

Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Executive Summary

Higgins/Penn Valley Forecast Zone

Overview

Higgins/Penn Valley Forecast Zone is located at the southwest end of the County and is 143,715 acres. This area is commonly referred to as "South County." It is dominated by rangelands, oak woodlands, and is comparatively much flatter than the rest of the County. The area is 93% private land, all of which is in unincorporated Nevada County. Some of the major communities within the area are Lake of the Pines, Alta Sierra, Higgins Corner, Rough and Ready, Penn Valley, and Lake Wildwood.



Lake Wildwood

Fire Environment

The dominant vegetation in the area is hardwood woodlands and grass/herbaceous vegetation. From 1950 to 2022 there have been 47 fires, and the largest fire was the 1988 49er Fire. The highest concentration of ignitions has been alongside State Highway 49, State Route 20, and around communities.

Primary Community Concerns



Hazardous Vegetation



Resource Limitation

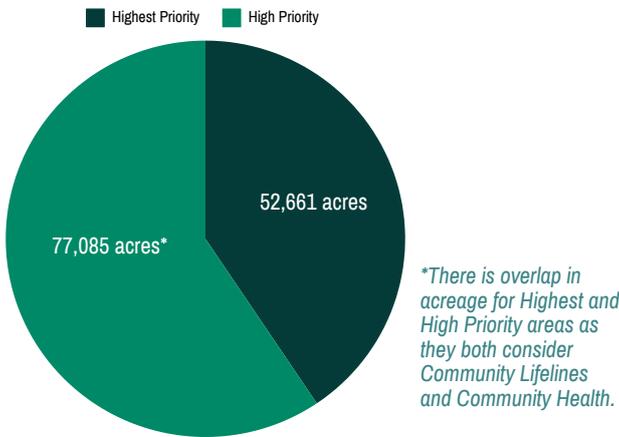


Defensible Space



Safe Evacuation

Project Priority Areas



Recommended Actions



Reduce Structural Ignitability



Defensible Space



Vegetation Management/
Fuel Reduction



Community Outreach & Education



Evacuation



Emergency Communication



Post-Fire Recovery

Higgins/Penn Valley Forecast Zone Action Plan

Action	Example Recommendation
Reduce Structural Ignitability	Educate residents of working landscapes on the importance of hardening accessory structures (e.g. barns, paddocks, pens etc.) against wildfire.
Defensible Space	Educate residents and encourage the use of prescribed grazing for maintaining defensible space in appropriate landscapes.
Vegetation Management/Fuel Reduction	Concentrate roadside vegetation management/fuel reduction along major evacuation routes and where roadside ignitions are common
Community Outreach & Education	Conduct outreach specific to addressing wildfire hazards, emergency communications, and evacuation with vulnerable populations.
Evacuation	Coordinate with private landowners to implement roadside vegetation removal along private roadways.
Emergency Communication	Pursue methods for disseminating evacuation information at high-use recreation areas where cell reception is limited.
Post Fire Recovery	Support the community by providing post-fire educational resources related to physical recovery, monetary support, and social services.

See Section 7 for the full CWPP Action Plan recommendations.



Office of Emergency Services

For More Information Visit ReadyNevadaCounty.org/CWPP

