

To all:

In lieu of a December meeting of the Almanor Basin Fire Safe Council (cancelled today due to the 15-18 inch snowfall on the west shore), I'm distributing the following tidbits related to our most recent activities. If there are other items that should be passed around among the team, please do so.

- Report to the Community.... An article and accompanying fuel break map appeared in the November 3rd edition of the Chester Progressive, describing the progress made in the basin since June of 2002 when we published the local fire safe plan. Each of the nine "action items" cited in the plan were summarized in terms of original intent and progress made to date. It was especially gratifying to be able to note that additional large areas of our adjacent forests have been treated as fuel breaks by both private landowners and Forest Service, and that work is underway to expand that coverage even further. The high-risk areas at the south end of Warner Valley and the community of Canyon Dam are included in the upcoming treatments.

- Public Awareness Series.... The first of nine planned articles was submitted to the Chester Progressive about a month ago and is awaiting publication. The first article provides some basic forest ecology background and is accompanied by a photograph of a shaded fuelbreak on Lassen National Forest lands. The second article will be submitted after the first one is published, and will deal with wildland fire terminology (something that mystifies a lot of people). Each article will be relatively short, with the goal of providing a series of brief educational discussions during the "non-fire" season and encouraging residents to become more proactive next spring in creating and maintaining a fire safe yard and neighborhood.

- West Almanor Greenbelt Fuel break.... The final handwork and slash burning was completed just before the heavy winter weather arrived. The 17-acre parcel was one of five projects scattered throughout the county that were funded by the Plumas County Fire Safe Council as part of a demonstration program.

- Foxfarm DFPZ.... I wrote a letter of endorsement for the planned Lassen National Forest project that will treat selected areas south of Prattville, between Hwy 89 and the shoreline.

- Plumas County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan.... Jerry has been doing an outstanding job on this project, which should be nearing completion. This should become a cornerstone document for a great deal of subsequent activity aimed at reducing fire hazards countywide.

- Plumas County Fire Hazard Assessment.... Suggestions that were offered earlier on updating a few local items were incorporated into the final version of the document. Again, this should be a very helpful document for long-term planning and mitigation strategies.

Here's to a safe and enjoyable holiday season! We'll regroup after the first of the year and try for a January meeting. - Dale