

4. CRESCENT MILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Crescent Mills Fire Protection District (CMFPD) provides structural fire, emergency medical and emergency rescue services. The last municipal service review (MSR) for the District was completed in 2008.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

CMFPD was formed in 1950 for the purpose of providing fire protection to the residents of the District.

The principal act that governs the District is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987.¹² The principal act empowers fire districts to provide fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material response, ambulance, and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property.¹³ Districts must apply and obtain LAFCo approval to exercise services authorized by the principal act but not already provided (i.e., latent powers) by the district at the end of 2000.¹⁴

CMFPD is located in the southwestern portion of Indian Valley in Plumas County. CMFPD is entirely surrounded by the Indian Valley Community Services District (IVCSD), which among other services provides fire protection.

Boundaries

CMFPD is located entirely within Plumas County. The present bounds encompass approximately 3.5 square miles and include the communities of Crescent Mills and Indian Falls.

Since the formation of the District, there have been three boundary changes. The most recent annexation occurred in 1983, when CMFPD added the territory of Indian Falls. The District's boundary changes are shown in Figure 4-1.

Figure 4-1: Crescent Mills FPD Boundary History

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Type of Action</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Recording Agency</i>
Crescent Mills Fire Protection District	Formation	1950	SBOE, LAFCo
Genesee Lumber Company, Arthur Sorsoli, E. M. Openshaw, Marian Cardoza Yanez	Annexation	1956	SBOE, LAFCo
"Second Annexation" (5 arces)	Annexation	1968	SBOE, LAFCo
Indian Falls	Annexation	1983	SBOE, LAFCo

¹² Health and Safety Code §13800-13970.

¹³ Health and Safety Code §13862.

¹⁴ Government Code §56824.10.

Sphere of Influence

The sphere of influence for the District was first adopted on August 26, 1976.¹⁵ The SOI was further revised on July 12, 1982.¹⁶ The latest SOI update took place in 2008.¹⁷ The current SOI is coterminous with the District's bounds. Figure 4-2 depicts CMFPD's boundaries and SOI.

Extra-territorial Services

CMFPD occasionally provides services outside of its bounds through an automatic aid agreement with Indian Valley CSD and informal mutual aid agreements with all fire service providers in Plumas County.

Additionally, each fire provider in Plumas County has informally agreed to a service area that extends outside of their LAFCo-approved boundaries, in order to minimize those areas without a defined first responder. In the case of CMFPD, the District's service area extends to northeast, southwest along SR 89 and northwest towards Round Valley Reservoir. The service area encompasses about nine square miles. CMFPD, similar to all fire providers in the County, does not receive property tax revenue in the territory that lies outside of its bounds, and in effect is providing free services to these areas without reimbursement. Fire districts have the option to charge for service outside of their district.

Areas of Interest

Of particular interest to the District is Indian Valley CSD, which completely surrounds CMFPD. Both districts have considered consolidation for some time and have been in discussions as to how to best go about consolidation. At present, one option that is being considered is the Indian Valley CSD Fire Department becoming independent as a new fire protection district and then consolidating with CMFPD to include all territory within both agencies. Another option being considered is Indian Valley CSD divesting itself of fire services and CMFPD annexing the territory currently served by IVCS.

¹⁵ LAFCo Resolution 76-37.

¹⁶ LAFCo Resolution 82-07.14.

¹⁷ LAFCo Resolution 2008-010.

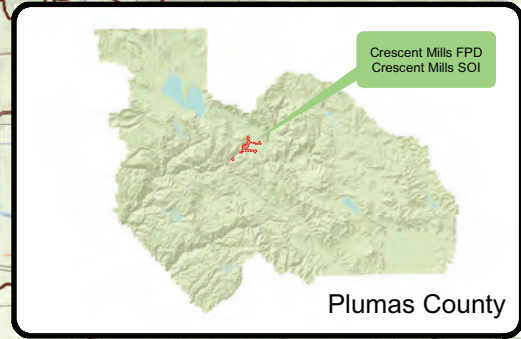
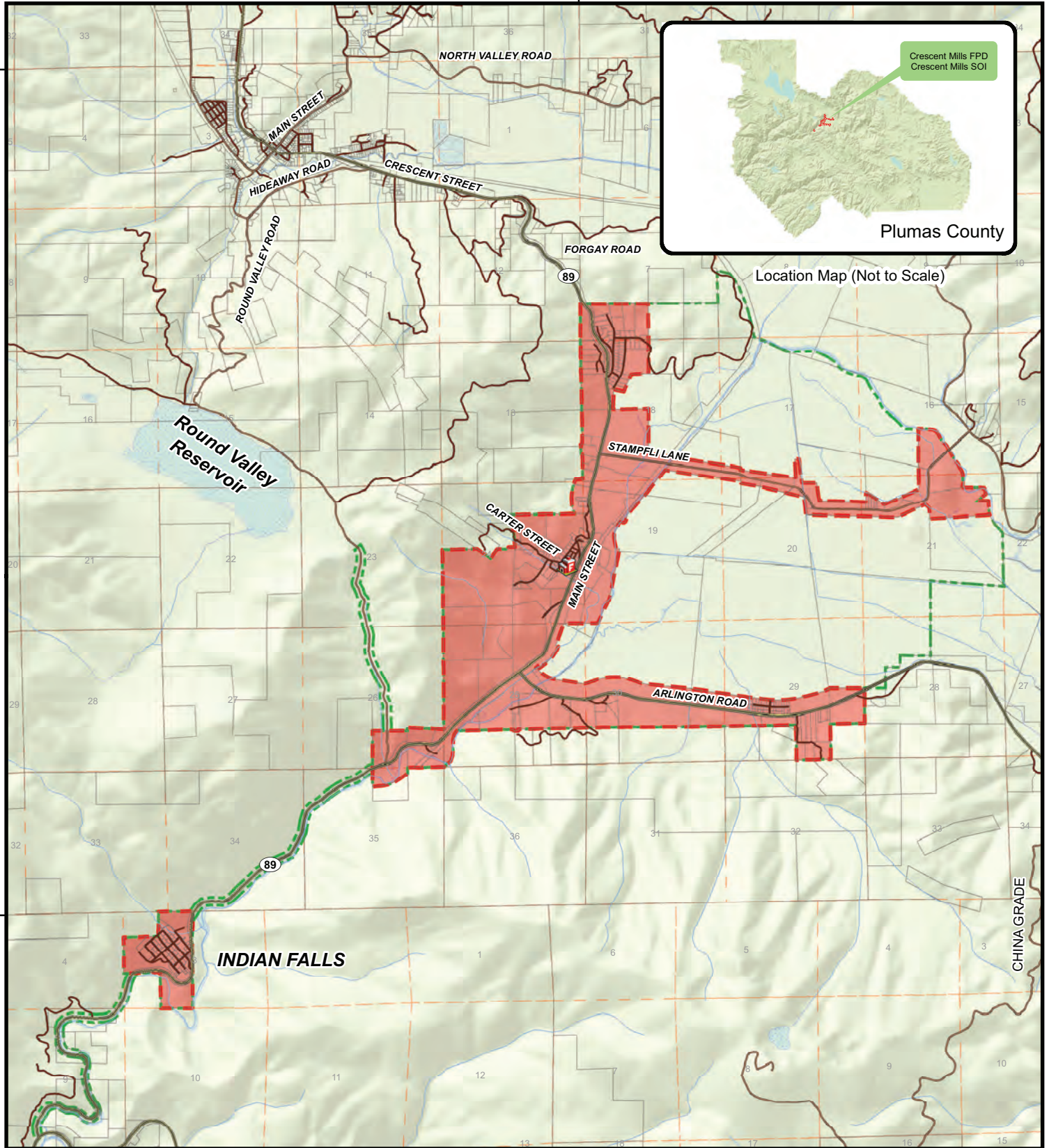
Crescent Mills Fire Protection District

Range 9 East

Range 10 East

Township 26 North

Township 25 North



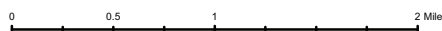
Location Map (Not to Scale)

Legend

- Highways
- Major Roads
- Stream / River
- Waterbodies

- Parcels
- Sectional Grid (MDB&M)
- Fire Station

- Crescent Mills FPD
- Crescent Mills Sphere of Influence
- Crescent Mills Service Area



Crescent Mills FPD
Resolution:
Formed: January 31, 1950

Crescent Mills FPD (SOI)
Resolution:
Adopted: June 9, 2008

Source: Plumas LAFCo Map Modified 9/28/2013

Accountability and Governance

The principal act orders that the board of directors of a fire protection district must have an odd number of members, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 11 members. Directors may be appointed or elected.¹⁸ CMFPD is governed by a five-member board of directors elected at large to staggered four-year terms. All current members were elected; there are no vacancies. The chair of the Board rotates with each meeting. Current board member names, positions, and term expiration dates are shown in Figure 4-3.

The Board meets a minimum of once a quarter on a Sunday at four in the afternoon at the District's Station 1. The specific date for the meeting is usually set at the preceding meeting. Board meeting agendas are posted at both fire stations and emailed to the mailing list of interested parties. Minutes of every board meeting are available upon request.

Figure: 4-3: Crescent Mills FPD Governing Body

Crescent Mills FPD				
District Contact Information				
Contact:	Steve Allen, Secretary			
Address:	PO Box 1959, Quincy, CA 95971			
Telephone:	530-283-1139			
Email/website:	hereward@thegrid.net			
Board of Directors				
Member Name	Position	Term Expiration	Manner of Selection	Length of Term
Jerry L. Thrall	Director	December 2015	Elected	4 years
Dennis Fitch	Director	December 2015	Elected	4 years
Doyle Ralston	Director	December 2017	Elected	4 years
Kerry Wright	Director	December 2017	Elected	4 years
Cody Joe Pearce	Director	December 2017	Elected	4 years
Meetings				
Date:	Quarterly on Sundays at 4pm.			
Location:	Station 1.			
Agenda Distribution:	Posted on at both District fire stations and emailed to the list.			
Minutes Distribution:	Available upon request.			

In addition to the required agendas and minutes, the District tries to reach its constituents through participating in community events such as a Christmas event and the Veteran's Day and Fourth of July parades, taking students and scouts on station tours, and performing crash demonstrations to kids.

If a customer is dissatisfied with the District's services, complaints may be submitted to the chief, the secretary or a board member. The District does not have a formal policy regarding complaints. The person responsible for handling complaints depends on the nature of the grievance. The District reported that there were no complaints in 2012.

CMFPD demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCO. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with interview and document requests.

¹⁸ Health and Safety Code §13842.

Planning and Management Practices

The District has one fire chief and 10 volunteer firefighters. Daily operations are managed by the fire chief, who is paid a monthly stipend. The Board secretary handles bills and paperwork. The chief is accountable to the Board; volunteer firefighters report to the chief.

The District does not track the workload handled by the chief or the volunteers. CMFPD reported that tracked data would have no practical application, because even if additional labor force is needed there is a difficulty recruiting more volunteers. Day time calls are reportedly the most difficult to respond to, because volunteers are busy with their daily activities. The current practice is to have both districts, CMFPD and IVCS, dispatched to the same incidents, as CMFPD is occasionally unable to respond on its own.

CMFPD does not conduct employee evaluations; the chief makes occasional reports to the Board of Directors. CMFPD reported that it did not conduct evaluations for the District as a whole, such as benchmarking or annual reports. The District is aware of its challenges such as lack of volunteers and limited funding, but believes matters will not improve until the Plumas economy recovers.

The District's financial planning efforts include an annually adopted budget. The District's financial statements are audited when necessary. CMFPD does not adopt any other planning documents. The District conducts capital improvement planning informally as needed and forecast repair/replacement needs through equipment maintenance. CMFPD does not adopt any other planning documents.

Government Code §53901 states that within 60 days after the beginning of the fiscal year each local agency must submit its budget to the county auditor. These budgets are to be filed and made available on request by the public at the county auditor's office. All special districts are required to submit annual audits to the County within 12 months of the completion of the fiscal year, unless the Board of Supervisors has approved a biennial or five-year schedule.¹⁹ The most recent audit for CMFPD was completed for FY 09. The District should ensure it is meeting the adopted audit requirements as determined by the Board of Supervisors and submitting budgets annually to the County as legally required.

Special districts must submit a report to the State Controller of all financial transactions of the district during the preceding fiscal year within 90 days after the close of each fiscal year, in the form required by the State Controller, pursuant to Government Code §53891. If filed in electronic format, the report must be submitted within 110 days after the end of the fiscal year. The District has complied with this requirement.

Existing Demand and Growth Projections

A majority of the land uses within the District are commercial, industrial and residential. The District's bounds encompass approximately 3.5 square miles.

¹⁹ Government Code §26909.

Population

There are approximately 487 residents within the District, based on GIS estimate. The District's population density is 139 residents per square mile.

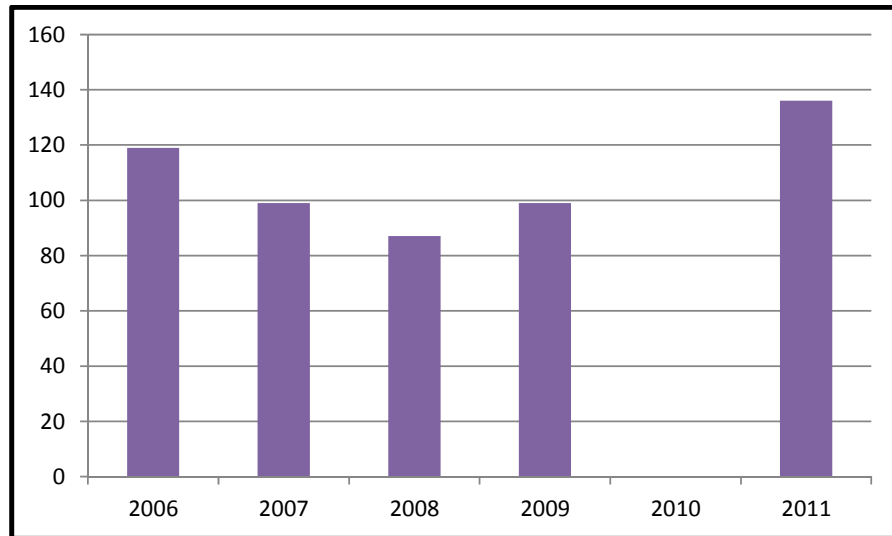
Existing Demand

The peak demand times for the District are in the mornings and in the early evenings. Calls for medical emergencies are consistently high in volume throughout the year, similar to other fire districts in the region.

Figure 4-4: Crescent Mills FPD Number of Calls by Year, 2006-2011

The District reported that it had observed an increase in service demand in the last few years.

The number of calls dropped in 2008 and went back up increasing every year for the next few years, as shown in Figure 4-4.²⁰ The District reported that demand increased because the



District's firefighters are responding in conjunction with the ambulance service providers (either South Lassen Ambulance or Chester PUD).

Projected Growth and Development

CMFPD anticipates no growth in service demand within the District in the next few years. The District reported that there were no planned developments within the District's boundaries.

The District does not create population projections, as it relies entirely on an all-volunteer staff and limited funding. CMFPD sees no need for projections, as the District is already aware of its shortcomings in the form of personnel needs. As no growth is anticipated in the near future, the personnel issue has not become an emergency. Should growth occur in the future, CMFPD does not have sufficient personnel capacity to provide services to any possible future growth areas.

The State Department of Finance (DOF) projects that the population of Plumas County will grow by four percent in the next 10 years. Thus, the average annual population growth in the County is anticipated to be approximately 0.4 percent. Based on these projections, the District's population would increase from 487 in 2010 to approximately 506 in 2020. It is anticipated that demand for service within the District will increase minimally based on the DOF population growth projections through 2020.

²⁰ The number of calls for 2010 was not provided, as the ISO office had not returned the District's reports.

Growth Strategies

The District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies. The land use authority for unincorporated areas is the County.

The County enforces the codes that it has enforcement power over, which does not encompass all State fire codes. The County ensures that new construction meets the requirements of the latest adopted edition of the California Building Standards. The County enforces the County codes that have been adopted in lieu of the California Fire Safe regulations. The County does not have authority to enforce PRC 4291, which requires defensible space around structures; however, the County does have some enforcement authority over vegetation removal around buildings that was adopted prior to PRC 4291. In addition, the Board of Supervisors, through the adoption of the General Plan and county codes, regulates development standards to be followed in processing subdivisions, including fire protection.

The proposals for new developments are sent for review to the appropriate fire provider, if a development is within district's boundaries. The County reported that as SOI maps have not been digitized, it has been challenging to ensure that proposals go to the appropriate district if a proposed development was within that district's SOI but outside its boundaries. The County and Plumas LAFCO are working on a process to ensure that all appropriate districts are contacted for review of proposed developments.

The County has several policies in the existing general plan, which impacts the fire providers of new developments.

- 1) Turnouts are now required in every new development.²¹
- 2) The County encourages development to be located adjacent to or within areas where fire services already exist or can be efficiently provided.²²
- 3) The County requires new developments within areas not currently served by a fire provider to be annexed into an existing fire district or create a funding mechanism, such as a CSD, to cover the costs of fire service provision.²³
- 4) Sustainable timber and biomass production and harvesting as well as intensive forest management practices are encouraged to reduce the danger of catastrophic wildfires.²⁴
- 5) There is a minimum requirement of two roadway access points, which are maintained on a year-round basis by the County or the State.²⁵
- 6) Minimum public and private road standards: roads providing access to two or more lots have to conform to a two-lane standard of no less than 16-foot traveled way.²⁶

²¹ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.604 (k).

²² Plumas County, *General Plan*, 1984, pp. 28 & 29.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

- 7) Bridges are required to be designed for an 80,000 pound vehicle load.²⁷
- 8) All access roads must be marked with an approved sign; and all lots must be identified by an address.²⁸
- 9) All developments within boundaries of a structural fire service provider may be required to contribute to the maintenance of the structural service proportionate to the increase in demand for fire service resulting from the development.²⁹
- 10) As a condition of development it is required to provide long-term maintenance of private roads to the standards of original improvements, including roadside vegetation management.³⁰
- 11) The County encourages biomass thinning programs in high fire risk areas.³¹

The County is in the final stages of updating its general plan. The suggested new policies in the General Plan update that would impact fire service providers, but had not yet been adopted as of the drafting of this report, include:

- 12) The County shall review and update its Fire Safe ordinance to attain and maintain defensible space through conditioning of tentative maps and in new development at the final map or building permit stage.
- 13) The County will consult Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps during the review of all projects. The County will work with fire protection agencies to develop community fire plans and require appropriate building setbacks and fuel modification requirements within fire hazard zones.
- 14) In order for the new development to be approved, the County must conclude that adequate emergency water flow, fire access and firefighters and equipment are available.
- 15) New developments have to show that they have adequate access for emergency vehicles to access the site and for private vehicles to evacuate the area.
- 16) New developments within high and very high fire hazard areas are required to designate fuel break zones that comply with fire safe requirements.
- 17) The County will work with Forest Service and fire districts in developing fire prevention programs, identifying opportunities for fuel breaks in zones of high and very high fire hazard and educating public.
- 18) Fire, law enforcement, EMS, resource management, and public health response partners are encouraged to conduct joint training exercises.³²

²⁶ Ibid.,

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.601.

³¹ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 4 Section 4-2.101.

³² Plumas County General Plan, *Draft Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures*, 2010.

The County has not adopted the new standards for development yet. The revised General Plan may be adopted in 2013. County zoning code will then go through a revision process in order for the zoning code to implement the General Plan.

Not all private property in Plumas County is located within a local structural fire protection district. This issue has been well-documented in Board of Supervisor reports and correspondence, newspaper articles, and former Grand Jury reports. Identifying and reducing the number of such parcels has been the task of local fire districts, county staff, the feasibility study group and volunteer groups who collectively have spent countless hours quantifying the problem, educating the public, and encouraging solutions.

Over the past few years, these efforts have been very successful. A summary of the activities and their impacts are listed to help solve this important problem:

- ❖ Updated General Plan Policies: The updated General Plan will require fire protection for any new development, preventing the number of parcels outside a fire district from increasing and encouraging annexations.
- ❖ Building Permit Review: Applications for new construction are reviewed by County staff to determine if the property is outside a district. Permit applicants are provided a resources and a handout on what it means to be outside a district.
- ❖ GIS Website Update: The Planning Department's GIS data on fire district boundaries is now available on the County's website, making it easy for fire districts and the public to determine whether a parcel is within a district.
- ❖ District Sphere of Influence Updates: The Local Agency Formation Commission continues work on updating fire districts' spheres of influence. These spheres indicate areas of likely district growth and serve as a blue print for possible future district annexations.
- ❖ Fire Protection Communication Plan: Completed in August 2012, the Fire Protection Communication Plan is a comprehensive tool to guide fire districts through the process of educating the public and gaining support for service agreements or annexations.
- ❖ Close-of-Escrow Notification on Fire District Status: As directed at the October 2, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting, County staff is investigating options for escrow notification of property buyers regarding fire district status.
- ❖ Firewise and Fire Safe Communities Development: The Plumas County Fire Prevention Specialist continues working throughout the County to encourage firewise and fire safe activities to reduce the risk and consequences from wildfire.

In regards to governance structure options, it was reported that consolidation with Indian Valley CSD is a possibility. However, no formal steps towards consolidation have been taken to date.

Financing

The District reports that current financing levels are marginally adequate to deliver services. CMFPD has a lot of deferred maintenance on its facilities and equipment and insufficient revenue sources to cover those needs.

To improve its financing level, the District would like to become eligible for federal grants by adopting the national incident management system. However, the challenge with grants is that the District would need to match a portion of the project cost from its own funds. CMFPD is not considering a special tax measure, as there are a substantial number of low income residents within the District.

The District's total revenue for FY 11-12 was \$24,454. Ninety eight percent of the income came from property tax revenue. Other revenue sources included interest and state and federal aid. The District's principal source of funds is derived from property taxes levied by Plumas County. CMFPD does not receive any special tax or benefit assessment revenue. The District does not charge fees for its services.

CMFPD's expenditures in FY 11-12 amounted to \$24,839. Of this amount, 54 percent was spent on salaries and benefits and the remainder on services and supplies.

The District performs capital improvement planning as needed. Needs are assessed through equipment and facility maintenance. Capital improvements are financed through a pay-as-you-go approach.

CMFPD does not have a formal financial reserve. There is a rollover fund, which consists of revenues that were not spent in previous years. At the end of FY 11-12, the unrestricted rollover fund contained \$15,314.

The District participates in a statewide joint powers agreement (JPA), Fire Agencies Self Insurance System, for workers compensation insurance.

FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

Service Overview

CMFPD provides fire protection, emergency medical services, and vehicle rescue.

Collaboration

CMFPD has a formal automatic aid agreement with Indian Valley CSD and informal mutual aid agreements with all fire service providers in Plumas County. The District is a member of the Plumas County Fire Chiefs' Association and Special District Association.

The District expressed a desire for closer collaboration with other fire providers in the area of grant searches and applications.

Dispatch and Communications

The County Sheriff is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP); consequently, most land line emergency calls (9-1-1 calls) are directed to the Sheriff. Most cell phone emergency calls (9-1-1 calls) are answered by the Sheriff's Office; however, some are answered by CHP and redirected to the Sheriff. The Sheriff provides dispatching for most fire providers in the County except for the ones in northern part of the County, which are served by the Susanville Interagency Fire Center. The Forest Service has its own dispatch. The sheriff dispatch center has a first responder map, which it uses to identify what provider to dispatch to an incident. All territory within the County has a determined first responder; although, many areas lie outside the LAFCo approved boundary of the districts and lack an officially designated fire provider.

The District reported that an improvement to the dispatch service could be a clearer distinction between the Indian Valley CSD and Crescent Mills FPD service areas.

Staffing

CMFPD has 11 sworn personnel—one fire chief and 10 volunteer firefighters. The part-time chief is paid a monthly stipend; the remainder of the staff is not compensated. The median age of the firefighters is 33, with a range from 23 to 60.

The District reports that its staffing levels have not changed significantly in the last few years. CMFPD tries to recruit more volunteers through direct personal contact, word of mouth, and signs posted in Indian Falls.

Currently, there are three certifications in the California firefighter series; Volunteer Firefighter, Firefighter I, and Firefighter II. While the Volunteer Firefighter focuses on skills and tasks necessary to assure safety on the fire ground, Firefighter I & II prepares the fire fighter to perform essential and advanced fireground tasks as well as allowing entry into all tracks of the certification system. According to the California State Fire Marshal, all paid, volunteer and call firefighters must acquire Firefighter I certification; however, there is no time limit as to how long they may work before attaining certification. Firefighter I certification requires completion of the 259-hour Firefighter I course, which includes training on various fireground tasks, rescue operations, fire prevention and investigation techniques, and inspection and maintenance of equipment. In addition to this course,

Firefighter I certification also requires that the applicant have a minimum of six months of volunteer or call experience in a California fire department as a firefighter performing suppression duties.³³ CMFPD has 10 Firefighter I and three EMT I certified personnel.

The District's requirement for volunteer firefighters is to train to the level of Firefighter I. Volunteers are offered 16 training hours per month. A significant challenge reported by CMFPD is lack of available time for volunteers, due to other jobs and travel distances in rural and remote Indian Valley.

Facilities and Capacity

CMFPD operates two fire stations. Crescent Mills Fire Station, which was reported to be in fair condition, is located at 36 Carter Street in Crescent Mills and was built in 1940. Indian Falls Fire Station, located at 238 Indian Falls Road in Indian Falls, was built in 1983. The station was also reported to be in fair condition. Neither of the District's stations are staffed.

Crescent Mills Fire Station is used as a fire station and a meeting room and houses one tanker, two type I engines, one quick response vehicle, and one command vehicle. Crescent Mills Fire Station is also used by Indian Valley CSD for occasional meetings. Indian Falls Fire Station is used as a fire station and contains two type 1 engines, one quick response vehicle, and one command vehicle.

The District's water reserves are represented by a 212,000-gallon community water system in Crescent Mills operated by Indian Valley CSD, 4,300 gallons of water on a tanker and 4,900 gallons of water on the trucks. There is also a water tank located in Indian Falls, which does not seem to be full therefore the actual quantity of available water is unknown.

Currently, the District has marginal capacity to provide adequate services within its boundary area. CMFPD reports that lack of personnel as a major capacity constraint.

Infrastructure Needs

Although the District does not formally plan its capital improvement needs, CMFPD is aware through routine maintenance that its equipment is aging and will need to be replaced in the near future. The District is in need of a new tank for the tanker (which would cost about \$150,000 to \$300,000), breathing apparatuses, and new fire extinguishers. In addition, the septic tank at Crescent Mills Station needs to be pumped.

Challenges

The District's primary challenge is a lack of volunteers. CMFPD struggles to recruit and retain firefighters, due to the recent economic recession. CMFPD also reported a lack of available water in the District as a major challenge. Except for within the Crescent Mills community, the water for fire suppression has to be hauled. Difficult terrain presents obstacles as well. There is an extremely steep road that leads to the ranch area on Old Green Mountain. Some portions of Arlington Road are also steep. These issues are

³³ State Fire Marshal, Course Information and Required Materials, 2007, p. 44

amplified in winter months. Finally, a lack of available funding causes deferred maintenance and replacement on equipment and facilities.

Service Adequacy

While there are several benchmarks that may define the level of fire service provided by an agency, indicators of service adequacy discussed here include ISO ratings, response times, and level of staffing and station resources for the service area.

Fire services in the communities are classified by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), an advisory organization. This classification indicates the general adequacy of coverage, with classes ranking from 1 to 10. Communities with the best fire department facilities, systems for water distribution, fire alarms and communications, and equipment and personnel receive a rating of 1. CMFPD has an ISO rating of eight in urban areas and nine in rural areas. The District was last evaluated in 2011.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued a performance standard for volunteer and combination fire departments (NFPA 1720). This standard, among other guidelines, identifies target response time performance for structure fires. The response time is measured from the completion of the dispatch notification to the arrival time of the first-responder at the scene. Though not a legal mandate, NFPA 1720 does provide a useful benchmark against which to measure fire department performance. NFPA 1720 recommends that the response times for structure fire be nine minutes in urban demand zones at least 90 percent of the time, 10 minutes in suburban zones at least 80 percent of the time and 14 minutes in rural zones at least 80 percent of the time. Response times in remote zones are directly dependent on travel distances.³⁴ CMFPD falls under the definition of a rural demand zone.

Emergency response time standards vary by level of urbanization of an area: the more urban an area, the faster a response has to be. The California EMS Agency established the following response time guidelines: five minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in suburban or rural areas, and as quickly as possible in wildland areas. The District's response zones include rural and wilderness classifications. The District tracks its response times for each incident. Based on CMFPD sample response times from August 2012, its median response time is four minutes, and seven minutes 90 percent of the time.

The service area size³⁵ for each fire station varies between fire districts. The median fire station in Plumas County serves approximately eight square miles. A station in La Porte FPD services the most expansive area of 151 square miles. Densely populated areas tend to have smaller service areas. For example, the average service area for Quincy FPD's fire station is six square miles. Similarly, each fire station in CMFPD serves approximately 4.5 square miles.

³⁴ Urban demand zone has population density of more than 1,000 people per square mile; suburban zone—between 500 and 1,000 people per square mile, rural zone—less than 500 people per square mile, and remote zone is identified by eight or more miles of travel distance to an incident.

³⁵ Service area refers to the area that the agency will respond to, based on a first responder map used by the Sherriff's office.

The number of firefighters serving within a particular jurisdiction is another indicator of level of service; however, it is approximate. The providers' call firefighters may have differing availability and reliability. A district with more firefighters could have fewer resources, if scheduling availability is restricted. Staffing levels in Plumas County vary from nine call firefighters per 1,000 residents in Quincy FPD service area to 231 in La Porte FPD. By comparison, CMFPD has approximately 22 firefighters per 1,000 residents.

Figure 4-5: Crescent Mills FPD Fire Service Profile

Fire Service					
Facilities					
Firestation	Location	Condition	Staff per Shift	Vehicles	
Crescent Mills Fire Station	36 Carter Street, Crescent Mills, CA	Fair	Unstaffed	Tanker, 2 type 1 engines, 1 quick response vehicle, 1 command vehicle	
Indian Falls Fire Station	238 Indian Falls Road, Indian Falls, CA	Fair	Unstaffed	2 type 1 engines, 1 quick response vehicle, 1 command vehicle	
Facility Sharing					
Current Practices: Indian Valley CSD and U.S. Postal Service use Crescent Mills fire station for occasional meetings. CMFPD is a member of Plumas Fire Chiefs Association and Special Districts Association.					
Future opportunities: The District did not identify any future opportunities for facility sharing.					
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies					
All fire stations have unmet maintenance needs.					
District Resource Statistics		Service Configuration		Service Demand	
Staffing Base Year	2012	Configuration Base Year	2012	Statistical Base Year	2011
Fire Stations in District	2	Fire Suppression	Direct	Total Service Calls	136
Stations Serving District	2	EMS	Direct	% EMS	88%
Sq. Miles Served per Station ¹	4.50	Ambulance Transport	SLASA	% Fire/Hazardous Materials	1%
Total Staff ²	11	Hazardous Materials	County	% False	4%
Total Full-time Firefighters	0	Air Rescue/Ambulance Helicopter	SLASA	% Misc. emergency	8%
Total Call Firefighters	11	Fire Suppression Helicopter	None	% Non-emergency	0%
Total Sworn Staff per Station ³	5.5	Public Safety Answering Point	Sheriff	% Mutual Aid Calls	68%
Total Sworn Staff per 1,000	22	Fire/EMS Dispatch	Sheriff	Calls per 1,000 people	272
Service Adequacy			Service Challenges		
Response Time Base Year	2012 (August)	Lack of personnel is a significant challenge. Lack of funding defers equipment maintenance and replacement. Terrain presents response challenges.			
Median Response Time (min)	4 minutes	Training			
90th Percentile Response Time (min)	7 minutes	Volunteers are required to train to the firefighter I level. Firefighters train 16 hours per month.			
ISO Rating	8/9				
Mutual & Automatic Aid Agreements					
The District has automatic aid agreement with Indian Valley CSD and mutual aid agreements with all fire providers in Plumas County.					
Notes: 1) Primary service area (square miles) per station. 2) Total staff includes sworn and non-sworn personnel. 3) Based on ratio of sworn full-time and call staff to the number of stations. Actual staffing levels of each station vary.					

CRESCENT MILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DETERMINATIONS

Growth and Population Projections

- ❖ Crescent Mills Fire Protection District (CMFPD) had a population of approximately 487 as of 2010.
- ❖ The District reported that it had observed an increase in service demand in the last few years. There was an increase in calls over the last four years of approximately 56 percent, a majority of which the District attributes to an increase in medical service calls.
- ❖ CMFPD anticipates no residential growth within the District in the next few years. The District reported that there were no planned or proposed developments within the District's boundaries.

The Location and Characteristics of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Agency's SOI

- ❖ The population threshold by which Plumas LAFCo will define a community is yet to be determined. Specific disadvantaged unincorporated communities and characteristics of the communities will be identified when appropriate as other areas are to be annexed to the District.

Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

- ❖ Currently, the District's facilities appear to have marginal capacity to provide adequate services to existing demand and future growth. Current response times meet California EMS Agency and NFPA standards for response to medical emergencies and structural fires respectively. Service capacity is constrained by outdated equipment and lack of personnel.
- ❖ CMFPD would require additional staffing and enhanced funding to address possible future growth. The District will need to look at additional funding sources to ensure sustainable financing.
- ❖ Infrastructure needs include a new tank for the tanker, breathing apparatuses, and new fire extinguishers. In addition, the septic tank at Crescent Mills Station needs to be pumped.
- ❖ The District does not have a capital improvement plan. Capital improvement needs are reviewed as needed through regular equipment and facility maintenance. It is a recommended practice for all districts to adopt a capital improvement plan to allow for more effective infrastructure improvement and related financing planning.

- ❖ CMFPD services appear to be adequate. The District has adequate response times. The District's ISO rating is high compared to urban service providers, but similar to rural providers and those in the County.

Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

- ❖ The District reported that its current financing levels were marginally adequate to deliver services. CMFPD has significant deferred maintenance on its facilities and equipment and insufficient incoming funds to cover those needs.
- ❖ Grants were identified as a possible additional source of financing to fulfill necessary apparatus replacement.
- ❖ The District's general operations are funded primarily by property taxes. CMFPD does not have any long-term debt.
- ❖ The District does not maintain financial reserves and uses a pay-as-you-go approach to finance its capital improvements. The unrestricted rollover fund at the end of FY 11-12 contained \$15,314.

Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

- ❖ The District has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding fire districts and a formal automatic aid agreement with Indian Valley CSD.
- ❖ Crescent Mills Fire Station is used by Indian Valley CSD and the U.S. Postal Service for occasional meetings.
- ❖ The District is a member of the Plumas County Fire Chiefs' Association and Special District Association.
- ❖ The District expressed the desire for closer collaboration with other fire providers in the area of grant searches and applications.

Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

- ❖ CMFPD demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with the document requests.
- ❖ CMFPD practices outreach efforts; however, the District lacks a website where district information is made available to the public. It is recommended that every public service provider have a website to keep constituents aware of the agency's activities.
- ❖ In regards to governance structure options, it was reported that consolidation with Indian Valley CSD is a possibility. However, no formal steps towards consolidation have been taken to date.

5. GREENHORN CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Greenhorn Greek Community Services District (GCCSD) provides fire, water and contract road maintenance services. This is the first municipal service review (MSR) for Greenhorn Creek CSD.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

GCCSD was formed in 1971 as a dependent special district to provide water to the western portion of the Greenhorn Creek housing development known as Greenhorn II. In 1975, GCCSD was consolidated with Estray Creek Community Services District. The consolidation empowered GCCSD to provide domestic water for fire protection purposes and to collect, treat and dispose of sewage. In 1990, Greenhorn Creek Valley Volunteer Fire Department was formed, and in 1995, the fire department became a part of GCCSD. GCCSD took over the responsibilities of the Greenhorn Ranch Company in 1995 and began providing water to the eastern side of the development known as Greenhorn I, as well as Greenhorn Guest Ranch. In 2003, the citizens of Greenhorn Creek voted to become an independent special district. On April 8th, 2013 LAFCo authorized GCCSD to start performing road maintenance services contingent upon the district approving a special tax or assessment to provide this service. Should the district not approve a special tax or assessment by April 8, 2014, LAFCo's approval will expire.

The principal act that governs the District is the State of California Community Services District Law.³⁶ CSDs may potentially provide a wide array of services, including water supply, wastewater, solid waste, police and fire protection, street lighting and landscaping, airport, recreation and parks, mosquito abatement, library services; street maintenance and drainage services, ambulance service, utility undergrounding, transportation, graffiti abatement, flood protection, weed abatement, hydroelectric power, among various other services. CSDs are required to gain LAFCo approval to provide those services permitted by the principal act but not performed by the end of 2005 (i.e., latent powers).³⁷

GCCSD is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Spring Garden and SR 70 in Plumas County. Fire service providers within close proximity of GCCSD include Quincy FPD in the northwest and Long Valley CSD in the southeast.

Boundaries

GCCSD is located entirely within Plumas County. The present bounds encompass approximately 0.4 square miles and include the communities of Greenhorn Creek and Estray Creek.

³⁶ Government Code §61000-61226.5.

³⁷ Government Code §61106.