

10. PRATTVILLE-ALMANOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Prattville-Almanor Fire Protection District (PAFPD) provides structural fire protection, basic life support, limited rescue services, and some fire prevention services.

This is the first municipal service review for PAFPD.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

PAFPD was originally formed as West Shore Fire District in 1963¹²⁵ for the purpose of providing basic community services to residents and landowners within the boundaries of the District in the greater Prattville Area. In 1978, West Shore Fire District was renamed into Prattville-Almanor Fire Protection District.¹²⁶

The principal act that governs the District is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987.¹²⁷ 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.¹²⁸ 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.

PAFPD encompasses the community of Prattville, which is situated along the western shore of Lake Almanor in northern Plumas County. It lies immediately east of SR 89. The District does not border any other fire districts in the County, because it is surrounded by forest zone and borders the lake to the east. Prattville-Almanor FPD is located southeast of West Almanor CSD (WACSD).

Boundaries

PAFPD's boundary is entirely within Plumas County and extends from the Almanor Homesites to the last house on the south end of Almanor Drive West. The District's bounds encompass approximately 0.5 square miles.

¹²⁵ LAFCo resolution 1328.

¹²⁶ LAFCo resolution 78-3171.

¹²⁷ Health and Safety Code §13800-13970.

¹²⁸ Health and Safety Code §13862.

Following its formation, West Shore Fire District did not undertake any annexations or detachments. In 1978, West Almanor Shore Fire District was renamed into Prattville-Almanor FPD. Since then there have been no annexations to or detachments from PAFPD.

Sphere of Influence

The Sphere of Influence (SOI) for West Shore Fire District was first adopted on August 26, 1976.¹²⁹ The original SOI was incorporated with CSA #2 (Lake Almanor West). The SOI was further revised on January 21, 1983.¹³⁰ The SOI was made coterminous with the District's boundaries, because there was no room for expansion of the District due to its boundaries being immediately adjacent to USFS and P.G.&E. lands.¹³¹ No other changes to the District's SOI have been made since the 1983 update.

Extra-territorial Services

Through automatic aid and mutual aid agreements, PAFPD provides services outside of its bounds. PAFPD has a formal automatic aid agreement with West Almanor Community Services District (WACSD). PAFPD also maintains 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 PAFPD, the District is aware of its service area as per the Emergency Response Area map, but does not recognize that the District entered into the agreement. PAFPD reported that it would only provide services outside of its boundaries if resources were available to ensure that services could still be provided within its bounds. The service area for PAFPD is the same as WACSD's service area and includes the western portion of Lake Almanor and extends south and southwest to include large territory that spreads all the way to Butte County. The service area encompasses about 198 square miles compared to 0.96 square miles of boundary area. PAFPD does not receive property tax revenue in the territory that lies outside of its bounds, and in effect would provide free services, if it responded to these areas without reimbursement.

PAFPD has a functional consolidation contract with WACSD, according to which identities and budgets for the two districts remain separate. West Almanor CSD provides PAFPD operations, training and automatic aid services. The WACSD fire chief or assigned duty officer is in charge of all operations on emergency responses within either district. West Almanor CSD is responsible for training all PAFPD firefighters. In addition, the two districts respond to each other's emergency calls and incidents as part of automatic aid.

¹²⁹ LAFCo resolution 76-35.

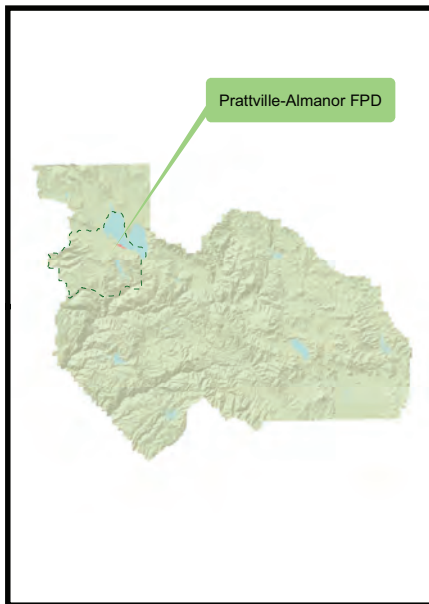
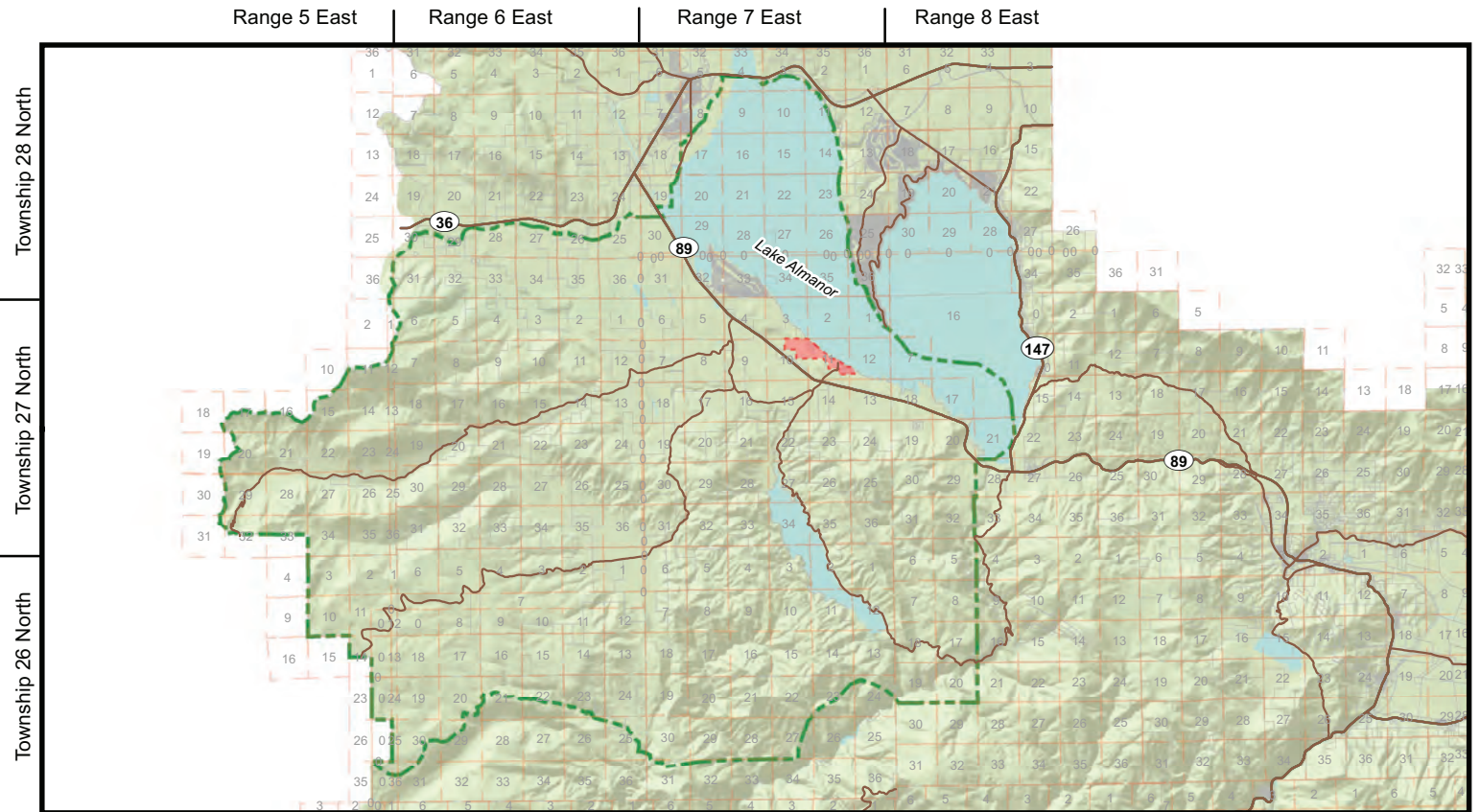
¹³⁰ LAFCo resolution 83-06.

¹³¹ Plumas LAFCo, *Sphere of Influence Findings and Recommendations, Prattville-Almanor FPD*, January 21, 1983.

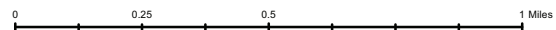
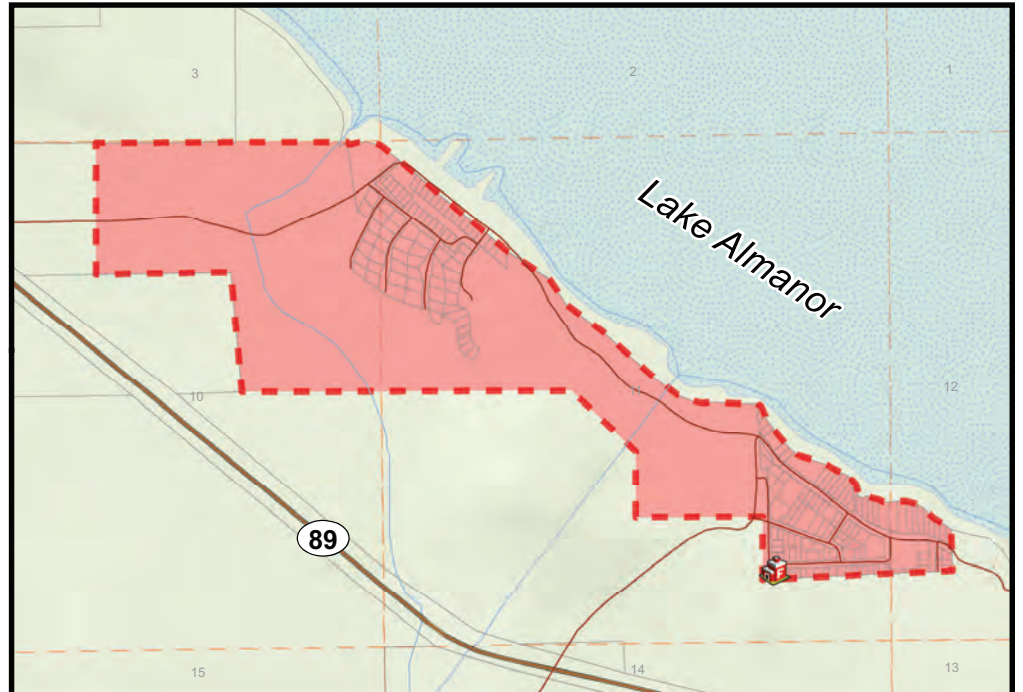
Areas of Interest

The area of WACSD is of particular interest to PAFPD. The functional consolidation contract expired on June 30, 2012, and while both districts are strongly considering consolidation, it has been postponed at this time. Instead, the districts will expand their contract; under the new agreement WACSD will take over administration duties for PAFPD.

Prattville - Almanor Fire Protection District



Location Map (Not to Scale)



Legend

- Highways
- Major Roads
- Stream / River
- Waterbodies
- Parcels
- Sectional Grid (MDB&M)
- Fire Station
- Prattville-Almanor FPD
- Prattville-Almanor FPD (SOI)
- Fire Department Service Area



Prattville-Almanor FPD
Resolution: 63-1328
Formed: January 7, 1963

Prattville-Almanor FPD (SOI)
Resolution: 83-12
Adopted: January 21, 1983

Source: Plumas LAFCo Map Created 4/25/2012

Accountability and Governance

PAFPD is governed by a three-member Board of Directors who are to be elected by cabin owners at general meetings. There are currently two Directors, both of whom were appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Current board member names, positions, and term expiration dates are shown in Figure 10-2.

The Board meets every season at the fire house on Scott Drive. Agendas are posted at the fire station, on the bulletin board at Almanor Homesites, and by the mailboxes at the bottom of Center Street. Minutes are circulated at the meetings and available upon request.

Figure 10-2: Prattville-Almanor FPD Governing Body

Prattville-Almanor FPD				
<i>District Contact Information</i>				
Contact:	Fire Chief, Ken Wilson			
Address:	2267 Scott Drive, Canyon Dam, CA			
Telephone:	(530)259-3911			
Email/website:	kwilson@digitalpath.net			
<i>Board of Directors</i>				
Member Name	Position	Term Expiration	Manner of Selection	Length of Term
Alan Ramsey	Chair	November 2013	Appointed	4 years
Gary Mangin	Director	November 2013	Appointed	1 year 3 months
Vacancy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Meetings</i>				
Date:	Every season.			
Location:	Meetings are held at the fire station.			
Agenda Distribution:	Posted at the fire station, bulletin board and mailboxes.			
Minutes Distribution:	Available upon request.			

In addition to the required agendas and minutes, the District tries to reach its constituents through participating in community pot lock events during the summer months. PAFPD also has an auxiliary support group—Fire Crackers—that fundraises on behalf of the District.

If a customer is dissatisfied with the District’s services, complaints can be submitted to the Board of Directors at board meetings or through a letter. The chief is responsible for handling complaints. The District reported that there were no complaints in 2011.

PAFPD demonstrated partial accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCo. The District cooperated with interview and document requests. The questionnaire was responded to by WACSD on behalf of PAFPD. PAFPD was unable to respond to questionnaires and interview requests in a timely fashion; however, all information was eventually provided.

Planning and Management Practices

The District has one chief, one accounts receivable clerk and four firefighters, who are all volunteers. Daily operations are managed by the fire chief. According to the new agreement with WACSD, which is currently being drafted, the WACSD chief will also be the fire chief for PAFPD. Currently, the PAFPD chief reports to the Board. The clerk and firefighters report to the chief.

The District does not perform employee evaluations or evaluations of the District as a whole, such as benchmarking or annual reports.

The District tracks staff training hours through a training log, similar to WACSD. Work hours and tasks performed by volunteers are not tracked.

The District's financial planning efforts include an annually adopted budget. PAFPD's financial statements are audited every five years, due to the small size of the District. The District conducts capital improvement planning informally on an as-needed basis.

Existing Demand and Growth Projections

Land uses within the District are residential and recreational. The District's bounds encompass nearly 0.5 square miles.

Population

According to Census 2000, the District's population was 28.¹³² Based on census designated place population in the 2010 Census, there are 33 permanent residents within the District.¹³³ Because the District is small in absolute numbers, an increase in only five full-time residents resulted in an increase in population of 18 percent over the last ten years.

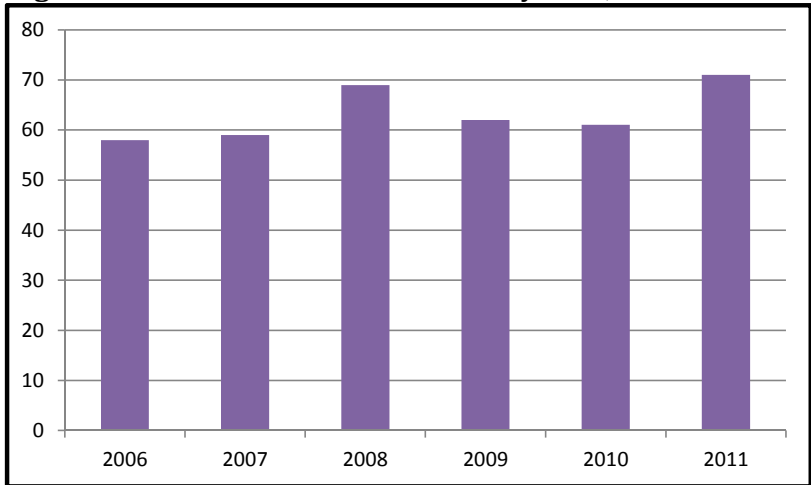
Existing Demand

The peak fire service demand times for the District are in the summer months when the area experiences an influx of tourists and seasonal residents. Calls for medical emergencies are consistently high in volume throughout the year, similar to other fire districts in the region.

¹³² Census designated place Lake Almanor West in Plumas County.

¹³³ Census designated place Lake Almanor West in Plumas County.

Figure 10-3: PAFPD Number of Calls by Year, 2006-2011



The District reported that it had observed an increase in the level of fire service demand in the last few years. The chief believes that it is due to out-of-district visitors.

As shown in Figure 10-3, there was a surge of fire service calls in 2008, after which the call volume went back down in 2009 and 2010, and again returned to peak levels in 2011. Since, PAFPD and WACSD are dispatched to all of each other's calls, the annual number of calls is the same for both districts.

Projected Growth and Development

WACSD anticipates growth in service demand within the District in the next few years. The community of Prattville is mostly built out with three to four empty lots, but service demand is expected to increase due to tourist activity. There are multiple planned RV hook-ups within Plumas Pines Resort and the National Forest area. A new campground, boat launch, and P.G.&E. beach are also expected to add to the District's service demand.

The District does not create population projections, as it relies entirely on an all-volunteer staff and limited funding. In addition, even in case of a foreseen increase in demand, PAFPD would not be able to hire additional personnel. However, an increase in demand within PAFPD could ultimately affect personnel decisions for WACSD. Therefore, the two districts should collaborate to forecast service needs within PAFPD to be able to adequately respond to each incident.

The State Department of Finance (DOF) projects that the population of Plumas County will grow by five percent in the next 10 years. Thus, the average annual population growth in the County is anticipated to be approximately 0.5 percent. Based on these projections, the District's population would increase from 33 in 2010 to approximately 35 in 2020. It is anticipated that demand for service within the District will increase minimally based on the DOF population growth projections through 2020.

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 together on a process to ensure that all appropriate districts are contacted for review of proposed developments. The County Board of Supervisors recently contracted with a fire prevention specialist; however, this position has no responsibility for code enforcement and building inspections.

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

- 1) Turnouts are now required in every new development.¹³⁴
- 2) The County encourages development to be located adjacent to or within areas where fire services already exist or can be efficiently provided.¹³⁵
- 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.¹³⁶
- 4) Sustainable timber and biomass production and harvesting as well as intensive forest management practices are encouraged to reduce the danger of catastrophic wildfires.¹³⁷
- 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.¹³⁸

¹³⁴ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.604 (k).

¹³⁵ Plumas County, *General Plan*, 1984, pp. 28 & 29.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

- 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.¹³⁹
- 7) Bridges are required to be designed for an 80,000 pound vehicle load.¹⁴⁰
- 8) All access roads must be marked with an approved sign; and all lots must be identified by an address.¹⁴¹
- 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.¹⁴²
- 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.¹⁴³
- 11) The County encourages biomass thinning programs in high fire risk areas.¹⁴⁴

The County is in the process 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.

¹³⁹ Ibid.,

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.601.

¹⁴⁴ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 4 Section 4-2.101.

- 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.¹⁴⁵

The County has not adopted the new standards for development yet. The revised General Plan may be adopted towards the end of 2012. County zoning code will then go through a revision process in order for the zoning code to implement the General Plan.

In 2007, the Board of Supervisors formed the Emergency Services Feasibility Study Group to “evaluate the funding feasibility of providing uniform and comprehensive emergency services to all of Plumas County.” The Committee attempted to look for opportunities to increase funding for emergency services, but faced a considerable challenge in the difficult economic times. It has been working on mitigating efforts through building and development standards improvements and the General Plan update process, and encouraging local fire service providers to share resources and realize economies of scale in preparing grant applications, conducting training and engaging in other joint programs. Most recently, the Committee has focused on solving an “out-of-district problem” when properties that are located outside of fire district boundaries are not properly served, and hiring a fire prevention specialist who will develop strategies and plans to help resolve the out-of-district problem by working with the public, local fire districts, Fire Safe Council, Feasibility Group and the Board of Supervisors and by updating community wildfire protection plans and Firewise Community plans.

PAFPD, similarly to WACSD, reported the District was willing to consider including one small pocket of about 35 to 40 lots called Big Meadows in its SOI. PAFPD believes that it is in a better position to annex the area because its station is located only about two miles away from Big Meadows. There have been no serious annexation discussions with Big Meadows.

With regard to possible governance structure alternatives, the District reported that it was interested in consolidation with WACSD. Currently, the two districts have a functional consolidation contract renewable every July 1st. The districts decided not to proceed with consolidation at this time and, instead, to expand the existing agreement. Under the new agreement, which is currently being drafted, WACSD will take over the Prattville-Almanor FPD administration. The WACSD chief will also act as the PAFPD chief. The contract will be

¹⁴⁵ Plumas County General Plan, Draft Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures, 2010.

automatically renewed annually until the districts decide to proceed with consolidation, change the conditions of the agreement, or to cancel the agreement altogether.

Financing

The District reports that current financing levels are adequate to deliver services. Although PAFPD experienced a reduction in funding due to termination of an equipment lease to CalFire, the situation has been mitigated by a recently passed assessment.

The County keeps accounts for the District's finances and tracks revenues and expenditures. The District's total revenue for FY 10-11 was \$25,950. Revenues included property tax revenue (87 percent), interest from investments (one percent), state and federal aid (one percent), and other revenue (11 percent).

The primary source of funding is a share of the county property taxes, which varies with the assessed valuation of Prattville parcels. In November 2011, voters of the District approved a benefit assessment of \$75 per year, which is not reflected as part of the FY 10-11 revenues.

PAFPD's expenditures were \$16,116 in FY 10-11. Of this amount, 83 percent was spent on services and supplies, 14 percent on salaries and benefits and three percent on fixed assets.

Prattville-Almanor FPD currently pays WACSD \$5,000 to share in the cost of operations which includes fuel, manpower, equipment maintenance, vehicle insurance, and training expenses.

The District performs capital improvement planning as needed. Needs are assessed through input from firefighters, WACSD's chief and the PAFPD Board of Directors. Capital improvements are financed through fundraising and donations from the Fire Crackers auxiliary.

PAFPD has a financial reserve for engine needs, which is not a formal policy but an informal management practice. The District reports that about \$10,000 annually goes into the reserve. At the end of FY 10-11, the engine fund contained \$66,426.

The District does not participate in any joint ventures under joint powers agreements (JPAs).

FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

Service Overview

Prattville-Almanor FPD provides structural fire protection, basic life support, limited rescue services, and some fire prevention services. Calfire and USFS conduct most fire prevention activities in the area. The District contracts with Chester PUD fire department for ambulance service.

Collaboration

The District has a functional consolidation contract with West Almanor CSD according to which WACSD provides operations, training and automatic aid response to all emergency calls and incidents in the PAFPD boundary area. The WACSD fire chief or assigned duty officer is in charge of all operations on emergency responses. West Almanor CSD, according to the contract is responsible for training of all PAFPD sworn personnel. The contract is valid for one year and is renewable every July 1st. PAFPD and WACSD are in the process of writing up a new agreement, under which WACSD will also take over PAFPD's administration. The new contract will be renewable annually.

The District maintains informal mutual aid agreements with all fire service providers in Plumas County, CalFire and USFS. PAFPD is a member of Almanor Basin Fire Chiefs' Association, Plumas County Fire Chiefs' Association and Special District Association.

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 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 (including PAFPD), which are served by the Susanville Interagency Fire Center. Susanville Interagency Fire Center is an Emergency Operations Command Center composed of four cooperating agencies: U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Forest Service also has its own dispatch. The Susanville Interagency Fire 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.

Radio frequencies are shared with other fire agencies; and communications are interoperable. There is a possibility that when PAFPD changes its radio systems to the mandated narrow banding in the near future it may cause decrease in radio reception that could further result in communications issues.

Staffing

PAFPD has five sworn personnel—one volunteer fire chief and four volunteer firefighters. None of the volunteers get compensated. The median age of the firefighters is 52, with a range from 18 to 70.

The District reports that its staffing levels have not changed significantly in the last few years. PAFPD tries to recruit more volunteers to help support the fire department, but due to mostly transient nature of the homeowners within the District, it is hard to find willing volunteers.

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.¹⁴⁶ PAFPD has one Firefighter II and one EMT I certified personnel. All of the District's firefighters are Firefighter I certified.

All training is conducted by West Almanor CSD. On average, 40 hours of training are required prior to obtaining Probationary Firefighter status. Currently, all of the District's volunteers are trained to Firefighter I level standards. Over 140 hours of training per year are available to volunteer firefighters. The primary challenge to meeting state-mandated training levels is that district personnel are volunteers and some of them are not year-round residents, which makes it hard for them to commit the necessary amount of hours.

Facilities and Capacity

The District owns and maintains one fire station, located at 2977 Scott Drive, Canyon Dam, which was built in 1974. Prattville-Almanor station was reported to be in good condition. It houses one type 2 fire engine, one type 1 tactical water tender and one rescue unit.

PAFPD is served by two water providers. Each provider has a 20,000 gallon storage tank for resident and firefighting use. Both systems are low pressure; and pressure must be boosted for firefighting purposes. In addition, the District has the lake and a well system to draw from.

¹⁴⁶ State Fire Marshal, Course Information and Required Materials, 2007, p. 44

Infrastructure Needs

Longer-term capital improvement needs for the District include replacing multiple pieces of equipment with smaller more up-to-date ones.

Immediate needs consist of improvements to the water supply. The existing supply line from the well system was reported to be inadequate to hook up to, and in need of enhancements in order to operate adequately.

Challenges

The District does not have any areas within its boundary area that are difficult to reach.

The biggest challenge for PAFPD is not having enough volunteer personnel available to respond and provide service in a safe and efficient manner. For this reason, mutual aid agreements are in place to help alleviate potential staffing issues on a fire scene.

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. Communities with the best fire department facilities, systems for water distribution, fire alarms and communications, and equipment and personnel receive a rating of 1. PAFPD has no ISO rating as it has never been evaluated. PAFPD is hoping to be evaluated in the near future.

The guideline established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for fire response times is six minutes at least 90 percent of the time, with response time measured from the 911-call time to the arrival time of the first-responder at the scene. The fire response time guideline established by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (formerly the Commission on Fire Accreditation International) is 5 minutes 50 seconds at least 90 percent of the time.¹⁴⁷

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 includes the rural and wilderness classifications. PAFPD does not track its response times.

¹⁴⁷ Commission on Fire Accreditation International, 2000.

It was reported that since West Almanor CSD responds to all PAFPD calls, the average response time for a duty officer is within two minutes of dispatch. The PAFPD engine response is about four to five minutes. When PAFPD personnel are available in the area, response time is within three to four minutes. CalFire tracks response times for each incident PAFPD is dispatched to within its boundaries. It was reported by CalFire that the District's average response time in 2011 was 3.4 minutes inside its bounds. The percentage of response times under five minutes was 67. An area that PAFPD could improve upon is tracking and logging its response times for each incident and collaborating with CalFire on data exchange, which would allow for more structured response and enhanced efficiency and consistency.

The service area size¹⁴⁸ for each fire station varies between fire districts. The median fire station in Lake Almanor Area serves approximately 37 square miles. Densely populated areas tend to have smaller service areas. For example, the average service area for Peninsula FD is five square miles. WACSD and PAFPD serve the most expansive area, with 99 square miles served per station on average. Although the PAFPD's service area is 198 square miles, because WACSD and PAFPD cover the same service area and each of them has one station, the 198-square mile territory is served by two stations, each of which is serving 99 square miles.

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 Lake Almanor area vary from 31 call firefighters per 1,000 residents in PFD service area to 59 in WACSD and PAFPD.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁸ Service area refers to the area that the agency will respond to, based on a first responder map used by the Sherriff's office.

¹⁴⁹ PAFPD and WACSD have the same service area, share resources and get dispatched to each other's calls. Many of their service adequacy indicators are the same, including firefighters per 1,000 residents, since resourced are pooled to serve both districts.

Figure 10-4: Prattville-Almanor Fire Service Profile

Fire Service					
Facilities					
Firestation	Location	Condition	Staff per Shift	Vehicles	
PAFPD Station	2977 Scott Drive, Canyon Dam, CA	Good	Unstaffed	1 Type 2 fire engine, 1 Type 1 tactical water tender and 1 rescue unit.	
Facility Sharing					
Current Practices: The District has an automatic aid agreement with WACSD The two agencies share resources and conduct joint trainings.					
Future opportunities: The District does not see any opportunities to share facilities with other agencies.					
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies					
Capital imprvement needs include improvements to water supply line from well system and replacement of equipment.					
District Resource Statistics		Service Configuration		Service Demand	
Staffing Base Year	2011	Configuration Base Year	2011	Statistical Base Year	2011
Fire Stations in District	1	Fire Suppression	Direct	Total Service Calls ⁵	71*
Stations Serving District	2*	EMS	Direct	% EMS	52%
Sq. Miles Served per Station ¹	99*	Ambulance Transport	CPUD	% Fire/Hazardous Materials	4%
Total Staff ²	6	Hazardous Materials	Direct	% False	8%
Total Full-time Firefighters	0	Air Rescue/Ambulance Helicopter	Enloe, PHI	% Misc. emergency	13%
Total Call Firefighters	5	Fire Suppression Helicopter	USFS, CalFire	% Non-emergency	23%
Total Sworn Staff per Station ³	5	Public Safety Answering Point	Sheriff	% Mutual Aid Calls	10%
Total Sworn Staff per 1,000	59*	Fire/EMS Dispatch	SIFC	Calls per 1,000 people	234*
Service Adequacy			Service Challenges		
Response Time Base Year	2011	Lake of reliable roads and winter storms present chellenges to WACDS.			
Average Response Time (min) ⁴	3.4	Training			
Percentage of response times under 5 min	67%	Over 140 hours of training per year are available to all volunteers. All personnel trained to Firefighter I standards.			
ISO Rating	None				
Mutual & Automatic Aid Agreements					
The District has automatic aid agreement with WACSD and mutual aid agreements with all fire providers in the County, CalFire and USFS.					
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.					
4) Response time are provided for incidents responded to by the District within its boundaries.					
5) PAFPD had 71 calls, as reported by the District. According to CalFire, PAFPD responded to 48 service calls.					
* Based on pooled resources, response to same service calls and identical service area of WACSD and PAFPD these service indicators are the same for two districts.					

PRATTVILLE-ALMANOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DETERMINATIONS

Growth and Population Projections

- ❖ Present full-time population of Prattville-Almanor Fire Protection District (PAFPD) is 33. A majority of the District's population is seasonal.
- ❖ Based on DOF projections, the District's population would increase to approximately 35 in 2020.
- ❖ The District's boundary area is built out and majority of service demand increase is expected to be a result of tourist activity in the region.

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

- ❖ The District's existing facilities have the capacity to adequately serve current demand and short-term growth.
- ❖ Infrastructure needs include improvements to water supply line from the well system and equipment replacements.
- ❖ It is recommended that the County Sheriff's Office work with the fire districts to update the ESN map that is used for dispatching, in order to adequately address any communication concerns and recent boundary changes.
- ❖ Currently, capital improvement projects are planned on an as-needed basis. The District should consider adopting a capital improvement plan to identify financing needs and sources for these needs.
- ❖ An area that PAFPD could improve upon is tracking response times for each incident and collaborating with CalFire on information exchange.

Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

- ❖ The District reports that current financing levels are adequate to deliver services. The situation especially has improved with the approval of an assessment.
- ❖ PAFPD experienced reduction in funding due to termination of equipment leased to CalFire, but the situation has been mitigated by a recently passed assessment.
- ❖ The District has a reserve engine fund which receives \$10,000 a year. The balance at the end of FY 10-11 was \$66,426.

Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

- ❖ PAFPD collaborates with other fire providers in Plumas County through informal mutual aid agreements and common trainings, and with WACSD through an automatic aid agreement and functional consolidation contract. WACSD and PAFPD share resources and conduct joint trainings. Under the new agreement, WACSD will take over PAFPD administration.
- ❖ PAFPD is a member of the Almanor Basin Fire Chiefs' Association, Plumas County Fire Chiefs' Association and Special District Association.
- ❖ The District did not identify any additional opportunities to share its facilities with other agencies in the future.

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

- ❖ PAFPD demonstrated accountability and transparency by disclosing financial and service related information in response to LAFCo requests.
- ❖ Governmental structure options are annexation of Big Meadows and consolidation with WACSD. Consolidation with other fire districts offers opportunities for shared resources and finances.