

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 1159

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PLUMAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
PLUMAS COUNTY CODE TITLE 9 PLANNING AND ZONING ADDING CHAPTER 9.5
TO DESIGNATE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA MODERATE, HIGH, AND VERY HIGH
FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW
WITH AN ASSOCIATED OFFICIAL HAZARD MAP HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE DATED
JANUARY 22, 2025, AND ENACTED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 9023**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas, State of California, **ORDAINS** as follows:

SECTION 1. Ordinance Amendment

Title 9 Planning and Zoning of the Plumas County Code is hereby added to as set forth below, as implemented by Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Chapter 9.5 Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Article 1. - PURPOSES AND APPLICATION

Sec. 9-9.5.101. - Purposes.

Sec. 9-9.5.102. - Application.

Article 2. - DEFINITIONS

Sec. 9-9.5.201. - Application.

Sec. 9-9.5.202. - "Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs)"

Sec. 9-9.5.203. - "Fuel"

Sec. 9-9.5.204. - "Hazard"

Sec. 9-9.5.205. - "Local agency"

Sec. 9-9.5.206. - "Local Responsibility Area (LRA)"

Sec. 9-9.5.207. - "Risk"

Sec. 9-9.5.208. - "Vegetation"

Sec. 9-9.5.209. - "Wildfire"

SECTION 2. Resolution

The adding of Chapter 9.5 Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones to Title 9 Planning and Zoning of the Plumas County Code is consistent with the Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 2025- 9023 and shall serve to implement the Ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors for the purposes of designating levels of fire hazard consistent with State Law pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51179 in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) that being moderate, high, and very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) as recommended by the State Fire Marshall pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178 and incorporating by reference the official hazard map entitled "Plumas County – Unincorporated LRA Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones as Identified by the State Fire Marshall" (dated January 22, 2025)—unmodified by the Board of Supervisors—to be utilized for evaluating local wildfire hazard planning decisions and not insurance wildfire risk underwriting decisions.

SECTION 3. Environmental Compliance

The Ordinance adoption is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15060(c)(3) as the activity is not a "Project" as defined in Public Resources Code Sec. 21065, meaning, "an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment," and CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sec. 15378 because the Ordinance has no potential for resulting in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the date of Board of Supervisors adoption.

SECTION 5. Codification

This ordinance shall be codified as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

SECTION 6. Publication


A summary of this ordinance shall be posted in a prominent location, pursuant to Sec. 25124(a) of the Government Code of the State of California, before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after the adoption of the ordinance, once, with the names of the supervisors voting for and against the ordinance, at the Board of Supervisors Chambers and shall remain posted thereafter for at least one (1) week.

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced on June 3, 2025, and duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas, State of California, on this 10th day of June, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors: Goss, Hall, McGowan
NOES: Supervisors: Engel
ABSENT: Supervisors: Ceresola
ABSTAIN: Supervisors:


Kevin Goss, Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: 
Allen Hiskey, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Approved as to form:

Joshua Breehtel, Attorney
County Counsel's Office

“EXHIBIT A”

PLUMAS COUNTY CODE TITLE 9 PLANNING AND ZONING CHAPTER 9.5 LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

Article 1. - PURPOSES AND APPLICATION

Sec. 9-9.5.101. - Purposes.

- (a) The provisions of this chapter are to designate into this Code levels of fire hazard consistent with State Law pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51179 in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) that being moderate, high, and very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) as recommended by the State Fire Marshall pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178.
- (b) The official hazard map hereby incorporated by reference and entitled “Plumas County – Unincorporated LRA Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones as Identified by the State Fire Marshall” (dated January 22, 2025) has not been modified by the Board of Supervisors and shall be for the purpose of evaluating local wildfire hazard planning decisions and not insurance wildfire risk underwriting decisions. The official hazard map is also located electronically on the following County website: <https://www.plumascounty.us/3354/LRA-Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zones-FHSZ-Map>.

Sec. 9-9.5.102. - Application.

- (a) The application of the provisions of this chapter and those portions of this Code which implement the LRA FHSZs shall identify LRA areas in unincorporated Plumas County by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178 as moderate, high, and very high FHSZs based on consistent statewide criteria and the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Moderate, high, and very high FHSZs shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread.
- (b) LRA areas in unincorporated Plumas County are within the Town of Chester, Town of Quincy, Town of East Quincy, and Sierra Valley and are areas where the local agency fire protection special district is responsible for wildfire protection.
- (c) Local agency fire protection special districts responsible include Peninsula Fire Protection District (Town of Chester), Quincy Fire Protection District (Town of Quincy and Town of East Quincy), and Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District (Sierra Valley).

Article 2. - DEFINITIONS

Sec. 9-9.5.201. - Application.

For the purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise apparent from the context, certain words and phrases used in this chapter are defined in this article.

Sec. 9-9.5.202. - “Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs)” means areas designated as moderate, high, and very high by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Government Code Sec. 51178 in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) that are not in the State Responsibility Area (SRA).

Sec. 9-9.5.203. - “Fuel” means any combustible material, including petroleum-based products, cultivated landscape plants, grasses, and weeds, and wildland vegetation.

Sec. 9-9.5.204. - “Hazard” is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period without considering mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfire, or fuel reduction efforts.

Sec. 9-9.5.205. - “Local agency” means a fire protection special district responsible for wildfire protection within the Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

Sec. 9-9.5.206. - “Local Responsibility Area (LRA)” means an area which a local agency is responsible for wildfire protection.

Sec. 9-9.5.207. - “Risk” is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, accounting for any modifications such as fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction.

Sec. 9-9.5.208. - “Vegetation” is fuel for a wildfire and means all plants, including trees, shrubs, grass, and perennial or annual plants.

Sec. 9-9.5.209. - “Wildfire” means an unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to extinguish the fire.