9.0 KINGS CANYON - LOWER

FUEL HAZARD: MODERATE COMMUNITY RISK: LOW

The Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood contains the Kings Canyon Highlands and Kings Canyon Meadows subdivisions to the west of Longview Way: Coventry Drive, Waterford Place, and Chelsea Place. To the south side of Kings Canyon Road, Kingsview Way, Canterbury Lane, and Carlisle Court are included in the assessment area.

9.1 INTERFACE CONDITIONS AND FUEL HAZARD

The Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood is characterized as a classic interface condition. To the north of Kings Canyon Road, the Highlands and Meadows neighborhoods are bounded on the west by an asphalt path and a rock swale, which provides 100 to 125 feet of separation between wildland fuels and the wooden fencing of the residential parcels. Wildland fuels to the west are composed of sagebrush and rabbitbrush that transition into irrigated pastureland to the north portion of the neighborhood. Fuel density for this area is light to medium, estimated at 0.5 to 2.0 tons per acre. The Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood has a **moderate fuels hazard**.

To the south of Kings Canyon Road, the homes along Kingsview, Canterbury and Carlisle are built against the steep north-facing slopes of C-Hill. A 25-foot wide fire access road runs parallel to the back property lines of the residences at a distance of 20 to 40 feet. The strip between the fire access road and the wooden fences of the private property is generally unaltered wildland fuels composed primarily of sagebrush with some rabbitbrush, two to four feet tall. Unaltered fuels throughout the neighborhood south of King Street are of similar size and composition, medium density, 2.0 to 4.0 tons per acre, and are in the **moderate fuel hazard** class.

The predominant wind direction is from the south-southwest, with strong afternoon downslope winds during the summer months and on the approach of cold fronts. Downslope afternoon winds along the Eastern Sierra Front commonly spread wildfire into the wildland-urban interface, and are the most common factor contributing to structure loss in a WUI for this region.

Table 9-1 summarizes the history of fuels reduction treatments within the Lower Kings Canyon Assessment Area.

Table 9-1. Fuels Treatment History for the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood.

Treatment Type	Treatment Area (approximate acres)	Treatment Year	Ownership)
Grazing	1,327	2006-2008	Carson City Private USFS
Fuelbreak 1,450' x 150'	8	2003	Carson City Board of Regents State of Nevada Private
Fuelbreak 2,700' x 150'	9	2002	Carson City Utilities

9.2 NEIGHBORHOOD RISK/HAZARD RATING

The risk/hazard assessment resulted in classifying the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood in the **Low Hazard** category (37 points). A summary of the values that affect the hazard rating is included in Table 9-2 at the end of this chapter. The primary wildfire hazard conditions in the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood were related to site accessibility and the potential for severe fire behavior due to topography and fuel loading.

9.2.1 Community Design

Throughout most of the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood there is a clear line of demarcation between wildland fuels and buildings in the neighborhood. All homes are situated on lots less than one acre in size, and there are typically three or more structures per acre. As such, most structures are spaced close together.

- ➤ Interface Condition: classic wildland-urban interface condition.
- ➤ Access: Kings Canyon Road and Longview are the primary access roads to the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood. These roads range in width between 20 to 24 feet and allow adequate room for fire suppression equipment to maneuver. The road gradient on primary roads is less than five percent.
- > Signage: All street signs and home addresses were clearly visible within the survey area. Clear and visible residential addresses are important to assist firefighting personnel in locating homes during low visibility conditions that may occur during wildland fire.
- ➤ Utilities: low risk of ignition.

9.2.2 Construction Materials

All the homes within the neighborhood survey area were built with fire resistant composite roofing materials and non-combustible siding. Five percent of the homes had unenclosed or unscreened balconies, decks, porches, eaves, or attic vents that create drafty places where sparks and embers can be trapped, smolder, ignite, and rapidly spread fire to the house.

9.2.3 Defensible Space

All forty-two homes evaluated had landscaping that would meet the minimum defensible space requirement to help protect the home and minimize the potential for damage or loss during a wildfire.

9.2.4 Suppression Capabilities

Wildfire Protection Resources

The Carson City Fire Department, the USFS, and the NDF Sierra Forest Fire Protection District provide wildland and structure fire protection to the Kings Canyon – Lower neighborhood. The US Forest Service also provides fire protection for the national forest lands near the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood. Ownership and administration of a portion of this land will transfer from USFS to Carson City in 2009 or 2010. Fire protection for those lands will become the responsibility of the CCFD.

Water Sources and Infrastructure

Water available for fire suppression in the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood includes 500 gpm hydrants within 500 feet of structures.

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9.3 RECOMMENDATION

Recommended and planned treatments for Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood are shown on Figure 9-1 and are described in Table 9-3.

Table 9-3. Fuels treatments recommended or planned for the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood.

Treatment Type	Treatment Area (approximate acres)	Ownership
Shrub Thinning and Seeding 2,700' x 100' Fuelbreak	16	Carson City Utilities
Hand Treatment 3,350' x 100' Fuelbreak	9	Carson City USFS

Additional recommendations from the 2008 risk/hazard assessment are provided for the portion of the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood north of Kings Canyon Road (the Highland and Meadows neighborhoods):

- ➤ Ensure that the rock-lined swales and fence lines are kept free of accumulations of tumbleweeds, cheatgrass and other flammable materials.
- ➤ Interface shrub densities are the highest at the southwest corner of the neighborhood, where the paved path turns to the east to parallel Kings Canyon Road. Hand thin rabbitbrush as necessary to provide a horizontal spacing between shrubs that is two times the height of the remaining shrubs.
- ➤ Conduct annual defensible space and hazardous fuels evaluations on private and public lands.
- ➤ Encourage homeowners to follow the UNR Cooperative Extension's recommendations for fire safe landscaping.

Recommendations for the portion of the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood south of Kings Canyon Road (Carlisle, Kingsview, Canterbury streets) are as follows:

- ➤ Remove all live shrubs and accumulated flammable material from the rock-lined drainage structure that parallels the back lots of the homes along Carlisle Court.
- ➤ Ensure that the brush hand thinning scheduled for 2009 in this neighborhood is completed.
- ➤ Conduct annual defensible space and hazardous fuels evaluations on private and public lands.
- ➤ Distribute copes of *Living With Fire: A Guide for the Homeowner, Eastern Sierra Front Edition* (U of NV Cooperative Extension).
- ➤ Encourage homeowners to follow the UNR Cooperative Extension's recommendations for fire safe landscaping.
- ➤ Continue implementing the defensible space dumpster program to provide homeowners with an easily accessible biomass removal option.

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Table 9.2 Results of the wildfire risk/hazard rating in the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood.

A. Urban Interface Condi	tion 1	TALLIES
B. Community Design		42 Total Houses 4 Residential Streets
 Ingress / Egress Width of Road Accessibility Secondary Road Street Signs Address Signs 	1 /5 3 /5 1 /3 1 /5 1 /5 1 /5	B5. Street Signs Onot 4 visible 100% visible B6. Address Signs Onot 42 visible 100% visible
7. Utilities	/5	visible
C. Construction Materials 1. Roofs	1_/10	C1. Roofs O combust 42 not 100% not combust
2. Siding3. Unenclosed Structure	1 /5 s 1 /5	C2. Siding O combust 42 not 100% not combust
D. Defensible Space		combust
1. Lot Size	5/5	C3. Unenclosed Structures on Lot
2. Defensible Space	/15	not enclosed enclosed 5% not enclosed
F. Fire Behavior		D1. Lot Sizes
 Fuels Fire Behavior Slope Aspect 	3 /5 3 /10 10 /10 1 /10	
E. Suppression Capabiliti	es	
1. Water Source	1 /10	
2. Department	/10	

Community
Hazard Score: 37 /128

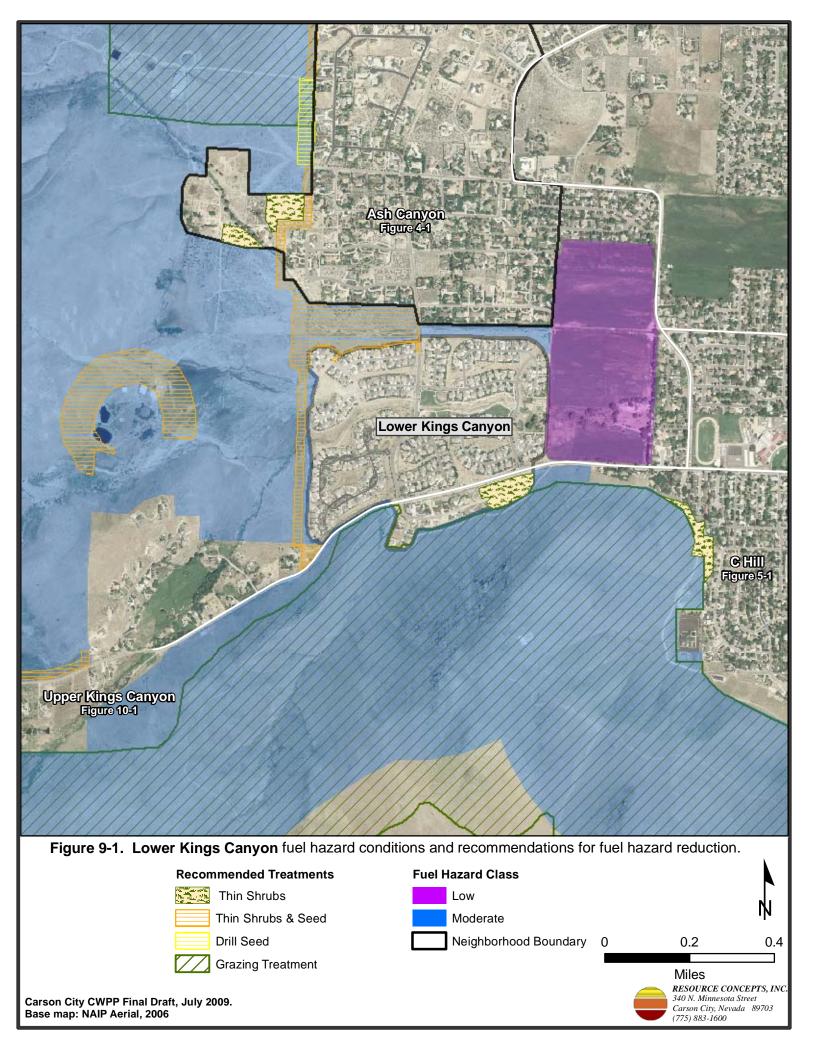


Figure 9-2. Representative fuel types in the wildland-urban interface around the Lower Kings Canyon neighborhood.



Lower Kings Canyon 1. UTM 4338535N 259123E. View to West



Lower Kings Canyon 2. UTM 4339147N 258731E. View to West