

DFPZ's – A Landscape Model for Fire Protection

Over thirty lineal miles of DFPZ's reduced the intensity of three fires and provided safe locations for fire suppression activities. The 2004 revised Sierra Nevada Framework provides additional authorities to forest managers to fully implement the H-FQLG Act in order to protect communities, watersheds and wildlife from catastrophic forest fires. Under the new standards, hazardous fuels within stream side buffers can be reduced and overstocked stands can be thinned to the desired 40% crown closure target that meets both fire protection and wildlife habitat concerns. The 2007 Wheeler Fire burned 23,000 acres and "would have burned all the way to the desert had it not been for the Stony Ridge DFPZ" said a fire fighter.



Low intensity surface fire



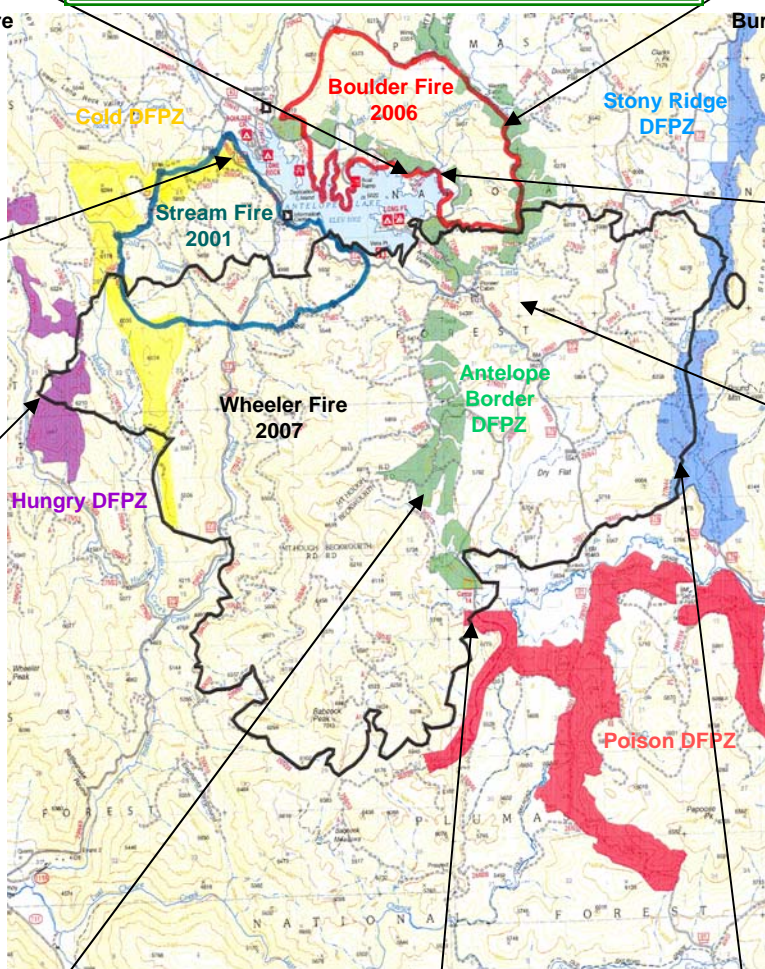
Burn out operation along road



Successful burn out



Low intensity surface fire



Untreated riparian buffer destroyed.



Intermittent stream buffer destroyed.



Crown fires drop to ground in DFPZ.
Owl nesting habitat destroyed in foreground



Fire lines build inside DFPZ



Road burn out operation