



# Wildfire Prevention Report

Board Report & Measure T Update – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**To: Truckee Fire Protection District Board of Directors**  
**From: Eric Horntvedt, Wildfire Prevention Manager**

## **Green Waste - Accepting Proposals for the 2023 Curbside Greenwaste Program**

Truckee Fire issued a Request for Proposals for the 2023 Curbside Greenwaste Program from 2/2/2023-3/6/2023. Three proposals were received, and a recommendation to award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder is being presented to the Board of Directors at the March 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

## **Defensible Space & Home Hardening**

Wildfire Prevention Specialist Arden Heki is taking over the reins to keep our defensible space program operating in line with state and local defensible space requirements, while providing the best ember ignition information so we can provide the best education and programs to our community to work towards wildfire resilient communities while also helping increase insurability. Arden is working on the work plan for the 2023 season, and continuing to research and develop information for our up and coming home hardening and dead tree programs.

- Truckee Fire is accepting applications to hire up to 5 Seasonal Defensible Space Specialists. Applications are open until filled and we plan to hold the first round of interviews on March 22, 2023. More info available on <https://www.truckeefire.org/employment>

## **Forest Management & Fuels Reduction Projects**

Dillon Sheedy, Truckee Fire's Forester has been working hard to take info and lessons learned from the 2022 Measure T Block Grant pilot projects and prepare to release a notice of funding opportunity, procedural guide, and grant application virtual workshop. We are planning to have our documents completed, and be setup to release the documents and open a grant application period by April with intent to provide notification of award in June, and likely set award of funds/notice to proceed in July. This local block grant program will allow us to fund important and priority wildfire prevention projects that increase our capacities, pace and scale by working with various applicants and partners. Where possible we are going to ask applicants to bring cash and in-kind match to the project that way, we can realize the greatest community and economic benefit of these Measure T funded projects. So far, we have created 4 major categories of funding requests:

- Forest Fuels Reduction
- Forest Health & Resiliency
- Community Wildfire Preparedness
- Wildfire Prevention Education

## Grant Application:

Truckee Fire took the lead with a group of multi-jurisdictional partners to submit a competitive CAL FIRE Forest Health grant application. Forester Dillon Sheedy submitted an ~8.5M project that requested the full \$7M ask from CAL FIRE to treat approximately 2,777 acres. Truckee Fire wants to thank the Board for supporting this grant application, and all of the community partners we worked collaboratively with to create a coordinated effort to forest and wildfire resilience. Fingers crossed!

## Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Update (CWPP)

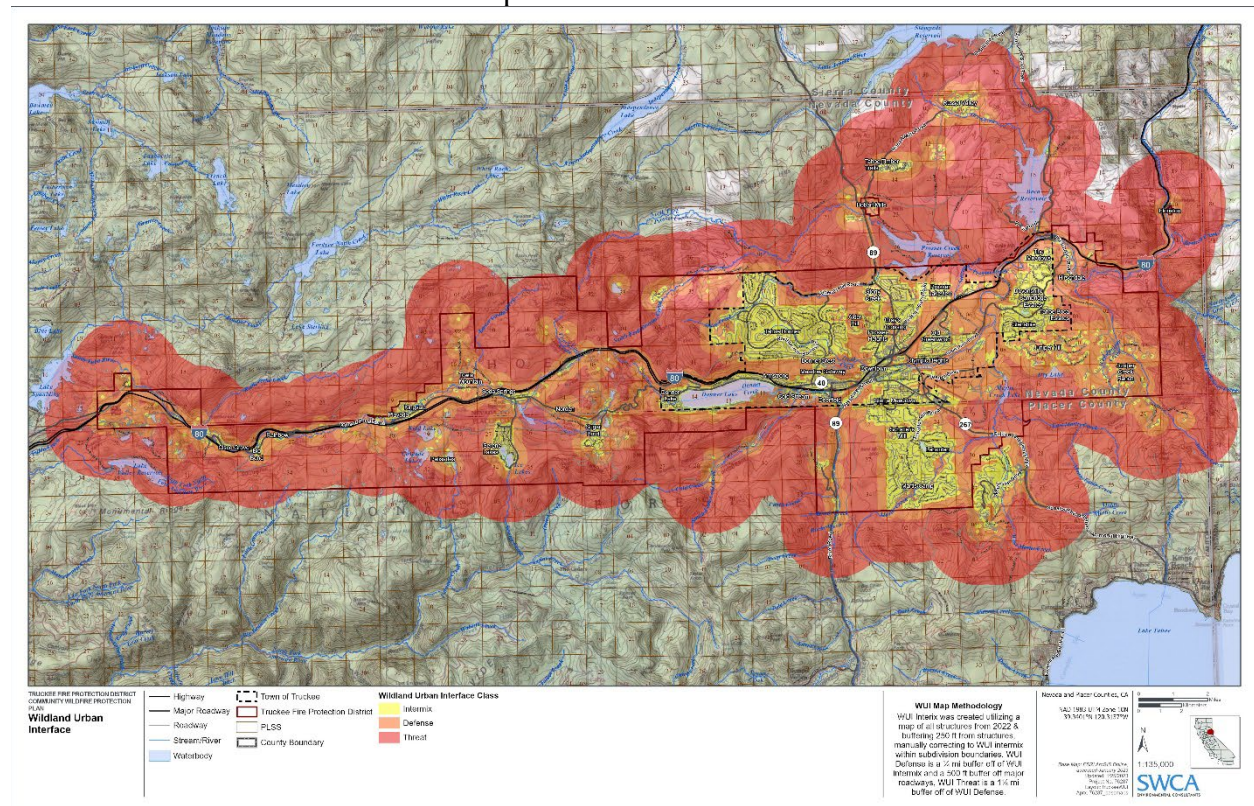
The CWPP update project has continued to go well. Our project team has great representation from partner agencies within the Fire District and we have been meeting at least monthly to provide feedback as we conduct the risk assessment portion of the CWPP update process, and begin the integration of Land Tender into the CWPP risk assessment process.

Our contractors have been working to compile best available datasets from all source, prepare the base map, and conduct a risk assessment. Once the draft risk assessment is complete, there will be multiple phases of input and collaboration from the project team to refine the risk assessment, and then we will begin working on drafting the CWPP language, and online story telling application and making phases of the document available online to the public on [www.truckeefire.org/cwpp](http://www.truckeefire.org/cwpp)

### Purpose:

The Truckee CWPP will serve as a framework, and wildfire mitigation roadmap to identify and prioritize future wildfire protection projects, and foster a community wide collaborative approach to reduce wildfire risk and hazards to life, property, community, and natural resources.

### DRAFT Wildland Urban Interface Map



The DRAFT WUI Map is not a map of fire severity or intensity, but rather a map that characterizes the Wildland Urban Intermix Classes present within the District. The WUI is defined as the area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. This map was created utilizing a map of all structures from 2022, and buffering 250ft around structures to create the WUI Intermix. The WUI Defense zone is a ¼ mi buffer from the WUI Intermix, and the WUI Threat Zone is a 1 ¼ mi buffer off the WUI Defense Zone.

### **Communications & Public Relations**

The District entered into a short-term public relations agreement with Fior Partners, and is planning for a kick off meeting in April. Staff sees value in engaging with a professional firm to develop a Public Relations Strategy that can help us tell our story and elevate awareness and education of our Measure T programs and successes. Goals:

- Establish foundational messaging and a comprehensive PR strategy to help drive and support Truckee Fire’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan long-term goals
- Achieve coverage among regional mainstream news outlets to educate and inform the public about realized achievements and programs in place
- Communicate to the community, residents and property owners about how their tax dollars are being spent and what programs are available to promote wildfire resilient communities in Truckee and in Donner Summit communities.
- Engage with local and national media to ensure Truckee Fire and its team of experts are on their radar for comprehensive coverage on wildfire prevention programs.

### **Citizens’ Oversight Committee**

The first COC meeting is set to be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm at the same TSD Meeting Room as the TFPD Board Meetings. Formal release of the agenda and posting of this public meeting will be conducted in the same business order and fashions as the TFPD regular Board Meetings. Joyce and Alexis have been working in the background to notify all COC members and alternates of required online training needs, and make sure that the trainings are completed by the first meeting. We are working up on wrapping up the first meeting’s agenda, and year end accomplishments report in anticipation of getting everything ready for the meeting.

### **Budget**

Truckee Fire Protection District received their first Measure T tax revenues in late January from both Placer and Nevada Counties. This was approximately half of the total taxes collected, and we are projecting that the annual Measure T revenues will be just over \$3.6 million for the year. The District will use these first revenues to reimburse the operational reserves that were expended last FY and this current FY to begin implementing some of the major wildfire prevention programs that were identified in the Measure T Implementation Plan. Any remaining revenues will be transferred to Measure T reserves to be used to support financial stability of the Wildfire Prevention Division as we prepare for a productive and actionable 2023 fire season. Staff has been engaged in the fiscal year budgeting processes to ensure a smooth transition between fiscal years, proper expense tracking, and planning additional program expenditures once Measure T parcel tax money is received in 2023. Finance has also been working with our auditor to prepare a FYE 2022 Measure T report that will be presented to the Board at the January meeting, and then to the Measure T Citizen’s Oversight Committee at their first operational meeting.

**Measure T Staffing**

Current staff consists of:

1 Wildfire Prevention Manager

1 Assistant Wildfire Prevention Manager/Forester

1 Wildfire Prevention Specialist II

1 Administrative Assistant

Coming Spring 2023: 4-6 Seasonal Defensible Space Specialists

With direct support from Truckee Fire Executive, Administrative, and Prevention staff.