

Prescriptions and Treatment Methodologies

In all proposed projects, vegetation structure and composition will be modified to reduce fire behavior (see “Desired Conditions”, p. 48). Site-specific *prescriptions* that explicitly define what vegetation would be removed in the project and how it would be accomplished would be developed for each project. General prescriptions and treatment methodologies are described in the subsequent sections.

Prescriptions

Prescriptions would vary with location, vegetation type, and objectives, and in most cases, would require a combination of treatments. The primary treatment objective for all projects focuses on the protection of life and property within the wildland-urban interface (Figure 8). However, for some treatment areas, additional objectives including improving forest health, creating and maintaining fire-resilient ecosystems, and modifying fire behavior on the landscape level have been identified or would be identified during project planning. Generally, prescriptions will be developed to reduce surface, ladder, and crown fuels, with the objective of altering predicted fire behavior and severity.

Community Defensible Space – Wildland-Urban Interface

Community defensible space is a protection area directly adjacent to a wildland fuel type that may threaten the community. Community-specific treatment recommendations differ among the community wildfire protection plans that contribute to this comprehensive plan; however, they all are defining needs of the community defensible space with a consistent strategy and tactics recommended for meeting those needs. The Carson fuels analysis team modified the wildland-urban interface zones (defense and threat zone areas) within the project area considering past fire history, risk, expected future development, and other are specific factors. The final defined defense and threat zones do not necessarily follow other established definitions (such as the National Fire Plan or the Sierra Nevada Framework) but represent the combined collective experience of local fire managers.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan WUI Prescriptions

Sixteen Community Wildfire Protection Plans were developed in 2005 for communities at risk in and around the analysis area. General prescriptions for each project were identified describing vegetation that should be removed to achieve the desired conditions. Recognizing that each agency will develop its own prescriptions, guidelines for development of prescriptions were identified in the CWPPs. These guidelines focused on vegetation and fuel management in the urban core, defense zone, and threat zone.