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bring on five new officers) but this Grand Jury is convinced it's not a matter of if something tragic will happen, but when

Programs and Procedures:

Finding 1: The procedure for booking and detaining arrestees is secure and efficient. Because of the inadequate staffing, the exercise areas are potentially problematic. The workout room can hold only 20 inmates at a time with one officer monitoring them. The exercise yard has only one officer monitoring of 35 inmates at a time. This ratio is totally inadequate for individuals with violent and/or psychotic proclivities.

Finding 2: The grievance process for inmates seemed to be adequate. Concerns of the inmates are appropriately addressed and dealt with.

Finding 3: Programs offered at the jail include: educational, religious, medical/dental and mental health. Not offered, because of a lack of need for them or as a result of the minimal time spent at the facility, (all inmates are released within one year) are programs concerned with; vocational, domestic violence, victim/gang, diversity awareness and work furlough activities.

Recommendation:

Considering the lack of space and staffing, the Grand Jury feels the jail is doing all it can to provide the needed programs for inmates to utilize. Assistance from various community organizations on an as needed basis is certainly greatly needed and appreciated.

Conclusion:

In spite of the inadequate staffing and outdated facility, the Plumas County jail does a superb job in serving the citizens of Plumas County.

It is imperative, however, that we move forward toward the establishment of a new jail or to addressing the critical needs currently jeopardizing the efficiency and safety of the jail and its staff

The Grand Jury expects meaningful responses from the Board of Supervisors and associated committees and departments. Waiting for a major tragic event to occur before substantial action is taken is unacceptable

We will work with the deciding bodies to correct the concern of the county correctional facility, which has been on the books for more than a decade.

We owe to our peacekeepers – the one who protect us from the dark elements of our community – at least that.

Stimulus Grant Funding

In a review of previous Grand Jury Final Reports, the 2009-2010 Plumas County Grand noted that a need for additional funding was reiterated throughout all Jail Inspection reports. As a result, the Grand Jury looked into grant and stimulus-funding activities being performed by Plumas County government.

Grant funding needs are unique to each county department, so grant writing usually occurs in each department, jail included. However, the Grand Jury found that the pursuit of federal stimulus funds is led by the Stimulus Task Force Originating Committee. This committee consists of seven task force members, and participating members: School District (1), Feather River College (1), Hospitals (3), Plumas County Management Council (24), Economic Recovery Committee (12) and the Board of Supervisors (5).

The Grand Jury requested and was granted permission to attend and observe the next Stimulus Task Force Originating Committee meeting which was then scheduled for February 24, 2010. Two Grand Jury panel members attended the meeting, held in the Board of Supervisors room at the Courthouse in Quincy. Of the forty-six members and participants, three task force and two Plumas County Management Council members were in attendance.

The Grand Jury felt that the meeting was quite informative regarding what it takes to get stimulus funds, and the requirements to get them. We found that stimulus grant funding is not just free money; there is a catch to getting some of these federal funds. For example the County Sheriff said that he requested \$250,000 for funding two new deputy sheriff positions. The request was turned down because there is not enough crime in Plumas County, according to the federal Government. Additionally, if awarded the funds, after two years, the county would have to fund the new positions permanently. If not done, the county would be required to return the stimulus funds to the Federal Government.

Following are some of the projects the Stimulus Task Force Originating Committee members are working on: \$2.2 million for Forest service, environmental , Beckwourth Fire station, breaking ground in June or July; reverse 911 system Federal Grant of \$100,000 plus, almost complete; \$108,000 energy grant, joint venture with Feather River College. Also being requested - a grant for Feather River College and three other colleges for training programs in renewal technology; biomass-solar-wind energy, baby boomer replacement programs in partners with PGE; \$440,000 for weatherizing programs for low income, \$35,000 for health and human services; broadband development between Chilcoot and Keddie, \$2.5 million Airports-FFA, and \$1,473,450 for road projects, Bucks Lake Road. Spanish Creek overpass, \$28,000,000; creek projects, trails; \$1,000,000, new trails in - 5 years. Fuel reduction work, \$200,000. Visitors center at Chester Airport, amount unknown; Johnsville ski lift operations, \$2.7 million, Sierra Nevada College courses in ski hill operations.

Based on what was described to the Grand Jury, it appears that the committee is doing all that they can to get all the stimulus funds possible for the county as well as for the jail. Attendees made it clear that the competition to gain stimulus funding is very stiff, and just applying for it does not necessarily mean that they will get the funds.

Appendix A - Function of the Grand Jury

The Plumas County Grand Jury is a body of nineteen Plumas County citizens charged and sworn to inquire into matters of civil concern within the boundaries of Plumas County and any incorporated city within these boundaries. Appendix B lists the County and City Departments that are open to Grand Jury inquiry. Grand Jury duties, powers, responsibilities, qualifications and selection processes are set forth in the California Penal Code Section 888 et seq. See Appendix D.

The Grand Jury functions lawfully only as a body. No individual grand juror may act alone and has no authority to act alone. Meetings of the Grand Jury are not open to the public. The Penal Code requires that all matters discussed before the Grand Jury and all deliberations are to be kept private and confidential. The end result of all investigations into civil matters is released to the public in a final report, which sets forth the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury.

Participation in Grand Jury service is an opportunity for citizens from various communities within the county to work together, get an in-depth look at local government, and to make informed recommendations which may improve and enhance services. The effectiveness of a Grand Jury is determined not only by the selection of topics, agencies and entities to be reviewed, but also by the sitting panel's thorough and attentive commitment to detail and accuracy so that the findings in the final report are substantiated, provable and verifiable.

Service on the Grand Jury is also a way to contribute and make a positive difference. Jurors serve twelve months and some jurors continue on to serve a second twelve months. The term of service runs from July 1 to June 30.

The term of the Grand Jury is limited and, by necessity, the panel must narrow its focus in order to be thorough. Therefore, the citizenry may question why certain issues are not covered in greater detail. If any citizen is concerned or interested in asking the Grand Jury to review a specific matter, the citizen complaint is the method, and the forms are available at the Plumas County website. Whether the issue is a complaint or simply a concern, this is the venue by which citizens may be heard and a response may be made. A sample Citizen Complaint form and directions for submission may be found in Appendix E.

This final report represents the work that has been done by the 2009-2010 Grand Jury, a body of research, observations, and interviews that have allowed this panel to formulate their findings and recommendations. The persons responsible for the departments, offices, and issues addressed herein may agree or disagree with our findings and recommendations, but they are obligated to respond. (Refer to Appendix F for the requirements set forth for response.) The nineteen members of this Grand Jury are privileged to have served the citizens of Plumas County, and we wish to convey our respect, as well, for all those who serve in county government.

Appendix B: Plumas County Grand Jury History of Investigations

<i>Department, Agency Program</i>	<i>Earlier Years</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>	<i>2008-2009</i>	<i>2009-2010</i>
Administrator/CAO	95-96 01-02							
Agriculture Commissioner								
Airport Operations								X
Alcohol & Drug	95-96 01-02							
Animal Services	95-96 01-02 02-03		X		X			X
Assessor	95-96 98-99							
Auditor/Controller	01-02							
Board of Supervisors	01-02			X	X	X	X	
Building Department	02-03		X					X
Clerk/Recorder	01-02							
Community Services Districts					X			
County Counsel								
District Attorney	98-99				X			
Facility Services	99-00 02-03		X					
Fair	01-02					X		
Farm Advisor								
Feather River College					X			
Fire Management								X
Health Dept./Environmental Health (Plumas Co Public Health Agency)		X						X
Hospital Districts	01-02						X	
Housing & Community Development								
Human Resources	99-00	X						
Information Technology	99-00							
Jail	Annual	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Juvenile Hall	02-03		X					
Law Library	99-00							
Library	98-99							
Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)						X		
Mental Health	95-96 99-00							
Museum	98-99							
Nutrition Program	95-96						X	
Office of Emergency Services						X		
Planning Department								X
Plumas Corporation	01-02							X
Plumas County Flood Control & Water Conservation Dist		X	X					
Plumas Unified SD	02-03	X	X					
Probation Department	98-99	X						
	01-02							
Public Works Department	98-99							
	01-02							
Sheriff/Coroner	98-99	X				X	X	
	01-02							
Stimulus Funding								X
Social Services/Public Guardian	95-96				X			
Treasurer/Tax Collector	98-99							
Risk Management								
Veteran's Services	95-96				X			
Fire Departments	01-02 02-03		X					
Portola Cemetery District								
Recreation Districts	95-96							

-recommended for
investigation
follow-up

-recommended for
Investigation
follow-up

-recommended for
investigation

follow-up

-recommended for
investigation
follow-up

Appendix C: Requirements per Penal Code Section 888 et seq.

The Penal Code requires the Grand Jury to:

- Inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons;
- Inquire into the willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers;
- Investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of county officers, departments, or functions of the county. The investigations may be conducted on some selective basis each year;
- When requested by the Board of Supervisors, investigate and report upon the needs for increase or decrease in salaries of the county elected officials; and,
- Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations no later than the end of its term, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

In addition to these requirements, the Grand Jury may:

- Investigate and report upon the needs of all county officers, including the abolition or creation of offices and the equipment for, or the method or system of performing the duties of, the several offices;
- Examine the books and records of a redevelopment agency, a housing authority, or a joint powers agency and may investigate and report upon the method or system of performing the duties of such agency or authority; and,
- Examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district located wholly or partly in the county or the local agency formation commission in the county and may investigate and report upon the method or system of performing the duties of such district or commission.

Although not mandated by the California Penal Code, it is the policy of the Plumas County Grand Jury to review and acknowledge all written, dated, and signed citizen complaints. See Appendix E for more information about filing a citizen complaint.

Appendix D: Citizen Complaint Form and Explanation

<p style="text-align: center;">PLUMAS COUNTY GRAND JURY, P.O. Box 784, Quincy, CA 95971 CITIZEN COMPLAINT FORM (Please print or type all information)</p> <p><u>Person Filing Complaint</u> Date: Name: Phone Address: City State/Zip</p> <p><u>Agency or person about whom complaint is made</u> Name: Title Department:</p> <p><u>1. Describe your complaint</u> (Briefly state action that is (was) dishonest, improper, illegal, inefficient, etc.)</p> <p><u>2. Set forth the facts upon which the complaint is based.</u> (Describe in detail, include all names, dates, places, etc.)</p> <p><u>3. What other agencies, officials or persons have you contacted about this matter? What was (has been) their response to you?</u> (Give names, addresses, phone numbers, contact dates and any other information you think is pertinent.)</p> <p><u>4. Is the complaint involved in litigation? No Yes</u></p> <p><u>5. Should we contact any other agencies or persons?</u> (Please give names, addresses, phone numbers, etc.)</p> <p><u>6. What action do you think the Grand Jury should take?</u></p> <p>Signature:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IT IS A CRIME TO REPORT TO THE GRAND JURY THAT A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED KNOWING THE REPORT TO BE FALSE. (Penal Code No. 148.5.d)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATTACH COPIES OF PERTINENT DOCUMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE (USE AND ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)</p>
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The Grand Jury may also review and acknowledge all written, dated and signed citizen complaints. Within the time allowed by its established investigatory priorities, the Grand Jury may investigate complaints where appropriate. All complaints are treated confidentially. This applies to the written documents as well as the testimony of witnesses and participants. The complainant may be asked to appear as a witness. Note should be made that the sitting panel functions only as a civil Grand Jury and does not deal with criminal matters. If a complaint appears to involve the criminal court system, the matter is handed over to the office of the District Attorney for review and investigation.

Citizen Complaint forms may be obtained on-line at the Grand Jury page of the Plumas County Website or by sending a written request to:

Plumas County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 784
Quincy, CA 95971

Appendix E - Note to Respondents/Requirements for Response

As a result of Grand Jury investigation and reporting, certain agencies, entities, departments, districts, and functions of county government may be the subject of the final report which outlines findings and recommendations. Penal Code Sec. 933.05 outlines the requirements for those responding to the Grand Jury final report. For the assistance of all respondents, this Code is summarized as follows:

The responding person or entity must, within time frames specified in Penal Code 933(c), respond in one of two ways:

- That you agree with the finding;
- That you disagree wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons for the disagreement.

Recommendations by the Grand Jury require action (Penal Code 933.05). The responding person or entity must report action on all recommendations in one of four ways:

- The recommendation has been implemented, with summary of the implemented action;
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation;
- The recommendation requires further analysis. If the person or entity reports in this manner, the
- law requires an explanation of the analysis or studies in a time frame not to exceed six months;
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an accompanying explanation.

If either finding or recommendation deals with budgetary or personnel matters of a county department headed by an elected officer, both the elected officer and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if the Grand Jury so requests, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority.

Requirement to Respond

No later than 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency (includes departments) shall comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body. Every elected county officer or agency head for which the Grand Jury has responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with an information copy sent to the Board of Supervisors, on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of that county officer or agency head and any agency or agencies which that officer or agency head supervises or controls. All of these comments and reports shall forthwith be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court who impaneled the Grand Jury.

Appendix F - Grand Jury Report Distribution List

The Honorable Judge Ira Kaufman
The Honorable Judge Janet Hilde
Plumas County Grand Jury 2009-2010
Plumas County Grand Jury 2010-2011
Plumas County Administrative Officer
Plumas County Auditor/Controller
Plumas County Board of Supervisors
Plumas County Building Department
Plumas County Clerk
Plumas County Community Development Commission
Plumas County Counsel
Plumas County Court Executive Officer
Plumas County Building Department
Plumas County Department of Animals Services
Plumas County Department of Environmental Health
Plumas County Department of Public Works
Plumas County District Attorney
Plumas County Facilities Services Department
Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Plumas County Information and Technology Department (Website)
Plumas County Jail
Plumas County Libraries
Plumas County Office of Emergency Services
Plumas County Planning Department
Plumas County Public Health Agency
Plumas County Sheriff
Plumas County Superintendent of Schools
Plumas County Treasurer/Tax Collector
Plumas County Board of Realtors
Plumas Corporation
California Attorney General's Office
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection-Lassen, Modoc, Plumas District
(2)
California Grand Jurors Association
California State Archivist
California State Fire Marshall
Airport Manager- Ganser Field (Quincy)
Airport Manager-Nervino Airport (Beckwourth)
Airport Manager-Roger Field (Chester)
Chamber of Commerce: Chester
Chamber of Commerce: Greenville
Chamber of Commerce: Eastern Plumas
Chamber of Commerce: Quincy
City of Portola
Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Seneca Hospital District
All Special Districts (55)
Lassen National Forest
Plumas National Forest
Smith & Newell CPA's
U.S. Senator Boxer
U.S. Senator Feinstein
U.S. Congressman McClintock
State Assemblyman Logue
State Senator Cox
Auditors

**Appendix G: Plumas County Emergency Services Advisory
Committee
Recommendations for Fire Protection Improvement Standards
9/15/09**

Plumas County Emergency Services Advisory Committee was formed by the County Board of Supervisors in April of 2007, and renamed to the Plumas County Emergency Services Advisory Committee in 2009, in recognition of the critical needs and scope of services provided by local Fire Protection Agencies, directed that this committee be formed.

The Committee's Mission is to, "***Determine the funding feasibility of providing uniform and comprehensive emergency services to all of Plumas County***".

The Advisory Committee identified three core objectives and is working towards recommending solutions to each. They include:

- **Increasing funding for all emergency services**
- **Mitigation of existing and future hazards that impact public health and safety**
- **Providing a uniform level of service County wide that meets federal, state, and local mandates**

Members of the group have collectively identified a number of deficiencies with respect to County planning and buildings which are continuing to contribute to inhibiting County fire departments from meeting the last two objectives, and placing additional demands (fiscal & response) on these already strapped departments.

The Advisory Committee understands that fixing the fiscal problems of departments and getting to a point of uniform levels of emergency services countywide will take time. Unfortunately, probably a long time. However, the committee feels strongly that if the Board is serious about working to solve those issues, then, at the very least, the County should not continue to allow practices that continue to exacerbate the situation.

This report only identifies problems that the Advisory Committee felt could be dealt with fairly easily and in a short timeframe. There are others that will require more effort and time. Included are general recommendations for corrective actions to these problems for the Board's consideration. These recommendations are intended to serve as a framework for Fire Protection Improvement Standards for Plumas County. In-depth analysis and detailed explanations of each issue and their recommend corrective actions are not provided here. Those are expected to occur during discussions for each of the actions the Board agrees to accept. Implementation of recommendations may require a combination of Board Policy, code adoption or adjustments, public education or other activities.

Issues have been identified that pertain to a) existing homes and communities, b) new home construction in existing County approved subdivisions, and c) new subdivision development (>5 units).

Issues and recommendations are being made in four areas:

- 1. Building and Construction**
- 2. Access**
- 3. Hazardous Vegetation**
- 4. Community Planning & Development**

A. Issues that create impacts to County Emergency Services

1. Building and Construction

- A. Plumas County presently allows residents with existing shake roofs to obtain a permit from for repair/replacement of up to 50% the roof with like kind. Consequently residents wishing to continue having a shake roof can accomplish their desires in 2 years. This perpetuates a risk of structure ignition, as wood shake roofs are the number one cause of home loss in wildfires.
- B. Unprotected propane regulators can be impacted by snow loads causing threats to humans and structures.
- C. Structures are being constructed and retrofitted with automatic generators that come on when the power is turned off that may threaten firefighter safety.
- D. Construction and reconstruction of decks on existing structures and decks in new construction in Local Responsibility Areas (LRA), or low and moderate fire hazard in the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) are not covered under the 2008 California WUI building code and therefore there are no regulations governing their flammability or structural integrity in fire conditions, posing a risk to firefighter safety.
- E. Fire Departments are concerned with their ability to protect & suppress structure fires in very large homes in areas without hydrant systems.

2. Access

- A. Homes are currently being remodeled or sold which do not comply with California and Plumas County requirements for address (road & house) signing (PRC 4290), often making responses difficult and longer.
- B. Homes are currently being constructed in Plumas County that do not comply with California's requirements for Fire Safe Driveways (PRC 4290), making emergency responses more difficult.
- C. Plumas County has no requirements for the opening of gates to access homes or communities during an emergency creating a risk to public safety and difficulty for emergency responders.
- D. Many homes in Plumas County have addresses that are not tied to their structure's access point, making emergency responses difficult and/or longer.

3. Hazardous Vegetation

- A. Many homes in Plumas County do not comply with defensible space requirements (PRC 4291). Local enforcement of PRC 4291 is limited to non-existent and the citing process cumbersome. This places homes, citizens and firefighters at higher risks.
- B. Subdivisions exist with extremely hazardous fuel conditions in common areas and on vacant lot parcels which provide a continual threat to existing homes and public safety, and may prevent adjacent homeowners from attaining their 100' of defensible space.

4. Community Planning & Development

- A. Plumas County Fire Chiefs have the responsibility for increased fire protection with increased development, which creates additional impacts and an increase on the demand for their services, but they have no authority to specify requirements in the planning approval process, as they can only make suggestions.
- B. There have been a number of existing or planned Subdivisions outside of a fire protection district that are either left unprotected, or are impacting surrounding fire departments that may end up responding as good neighbors. Yet those departments receive no tax base or voice in the levels of service, for areas out of district.
- C. New citizens of Plumas County who move here and purchase homes and property appear to not always be aware or informed on who provides their fire protection, what their insurance rating is or what the wildland fire risk is until something happens.
- D. PRC 4290 requires 2,500 gallon water tanks for all new home construction when a community water system does not exist in subdivisions. Currently Plumas County does not require them for subdivisions approved before 1991. This creates a situation where there is no water available for fire suppression in entire communities, even as new homes are being constructed, posing a risk for increased fire size, structure loss and firefighter safety.
- E. Fire Hydrants in the County are not standardized, creating difficulty with assisting units in mutual aid incidents.
- F. Some subdivision zoning has allowed for the construction of large subdivisions (with numerous homes) with the use of lower class roads that limit emergency vehicle response and adequate ingress and egress during an emergency.
- G. Subdivision maps have been approved for roads that allow Hammerhead T's in communities where the Fire Chief believes it will restrict emergency vehicle access.

H. Subdivisions have been approved with extremely hazardous fuel conditions and then placing the burden for treatments on each new individual property owner. This usually precludes economy of scale and treatment options, as well as taking away the opportunity for leveraging of forest product values from all of the development. It generally leads to communities not being treated to a fire resilient condition.

B. Recommendations to mitigate identified issues that create impacts to County Emergency Services

1. Building and Construction

A. Plumas County presently allows residents with existing shake roofs to obtain a permit from for repair/replacement of up to 50% the roof with like kind. Consequently residents wishing to continue having a shake roof can accomplish their desires in 2 years. This perpetuates a risk of structure ignition, as wood shake roofs are the number one cause of home loss in wildfires.

Recommendation:

Adopt the Shake Roof Ordinance amendment proposed in 2007 which does not allow building permits for maintenance or repair of greater than 20% of a wood shake roof and require all new roofs be Class A.

B. Unprotected propane regulators can be impacted by snow loads causing threats to humans & structures.

Recommendations:

- 1) Require all propane regulators be protected under a snow shed device, roof structure, or device which provides protection.
- 2) Prior to building inspectors signing off permits, require certification that propane regulators are protected under a snow shed device, roof structure, or device which provides protection.

C. Structures are being constructed and retrofitted with automatic generators that come on when the power is turned off that may threaten firefighter safety.

Recommendations:

- 1) Require a warning sticker in or on the main electrical box with the location of the generator identified for all structures with automatic generators.
- 2) Prior to building inspectors signing off permits, require certification of warning stickers for those structures with automatic generators.

D. Construction and reconstruction of decks on existing structures and decks in new construction in Local Responsibility Areas (LRA), or low and moderate fire hazard in the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) are not covered under the 2008 California WUI building code and therefore there are no regulations governing their flammability or structural integrity in fire conditions, posing a risk to firefighter safety.

Recommendation:

Adopt California's 2008 WUI Building Code Standard for all decks in Plumas County.

E. Fire Departments are concerned with their ability to protect & suppress structure fires in very large homes in areas without hydrant systems.

Recommendation:

Require home greater than 4,000 square feet to be sprinklered.

2. Access

A. Homes are currently being remodeled or sold which do not comply with California and Plumas County requirements for address (road & house) signing (PRC 4290), often making responses difficult and longer.

Recommendations:

- 1) Prior to building inspectors allowing work to begin and on final building permit sign off; require that address signing is compliant.
- 2) Develop a process for homes being sold in Plumas County to be compliant with address signing.

B. Homes are currently being constructed in Plumas County that do not comply with California's requirements for Fire Safe Driveways (PRC 4290) in California, making emergency responses more difficult.

Recommendations:

- 1) Adopt the driveway ordinance proposed in 2007, which requires all driveways meet the PRC 4290 Fire Safe Standard.
- 2) Require all driveways for new construction meet the PRC 4290 Fire Safe Standard.
- 3) Require that all lots in a proposed subdivision be able to comply with the PRC 4290 Fire Safe Standard.

C. Plumas County has no requirements for the opening of gates to access homes or communities during an emergency creating a risk to public safety and difficulties for emergency responders.

Recommendations:

- 1) Require Knox Boxes or an available means of access for any gates.
- 2) Require an available means of access for opening of community gates when power is out.

D. Many homes in Plumas County have addresses that are not tied to their structure's access point, making emergency responses difficult and/or longer.

Recommendations:

- 1) Develop a process for a check and balance system between the Sherriff's Office and Planning & Building Department to identify gaps & errors in street and address signing.
- 2) Prior to allowing work to begin on building permits for remodels or new construction, require verification of proper address and correction if necessary.
- 3) Develop a process for homes being sold in Plumas County to require verification of proper address and correction if necessary.

3. Hazardous Vegetation

A. Many homes in Plumas County do not comply with defensible space requirements (PRC 4291). Local enforcement of PRC 4291 is limited to non-

existent and the citing process cumbersome. This places homes, citizens and firefighters at higher risks.

Recommendations:

- 1) Develop a process that allows County code enforcement officers, fire chiefs or designees, and code compliance officers, to enforce PRC 4291.
- 2) Prior to building permit final approval on building permits for remodels, require defensible space (PRC 4291) compliance as is required for new construction.
- 3) Develop a process with the County DA, Counsel, & departments to create a more effective mechanism for obtaining defensible space compliance.
- 4) Develop a process for homes being sold in Plumas County to be defensible space compliant (PRC 4291) before they are sold.

B. Subdivisions exist with extremely hazardous fuel conditions in common areas and on large vacant lot parcels which provide a continual threat to existing homes and public safety, and may prevent adjacent homeowners from attaining viable defensible space.

Recommendation:

Consider requiring treatment of hazardous fuels in community common areas and large parcels within communities at risk at some point in the future.

4. Community Planning & Development

A. Plumas County Fire Chiefs have the responsibility for increased fire protection with increased development and sub-divisions, which creates additional impacts and an increase on the demand for their services, but they have no authority to specify requirements in the planning approval process, as they can only make suggestions.

Recommendation:

Develop a process to insure that the Fire Chief with the responsibility for protection has input and an appropriate role in the in approval process for a developments and subdivisions.

B. There have been a number of existing or planned Subdivisions outside of a fire protection district that are either left unprotected, or are impacting surrounding fire departments that may end up responding as good neighbors. Those departments receive no tax base or voice in the levels of service.

Recommendations:

- 1) Stop approving new subdivisions for development without either annexation into a fire protection district, or the creation of a fire protection district.
 - 2) Create a County Fire Chief position that is responsible for the coordination of fire, EMS, and emergency services to the unincorporated portions of the County not currently covered by local agency, municipal or fire districts.
- C. New citizens of Plumas County who move here and purchase homes and property appear to not always be aware or informed on who provides their fire protection, what their insurance rating is or what the wildland fire risk is until something happens.

Recommendation:

Develop a process for homes and property being sold in Plumas County to insure disclosures of the responsible fire protection agency, fire insurance rating and wildfire risk information.

D. PRC 4290 requires 2,500 gallon water tanks for all new home construction when a community water system does not exist in subdivisions. Currently Plumas County does not require them for subdivisions approved before 1991. This creates a situation where there is no water is available for fire suppression in entire communities, even as new homes are being constructed, posing a risk for increased fire size, structure loss and firefighter safety.

Recommendation:

Require all new homes constructed outside of a community with an approved community water system (regardless of when the subdivision was approved) to comply with PRC 4290 & provide 2,500 gallons of water for fire protection.

E. Fire Hydrants in the County are not standardized, creating difficulty with assisting units in mutual aid incidents.

Recommendation:

Require all fire hydrants comply with a standard 2 1/2", 4.5', 2 1/2" standard when installing or replacing hydrants.

F. Some subdivision zoning allowed for the construction of large subdivisions (with numerous homes) with the use of lower class roads that limit emergency vehicle response and adequate ingress and egress during an emergency.

Recommendation:

Require all proposed subdivision road classes are properly determined regardless of parcel size and that they comply with PRC 4290 ingress and egress standards.

G. Subdivision maps have been approved for roads that allow Hammerhead T's in communities where the Fire Chief believes it will restrict emergency vehicle access.

Recommendation:

Develop a process for the County to work with the local Fire Chief having the protection responsibility on allowing hammerhead T's in lieu of turnarounds in new sub-divisions.

H. Subdivisions have been approved with extremely hazardous fuel conditions and placing the burden for treatments on each new individual property owner. This usually precludes economy of scale and treatment options, as well taking away the opportunity for leveraging of forest product values from all of the development. It generally leads to communities not being treated to a fire resilient condition.

Recommendations:

- 1) Require the treatment of hazardous fuels throughout a proposed subdivision prior to the map being approved.
- 2) Require provisions for the maintenance of those treated stands by the CSD or HOA in the development proposal.

