



# Wildfire Prevention Report

**Board Report & Measure T Update – September 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.

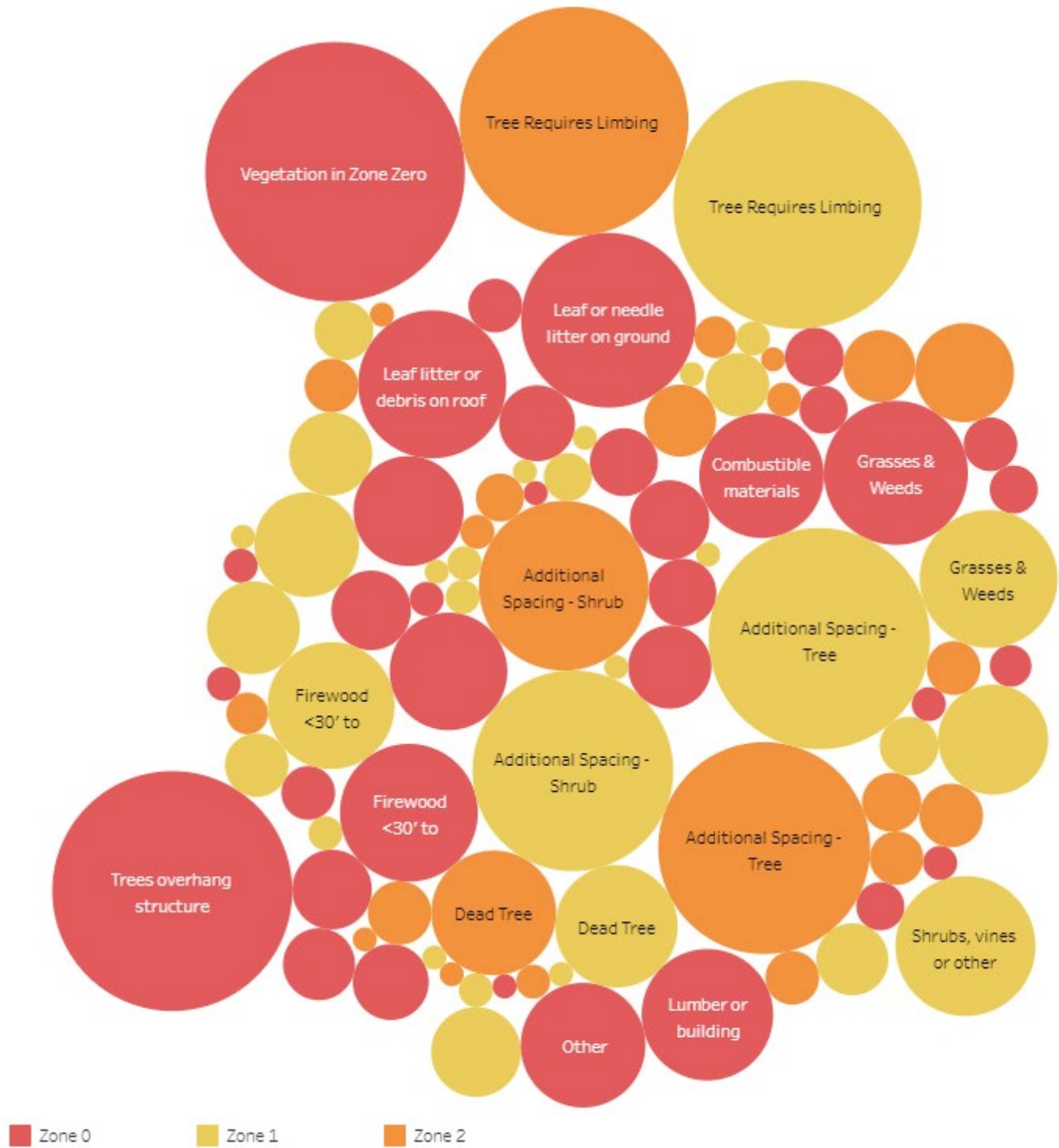
Target hazard neighborhoods of Prosser-lakeview, Olympic heights, Armstrong Tract, Wolfe Estates, and all sides of Donner Lake have all been completed with every house receiving an inspection report. To close out the season, we will be focusing our efforts inspecting 1/3 of the properties in Glenshire/Devonshire. We are working closely with the association to communicate that these inspections are taking place and look forward to meeting with residents in this community.

We exceeded the 3,000 number of inspections completed, and are right on track to meet our goal of completing 4,000+ inspections annually. This sets the District up for success to inspect every developed property at least once every 3 years which is the defensible space inspection cycle target for the State.

### **Number of inspections completed so far this season: 3,191**

- This includes 36,795 unique discoveries and 19,062 photos
- On average our defensible space team is completing 29 inspections per day, finding 13 defensible space and home hardening discoveries, and taking 7 photos per inspection.
- 60% 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.

On the next page I've provided a bubble chart with data on defensible space issues being resolved. Pretty neat to get a graphical display of what defensible space issues our community members are working the hardest to mitigate.



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

Truckee Fire's Measure T Green Waste Curbside Pick-Up & Chipping Program is coming to a close for the 2022 season. Please have piles ready & request pick-up or chipping by the deadline of September 30th. Submit your final request for any piles at: [www.truckeefire.org/greenwaste](http://www.truckeefire.org/greenwaste).

Free Chipping and Free Pick-up is a hot program in our community. So far this season, From May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> our contractors have been working hard to complete the following;

- 1,758 total requests for chipping or pick-up services have been completed
  - o 1,077 pickup & haul away requests completed with approximately 3,627 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 681 chipping requests completed with approximately 1,638 cubic yards of greenwaste chipped and left onsite.

Things have been going quite well and we are currently on Week 20 of this new program. 706 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 9/13, we have received 309 rebate requests and processed 287 rebates totaling \$21,525. Green waste dumpsters are available for most property owners through the end of October, and we will continue offering rebates. Last year this program ended on September 1<sup>st</sup> with a total of 225 dumper rebates issued, glad to see that the community will likely use 100 more dumpsters this year over last year!

## **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 is being presented to the Board at this September meeting, and this budget will be made available online for transparency.

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

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 working 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 have executed 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, expected completion 8/31/2023
- Truckee Donner Land Trust: awarded \$45,500 for 10 acres of treatments in addition to 100 acres that is currently in implementation. Expected Completion 10/31/2022
- Tahoe Donner: Awarded \$230,860 to complete an additional 82.44 acres of treatments on TD HOA property. Expected completion 6/30/2023
- 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. Expected completion 10/31/2022

Dillon has also been working on managing and completing our CALFIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant. The grant, developed by Jeff Dowling, has been a huge success thanks to our partners at Tahoe Donner Association, Town of Truckee, and The Truckee Donner Land Trust. This project is expected to be completed by 10/31/2022, the following has been accomplished;

- The Town of Truckee has completed all work associated with this grant which includes; 23.06 miles of road right of way (ROW) work (10' both side of road) for a total of approximately 56 acres. Treatment included removal of any vegetation within 10' of either side of a road to improve ingress and egress for emergency response and evacuation.
  - The Town has also completed 81.4 miles of ROW work for a total of approximately 271.5 acres of accomplishments. This work was completed as match to the project.
- Tahoe Donner has completed approximately 40 acres of fuel reduction to date within their HOA owned open space. Treatments include mastication, thinning and chipping small diameter trees, and limbing residual trees. Tahoe Donner is on track to complete their portion of the project by the next invoice date.
- Truckee Donner Land Trust has completed their portion of this project on Alder Hill for a total of 115 acres of mechanical fuel reduction and tree removal. Treatment includes mechanical thinning of trees less than 30" outside bark stump to reduce stand density and increase crown separation. Slash and sub merchantable material is being chipped and removed or masticated on site. Below is a picture of the final product:





### **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. We received an update from TTSA that they hired a contractor to remove hazard trees and chip dead material. The Contractor completed work in the Butterfield incident 9/1/2022.

### **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 was released on August 12<sup>th</sup> with a submission deadline of September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Once we receive proposals, we will 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.