



2013 Board of Forestry Annual Meeting

Brendan “Rip” Ripley

Vegetation Management Planner

Pre-Fire Engineer



Ventura County

- 1,198,720 acres (1,873 sq. mi.)
- 353,161 SRA acres (552 sq. mi.)
- 550,400 acres Los Padres NF (860 sq. mi.) 46%
- 14 communities at risk
- Population 831,771 (2011)





Ventura County Fuel beds

- Planning

Communities at risk

Infrastructure and Agriculture at risk

Access

Emergency Pre-fire plans

Vegetation Type





Ventura County Fuel beds

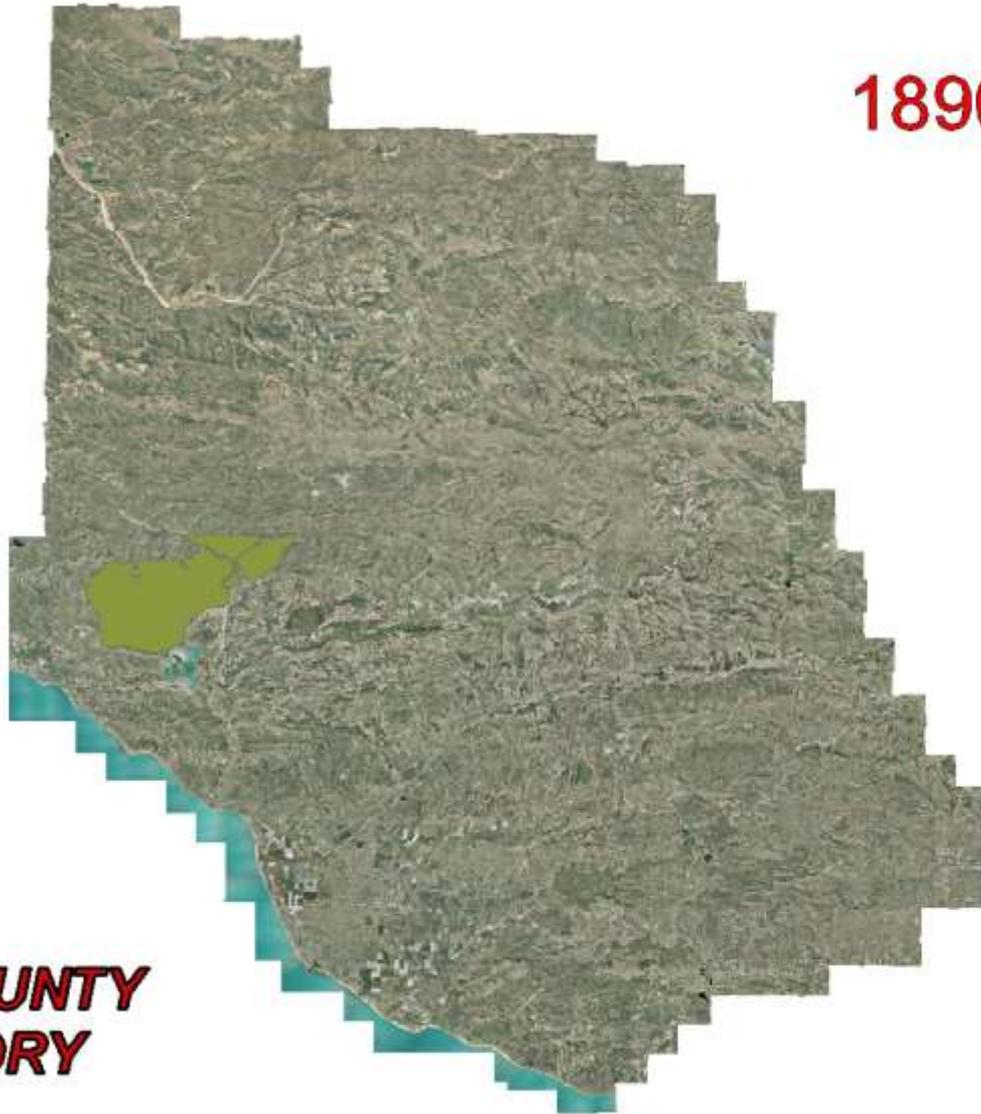
- Maintenance
 - Fire Roads
 - Fuel Breaks
 - Previous VMP's



FIRE HISTORY



1890



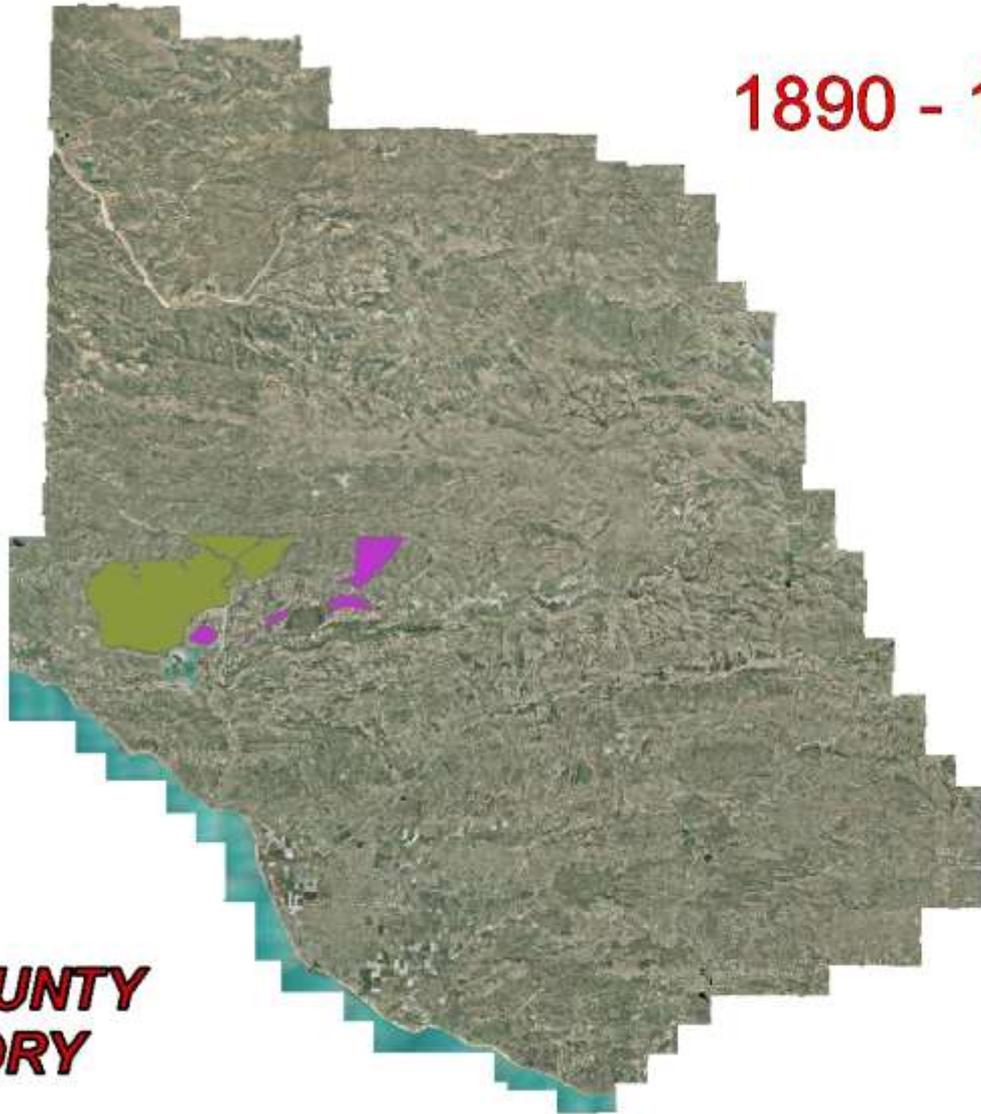
LEGEND
DECADE
1890



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**



1890 - 1900



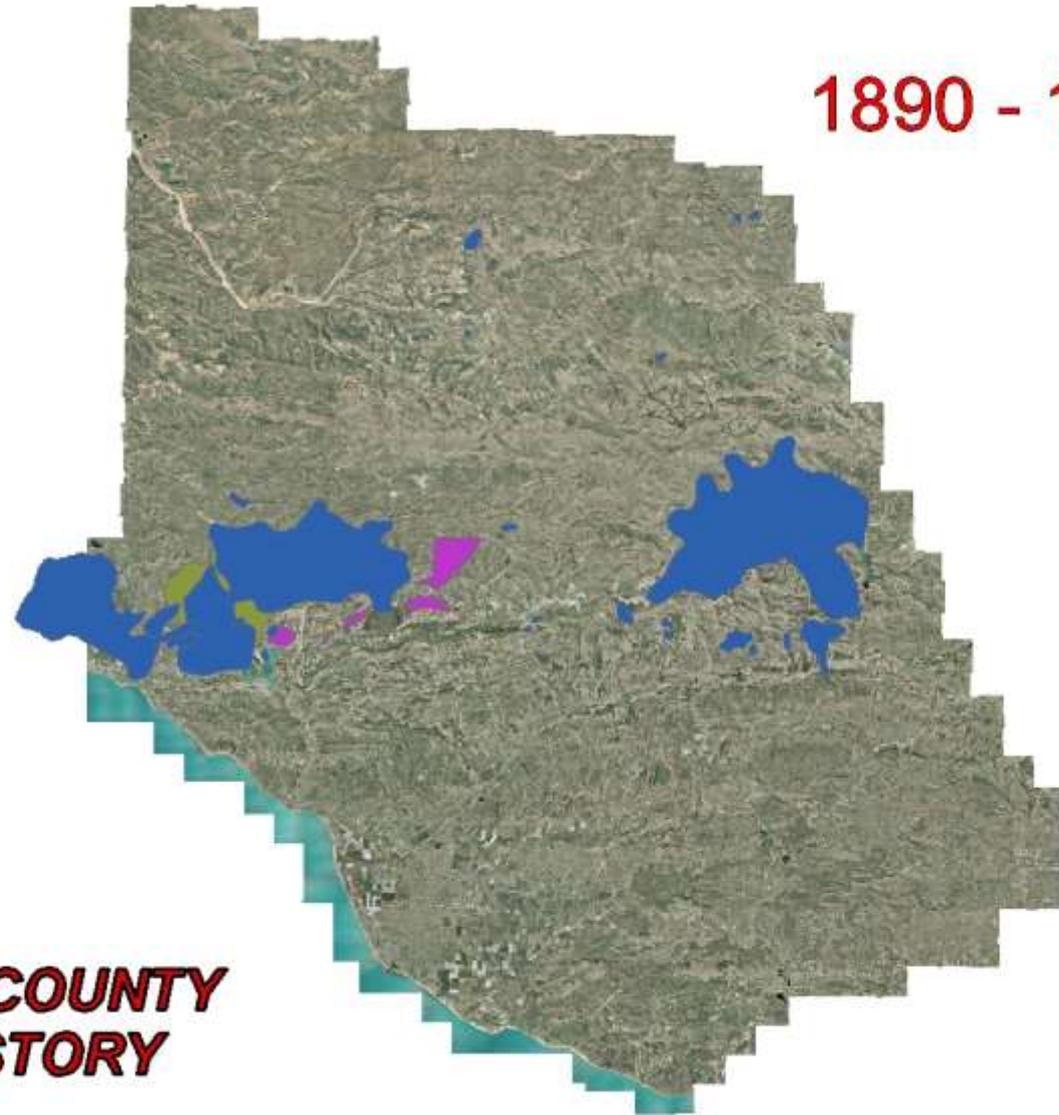
LEGEND	
DECADE	
Green	1890
Purple	1900



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE HISTORY



1890 - 1910



LEGEND

DECADE

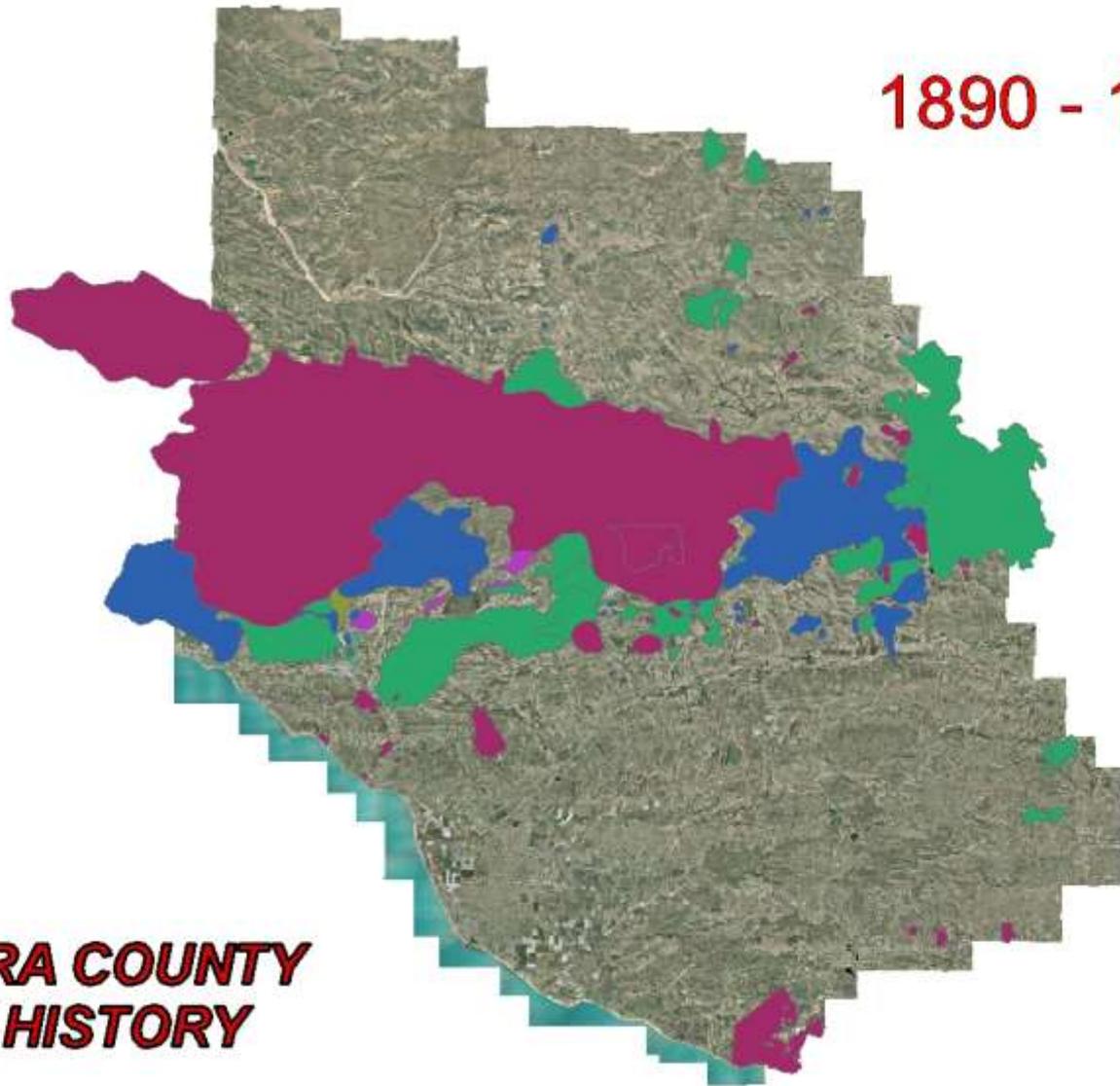
Green	1890
Purple	1900
Blue	1910



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**



1890 - 1930



LEGEND	
DECADE	
1890	1900
1910	1920
1930	



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**

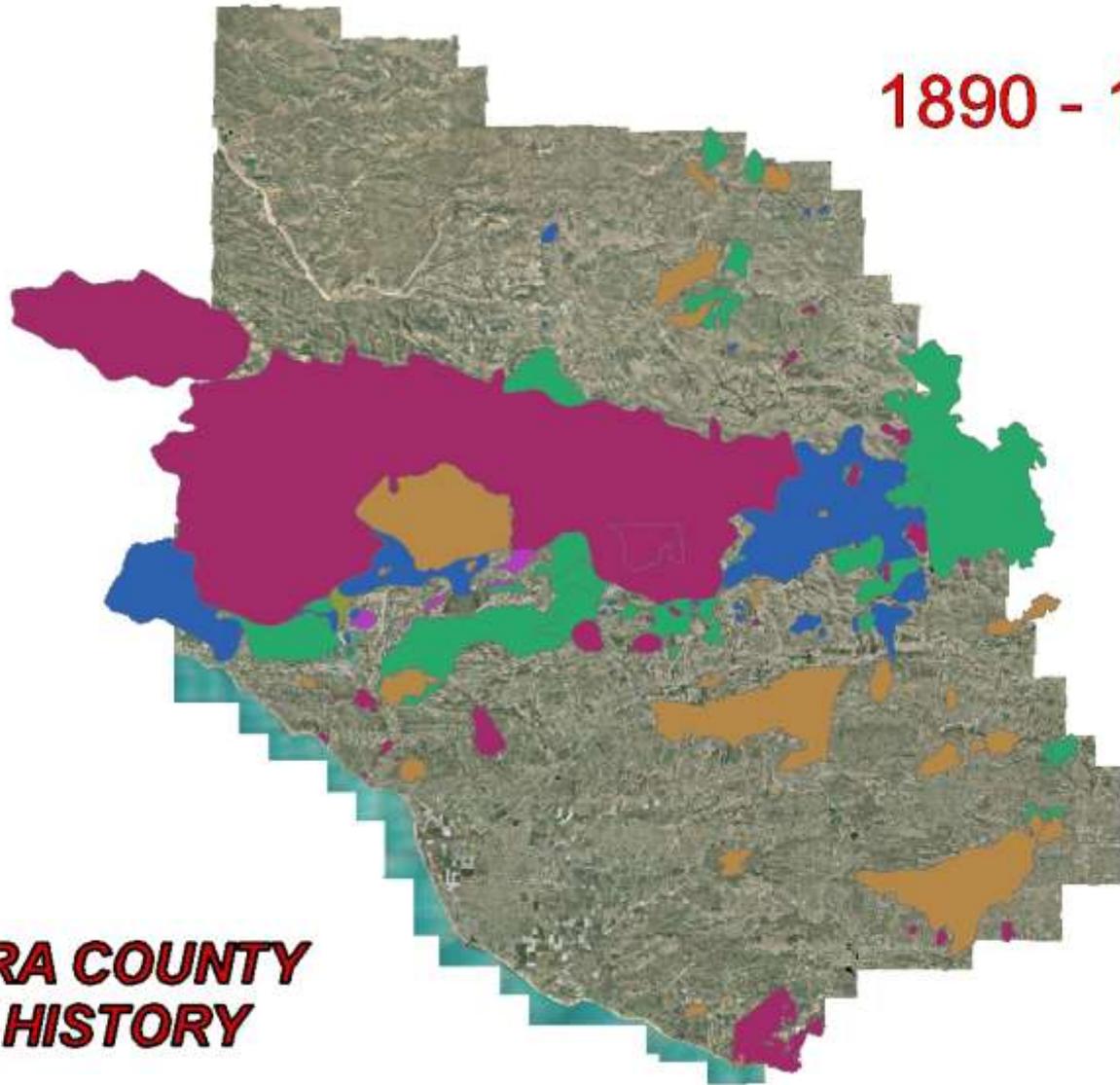


1890 - 1940

LEGEND	
DECADE	
1890	1900
1910	1920
1930	1940



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**

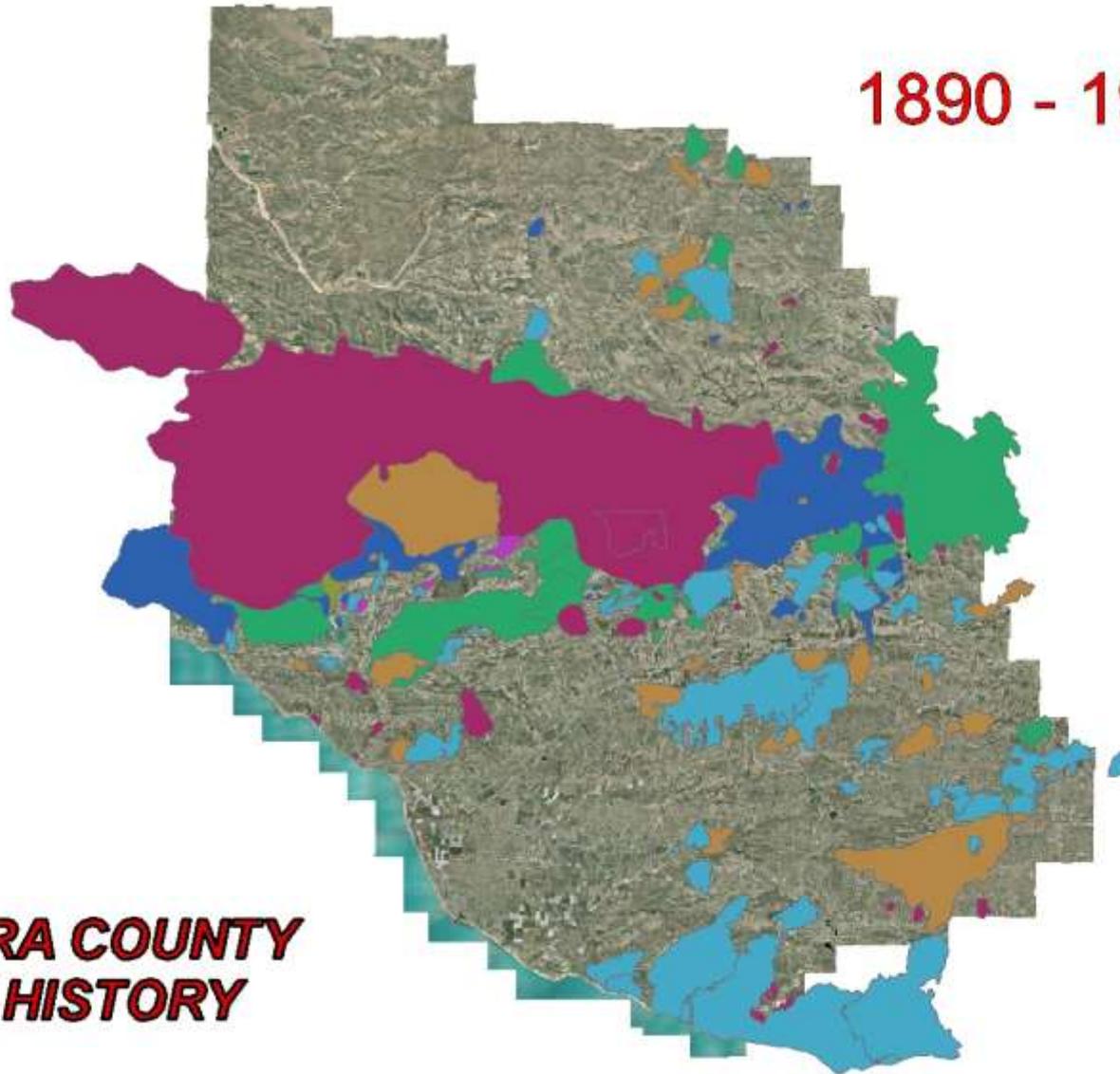


1890 - 1950

LEGEND	
DECADE	
1890	1900
1910	1920
1930	1940
1950	



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE HISTORY

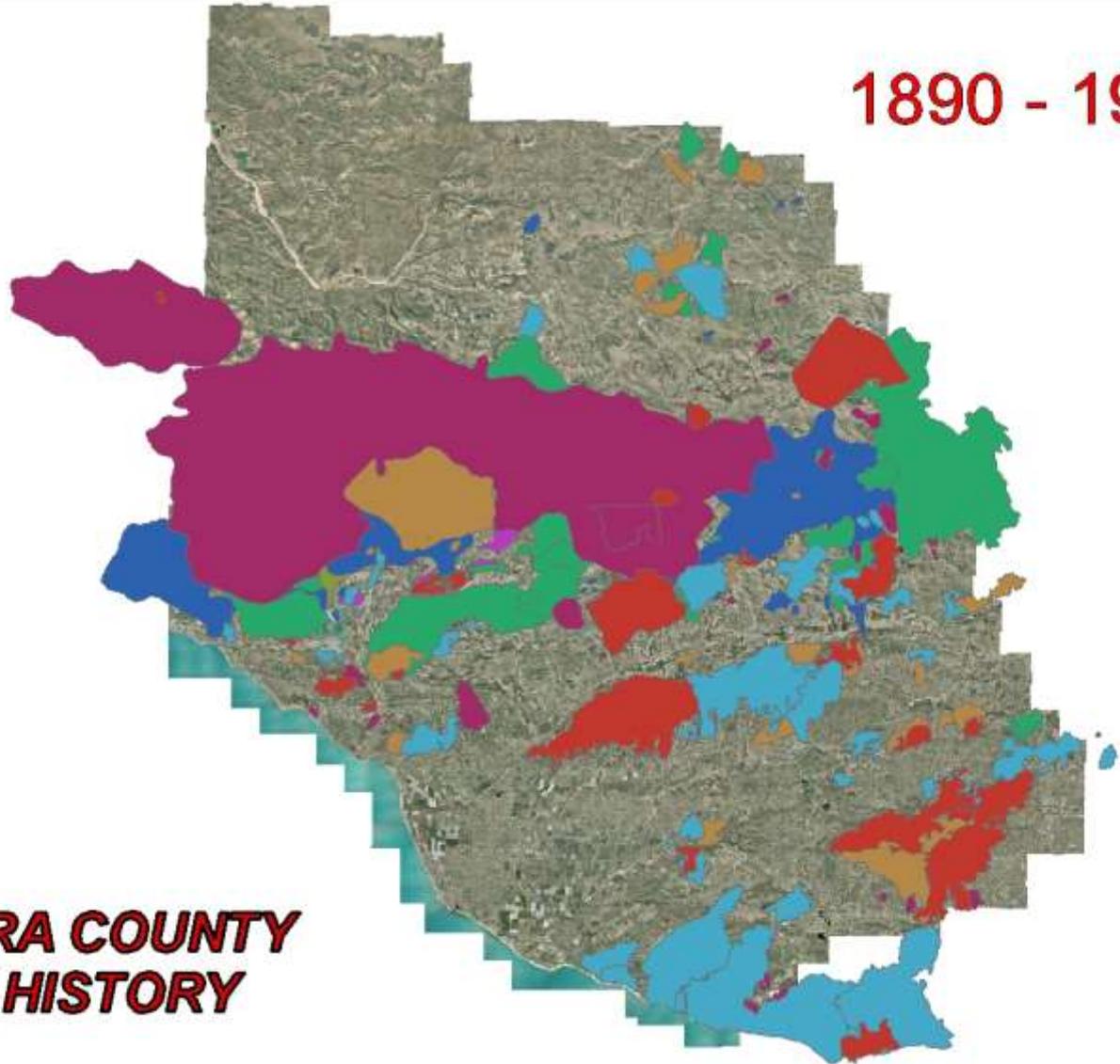


1890 - 1960

LEGEND	
DECADE	
1890	1900
1910	1920
1930	1940
1950	1960



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE HISTORY



1890 - 1970

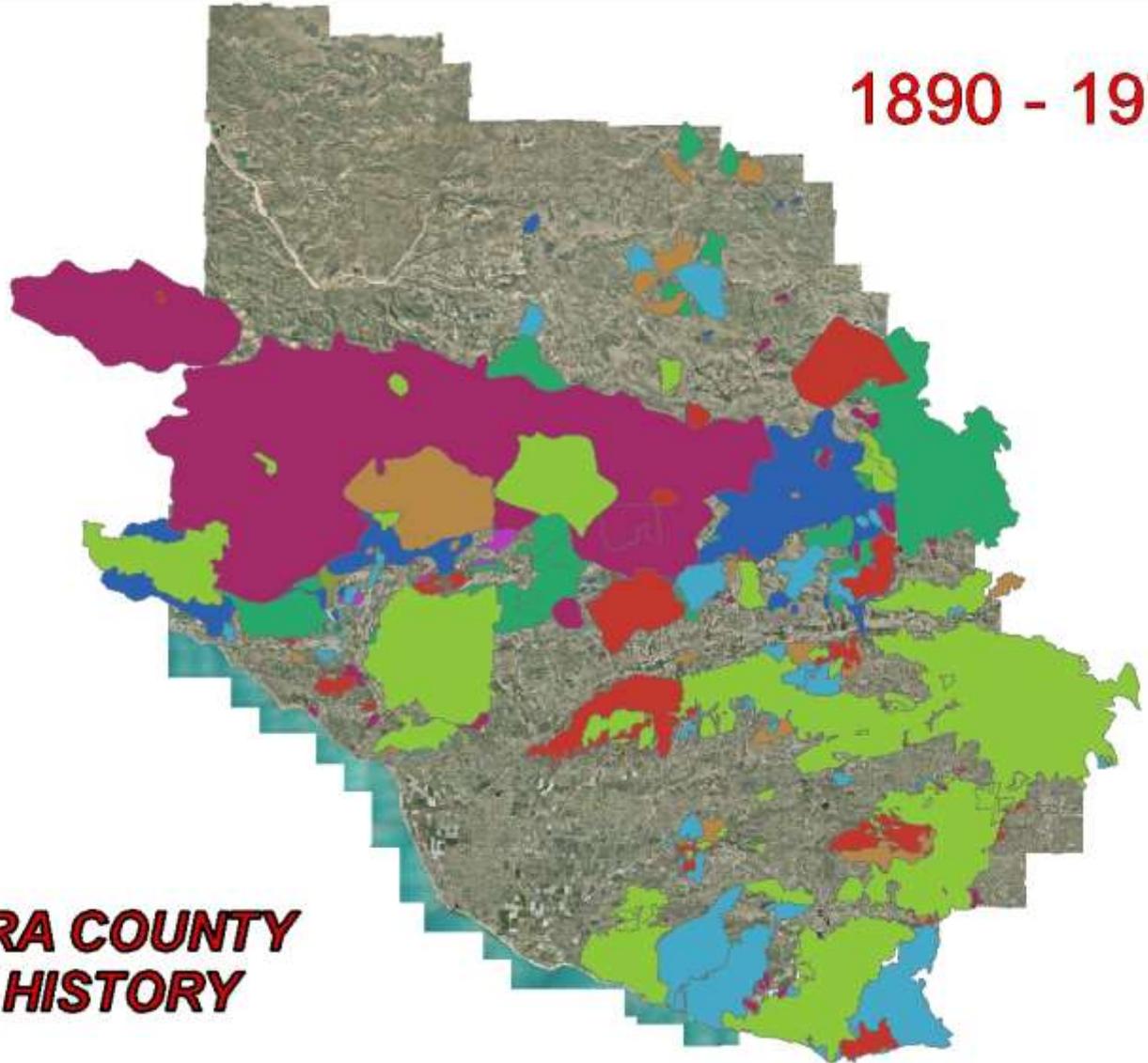
LEGEND

DECADE

1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**



1890 - 1980

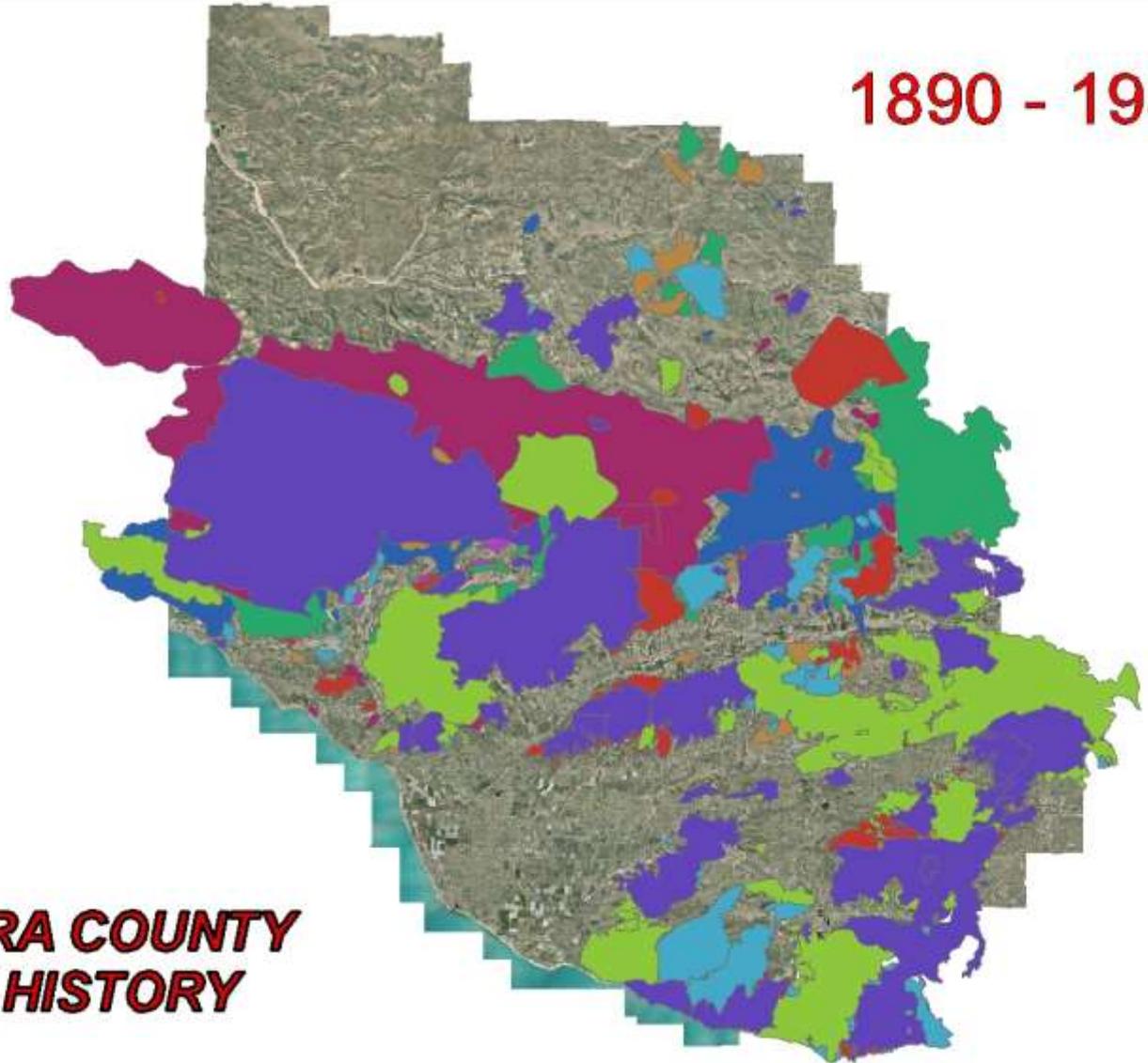
LEGEND

DECADE

1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970
1980



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**



1890 - 1990

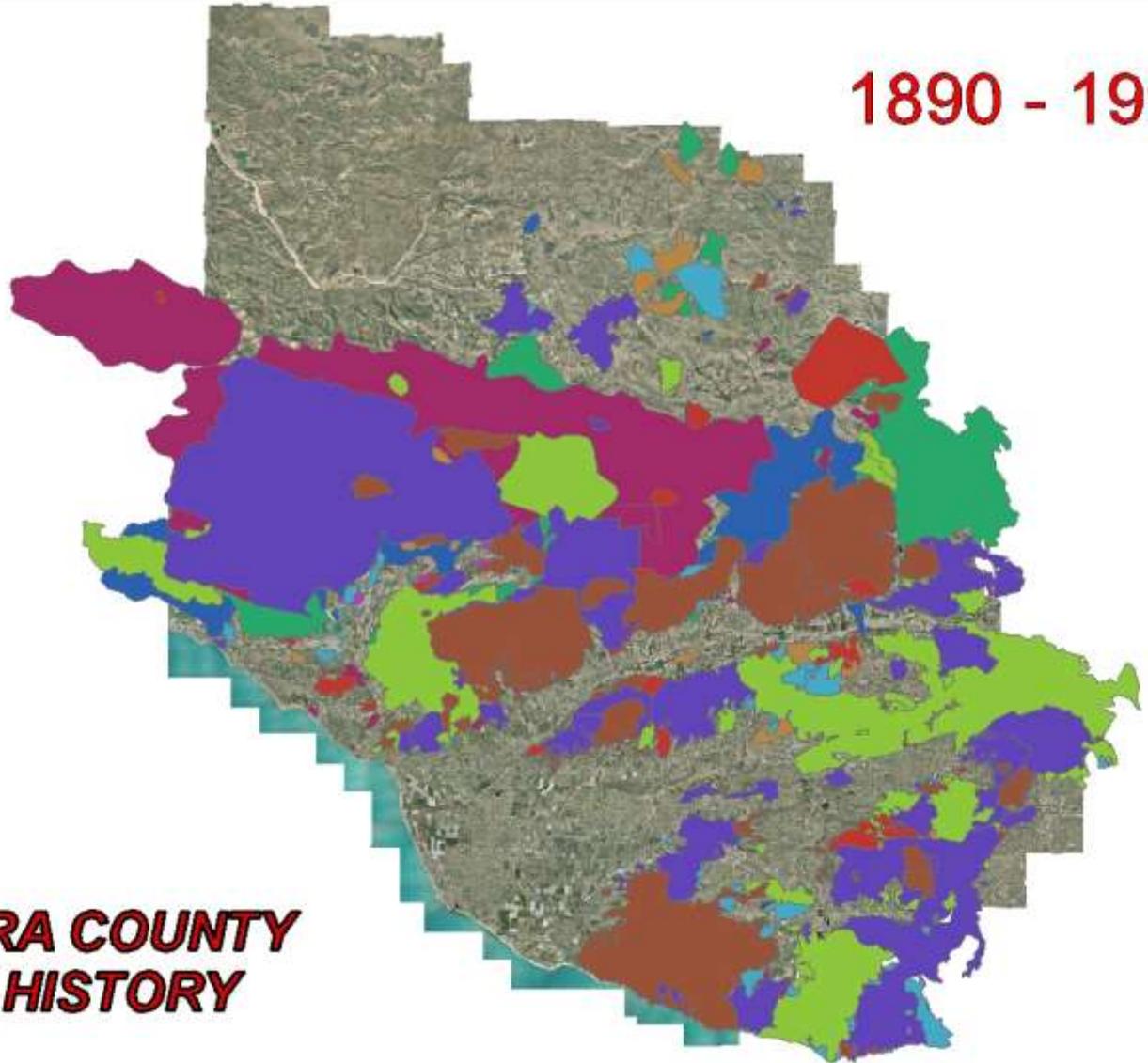
LEGEND

DECADE

1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**



1890 - 2000

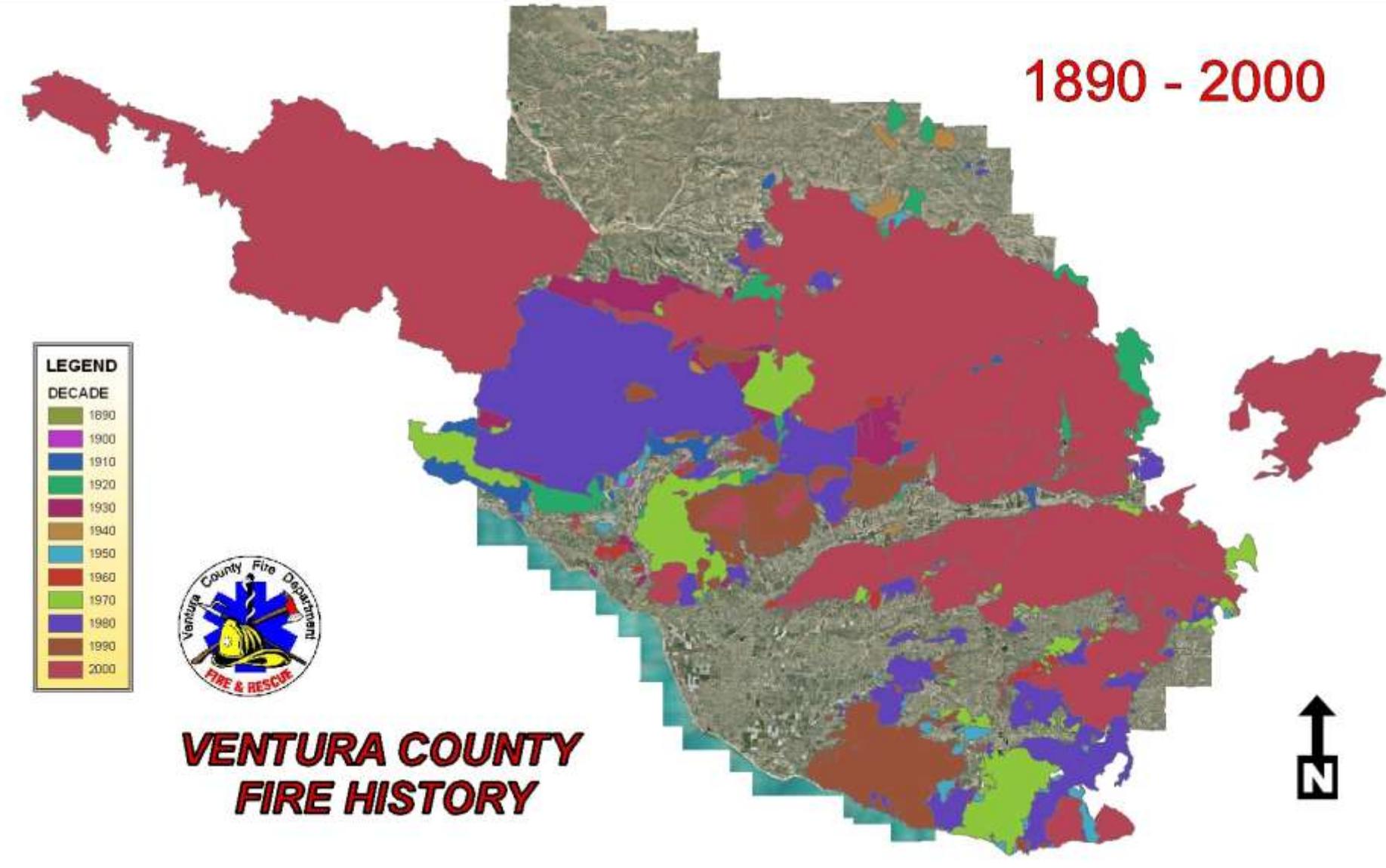
LEGEND

DECADE

1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**



1890 - 2010

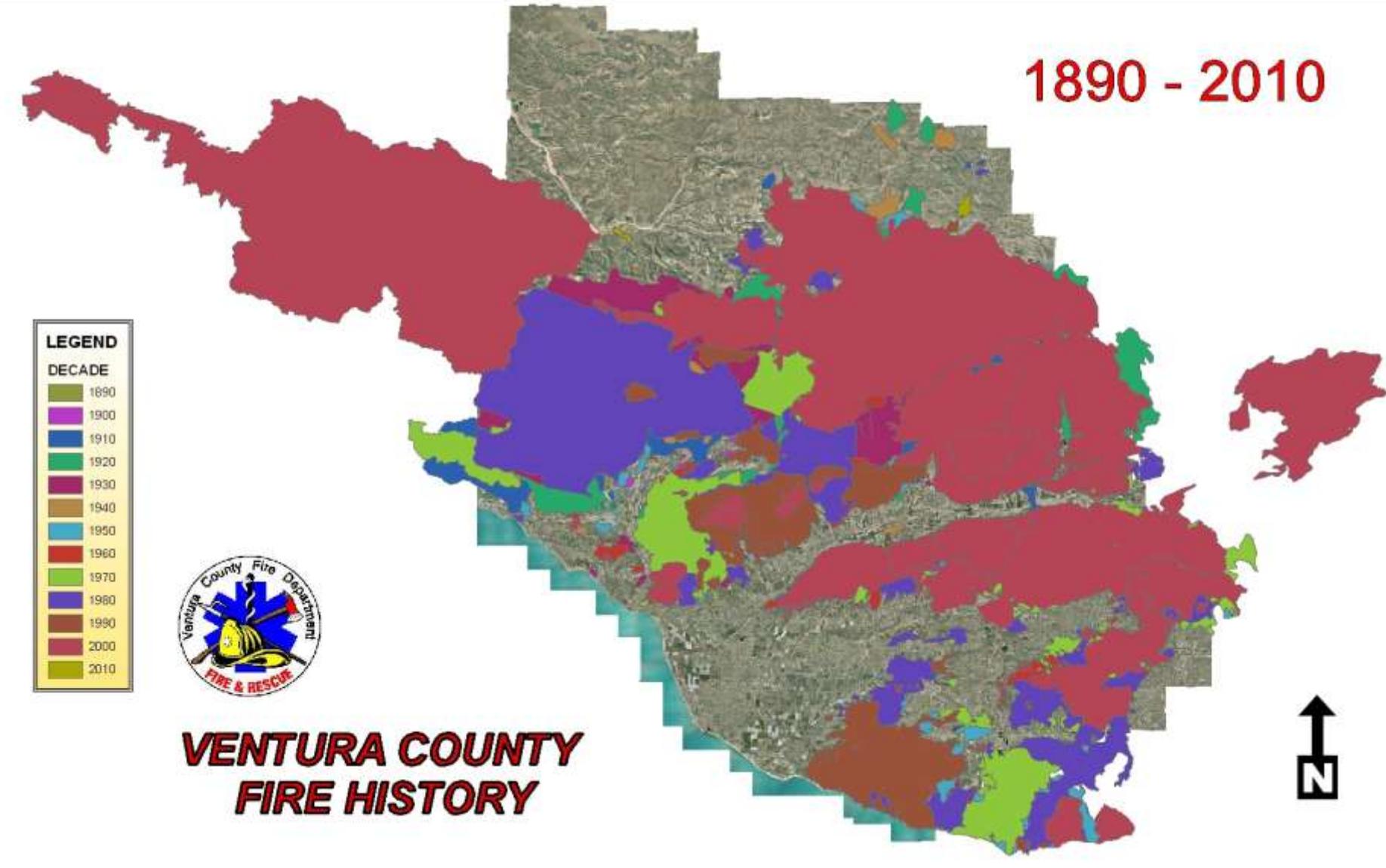
LEGEND

DECADE

1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010



**VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE HISTORY**



1890 - 2013

LEGEND

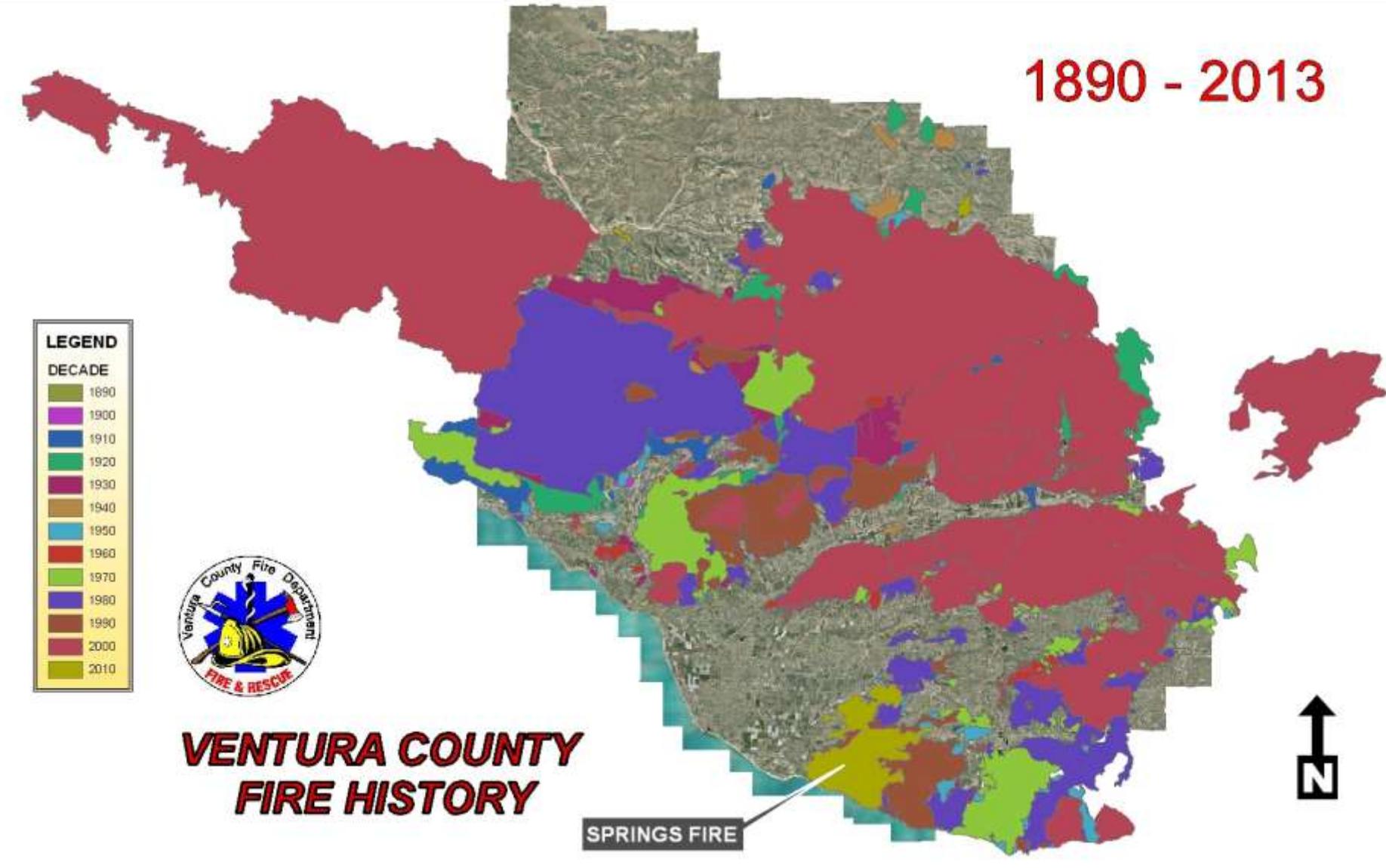
DECADE

1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE HISTORY

SPRINGS FIRE





Ventura County Total Acreage Burned from 1950 – 2013

1,993,626 Acres





**It's not a matter of if
but when!!!**



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

*Unit Strategic Fire Plan
Ventura County Fire Protection
District*



UNIT FIRE PLAN

supporting the
California Fire Plan



“The Unit Fire Plan places emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts”

*Unit Strategic Fire Plan
Ventura County Fire Protection
District*





The Unit Fire Plan looks to reduce:

- Firefighting costs
- Property loss
- Increase Firefighter Safety
- Contribute to ecosystem health

*Unit Strategic Fire Plan
Ventura County Fire Protection
District*

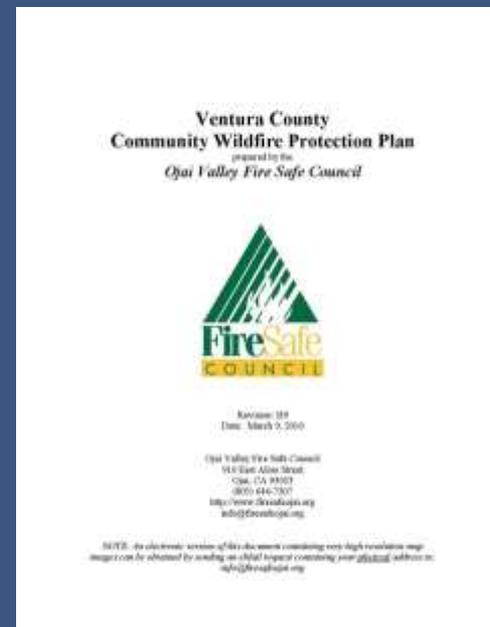




Unit Fire Plan History

- 2012 plan fulfilled utilizing the County wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

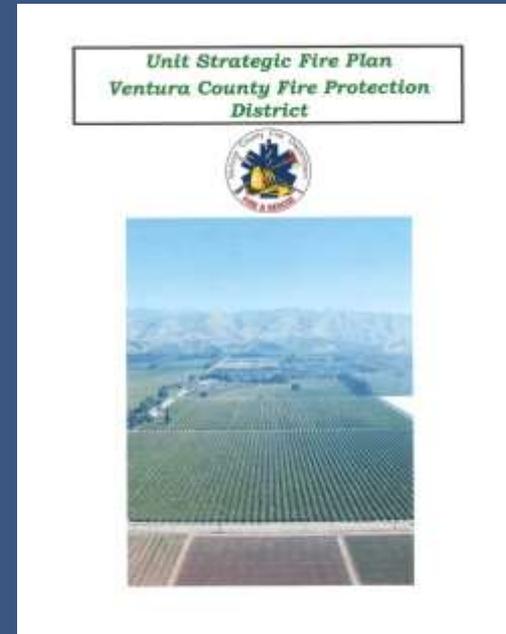
CWPP completed by the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council in collaboration with the Ventura County Fire Dept. in 2010.





Unit Fire Plan History

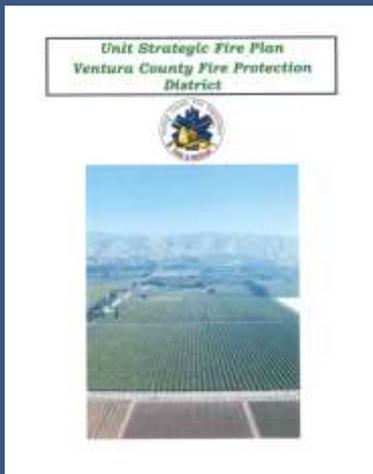
- 2013 plan redesigned and consolidated
Replaced the County Wide CWPP & 5 year
wildland plan





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Collaboration is the key component.....



Over 40 Representatives from
Communities, Agencies, land
managers and Fire Safe Councils
were involved in the plan
development



Implementing the
Unit Fire Plan

Community Involvement

- **Fire Safe Councils:**

Ojai FSC

Central Ventura County FSC

Ventu Park FSC

Mt. Pinos Communities FSC





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan Community Involvement

- Fire Safe Councils accomplishments:

Shaded Fuel Breaks:



BEFORE



AFTER



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan Community Involvement

- Fire Safe Councils accomplishments:

Ag Pass



Ag Worker ID Program

In partnership with the Farm Bureau of Ventura County, the Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council is pleased to announce updates to the Ventura County Agricultural Employee ID Card Program.

- New Card Design Includes Photo
- Available Free of Charge to Farmers, Ranchers, Nursery Owners and Their Employees
- Three Easy Ways to Sign Up:
 - Online Request form at cvcfiresafe.org
 - Monthly Enrollment Sessions at Local Fire Stations
 - Designated Days at Farm Bureau Office (starting in 2013)

The current blue card will be phased out and replaced over 24 months beginning November, 2012.

Ventura County Agriculture Employee ID

Front

Back

NEW & IMPROVED!

Ventura County Agriculture Employee ID

Card No. 00000

10433 Stockton Rd
Moorpark
Quail Canyon Ranch

Photo

Sex	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB

At the discretion of a public safety officer or their designee, this card will not be accepted by your police agency for any law enforcement purposes, and will not be accepted by your police agency for any law enforcement purposes. This program is provided in order to help improve emergency response and to help reduce the risk of injury and property damage.

Sex	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB

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Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council - www.cvcfiresafe.org



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Community Involvement

- Fire Safe Councils accomplishments:

Matilija Canyon Home Hardening

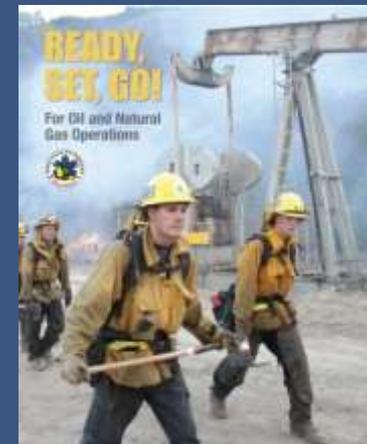
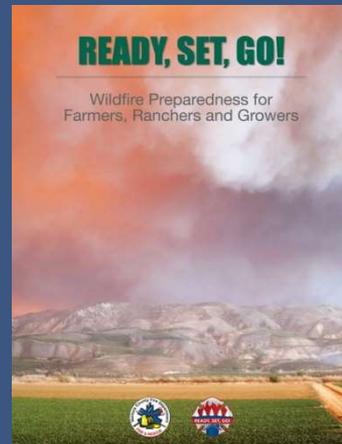
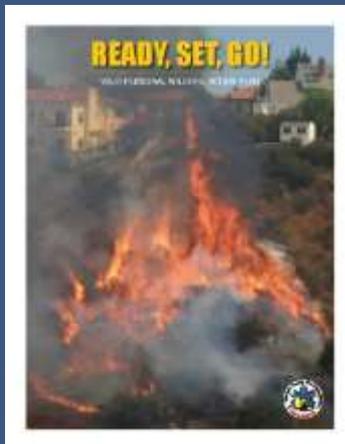




Implementing the Unit Fire Plan Community Involvement

- Fire Safe Councils accomplishments:

Wildland Fire Expo (Ready Set Go)





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Local groups:



Ventura County Cattlemen Assoc.

The Crew of Ojai

Ventura County RCD

Local Farmers

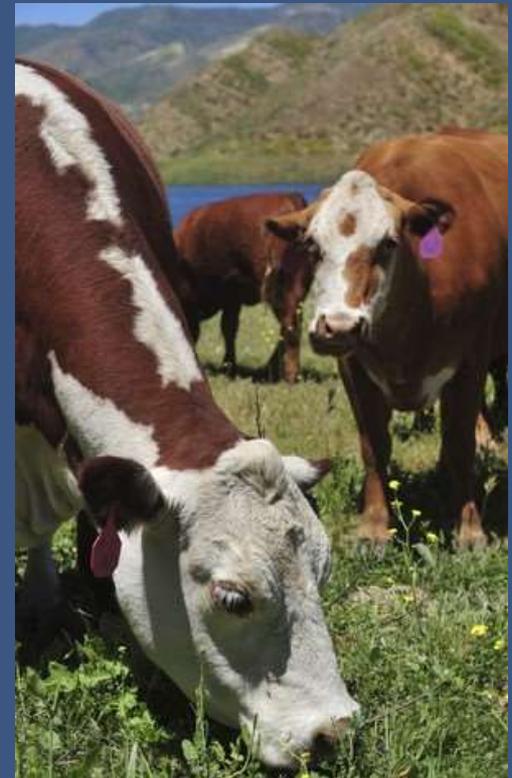
Land Owners





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Local group accomplishments:
- Grazing practices throughout the county





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Local group accomplishments:
Residential fire mitigation for seniors





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Local group accomplishments:

Grant assistance: RCD & Taylor Ranch



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Ventura County Agricultural Employee ID

Ventura County Agricultural Employee ID



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Local group accomplishments:
Temporary Refuge Area (TRA)



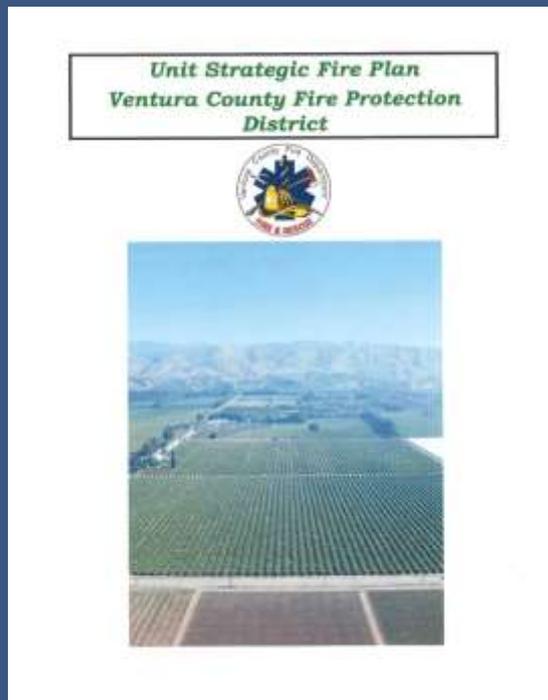


Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Ventura County Fire Protection District

Mission Statement

The Ventura County Fire Department anticipates and responds to the dynamic public safety needs of a diverse community.





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Recognizing the effects of wildfire:

Air Quality

Rangeland

Agricultural Land

Recreation Land

Structures

Water and Watershed

Wildlife

Cultural, Historic, and Scenic Resources



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Recognizing the effects of wildfire:

Air Quality

Rangeland

Agricultural Land

Recreation Land

Structures

Water and Watershed

Wildlife

Cultural, Historic, and Scenic Resources



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Impacts on two fronts:

Structures



Agricultural





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

STRUCTURES

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP)

100' Defensible space:

Reduces Firefighting Costs

Reduces property loss

Increases Firefighter Safety



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

STRUCTURES

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

The ember zone:

“Home Hardening”



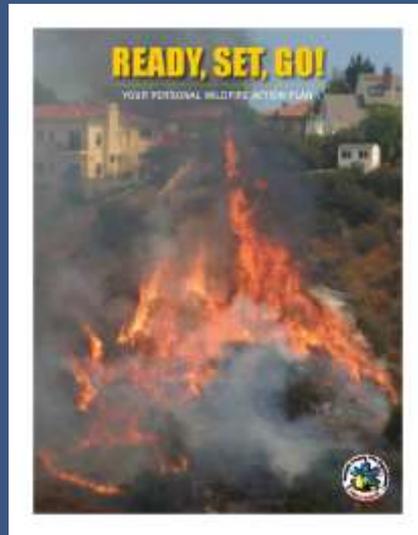


Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

STRUCTURES

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

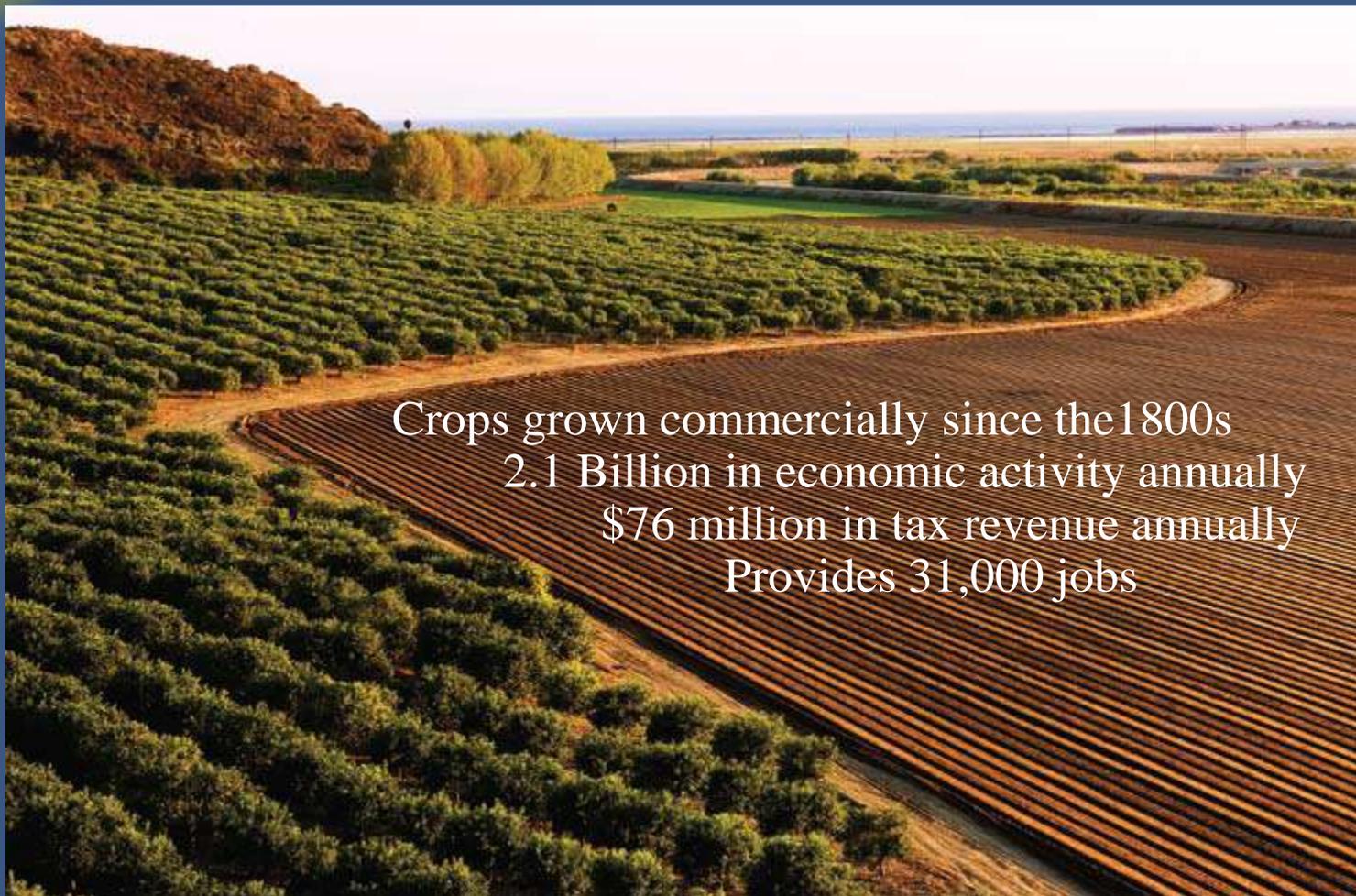
Education:





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Agriculture



Crops grown commercially since the 1800s
2.1 Billion in economic activity annually
\$76 million in tax revenue annually
Provides 31,000 jobs



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Agriculture

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Agriculture

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Ventura County Agriculture Employee ID

Ventura County Agricultural Employee ID

READY, SET, GO!

Wildfire Preparedness for
Farmers, Ranchers and Growers



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Agriculture



- \$382,000 Grant
- Completed in the fall 2009



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- **Vegetation Management**

Outside the 100' FHRP Zone

Changing Fire Behavior.....



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Methods available.....

Prescribed fire (Standing brush / Burn piles)

Mechanical

Hand

Chemical (maintenance tool)

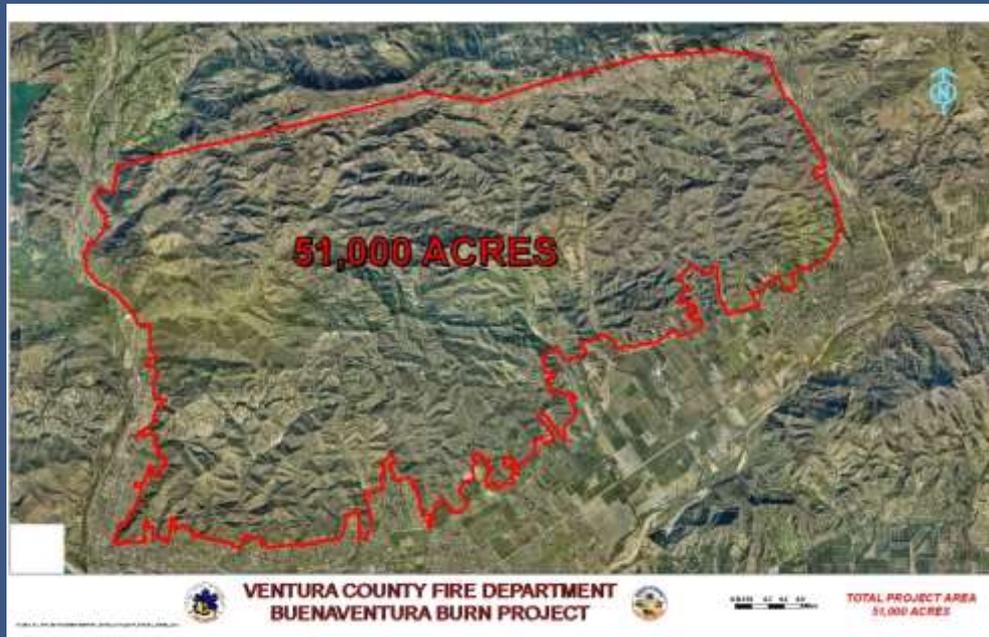
Grazing (maintenance tool)



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Methods available.....

Prescribed fire (Standing brush / Burn piles)





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Methods available.....

Mechanical





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Methods available.....

Hand





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Methods available.....

Chemical
(maintenance tool)



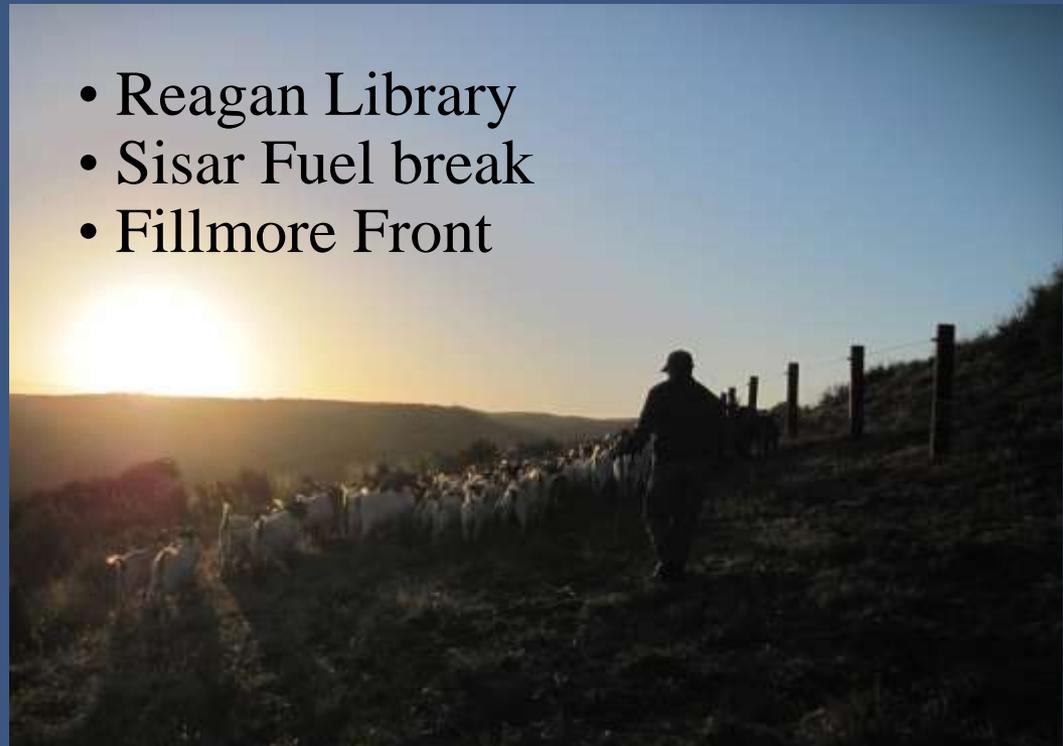


Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Methods available.....

Grazing
(maintenance tool)

- Reagan Library
- Sisar Fuel break
- Fillmore Front





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Vegetation Management

Utilizing the science.....



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Vegetation Management

KFA Oak
Woodland Restoration





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

- Vegetation Management

Mitigated Neg. Dec.
CEQA



TOTAL ACRES TREATED: 16.6



NEW FIRE ROAD ACCESS EST.



•HAZARD TREES

•BEFORE



•AFTER



Logs were left on the ground to promote habitat. Fine dead fuels removed leaving only 100 hr + dead fuels.



Hand work done to protect Oak Trees from the forestry mower.



•Mower and crews working

•BEFORE TREATMENT



•AFTER TREATMENT

NOTE BRUSH
SKIRTING





**TREATMENT BY FORESTY
MOWER**



**BRUSH SKIRT HELPS TO
PREVENT SPREAD OF
SEEDS BY WIND AND
PROVIDES VISUAL
BLOCK FOR HIKERS.**







Before



After





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

KFA Oak
Woodland Restoration

Life or Limb?





Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Success Stories.....



Hopper Condor Refuge



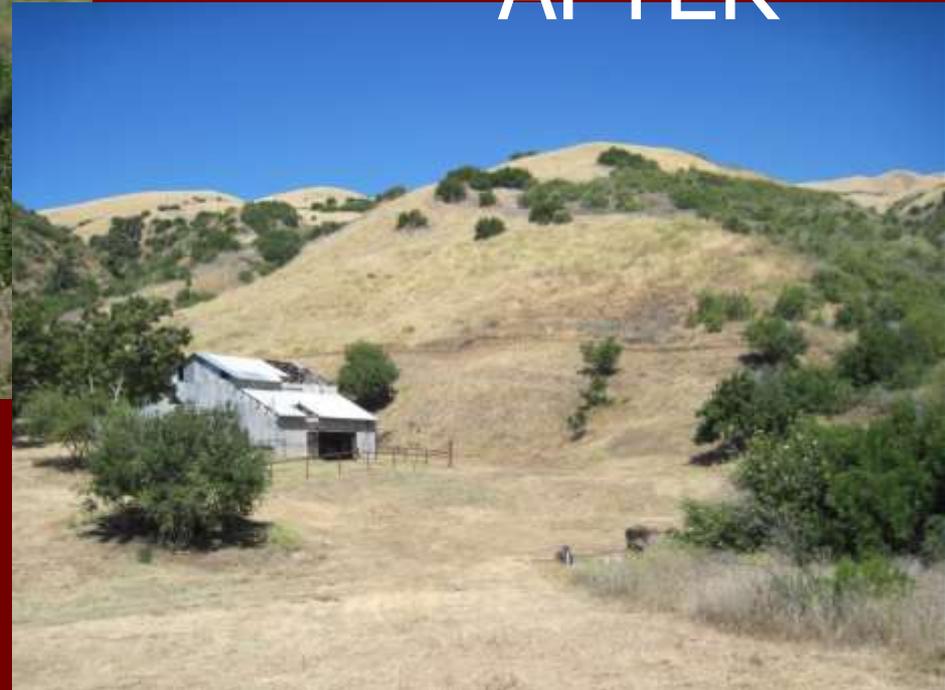
Ventura County Fire Department



HOPPER CONDOR REFUGE



BEFORE



AFTER

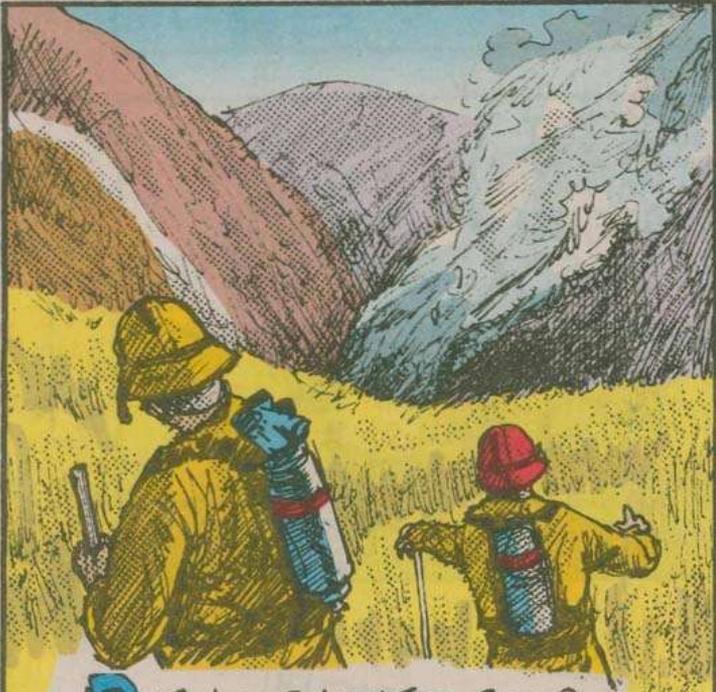


Success Story 2007 Ranch Fire



Ventura County Fire Department

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT®



DURING SUMMER 2008,
A PATCH OF LAND IN VENTURA
COUNTY, Calif., USA, HEATED UP
TO TEMPERATURES HIGHER
THAN 800 DEGREES F—
AND SPARKED BRUSH FIRES
LIKELY DUE TO SPONTANEOUS
COMBUSTION OF AN OIL DEPOSIT
HUNDREDS OF FEET BELOW THE SURFACE!

Submitted By Nate Armstrong

Hopper Mountain Underground Fire



OAK FLAT UNDERGROUND FIRE

- DOZER BREAK: Completed in the spring during maintenance of the Burson Ranch Fire Road. Half a days work.
- HANDCREW: The dozer break is anchored by the handcrew. Half a days work.

OAK FLAT UNDERGROUND FIRE



- History:
- Burning since 2008
- Ignited three fires requiring fire suppression
- Generated numerous false alarms due to smoke visibility from Squaw flat road



OAK FLAT UNDERGROUND FIRE

•CURRENT STATUS:

- Still burning
- Expanding – Additional vents have been identified within the slide area
- Gasses present at vent: Helium – Hydrogen – Argon - Oxygen - Nitrogen
Carbon dioxide - Carbon monoxide - Methane
Ethane - Propane – Butane - Hydrogen sulfide
Other hydrocarbons



- Add fire pics



Implementing the Unit Fire Plan

Looking forward.....

Status of projects listed in the Unit Fire Plan:

10 – Projects underway

4 – Projects in development

25 – Projects in planning

8 – Projects in maintenance phase

***THE
END***



**THANKS
FOR LISTENING.**

