of roads; however, one blockage would be significant. In the spring of 2022, roadside fuel mitigation work along Soda Canyon Road and Loma Vista funded by CAL FIRE, Napa Communities Firewise Foundation, and Napa County Roads Department have had significant impact on minimizing the danger of roadside vegetation.

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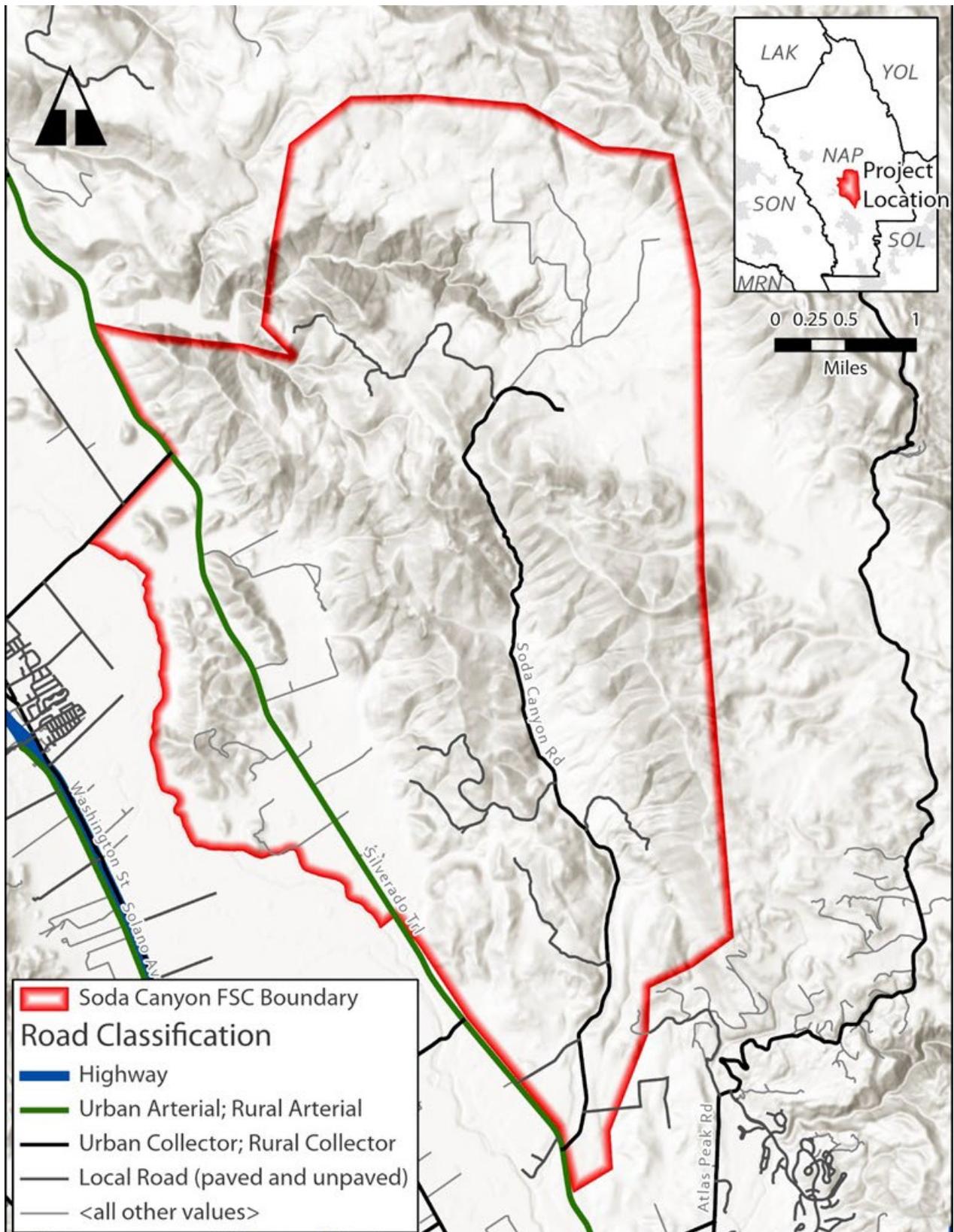


Figure 8. Access and street map of Soda Canyon area (shown with red outline).

Hazard Ranking

A Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) is a mapped area that designates zones (based on factors such as fuel, slope, and fire weather) with varying degrees of fire hazard (i.e., moderate, high, and very high). CAL FIRE maps the SRA and designates the FHSZ. In general, throughout the state, both LRA and FRA were not given a hazard rating; however, a small portion of LRA that runs along the southwestern portion of the FSC was classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

For the other portions of the SCFSC where CAL FIRE did determine a fire hazard assessment, they show 67% of the SCFSC area is categorized as a **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone**. Sections along the valley floor were categorized as High and Moderate.

Fire Hazard Assessment in the Napa County CWPP

In addition, as part of the county-wide CWPP, a hazard and risk assessment was performed and described within watersheds. The map below indicates a moderate level of hazard (relative to the rest of the county). Areas of lower hazard are near the mouth of Soda Canyon Road, and the highest at the top of Foss Valley.

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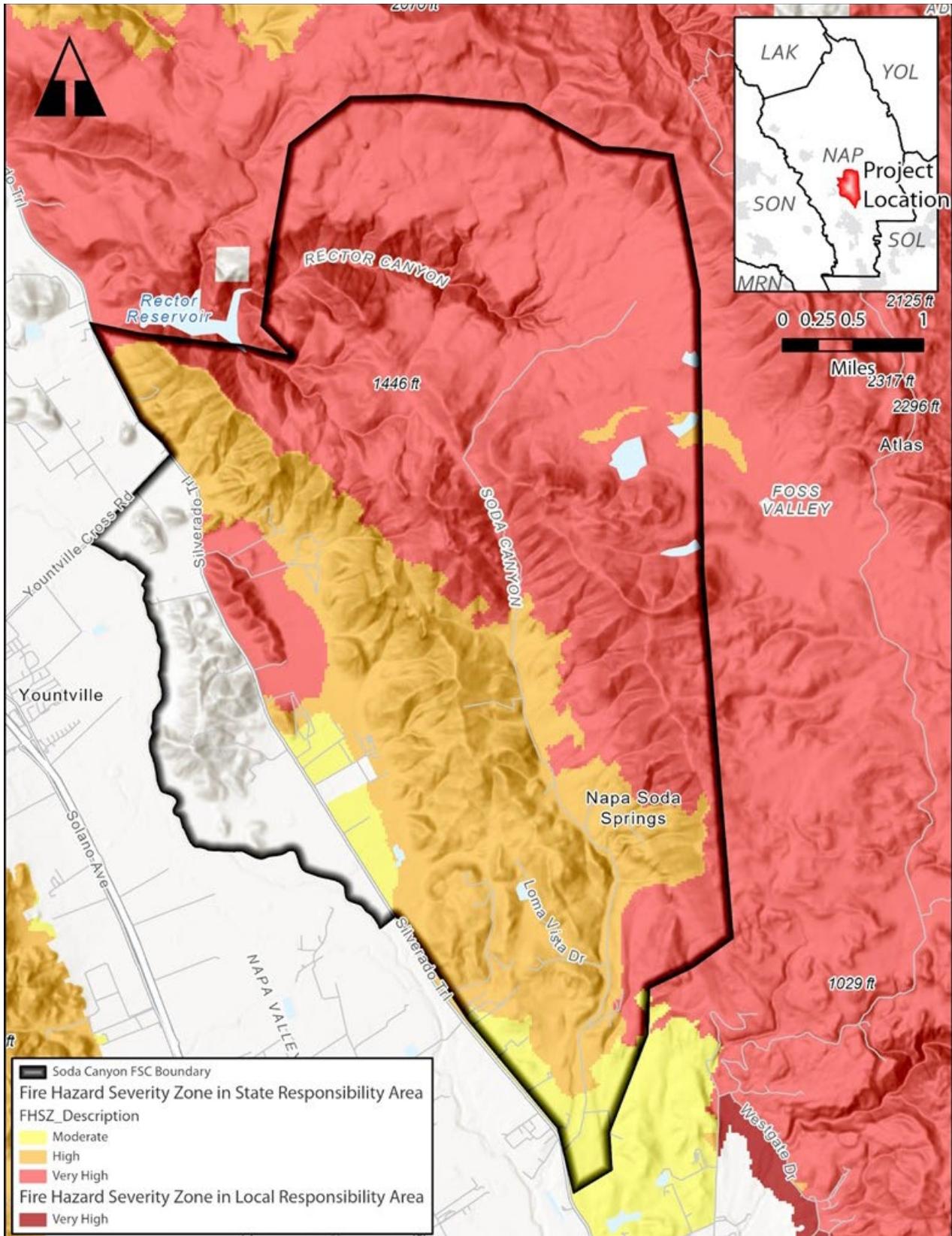


Figure 9. Distribution of Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CALFIRE, 2007).

The Plan

The elements of this plan have been arrived at through a collaborative process, with the understanding that some elements of this plan will require outside funding, that some elements will be easier to accomplish than others, and that all elements will take some time. See Figures 10 and 11.

The projects listed in the Projects Table are organized and identified by goal - Life Safety, Protection of Property, and Protection of Natural Resources. The FSC determined that the highest priority is life safety, then property, then natural resources.

Projects listed in the Examples of Projects section are divided into three sections, based on the feasibility and expense of accomplishing these projects from easiest to more difficult. The level of funding is indicated by whether the Soda Canyon FSC can tackle it themselves, or whether they need help from NCCFF, or even bigger grants. Some projects have been completed, and some are moot, because of the recent fires and completed fuel mitigation work. Last, some projects are best tackled by entities outside the NCCFF.

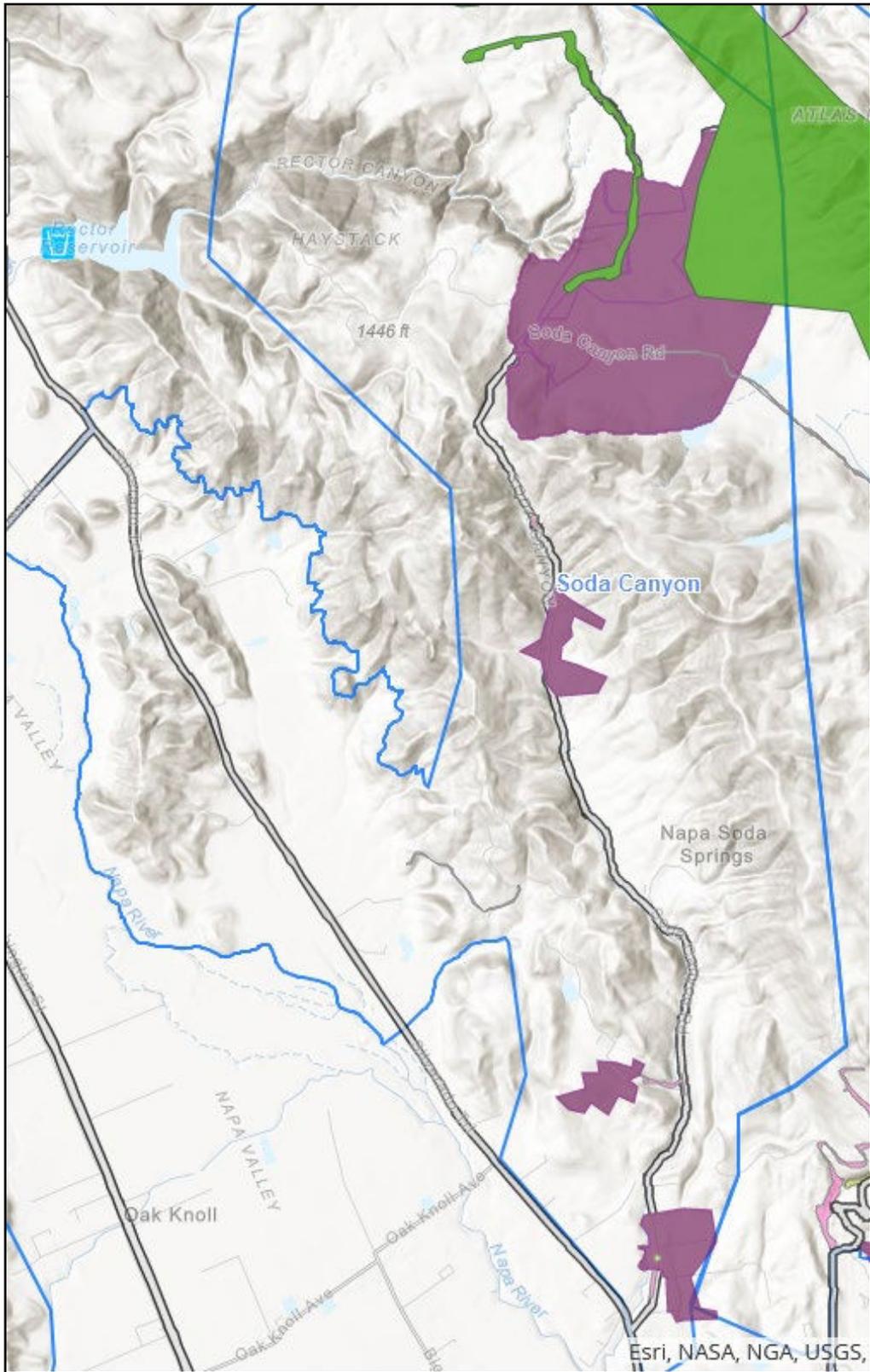


Figure 10. Projects in the previous (2012) CWPP for Soda Canyon FSC.

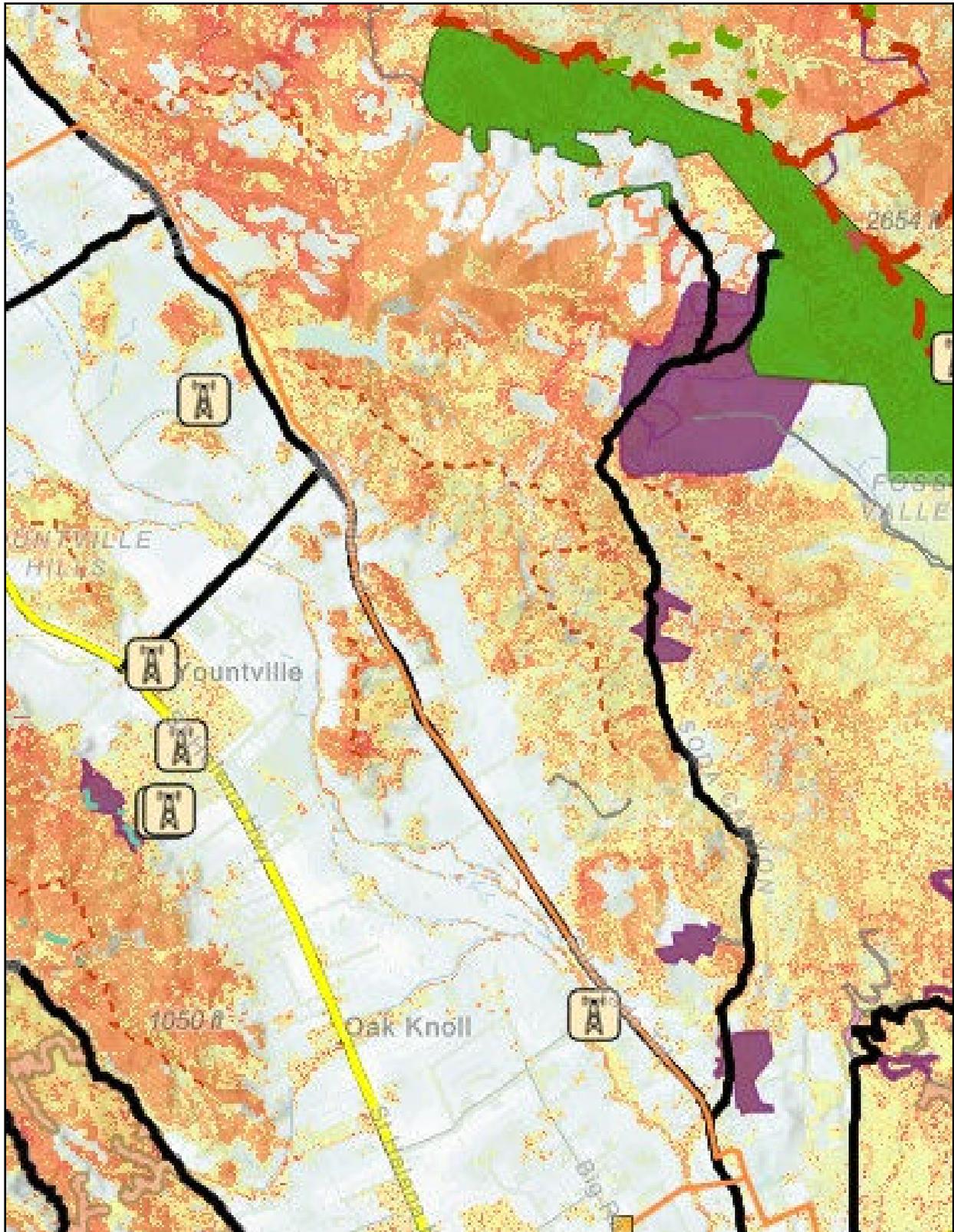


Figure 11. Projects in both the previous (2012) CWPP for Soda Canyon FSC and currently proposed projects.

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TABLE OF PROJECTS					
Unique ID	Project Description	Status	Life Safety	Protection of Property	Protection of Natural Resources
SCFSC-1	14-SRA-HF-01-0115-LNU-Poly. Foss Valley Community Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break.	Complete		X	
SCFSC-2	Foss Valley Community Shaded Fuel Break	Planned		X	
SCFSC-3	SodaCan Proj 1. Install Knox Box at Gated Entries.	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-4	SodaCan Proj 2. Install compliant addresses at road and home.	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-5	SodaCan Proj 3. Facilitate communication using Call 'em All or other emergency communication systems.	Planned	X		
SCFSC-6	SodaCan Proj 4. Open Circle S Ranch Rd for evacuation.	Planned	X		
SCFSC-7	SodaCan Proj 5a. Connect Shady Oaks to Soda Canyon Rd.	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-8	SodaCan Proj 5b. Connect Capps Rd to Soda Canyon Rd for emergency response.	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-9	SodaCan Proj 6. Treat roadside vegetation.	Complete	X		
SCFSC-10	SodaCan Proj 7. Thin understory for access.	Planned	X		
SCFSC-11	SodaCan Proj 8. Thin/remove eucalyptus for access.	Complete	X		
SCFSC-12	SodaCan Proj 9. Thin roadside vegetation.	In Progress	X		
SCFSC-13	SodaCan Proj 10. Remove trimming piles.	Planned		X	
SCFSC-14	SodaCan Proj 11. Widen road to provide turnouts.	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-15	SodaCan Proj 12a. Perimeter fuelbreaks around each neighborhood.	Complete		X	
SCFSC-16	SodaCan Project 12b. Perimeter fuelbreaks around each neighborhood.	Complete		X	
SCFSC-17	SodaCan Proj 12c. Perimeter fuelbreaks around each neighborhood.	Incomplete		X	
SCFSC-18	SodaCan Proj 12d. Perimeter fuelbreaks around each neighborhood.	Incomplete		X	
SCFSC-19	SodaCan Proj 12f. Perimeter fuelbreaks around each neighborhood.	Incomplete		X	
SCFSC-20	SodaCan Proj 13. Safety Zones.	Planned	X		
SCFSC-21	SodaCan Proj 14. Defensible Space in each neighborhood.	Planned		X	
SCFSC-22	SodaCan Proj 15. Remove invasive plants.	Planned			X
SCFSC-23	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 1. Install signs in select vineyard roads indicating access/evacuation potential	Planned	X		
SCFSC-24	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 2. Roadside vegetation treatments 30-ft on Pritchard Hill	Planned	X		
SCFSC-25	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 3. Connect access roads – Circle Oaks – Atlas Pk – Soda Canyon + Sage Canyon –	Planned	X	X	

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Unique ID	Project Description	Status	Life Safety	Protection of Property	Protection of Natural Resources
SCFSC-26	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 4. Project at Chappellet – Link vineyards at top of vineyards. Structure protection via DS and roads. Needs tree pruning.	Planned		X	
SCFSC-27	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 5. Access – Continuum Vineyard through Neyers to Sage Canyon – Stagecoach to Atlas Peak. Project = to top , 100-ft both sides.	Planned		X	
SCFSC-28	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 6. Create fuel breaks by treating vegetation between vineyards, especially at/near ridgetops from Pritchard Hill to Atlas Peak Rd.	Planned		X	
SCFSC-29	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 7. Remove dead standing trees from 2017 fires, starting near structures and roads	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-30	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 8. Remove dead standing trees from 2017 fires, starting near structures and roads	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-31	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 9. Develop vineyard worker education and fire prevention plan	Planned		X	
SCFSC-32	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 10. Education regarding temporary refuge areas, re criteria for such: low fuel volume, flat, near a road, willing landowner.	Planned	X		
SCFSC-33	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 11. Sirens – At least three, to augment phone notification. See the Hi-lo sirens	Planned	X		
SCFSC-34	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 12. Install Knox-box facilities at base of roads, using Diamond Mountain’s as an example	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-35	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 13. Support for Soda Canyon VFD by assisting with admin issues, increase participation and community involvement, training for home evaluations, and staffing during Red Flag Days.	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-36	SodaCan 2021 CWPP Proj 14. Identification and creation of additional turnouts, especially in steep middle part	Planned	X	X	
SCFSC-37	Soda Can 2022 CWPP Proj15. Develop a “Neighbors in Need” program to assist residents with defensible space issues	Planned		X	

Examples of Projects

Projects That Can Be Tackled By Residents Now

These are projects that can be tackled by residents, working together or individually. Each of these projects will contribute to the safety and survivability of individual residents as well as the community as a whole.

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1. **Public Education and Outreach:** Perform site-specific evaluation of residences in the SCFSC area regarding defensible space and fire-resistant landscaping choices, and retrofit options, and distribute educational information, develop database of conditions assisting fire response, update evacuation plan.
 - a. *Objectives covered:* Evacuation & Access, reduce property damage
 - b. *Area:* Throughout the SCFSC residential areas, including vacation rental properties.
 - c. *Goals:*
 - i. Provide residents information about how to retrofit structures to be more ignition-resistant,
 - ii. Develop database for outreach,
 - iii. Create or update CAL FIRE's fire Pre-Attack and Evacuation plan,
 - iv. Develop a list of properties that require defensible space work that are owned by disadvantaged, low income and/or senior homeowners
 - d. *Actions:*
 - i. Revise existing evaluation standards in conjunction with CAL FIRE,
 - ii. Train volunteers,
 - iii. Designate volunteer/staff to conduct evaluations,
 - iv. Enter info into database with appropriate privacy protections,
 - v. Transfer data to fire departments,
 - vi. Update as needed
 - e. *Who:* 1-3 volunteers or paid staff if grant-funded
 - f. *Schedule:* Starting now
 - g. *Estimated Cost:* \$150/yr GIS subscription, \$3000 to advertise and solicit evaluation (assuming volunteers collect information from residents)
 - h. *Source of Funds:* NCCF
 - i. *Special Considerations and Prerequisites*
 - i. Landowner permission for access,
 - ii. Data sharing and privacy protections,
 - iii. Checklist for property evaluation and data collection (use Mt. Veeder FSC as a starting point)
 - iv. Volunteer evaluators availability
2. **Suppression Support:** Install reflective signage. Make it easy to purchase and install reflective street address signs with options to include badges indicating the presence of water sources (pool, water tanks) and driveway turnaround.
 - a. *Objectives covered:* Evacuation & Access
 - a. *Area:* Throughout the SCFSC residential areas, including vacation rental properties.
 - b. *Goals:*
 - i. Inform responders of features that encourage entry and successful response.
 - c. *Actions:*
 - i. Provide residents/property owners with information re: purchase and proper placement of reflective compliant signage.

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- d. *Who*: Residents
- e. *Schedule*: Anytime
- f. *Estimated Cost*: \$20-\$50/sign
- g. *Source of Funds*: grant or donations
- h. *Special Considerations and Prerequisites*: N/A

Projects That Can Be Tackled With “A Little Help from Our Friends”

These are projects that require some resources, but small grants or contributions can be sought to fund these.

3. **Suppression Support:** Install knox-box facilities or Beacon Box at base of roads, using Diamond Mountain FSC or Hennessey Rector FSC as an example. Includes gathering information from residents.
 - a. *Objectives covered*: Property Access, Reduce property damage
 - b. *Area*: At base of Loma Vista Rd., Foss Valley Rd.
 - b. *Goals*:
 - i. Helps emergency responders to respond, gain access to property, and follow directions using aerial observations
 - c. *Actions*:
 - i. FSC to develop database questionnaire, gather information and create an information binder (or virtual),
 - ii. purchase knox-box, or Beacon Box and
 - iii. deliver information about existence and location to Napa Co FD
 - d. *Who*: Willing members of SCFSC on the above roads. There should be a “captain” for each area.
 - e. *Schedule*: Now, any time
 - a. *Estimated Cost*: \$1613 per Knox box, plus any data gathering costs
 - f. *Source of Funds*: NCFE
 - g. *Special Considerations and Prerequisites*
 - i. A strong privacy policy and privacy and security features
 - ii. Data gathering and storage mechanism,
 - iii. Volunteer efforts to track down and organize information
2. **Vegetation Management:** Maintain/expand existing fire breaks created during Glass Fire.
 - a. *Objectives covered*: Reduce Property damage, Contain fire
 - b. *Area*: Top of Foss Valley,
 - c. *Goals*:
 - i. Facilitate fire containment
 - d. *Actions*:
 - i. Cut and burn or chip previously cut material, using hand labor or machinery,
 - ii. Cut additional 10-30 ft of vegetation to create a shaded fuel break
 - e. *Who*: Owners of land with contingency containment lines, and contractors to do the work
 - f. *Schedule*: Best in the fall, OK anytime but avoiding nesting season and red flag days. Burn piles in winter.
 - g. *Estimated Cost*: \$850/ac per CFIP (“Follow-up”)
 - h. *Source of Funds*: Grant

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- i. *Special Considerations and Prerequisites:*
 - i. CEQA, landowner permission required, contractor insurance and indemnification

3. **Vegetation Management: Roadside Treatments**

- a. *Objectives covered:* Evacuation & access, Ignition prevention, Reduce property damage, Contain fire
- b. *Area:* 30-ft both sides of Soda Canyon Rd., Loma Vista Rd.
- c. *Goals:*
 - i. Enable passage of evacuees and emergency vehicles, aid containment
- d. *Actions:*
 - i. In wildlands, chip all dead material,
 - ii. Remove (cut, pull and/or spray) understory shrubs,
 - iii. Prune lower branches of trees
- e. *Who:* Hand crews (CDC), property owners, +/- vendors for machinery
- f. *Schedule:* Best in the fall, OK anytime but avoiding nesting season and red flag days
- g. *Estimated Cost:* \$1500/day traffic control, \$8,000/ac (or homeowner-driven)
- h. *Source of Funds:* Grant
- i. *Special Considerations and Prerequisites:*
 - i. CEQA, landowner permission and traffic control required

Aspirational Projects That Require Significant Funding

1. **Vegetation Management: Remove hazardous trees along roads**

- a. *Objectives covered:* Evacuation & access, Reduce property damage, Contain fire
- b. *Area:* Roadside, where leaning and/or failing trees exist, especially Soda Canyon Rd., lands connecting Soda Canyon and Atlas Peak Rd.
- c. *Goals:*
 - i. Provide safe evacuation and response during an emergency
- d. *Actions:*
 - i. Encourage / promote vegetation management by County and PG&E to remove hazard trees along roads
 - ii. Hire contractor if can't be removed by county and/or PG&E
- e. *Who:* Willing members of SCFSC
- f. *Schedule:* Now, any time
- g. *Estimated Cost:* \$1500 - \$3,000/tree
- h. *Source of Funds:* Grant
- i. *Special Considerations and Prerequisites:*
 - i. CEQA, landowner permission required

Monitoring Project Progress and Updating the CWPP

A brief project progress report will be provided to NCFE annually and filed with the CWPP. This progress report will be submitted at the beginning of the calendar year for use by the NCFE Grant Committee to assist in grant request and funding planning for the upcoming year. The CWPP will be updated every 4 years from the date of approval sign off.

Firewise USA

In 2024, the SCFSC was recognized as a National Fire Protection Association **Firewise USA** community. The application includes a three-year action plan that addresses projects to support

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outreach and education, home hardening, defensible space and fuel reduction and evacuation planning. Below is a summary of projects identified in the action plan.

Projects included in the Action Plan.

Outreach and Education Goals
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain and distribute educational information on defensible space, home hardening and preparation for fire emergencies. 2. Update FSC's public-facing webpage with informational and educational materials. 3. Promote and encourage participation in Napa County Chipping program. 4. Share information with residents about how to acquire 911 signs. 5. Convene first annual community picnic to share the latest fire-related programs and activities. 6. Convene at least two board meetings to review programs and plans. 7. Promote Napa County cost-share program for home hardening. 8. Promote Napa Communities Firewise cost-share program for defensible space. 9. Participate in Napa Communities Firewise training about defensible space and structure hardening
Home Hardening Goals
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate the 7A placards (yellow placards with houses). 2. Promote Napa County cost-share program for home hardening; encourage sign-ups. 3. Work to improve home hardening weaknesses identified in the Risk Assessment.
Defensible Space / Fuel Reduction Goals
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist in getting landowner agreements so that the fuel reduction projects can take place on private lands. 2. Conduct roadside fuel reduction treatments. 3. Promote Napa County chipping days on webpage. 4. Share best practices regarding burning.
Evacuation Planning (Ex. Preparedness & Routing) and Wildfire Preparedness
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Temporary Refuge Areas (TRAs). 2. Update evacuation plans; practice evacuating and meeting at the TRA. 3. Establish alternative access routes. 4. Work toward widening areas for turnout and the base of driveways wherever possible. 5. Participate in the "Reflect to Protect" program.

Approval Signatures

The Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan was developed collaboratively and in consultation with interested parties, including Napa Communities Firewise Foundation, Napa County Fire Department, CAL FIRE, and the residents of the Soda Canyon community.

The Plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends other types and methods of treatments that will protect the Soda Canyon Community.

The following entities acknowledge the receipt of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Acknowledged:  Date: 06/26/2025
Amber Manfree (Jun 26, 2025 13:01 PDT)
Amber Manfree, Supervisor, Napa County District 4

Acknowledged:  Date: 06/16/2025
Matt Ryan
Matt Ryan, Unit Chief, CAL FIRE and Fire Chief, Napa County Fire Department

The following individuals agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Agreed:  Date: 06/13/2025
Christopher Thompson (Jun 13, 2025 16:30 PDT)
Christopher Thompson, Chairman of the Board, Napa Communities Firewise Foundation

Agreed:  Date: 06/16/2025
Barbara Guggia (Jun 16, 2025 13:26 PDT)
Barbara Guggia, Lead, Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council

Agreed:  Date: 06/16/2025
Cynthia Grupp (Jun 16, 2025 07:11 PDT)
Cynthia Grupp, Lead, Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council

Agreed:  Date: 06/23/2025
Glenn Schreuder (Jun 23, 2025 10:00 PDT)
Glenn Schreuder, Lead, Soda Canyon Fire Safe Council

2025 Soda Canyon CWPP Final 06.2025

Final Audit Report

2025-06-26

Created:	2025-06-13
By:	Laurie Klip (laurie@napafirewise.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAJAvTldjoKhp2DVF2fuLSCfugGED5WdhV

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-  Document created by Laurie Klip (laurie@napafirewise.org)
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