

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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## *Press Release*

### Fire Safe Council successful in finding Landowners for Hazardous Fuel Treatment Demonstration Sites

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is announcing its success in finding landowners willing to participate in a "Hazardous Fuel Reduction demonstration project". The Council has received over 25 applications from willing landowners across the County. The interested landowners total request for acres to be treated is over 2,300 acres. According to Mike De Lasaux, Council Chair, "we are really excited to have this much interest, and look forward to showing the value of treating hazardous fuels to the residents of Plumas County". He went on to say that he, "appreciates the time each of the land owners took to submit an application and photographs of their properties".

The purpose of this project is to initiate hazardous fuel treatment demonstration sites, on private lands, intermixed or adjacent to Plumas County communities. The 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. Treating fuels to mitigate fire severity has a direct relationship on how fast a fire spreads, at what 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. Mike went on to say that, " these landowners obviously understand that treating hazardous fuel offers significant benefits to firefighter safety and can directly improve the safety of their home, trees oand view following a wildland fire".

A committee of the Fire Safe Council will now sort through the applications using pre-determined criteria. Many if not, if all, of the landowners who applied will probably get a visit from at least one of the committee members to perform an on the ground evaluation, to help them select the best projects. The committee's first review will consider: accessibility and visibility to the public as well as dispersion of projects across the County. The committee will also look at multiple projects in an area and will consider: fire hazard ranking, assets at risk, and contribution of commercial timber

products to help offset costs. Treated forested properties will appear more open and park like.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council has also selected Brian Wayland, a Registered Professional Forester in Quincy, to assist the selected landowners with: treatment prescriptions, hiring of contractors' and filing of any necessary paperwork to comply with the State of California Forest Practices Act and federal environmental requirements.

The Council is currently developing a grant request, to treat 750 acres of hazardous fuels outside of the demonstration site projects in a number of communities and requesting funding in cooperation with Plumas Rural Services to provide defensible space cleanup around the residences of elderly and disabled citizens. According to John Sheehan, Secretary for the Council and Director of Plumas Corporation, "while we are only selecting 100 acres for treatment as demonstration sites at this time, we will begin putting many of the non selected projects, totaling over 2,200 acres, into our planning process and begin writing grants to also get as many of those acres treated as possible".

This Demonstration project is jointly funded by 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).

For more information on Plumas County Fire Safe Council's activities or links to other related sites, you can visit their website [www.plumasfiresafe.org](http://www.plumasfiresafe.org).