

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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plumasfiresafe.org

Press Release

Fire Safe Council continues to seek Landowners for Hazardous Fuel Treatment Demonstration Sites

The Plumas County's Fire Safe Council continues to seek landowners who would like to participate in a "Hazardous Fuel Reduction demonstration project". This project is funded by both the USDA Forest Service, as part of the National Fire Plan, and the Plumas County Board of Supervisors, using Title III funds from Public Law 106-393 (HR-2389). The Council has received funding to treat approximately 100 acres of hazardous fuels in at least five "demonstration areas" across the County. This opportunity is available to single or multiple adjacent landowners. Landowners have until October 2, 2002 to apply.

This purpose of this project is to initiate hazardous fuel treatment demonstration projects, on private (non-industrial) lands, intermixed or adjacent to Plumas County communities. This project will demonstrate the process of hazardous fuel reduction to help other community residents, and policy makers better understand how hazardous wildland fuels can be mitigated. These demonstration projects should better help County residents understand what they can do to protect themselves, and their property, from wildfire and what the costs and benefits are. The effect of treating fuels to mitigate fire severity has a direct relationship on how fast a fire spreads, at which intensity a fire burns, and whether or not torching, crowning or spotting will occur. The amount of wildland fuel adjacent to your community or home has a major affect on how a wildland fire behaves. Treating hazardous fuel offers significant benefits by providing firefighters a safer environment from which to fight the fire and can directly affect the retention of a landowners dwelling, trees or view following a wildland fire.

A committee of the Fire Safe Council to select the final projects will rank all applicants. The committee's first cut will consider: accessibility to the public (i.e. travel corridors) and project dispersion across the County. The second cut for multiple projects in an area will consider: fire hazard ranking,- assets at risk- cooperation and contribution of commercial timber products to help offset costs

Property owners who are selected to participate in this project will be expected to agree to have hazardous fuel treatment performed to a level that will not support flames greater than two feet in length. Examples of fuelbeds that meet this condition are: green lawns, scattered bushes with little or no vegetation between them, grass less than ½ foot in height, oak leaves, and pine fir and cedar needles with maybe an occasional shrub. Tree canopy over those fuel beds is acceptable provided there is a separation of the ground fuels, smaller trees, bushes and branches of about 15 feet. Treatments usually include thinning and the removal of most ladder fuels (usually trees and shrubs less than 12-20 feet in height), with the amount removed depending on the size and numbers of trees that currently exist. Following treatment of forested properties will appear more like an open forest setting. Landowners will also need to agree that if any monies are generated from harvesting commercial trees, that revenues could be used to help offset costs.

Additionally to assist selected landowners, the Plumas County Fire Safe Council will be hiring a Registered Professional Forester to help them with treatment prescriptions, hiring of contractors and filing of any necessary paperwork to comply with the State of California Forest Practices Act.

Interested property owners can download the "Property Owner Application" located on our website (www.plumasfiresafe.org), or send a letter with your: name, address (physical & mailing), phone number, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), parcel size, a brief description of what and why you want the area treated, and include pictures if possible. Send the information, by October 2, 2002, to Plumas County Fire Safe Council - P.O. Box 1225 - Quincy, CA 95971.

Questions can be answered by calling John Sheehan at Plumas Corp - 283-3739, Mike De Lasaux at the UC Cooperative Extension - 283-6125, or Jerry Hurley at 832-4705