

National Fire Plan

Plumas National Forest

Pacific Southwest Region

California



It's All About Collaboration

Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Summary. Plumas County is an excellent example of what communities can do for themselves to be prepared for wildland fires. Community members, volunteer fire departments, local government, California Department of Forestry and Fire Projection and the United States Forest Service have been working together since 1998, when the Plumas County Fire Safe Council was first formed, to raise the awareness of risks associated with living in a wildland-urban environment.

Accomplishments. By working together the Council has projects underway to reduce hazardous fuels around eleven subdivisions and another project to assist elderly or disabled homeowners create defensible space around their homes. Through the Council's efforts the County's GIS capabilities have been upgraded. Driveways and water sources have been mapped, which has allowed for pre-attack maps to be created for use by Volunteer Fire Departments and the Forest Service. Evacuation plans have also been completed for five communities. A county-wide fire assessment is being conducted in the wildland-urban interface that will enable communities and the Forest Service to further refine a strategy for reducing hazardous fuels around communities. Firewise education efforts include: making videos and publications available at local stores, conducting community meetings and homeowner consultations, and participating in local events.

Funding. The Council has received funds from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, County Board of Supervisors, the local Air Quality Management District and the California Fire Safe Council to accomplish these activities. None of these organizations could have achieved these cross-jurisdictional results working on their own.

Project Example. Homeowners from Plumas Eureka Estates approached the Plumas County Fire Safe Council requesting help protecting their community from wildland fire. Through collaboration with the Resource Advisory Council and the Plumas National Forest, this project is currently underway. Forest Service engine crews are felling or limbing smaller trees to eliminate highly flammable fuels, the material is then piled for burning during wet weather, or made available for firewood.



Figure 1. Plumas Eureka Estates

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