



Wildfire Prevention Report

Board Report & Measure T Update - March 15th, 2022

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

Defensible Space Inspection & Education

Job announcements are posted and flown for seasonal Defensible Space Specialists with multiple openings available. Applications are due online by March 25th, 2022. We encourage anyone interested in community wildfire resilience with the ability to inspect and communicate defensible space and home hardening information clearly to the public to apply. We will be holding interviews in early April, and are tentatively planning for these positions to start on May 2nd. I will be working to identify and share information on which neighborhoods will be our focus defensible space inspection and education areas for the 2022 season. Some of the major goals for 2022 are to setup online scheduling systems so we can support solicited defensible space inspections to efficiently and effectively provide education on-site with property owners, and to complete a large number of inspections within the to-be-identified focus area neighborhoods to increase awareness on the importance of defensible space and home hardening at the community level.

Truckee Fire Protection District entered into an agreement with Fire Aside to use a new software to better inspect, communicate and educate on defensible space and home hardening. Fire Aside is a company created and staffed by fire experts who live in the wildland urban interface (WUI) who have developed a defensible space inspection software and application that uses technology to help fire agencies better connect with the community to increase knowledge and awareness of defensible space and home hardening actions that can be taken to increase wildfire resilience.

Curbside Green Waste Pick-Up/Haul Away & Chipping Services

We have completed the green waste RFP process for residential curbside green waste pick-up/haul away and chipping and have entered into contracts to carry out these two services within the district at no charge to the residents. We will be providing two options for residents from May 1 through November 1 this season. Residents will be able to request green waste pick-up/haul away if they want their green waste completely removed and disposed of, or they will be able to request chipping where their green waste will be chipped and chips will be left on-site. Communications will be ongoing throughout fire season, and services will be provided on a request basis. We will begin accepting requests for these services in mid-April. For more info on these programs, go to: <https://www.truckeefire.org/greenwaste>

Project Management

To help implement the Measure T Wildfire Prevention Programs, an Assistant Wildfire Prevention Manager/Forestry Tech position was created, and a conditional job offer has been made. This position will be largely focused on forest management & fuel reduction projects and related initiatives. The goal is for Truckee Fire Protection District to staff a full time Registered Professional Forester that can provide technical assistance to property owners, HOAs, and other

communities taking on forest management work, and to allow the district to directly administer and implement priority Community Wildfire Prevention Plan projects.

Communications Plan

District staff is currently developing wildfire prevention and Measure T website content which can found on <https://www.truckeefire.org/> under the “Wildfire Prevention” tab. The goal is to make this tab the one-stop-shop for information and services being provided through Measure T. We are also working on 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 hire core staff and begin implementing some of the major wildfire prevention programs that were identified in Measure T. Staff is engaged in the fiscal year budget process to ensure a smooth transition between fiscal years, and a switch over to Measure T expense tracking once Measure T parcel tax money is received in 2023.

Forest Management & Fuels Reduction Projets

There are many HOAs, Firewise committees, landowners, and partners engaged in forest management and fuel reduction 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 engaged with many partners, strategizing what efforts are shovel ready that could be considered for financial assistance during the 2022 season.

Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Update (CWPP)

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.