



PLUMAS COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTICE

Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) Map Released February 10, 2025

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (State Fire Marshall) is mandated by Government Code Sec. 51178 to identify levels of fire hazard in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) based on consistent statewide criteria and the expected severity of fire hazards, and Government Code Sec. 51179 requires the State Fire Marshal to make recommendations of fire hazard severity zones to local agencies (Sec. 51177(e)), for city and county designation and adoption by ordinance.

FHSZ State Fire Marshall Rollout Plan

The State Fire Marshall FHSZ Rollout Plan includes Plumas County in "Phase 1" starting February 10, 2025, which is the date the County received the 2025 LRA FHSZ maps that evaluate "hazard," not "risk" to include areas or zones of Very High, High, and Moderate fire hazard based on consistent statewide criteria and the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas (Government Code Sec. 51178).

LRA Areas in the Unincorporated Plumas County

LRA areas in Plumas County are those where the "local government" is responsible for wildfire protection, which in the case of Plumas, is the responsibility of the local fire protection special districts. Specifically, the areas of LRA in unincorporated Plumas County are within the Town of Chester, Town of Quincy, Town of East Quincy, and Sierra Valley. Local fire protection special districts affected include Peninsula Fire Protection District (Chester), Quincy Fire Protection District (Quincy/East Quincy), and Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District (Sierra Valley).

Make the LRA FHSZs Information Available to the Public

Pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178.5 within 30 days (or no later than March 12, 2025) after receiving a transmittal from the State Fire Marshal that identifies fire hazard severity zones pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178, Plumas County must make the information available for public review and comment, and the information must be presented in a format that is understandable and accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to, maps. Plumas County has established a website at the following address, making the information available for public review and comment:

<https://www.plumascounty.us/3354/LRA-Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-FHSZ-Map>

To make a public comment, obtain hard copy maps for viewing, and for further information please visit the Planning Department at 555 Main Street, Quincy, or call or email Tracey Ferguson, Planning Director, at traceyferguson@countyofplumas.com or 530-283-6214.

Review and Comment by Local Government, Fire Protection Districts, the Public, and Others

Government Code Sec. 51179(b)(1) allows for Plumas County, at its discretion, to include areas not identified as Very High FHSZs, as Very High following a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of Government Code Sec. 51182 (i.e., defensible space) are necessary for effective fire protection within the area. Further Government Code Sec. 51179(b)(2) allows for Plumas County, at its discretion, include areas not identified as Moderate and High FHSZs, as Moderate and High. Furthermore, Government Code Sec. 51179(b)(3) directs that Plumas County cannot decrease the level of fire hazard severity zones for any area and may only increase the level. Pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51179(d) any changes made by Plumas County to the 2025 LRA FHSZ maps provided by the State Fire Marshall are final and are not rebuttable by the State.

LRA FHSZ Ordinance/Map Adoption

Pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51179(a), Plumas County must adopt the 2025 LRA Moderate, High, and Very High FHSZs in the unincorporated area of the County by ordinance, with an associated map, within 120 days of receiving the maps on February 10, 2025, or no later than June 10, 2025. Then, Plumas County must transmit a copy of the ordinance/map adopted by the Board of Supervisors to the State Fire Marshall within 30 days of adoption, or no later than July 10, 2025.

*Plumas County must post a notice (Government Code Sec. 51179(g))
at the office of the County Clerk/Recorder, County Assessor, and County Planning Department
identifying the location of the map provided by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178.
Posted: March 11, 2025*