



Wildfire Prevention Report

Board Report & Measure T Update – December 20th, 2022

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

Defensible Space Inspection & Education

- 4,500+ Inspections completed in 2022!
 - 46,000+ unique discoveries found (Defensible space issues or home hardening recommendations)
 - 22,000+ Photos taken. Averaging 5 photos per home inspected.
 - Averaging 33 inspections per day
 - 57% of residents have logged in and accessed their online report
- Property Sale Inspections 480

Firewise

Hats off to our community volunteers and leaders who carry out the Firewise program in their community. This program is directly related to insurability, and through these volunteer efforts Firewise communities are able to educate residents, host community workdays, increase outreach and education and help create wildfire resilient communities.

- Truckee Fire is up to 24 Firewise Communities
 - This includes adding 5 new Firewise Communities this year: Kingvale, Floriston, Plavada, Donner Crest, and Winter Creek
- 22 Communities have completed their annual renewal requirements and remain in good standing with the program through 2023. We are working with the last 2 to get their applications submitted
- We will continue to support & develop our Firewise Communities Program

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

- Nearly 2500 Piles were serviced during the 2022 fire season
- About 9,000 cubic yards of material chipped or picked-up
- For every Dollar of Measure T spent, the community matched with \$2 (cash and value of volunteer time)

Forest Management & Fuels Reduction Projects

Dillon Sheedy, Truckee Fire's Forester has been working hard to directly support our greenwaste programs, Measure T community grant recipients, and to wrap up our only existing CALFIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant. The CALFIRE grant is on track to be completed on time, with all implementation work wrapped up, Forester Sheedy will be working on final reporting to CALIFIRE this winter.

Summary of 2022 Accomplishments:

- CAL FIRE Prevention Grant
 - 760 acres total
- Measure T & Partner Projects
 - Sugar Bowl 104 acres total, 32 acres funded by Measure T
 - Truckee Donner Land Trust, 6 additional acres funded by Measure T to expand efforts of CAL FIRE grant treatment areas
 - Tahoe Donner, 82 acres funded by Measure T to expand efforts of CAL FIRE grant treatment areas
 - Gray's Crossing, 42 acres funded by Measure T to expand previously complete Gray's Crossing HOA HWY 89 work and provided a fuel break to Prosser Lakeview

Grant Applications:

Truckee Fire is taking the lead with a group of multi-jurisdictional partners to submit a competitive CAL FIRE Forest Health grant application. We had our first collaborative grant proposal meeting on December 8th and have a large list of forest health projects that could be jointly applied for. Dillon and I will be working closely with partners the next 2 months to develop and write the grant application. We will have a more robust update on this draft grant application at the January Board meeting, and we will likely be coming to the Board in February with a resolution to authorize this application. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2023.

Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Update (CWPP)

Truckee Fire hosted a virtual CWPP Kick-off meeting on Monday, December 13th and we are officially underway with the CWPP project. For this initial kick-off meeting we had 25 partner agencies and land managers attend with representation from: Truckee Fire, Town of Truckee, CAL FIRE, Forest Service, Nevada County OES, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Placer County OES, Placer County RCD, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Tahoe Donner, and Truckee Donner Land Trust. It was great to see this many partners come out, and we were able to identify the core project team that will continue to meet monthly, and create a list of stakeholder agencies, and community stakeholders to engage during the CWPP process.

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. 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.

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.

Goals:

- Enhance Fire & Life Safety
- Mitigate Wildfire Impacts & Create Wildfire Resilient Communities
- Convene Decision Makers & Land Managers
- Engage Community & Stakeholders
- Establish Community Priorities
- Restore & Maintain Fire Resilient Communities & Landscapes

Objectives:

- Provide for public and firefighter safety by improving fire preparedness, prevention and increasing mitigation efforts
- Identify and quantify risk and hazards at a community-scale, and measures to reduce these risks and mitigate hazards
- Collaborate with key agencies, stakeholders, and the public to develop a multi-jurisdictional CWPP that fosters close cooperation and support
- Develop an implementable and prioritized plan for risk-reduction activities and monitoring that promote wildfire resilience in Truckee both short and long term
- Align the Truckee CWPP with existing and future wildfire and fuels planning documents and strategies of partner agencies
- Ensure wildfire mitigation efforts are appropriate for the forested WUI intermix communities of Truckee, and take into account the growth of Truckee communities

Communications

District staff is engaging with some Public Relations experts and consultants and is likely going to look for some outside support 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.

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. Finance is working with our auditor to prepare a FYE 2022 Measure T report that can be presented to the Board and the Measure T Citizen's Oversight Committee

Measure T Staffing

Current staff consists of:

1 Wildfire Prevention Manager

1 Assistant Wildfire Prevention Manager/Forester

1 Wildfire Prevention Specialist II

Coming Spring 2023: 4-6 Seasonal Defensible Space Specialists

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