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*This page is inserted to facilitate double-sided printing of the document.*

## 2. Santa Monica Mountains CWPP Planning Process

### 2.1. Planning Area Boundaries

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) covers the principal wildland-urban interface areas of the Santa Monica Mountains, in Los Angeles and Ventura counties of southern California (*see Chapter 1 for more detailed information on the overall Planning Area*). The Planning Area was divided into 20 planning units to maximize community input. Planning units were created around existing population centers, governance jurisdictions, access routes, watersheds, and fire history. They are listed below in Figure 2-1 and illustrated in Map 2-1 at the end of this chapter. A detailed description of each planning unit is provided in the Community Fire Safety Action Plans, in Part II of this CWPP.

**FIGURE 2-1. PLANNING UNITS**

PU #	PLANNING UNIT NAME	BUILT ENVIRONMENT PLACE NAMES INCLUDED
1	Malibu West Beaches	Broad Beach, Encinal Beach, and Encinal Bluffs
2	Point Dume	Paradise Cove, Point Dume, and Point Dume Club
3	Malibu Central Beaches	Bayshore, Malibu Road, Escondido Beach, Latigo Shores, Lower Ramirez Canyon, Malibu Beach, Malibu Bluffs, Malibu Colony, Malibu Cove Colony, and Tivoli Cove
4	Malibu East Beaches	Big Rock Beach, Carbon Beach, La Costa Beach, Las Flores Beach, Las Tunas Beach, and Topanga Beach
5	Decker Canyon – Encinal Canyon	Bailard-Lunita, Decker-Edison Road, La Chusa Highlands, Lower Decker Canyon, Lower Encinal Canyon, and Steep Hill Canyon
6	West Malibu	Bonsall Canyon, Horizon Hills, Malibu Park, Malibu West, Trancas Canyon, and Zuma Canyon
7	Zumirez Canyon – Puerco Canyon	Escondido Canyon, Lower Latigo Canyon, Malibu Colony Ranch Estates, Paradise View, Puerco Canyon, Ramirez Mesa, Upper Ramirez Canyon, Sycamore Park, Winding Way Knolls, and Zumirez
8	Malibu Civic Center	Civic Center, Malibu Country Estates, and Malibu Knolls
9	Cross Creek – Carbon Canyon	Carbon Canyon, Cross Creek, Serra Retreat, Sweetwater Canyon, and Sweetwater Mesa
10	La Costa – Peña Canyon	Big Rock Mesa, La Costa, Las Flores Mesa, Lower Las Flores, Lower Rambla Pacifico, and Peña Canyon
11	Ventura: Rancho Guadaluca – Yerba Buena Canyon	The Colony, County Line, Deals Flat, Deer Creek Canyon, Laguna Peak, Naval Base Ventura County–Point Mugu, Rancho Guadaluca, West Carlisle, and Yerba Buena Canyon
12	Sycamore Canyon – Upper Latigo Canyon	Little Sycamore Canyon, Kanan Dume Road, Malibu Vista, Newton Canyon, Upper Decker Canyon, Upper Encinal Canyon, and Upper Latigo Canyon
13	Corral Canyon – Pepperdine University	Barrymore Road, Corral Canyon, El Nido, Malibu Bowl, Malibu Hills, and Pepperdine University
14	Rambla Vista – Tuna Canyon	Las Flores Canyon, Las Flores Heights, Piuma Road, Tuna Canyon Road, Sea View Estates, Upper Rambla Pacifico, and West Saddlepeak

PU #	PLANNING UNIT NAME	BUILT ENVIRONMENT
		PLACE NAMES INCLUDED
15	Topanga Canyon	Arteique, East Saddle Peak, Entrado, Fernwood, Glenview, Greenleaf Canyon, Henry Ridge, Hillside, Old Topanga, Post Office Tract, Red Rock Canyon, Santa Maria Road, Sylvia Park, Top o' Topanga, Topanga Skyline, and Viewridge Estates
16	Las Virgenes Canyon Corridor	Cold Creek, Dry Canyon, Las Virgenes Canyon, Lower Saddle Peak Road, Monte Nido, Stokes Canyon, and Stunt Road
17	Cornell	Careful, Cornell, Lobo Canyon, Malibu Lake Mountain Club, Malibu Junction, Malibu Lakeside, Seminole Hot Springs, Triunfo Canyon, and Wagon Road
18	Liberty Canyon – Lost Hills	Brents Junction, Liberty Canyon, and Lost Hills
19	Calabasas Interface	Calabasas Highlands; City of Calabasas south of US 101 from The Oaks housing development, east to the intersection of Mulholland Highway and West Mulholland Drive; includes south Greater Mulwood
20	Ventura: Hidden Valley – Lake Sherwood	East Carlisle Canyon, Hidden Valley, and Lake Sherwood

## 2.2. Process and Plan Development

A community-intensive process was used in development of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to ensure maximum resident and stakeholder input. The core of this process was a series of public meetings, with at least one in each of the planning units.

### 2.2.1. Community Meetings

One of the goals in developing the Santa Monica Mountains CWPP is to educate residents regarding fire safety and defensible space. Therefore, the planning process was designed to maximize opportunities for public education and participation. More than 20 community meetings were held throughout the Planning Area between October 2009 and January 2010. Approximately 250 people attended one or more of these meetings. Please see Appendix A for a list of meeting attendees.

***FIGURE 2-2. CWPP COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE***

PU#	PLANNING UNIT NAME	MEETING DATE	MEETING VENUE
1	Malibu West Beaches	1/7/10	Malibu City Council Chambers
2	Point Dume	1/8/10	Malibu City Council Chambers
3	Malibu Central Beaches	1/10/10	Malibu City Council Chambers
4	Malibu East Beaches	1/10/10	Malibu City Council Chambers
5	Decker Canyon – Encinal Canyon	11/10/09	Malibu City Council Chambers
6	West Malibu	10/25/09	Malibu City Council Chambers
7	Zumírez Canyon – Puerco Canyon	11/6/09	Malibu City Council Chambers
8	Malibu Civic Center	11/2/09	Malibu City Council Chambers
9	Cross Creek – Carbon Canyon	10/27/09	Malibu City Council Chambers
10	La Costa – Peña Canyon	10/22/09	Malibu City Council Chambers
11	Ventura: Rancho Guadaluasca – Yerba Buena Canyon	11/3/09	Camp Hess Kramer, Gildred Hall

**PUBLIC DRAFT**

PU#	PLANNING UNIT NAME	MEETING DATE	MEETING VENUE
12	Sycamore Canyon – Upper Latigo Canyon	11/9/09	Calamigos Ranch
13	Corral Canyon – Pepperdine University	1/12/10	Los Angeles County Waterworks
14	Rambla Vista – Tuna Canyon	10/20/09	Los Angeles County Fire Dept., Camp 8
15	Topanga Canyon	10/23/09	Topanga Christian Fellowship Church
16	Las Virgenes Canyon Corridor	10/26/09	Diamond X Ranch
17	Cornell	11/8/09	Paramount Ranch – Western Town Pavilion
18	Liberty Canyon – Lost Hills	1/13/10	District Offices of County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
19	Calabasas Interface	1/14/10	Diamond X Ranch
20	Ventura: Hidden Valley – Lake Sherwood	1/6/10	Santa Monica National Recreation Area Headquarters

The average community meeting lasted approximately three hours (6–9 pm on weekdays or 2–5 pm on weekends). Registered Professional Forester and CWPP principal author Tracy Katelman provided the introduction to the meeting and explained the CWPP process, including some background information on CWPPs in general. J. Lopez of Los Angeles County Fire Department and the California Fire Safe Council gave a brief introduction to Fire Safe Councils. Kathryn Kirkpatrick and Mike Wilson of the National Park Service, together with J. Lopez, and Ron Oatman of Ventura County Fire Department, gave an introduction to the wildfire environment of the Santa Monica Mountains and the “house out” strategy for community fire safety and defensible space (*see Chapter 4 for more information on the house-out strategy*). These presentations were followed by Q&A, and then the community mapping exercise.



## Community Mapping Exercise



The community mapping exercise offered residents a hands-on opportunity to identify the following information on maps of the local area:

- Community values and assets at risk,
- High fire risk and high wildfire hazard areas,
- Existing community or neighborhood-scale fuel-reduction projects,
- Local fire-fighting resources, with a focus on water sources,
- Potential evacuation routes and community safe zones (places to safely wait out a fire if evacuation is not possible), and
- Potential projects to reduce identified risks and hazards.

Residents were asked to think big for the identification of potential projects. They were told, “If you could do anything you wanted to prepare your community for wildfire, no matter the cost or who owns the property, what would it be?” A “sticky dot” voting exercise then took place where residents were instructed to look at the list of identified projects and put on their “reality filter.” They were then asked, “Which projects are the most important and realistic to implement for your community?” Each participant was given dots to cast votes for potential projects using “N/3” methodology (i.e., total number of projects divided by 3 equals total number of votes), with only one vote per identified project. Votes were tallied to identify this informal community opinion regarding priority projects. Part II of this CWPP contains the results of the mapping exercise for each community meeting. See Appendix B for the mapping exercise instructions.

Comments were received that the public notice for the Fall 2009 meetings was too short. Therefore, two additional community-mapping processes were offered to residents unable to attend the earlier meetings. The first was a meeting that was held on January 9, 2010, at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School in Malibu. Maps generated at the October and November meetings were made available for residents to provide additional input. A follow-up meeting did not occur for the January 2010 community meetings, as public notice for these was posted more than one month prior. The second, to fully accommodate all interested parties, was a website was developed with copies of all maps from the Fall 2009 meetings, enabling residents to download their respective map and submit the same information gathered at the meetings.

### 2.2.2. Community Outreach

Extensive outreach publicized the community meetings and the CWPP in general. A website was developed for the CWPP, [www.forevergreenforestry.com/SantaMonicaMountainsCWPP.html](http://www.forevergreenforestry.com/SantaMonicaMountainsCWPP.html). A Facebook page was also created for the CWPP: Santa Monica Mountains CWPP.

A series of articles appeared in the local newspapers: *Malibu Surfside News*, *Malibu Times*, *Topanga Messenger*, and *Ventura County Star*. All papers also included the scheduled community meetings in their calendar listings. The City of Malibu posted the meeting schedule on its Community Calendar.



## PUBLIC DRAFT

For a detailed list of outreach efforts, see Appendix C, “Outreach Efforts.”

### 2.2.3. Public Review and Input

There were several subsequent opportunities for public input to this document, in addition to the meetings that generated local data.

#### **CWPP Community Review Committee and Internal Reviewers**

A Community Review Committee (CRC) was created for any Santa Monica Mountains resident who wanted to participate in the process beyond the community meetings and public review. All meeting attendees were invited to volunteer for the CRC. An invitation was also posted on the project website. At least one participant was identified from each planning unit.

A parallel group of Internal Reviewers was chosen to represent the various stakeholder groups in the Planning Area, including government, fire agencies, Fire Safe Councils, homeowner’s associations, state and federal land management agencies, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations. *For a list of CRC and Internal Reviewers, see Appendix D: Community Review Committee and Internal Reviewers.*

The CRC and Internal Reviewers were provided opportunity to comment on draft CWPP documents between January and May 2010. It was a virtual, Web-based review process whereby documents were uploaded onto a private website for participants to download and comment. In late April and early May, six working sessions were held with the CRC and Internal Reviewers, as well as with the Planning Committee, to achieve maximum resolution of outstanding issues in the CWPP before publishing the Public Draft.

#### **Public Draft**

Comments were incorporated from the CRC/Internal Review, and a Public Draft was published in July 2010. CWPP partners distributed the Public Draft for review. The final CWPP is anticipated to be signed and published in late 2010 or early 2011.

### 2.3. CWPP Planning Committee and Working Group

Several key individuals and organizations contributed to the creation of this CWPP, in addition to the many community members who participated in the process.

A Planning Committee was established to oversee development of this plan and to ensure its compliance as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The purposes of the committee were to:

- provide oversight to the Santa Monica Mountains CWPP process,
- meet the requirements of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) of the National Fire Plan, and
- ensure that the plan meets the needs of all sectors of the Santa Monica Mountains in terms of fire safety and prevention.



***FIGURE 2-3. SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CWPP PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

NAME	AFFILIATION	TITLE
Kate Dargan	Fire Planners	
Brad Davis	City of Malibu	Emergency Services Coordinator
Mark Goss, Leslie Moss	Malibu West Fire Safe and Sustainability Council / HOA	Chair
Steve Hess	Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation	President
Tracy Katelman	ForEverGreen Forestry	Principal Author, Project Lead
Kathryn Kirkpatrick	National Park Service (NPS)	Fire Management Officer
J. Lopez	Los Angeles County Fire Department	Deputy Forester
Timothy Pershing	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Yaroslavsky	Field Deputy
Darrell Ralston	Ventura County Fire Department	Assistant Chief
Ron Shafer	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	Park Superintendent
Rorie Skei	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	Deputy Director

***FIGURE 2-4. SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CWPP WORKING GROUP MEMBERS***

NAME	AFFILIATION	TITLE
Brad Weisshaupt	Los Angeles County Fire Department	Forestry Assistant
Cameron Naficy		Ecologist, Author
Craig Morgan	Ventura County Fire Department	Fire Prevention Officer
Deanna Sverdlov	ForEverGreen Forestry	Projects Coordinator
Elizabeth Keys		Project Assistant
four waters	four waters media	Designer & Messaging Consultant
Gregory Elwood	National Park Service Partner	GIS Technician
Julie Clark De Blasio	Mountains Restoration Trust, National Park Service Partner Sweetgrass Environmental Consulting	Project Liaison Author
Karen Pickett		Media Consultant
Kathy Glass		Senior Editor
Katie Ziemann	California Fire Safe Council	Affiliate Manager
Keith Gurrola	Ventura County Fire Department	Battalion Chief
Kim Marks		Community Outreach Consultant
Kristina Prosser		Technical Assistant
Larry Williams	Ventura County Fire Department	Fire Prevention Officer
Marti Witter	National Park Service	Fire Ecologist
Mike Wilson	National Park Service	Fire Information & Education
Robert Taylor	National Park Service	Biogeographer, Fire GIS Specialist
Stephen Umbertis		Planner, Author



**PUBLIC DRAFT**

NAME	AFFILIATION	TITLE
Terri Anderson	ForEverGreen Forestry	
Tracy Katelman	ForEverGreen Forestry	Principal Author, Project Lead
Zandra Zavalza	National Park Service	Project Assistant



**MAP 2-1. SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CWPP PLANNING UNITS<sup>1</sup>**

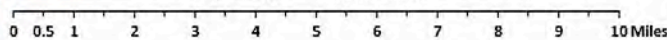


**Santa Monica Mountains CWPP Planning Units**

Data sources: Hydrology and elevation data by United States Geological Survey (USGS).  
 Shade relief model by NPS- SAMO shows expected illumination at noon on October 21 (high fire season).



Map by NPS- SAMO Fire GIS, 6/1/2010  
 Scale 1:126,720 1 inch = 2 miles



- Planning units
- roads
- major streams
- perennial
- intermittent

Unit #	Unit Name	Unit #	Unit Name
1	Malibu West Beaches	11	Ventura: Rancho Guadalasca/ Yerba Buena Canyon Communi
2	Point Dume	12	Sycamore Canyon/Upper Latigo Canyon
3	Malibu Central Beaches	13	Corral Canyon/Pepperdine University
4	Malibu East Beaches	14	Rambla Vista/ Tuna Canyon
5	Decker Canyon/Encinal Canyon	15	Topanga Canyon
6	West Malibu	16	Las Virgenes Canyon Corridor
7	Zumirez Canyon/Puerco Canyon	17	Cornell
8	Malibu Civic Center	18	Liberty Canyon/Lost Hills
9	Carbon Canyon/Cross Creek	19	Calabasas Interface
10	La Costa/Peña Canyon	20	Ventura: Hidden Valley/Lake Sherwood

Map name: SAMO\_CWPP\planningUnits\Map01 1176.mxd, June 2, 2010 10:01:11 AM

<sup>1</sup> This map prints best at 11x17. Visit [www.forevergreenforestry.com/smmcwpp\\_pub.html](http://www.forevergreenforestry.com/smmcwpp_pub.html) to download the print version.