



Wildfire Prevention Report

Board Report & Measure T Update – October 18th, 2022

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

Defensible Space Inspection & Education

We have 4 Defensible Space Specialists currently working full time. Staff is working hard to meet face to face with homeowners as inspections are scheduled, and work towards completing high numbers of defensible space inspections in our Target Areas. Target hazard neighborhoods of Prosser-lakeview, Olympic heights, and Armstrong Tract have all been completed with every house receiving an inspection report. We also took an active opportunity after the Butterfield Fire Incident and completed inspections in the bluffs area of Glenshire, and Olympic Heights. Residents were very motivated to do the work, and it gave us a good opportunity to talk with residents that had a recent fire start near their community. We are now focusing our efforts on the West End Donner Lake communities, starting with Donner Lake Woods, and moving north towards Wolfe Estates. We are on-track to reaching our goal of 3,000-5,000 inspections annually. Of note, Dillon and myself have been receiving positive feedback from residents calling in, expressing how professional and kind our inspectors have been, a great kudos to the team!

Number of inspections completed so far this season: 2,026

- This includes 27,359 unique discoveries and 14,858 photos
- On average our Defensible space specialist team is completing 25 inspections per day, finding 14 defensible space and home hardening discoveries, and taking 8 photos per inspection.
- 55% of residents receiving an inspection have accessed their report in our new online system, and we have had hundreds of residents submit resolution that they are working on items identified in their report.

Firewise events, community meetings, Truckee Thursdays, and Farmers Market have given staff some great opportunities to discuss Measure T Wildfire Prevention Programs and engage with active community leaders and volunteers. Dillon and I recently attended a community forest walk organized by Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) with over 20 Firewise and HOA community leaders across the Truckee and Tahoe area. We were able to visit the recently completed work along HWY 89 on Gray's crossing property, and had a great discussion with our community leaders about fuels management, forestry, and upcoming opportunities for funding through Measure T and a new CALFIRE block grant received by TTCF.

The Fire Aside Defensible Space Inspection Software has been working quite well and does a great job of communicating the fire hazards that are found on defensible space inspections, and informing homeowners of what parts of their homes are vulnerable and could be hardened. We are working to fine tune this new software to address some feedback from our residents, and our meet our inspectors needs.

Green Waste Programs: Pick-Up/Haul Away, Chipping, and Dumpsters

Free Chipping and Free Pick-up is a hot program in our community. So far this season, From May 1st to August 10th our contractors have been working hard to complete the following;

- 1,350 total requests for chipping or pick-up services have been completed
 - o 790 pickup & haul away requests completed with approximately 2,600 cubic yards of Greenwaste picked up and hauled to the ERL to be reprocessed and utilized (biomass facility, alternate daily cover, and full circle compost)
 - o 560 chipping requests completed with approximately 1,400 cubic yards of greenwaste chipped and left onsite.

Things have been going quite well and we are currently on Week 15 of this new program. 557 people have provided feedback from the emailed surveys, 95% of the responses have rated the program 4 or 5 out of 5, with our overall rating currently sitting at 4.8 out of 5 on average.

The 6-yard green waste dumpsters rental rebate program has also been a great hit. Thanks to Niki for all her support to take in receipts, cross check completion with reports from TTSD, and issue rebate checks for this program. As of 8/5, we have received 280 rebate requests and processed 234 rebates totaling \$17,625. Of note, last year this program ended on 9/1/22 with a total of 225 requests.

Communications

District staff has done a great job building out our website content and we will continue to add, update, and enhance as the season progresses. Go to <https://www.truckeefire.org/> and explore the “Wildfire Prevention” tab. We also created the “I Want To:” tab so community members can easily request services that we find being used the most. We also created a 2022 media and communications plan to ensure timely communication and use of various media outlets and strategies to reach the community. Topics in this media plan include: green waste programs, defensible space, home hardening, Measure T exemption info, fire restrictions, and emergency preparedness & evacuation planning information. The district will be using the website, radio, newspaper, social media, mailer, email groups, HOA & Firewise contacts, and TTCTV to spread our messages.

Budget

Truckee Fire Protection District will not receive any Measure T tax money until early 2023, and is currently using operational reserves to begin implementing some of the major wildfire prevention programs that were identified in the Measure T Implementation Plan. 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. A Final Budget will be coming to the Board in September, and this budget will be made available online for transparency as well.

Forest Management & Fuels Reduction Projets

We have some awesome news for Truckee Fire and our Wildfire Prevention Division! Big congratulations to Dillon Sheedy for passing his Registered Professional Foresters exam, he is now a Licensed Forester in the State of California, RPF #3175. Super happy to have Dillon on the

Wildfire Prevention team managing our fuels reduction projects, and soon to be filing Timber Harvest Plans, Timber Harvest Plan Exemptions and managing commercial forestry projects. Pretty awesome that we have a full time Forester here at TFPD helping manage and implement Measure T! Passing the RPF test is a huge feat, and a major milestone for Dillon's career as a Forester, he has dedicated nearly 10 years and his entire professional career to the study and practice of forestry, ecology, and wildland fire management to get to this point. Lots of hard work paying off, well done Dillon!

Dillon has been focusing his work to directly support our green waste programs, and working to engage with partners to identify projects that could apply to receive funding to complete forest management and fuels reduction work. Dillon has been a great asset to the team as we work with many HOAs, Firewise committees, landowners, and partners engaged in these treatment activities.

The District recognizes the importance of increasing the pace and scale at which our forests within and surrounding our communities are effectively managed. We are preparing to execute grant agreements with four partners through our Measure T Wildfire Prevention grant program. We are funding additional critical fuel reduction and forest management work that provides a direct benefit to the protection of life, property, and environment within the wildland urban interface of Truckee and Donner Summit. Grants will be awarded to the following organizations;

- Sugar Bowl: awarded \$100,000 for 36 acres of treatments, in addition to 72 acres that is currently in implementation
- Truckee Donner Land Trust: awarded \$45,500 for 10 acres of treatments in addition to 100 acres that is currently in implementation.
- Tahoe Donner: Awarded \$230,860 to complete an additional 82.44 acres of treatments on TD HOA property
- Gray's Crossing: awarded \$142,870 to complete 42 acres of treatments which will tie into and be in addition to all of the work completed along HWY 89 during the last year.

Post-Fire Recovery

We didn't plan on any post-fire recovery year one of a brand-new wildfire prevention and mitigation division, but staff stepped up to the table to help our partners out with some technical expertise and field advice. Dillon toured the Butterfield fire incident with representatives from TTSA, and provided them with recommendations and advice on how to repair and mitigate damages to natural resources as a result of the fire. High intensity fire effects were observed with over 80% tree mortality and 100% consumption of brush across the 15 acres.

Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Update (CWPP)

Dillon and I have been engaging with partners and working hard to develop a comprehensive and detailed Request for Proposals for the CWPP update. I'm happy to share that this Request for Proposals is in its final form and we will be working to make sure it is appropriately flown and advertised starting in Mid-August so we can begin the process to select an adept contractor to assist us in the completion of the Truckee Fire 2022/23 CWPP rewrite. This updated CWPP is very important, as it will give the District an opportunity to engage with partner agencies, land

managers, and the community to develop a comprehensive wildfire mitigation roadmap that be used to best prioritize implementation of the Measure T Community Wildfire Prevention Fund.

A CWPP follows a process and framework that was laid out in the 2004 Healthy Forest Act and is a plan developed through a collaborative process to identify and prioritize hazardous fuels reduction treatments types and methods to protect at-risk communities. A CWPP also recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability and addresses wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, and other wildfire issues. Truckee Fire facilitated the first Truckee CWPP in 2016. With the passing of Measure T, and considering the age of the plan, it is important to perform a comprehensive update to the CWPP. Staff has reviewed surrounding area CWPPs and will be working to retain a consultant and begin the update to the CWPP starting this summer. The CWPP will capture many of the large land fuel reduction projects in the WUI from participating land managers/property owners. Typically, over 20 local land managers, Federal and State firefighting agencies, and the public participate in the process. The CWPP will provide a prioritized list of WUI forest management and fuel reduction work and identify other wildfire issue focus areas where Measure T funds can be used with the greatest impact to create wildfire resilience.

Measure T Staffing

Current staff consists of:

- 1 Wildfire Prevention Manager
- 1 Assistant Wildfire Prevention Manager/Forestry Tech
- 4 Defensible Space Specialists

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