

PRESS RELEASE

Fire Safe Council Features a Guest Speaker at their October 9th Meeting

The next meeting of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council will feature a presentation by Dr. Madalene Ransome, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, on “Helping Homeowners Assess the Economic Benefits of Fuel Load Reduction” by discussing a decision tool that helps landowners understand the value of fuel load reduction on their residential properties.

The October 9th Fire Safe Council meeting will begin at 9 am at Feather River College in room 101 of the Vocational Education Building. Dr. Ransome will give her presentation on the residential fuel reduction economic decision tool at 11 am.

The program features the use of a computer-based tool named RORGEN, Rate Of Return GENerator. RORGEN helps to guide homeowner decisions by calculating the costs and benefits to a homeowner that installs and maintains fuel management practices on residential property. The model treats the cost of fuel load reduction practices as an investment and estimates the rate of return this investment. This tool has been demonstrated elsewhere and has received enthusiastic support.

This presentation of RORGEN is a joint effort by the UC Cooperative Extension and the Plumas County Fire Safe Council. Mike De Lasaux, Extension Natural Resources Advisor and Chair of the Fire Safe Council said, “The presentation should be of interest to the Council and landowners because of the potential for RORGEN to guide funding hazardous fuel reduction projects by landowners and the Fire Safe Council”.

The presentation by Dr. Ransome is another effort by the Council in working towards its Mission, ***“To reduce the loss of natural and manmade resources caused by wildfire through pre-fire activities.”*** Mike went on to say, “Everyone in Plumas County is welcome to become a member of the Fire Safe Council.”

The Council is working aggressively to obtain grant funding to provide cost-share assistance to reduce hazardous fuels, along with other educational projects. The Council has been funded to create fuel reduction demonstration projects across the County and treat 100 acre of hazardous fuels. At this meeting applications for that project, from County residents, will be discussed. The Council will also discuss a number of other issues including: a) the status and implementation progress of a number of federal and County grants to enhance public education, fire pre-planning and hazardous fuels reduction, b) progress in becoming incorporated as non-profit organization, and c) a decision on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Plumas Corp for Council grant management.

Following lunch, Dr. Ransome will also share her work in the development of Trinity County's Hazard Risk Assessment process and its potential application to Plumas County at 1:30 in room 104 of the FRC Science Building.

For more information on Plumas County Fire Safe Council activities visit their website at plumasfiresafe.org