



FIRE &



WATER

2020

FIRE AND WATER

A supplement to Gold Country Media in partnership with Placer County Water Agency

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The concentration of flammable material in the fuel break before it was cleared six years ago would burn too hot to go near and even if a firefighter could get near the blaze it wouldn't make a difference, Fire Chief Mark D'Ambrogi said.

With the trees trimmed up and the brush cut back the area looks like a park and allows firefighters to set up an offensive front against a fire.



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MESSAGE FROM ANDY FECKO



It is my pleasure to introduce the 2020 edition of Fire & Water. This is an annual publication produced by Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) in partnership with Gold Country Media to highlight the many challenges and opportunities associated with natural resources stewardship in the region.

This year, we have invited our colleagues from other local agencies and citizen groups to contribute to the conversation about how our region is dealing with two of the most important issues facing Placer and Nevada counties.

For PCWA, the nexus between fire and water is clear. Sixty-five percent of California's water supply comes from the forested watersheds that make up the Sierra Nevada Mountains and nothing causes more degradation to water supply and water quality than a mega forest fire.

Nearly six years ago, the King Fire ravaged the American River watershed which is one of PCWA's primary water sources. We are still dealing with the effects of that fire today. From destroyed watershed ecosystems to landslides and sediment in our water supplies, our customers, our citizens and visitors to our area all suffer the consequences. It has focused PCWA on solutions that reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and mitigate the effects of all fires that occur in our watersheds.

One such solution is our French Meadows Forest Restoration Project, which is a first-of-its-kind, public-private partnership to protect a critical watershed through active forest management.

The project is highlighted in this magazine on pages 26-28 (Prescribed Fire in the Tahoe National Forest).

This year's magazine also includes tips from a number of your local utilities to prepare for the upcoming fire season. This includes establishing defensible space around your property and using water efficiently. 2020 has been another dry year; and, while we are fortunate that previous generations of Placer residents invested in the infrastructure necessary to provide a reliable water supply, stretching every drop of water inside and outside your home and business helps all of us guarantee that we have water for future dry years.

My hope is this edition of Fire & Water will provide a deeper appreciation of what is required to ensure the reliability, affordability and sustainability of our water resources and our ecosystem. We are grateful for the participation of our local contributors and sponsors to provide this magazine to you, and we hope you find the contents useful for your farm, home or business.



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AUBURN SHADED FUEL BREAK

Significant progress has been made on the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break (ASFB), which is located on lands owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in the wildland-urban-interface (WUI) between the City of Auburn and Reclamation lands in the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA).

In September 2019, Reclamation completed an update to the nearly twenty-year-old ASFB prescription, which was originally developed in 2002 in collaboration with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and Reclamation. The 2002 prescription defined a 250-acre, 5.5-mile long, contiguous 300-foot-wide linear shaded fuel break atop the North Fork American River Canyon along the eastern city limits of Auburn, CA between South Auburn and the Foresthill Bridge. This prescription had served as the guiding document for construction and maintenance of the ASFB; however, increases in fire behavior, intensity and frequency throughout the west over the last decade prompted Reclamation to re-evaluate the prescription to reflect current fire conditions.

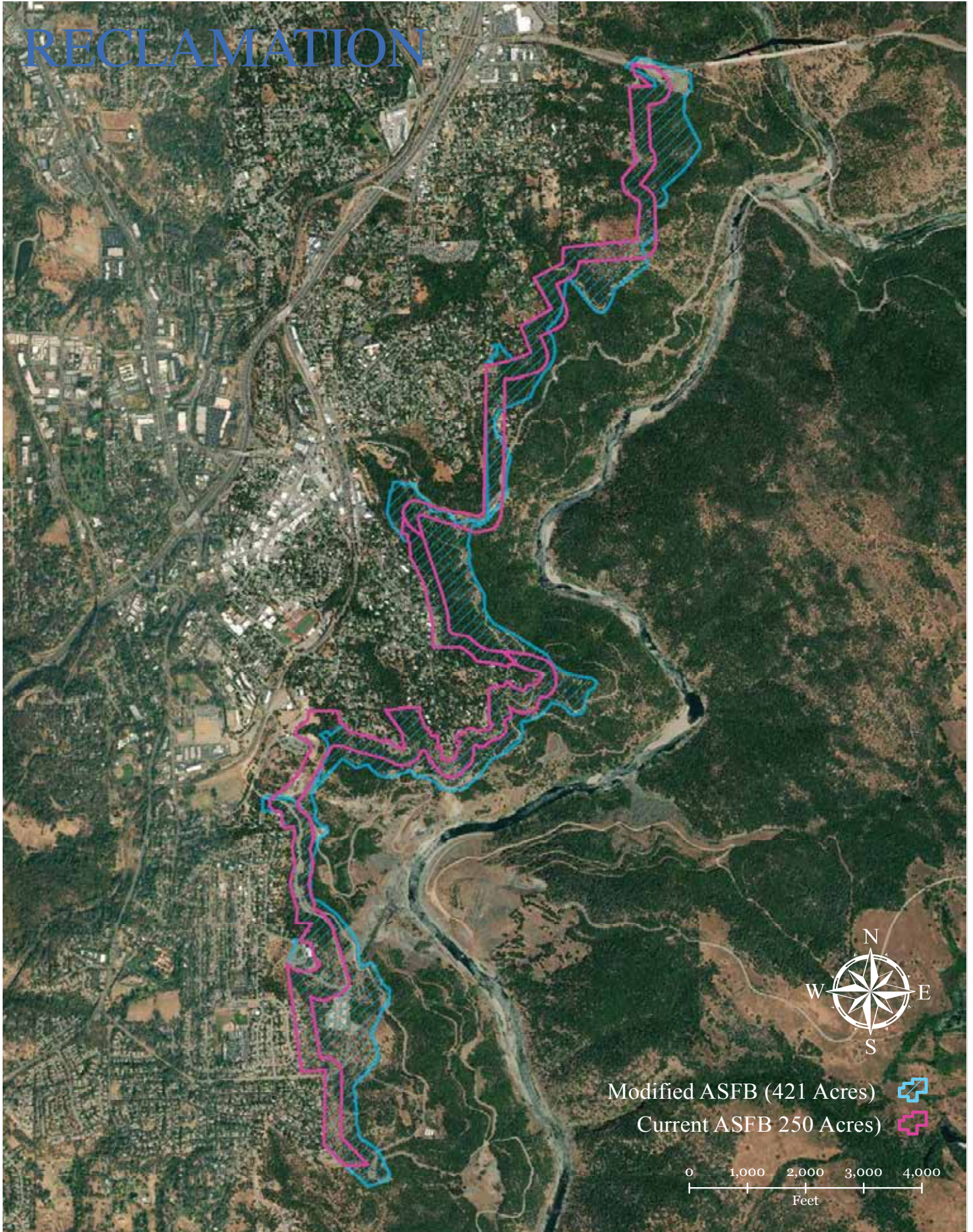
The 2019 update was developed by Reclamation with input and consultation from Cal Fire, State Parks, the City of Auburn Fire Department (Auburn Fire), and the Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer RCD), which include increasing the maximum width of the ASFB from 300 feet to 600 feet; extending the northern end of the ASFB by 2 miles from the Foresthill Bridge to the Cal Fire station in Bowman;

and transitioning from a uniform prescription with contiguous boundaries, to a 'landscape-style' prescription, which allows for scalability in determining adequate width and degree of fuel reduction necessary to account for site-specific features that exist on the landscape such as variations in fuel types, fuel densities, slope, topography, ignition sources, prevailing winds, residential density, etc., while incorporating natural breaks and/or non-burnable landscape features into the project area.

Simultaneously, substantial progress has been made on constructing the ASFB thanks to a \$1.9 million fuel reduction grant awarded to Placer RCD through California's Climate Investment Program (CCI). Using private contractors and working under the oversight of Auburn Fire through an existing agreement between Auburn Fire and Reclamation, Placer RCD has completed 120 acres of fuels treatment within the ASFB with an additional 150 acres planned for construction this summer/fall. In addition to project oversight, Auburn Fire has assisted the contractors with services including providing an engine crew and other key efforts to monitor and direct construction activities.

An additional 15 acres of the ASFB was completed earlier this year by the California Conservation Corps (CCC) in very steep terrain between State Parks' ASRA Headquarters and the Auburn neighborhoods of Olive Orchard and Aeolia Heights. The CCC has been constructing portions of the ASFB since 2012 under a Cooperative Agreement with Reclamation's Central California Area Office in Folsom, CA.

RECLAMATION



Is it time to spruce up your sprinkler system?

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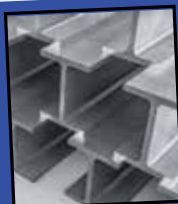
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RAFTING AND KAYAKING AUBURN'S AMERICAN RIVER CONFLUENCE PARKWAY

Auburn's American River Confluence Parkway ("ARCPark") includes the North Fork from Lake Clementine to China Bar and the Middle Fork from Mammoth Bar to its confluence with the North Fork. The river flows through a spectacular beautiful canyon with areas of steep rock walls, sandy beaches, and access to hiking trails, just a stone's throw from the City of Auburn. It includes several whitewater runs of varying degrees of difficulty described in detail in Protect American River Canyons' American River Insider's Guidebook.

The popular Class II, four mile long stretch of the North Fork from its confluence with the Middle Fork to China Bar's Birdsall river access is a summertime afternoon favorite when minimum river flows are in the 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) range or higher. The run is convenient with easy access from the City of Auburn. Currently this section is only available for boating 4 days per week, Friday through Monday, the days that State Parks opens China Bar access.

For updated access information, contact State Parks at 530-885-4527 or check www.parks.ca.gov for Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) information. Summer recreational boating flows for this section are released each morning from PCWA's Oxbow Reservoir, some 23 miles upstream on the Middle Fork, and

the water usually arrives at the Confluence around 4 PM. Plan on 2-3 hours float time to reach Birdsall. See www.dreamflows.com for the morning Middle Fork release (Tunnel Chute) and for real time North Fork flows above the PCWA Pump Station. (PCWA plans to release early recreational flows on July 19th and 25th, August 1st, and September 4th, so on those days it will be possible to start from the confluence around noon.)

This run was opened for boating in 2008 after the diversion tunnel at the Auburn Dam site was closed and the river was restored to its historic channel. A class 2+ Olympic quality set of rapids was constructed at the site of the PCWA pump station, as well as a paved portage trail that makes it possible to run the rapids over and over again.

SAFETY FIRST

This guide is based on usual summer flows. Spring run-off flows are cold and fast, and for expert boaters only.

Planning for a safe river experience includes:

- Quality inflatable boat of a size suitable for the number of boaters, with multiple air chambers, and paddles for each person. Inflatable and hardshell river kayaks are also suitable for this run.
- Snug-fitting life jacket or PFD

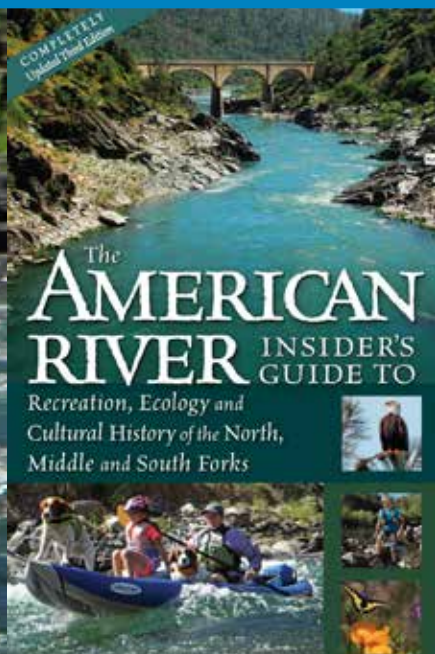
(personal flotation device)

- Awareness of the risks of swimming in the river if you fall out of the boat in a rapid:
 - Float with feet pointed downstream for protection from rocks;
 - Do not try to stand up in swift water to avoid a foot getting trapped between rocks;
 - Swim away from brush and tree limbs to avoid "strainers" that can trap you.

HOW TO RUN THE RIVER...

First, it is necessary to arrange a shuttle, usually by leaving a vehicle at the Birdsall river access at the end of the China Bar access road off of Maidu Drive, an ASRA fee area, or arranging to be picked up after your trip. At the end of the paved China Bar access road, adjacent to the paved parking lot, take the left fork to the Birdsall parking area at the end of the road, just past the river access ramp for boat loading. To reach the put-in, return to Maidu Drive, turn right on Auburn-Folsom Road, then turn right on High Street, and continue onto Highway 49 into the canyon to the Confluence.

The usual put-in is under the curved bridge at the confluence, also a fee parking area. On busy days, to avoid a long boat carry, you can unload your boat at the kiosk and restroom area before finding a parking spot.



MILE BY MILE GUIDE TO THE RIVER

Mile 0 Put-in under the Old Foresthill Bridge. This short section of the free-flowing North Fork is shallow and rocky at usual summer flows until it joins the Middle Fork.

Mile 0.2 Flip-Flop rapid: A sharp left turn in the river pushes boats towards the right shore and rocks. **NOTE DANGER:** After you go under the Highway 49 bridge, watch out for concrete and steel debris hazards from the 1964 collapse of the former bridge.

Mile 0.3 Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge: The graceful arches of the bridge completed in 1912 come into view. Locally known as “No Hands Bridge,” hikers, runners and equestrians cross the river here.

Mile 0.6. Condemn Bar: Riffles followed by a left turn then a splashy wave train.

Mile 0.7 to 1.5 The river has a remote wilderness feel as it passes through a stretch of polished rock and cathedral cliff formations with sandy beaches, cobble bars and blazing stars. The rock walls of the canyon in this area

are ancient Jurassic mudstones, which are more resistant to erosion and form the high walls along the river.

Mile 2.5 Tamaroo Bar was established in 1852 and named after the ship Tahamaroo, which in 1849 brought the first miners around Cape Horn to San Francisco.

Mile 3.3 Auburn Dam Diversion Tunnel: On river left the tunnel is now permanently closed and sealed. Mesh wire fencing marks the spot.

Mile 3.5 Pump Station-Rocky Island Rapids: Run the left channel featuring Olympic aquatic park-quality man-made rapids. A series of drops that are best run straight down the middle. Use the concrete portage trail on river left to repeat the rapids. The right channel is the inlet area for PCWA’s pumping station that delivers water to western Placer County, and is not suitable for boating.

Mile 3.8 China Bar’s Birdsall river access and take-out. A boat ramp leads up the hill to the parking area. This is the recommended take-out for all except expert boaters, who can add over a mile of class 2-3 rapids by continuing on to the Oregon Bar take-out.

PARC AMERICAN RIVER GUIDE BOOK:

American River Insider’s Guidebook to the North, Middle and South Forks: Includes a wealth of information to help you explore Auburn SRA’s rivers mile-by-mile, trails, camping, history and flora and fauna. The book features detailed river and trail maps and access information.

PARC WATERPROOF AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA RIVER AND TRAILS MAP:

Auburn State Recreation Area Trails and River Map: Detailed waterproof trails and river boating map of the Auburn State Recreation Area that includes rules, regulations, safety and access information to the Auburn SRA.

The book and map are available at the Protect American River Canyons website:
www.parc-auburn.org

Protect American River Canyons is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, founded in 1972 and dedicated to the protection of the natural, recreational and cultural resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River for all to responsibly care for and enjoy.

IS YOUR PROPERTY A FIRE DANGER?

BY SCOTT SERENBETZ, BUSHWACKERS, INC.

You may think the worst thing about your overgrown property is that it's simply an ugly mess. But did you know that the same conditions that make it unattractive also make it a fire hazard? All it takes is one spark to ignite a patch of brush or pile of dried leaves and the resulting damage to your land – or worse, to your home – can be devastating.

Take a look at the following list to identify if there are hazardous conditions on your property.

- **LACK OF “DEFENSIBLE SPACE,”**

Which is simply the area around your house where the plant material has been modified to reduce wildfire intensity. Contact your local fire safe council or CalFire for defensible space requirements.

- **DEAD PLANT MATERIAL**

On the property including dead trees and shrubs, dead branches lying on the ground or still attached to plants, yel-

lowed and dried grasses, leaves and brown needles.

- **HEIGHT OF GRASSES**

Shrubs and flowers exceeding 18 inches.

- **MASSES OF PLANTS OR BRUSH**

Referred to as a “horizontal layer” of vegetation.

- **TOO MANY FLAMMABLE SHRUBS**

Including manzanita, bear clover/mountain misery, buck brush, Scotch/Spanish broom, juniper, blackberry and incense cedar.

- **TREES AND PLANTS AT VARYING HEIGHTS**

Located next to each other, referred to as “ladder fuel.” Flames will “climb” up the ladder created by the varying heights.

- **SLOPED AREAS**

On your property can have an influence on fire behavior. The steeper the slope, the faster the fire will spread.

South- and southwest-facing slopes tend to have drier material. Once you've set out to tackle hazardous vegetation, carefully evaluate the risk of doing the work yourself before you assume it's a good idea.

Do you have access to the appropriate equipment and safety gear? Will steep or rocky terrain, equipment operation or exposure to poison oak and rattlesnakes compromise your safety? Many people try to perform the work themselves to save money. In the interest of getting the job done correctly, safely and in a timely manner, don't skimp on your budget, even if it means that spending a little more to get help from a professional service company.

Finally, implement an annual maintenance routine to keep your property safe. Every year, revisit the things that make your property a fire hazard and address those that need attention. Remember, there's a bonus in making your property fire safe – it's bound to look better and be more usable, too.

For more information, contact Scott Serenbetz, president of Bushwackers, Inc.

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Q&A WITH BRIAN ESTES, UNIT & FIRE CHIEF

The Men and Women of the Placer County Fire Department (PCFD) have a proud history of serving our communities within Placer County. Through a long standing Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with CAL FIRE, first initiated in 1974, we integrate state and local firefighting resources into an effective and seamless fire department. From our eight career staffed stations and five volunteer stations, we provide all risk fire and emergency medical services to a 475 square mile territory stretching from the dense urban valley floor to the crest of the Sierra. Your PCFD provides service to over 58,000 residents and businesses in unincorporated Placer County and protect over 6.7 billion in private property and infrastructure. Last year, the Placer County Fire Department responded to over 9,900 calls for service.

HOW DOES CAL FIRE AND THE PLACER COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT INTEGRATE THEIR SERVICES?

As the largest all risk fire department in the State, CAL FIRE provides effective service models to local governments, while reducing the costs through contracting efficiencies.

In our agreement, Placer County provides the fire stations and fire apparatus and contracts with CAL FIRE for highly trained, professional firefighters.

The biggest strength in our relationship with Placer County are the Value-Added Benefits that come with the CAL FIRE contract. By leveraging the resources from the State, Placer County and CAL FIRE leverage a full scope of expertise in the mitigation of major incidents including wildfires, flooding, and disasters, while collaborating on community protection

projects like the North Fork American project.

WHAT ARE THESE VALUE ADDED BENEFITS BETWEEN CAL FIRE AND THE PCFD?

The Placer County Fire Department staffs several specialized teams and programs including our Hazardous Materials Response Team, Technical Rescue Team, Swiftwater Rescue Team, and in partnership with the Placer County Sheriff, our Tactical Emergency Medical Team.

CAL FIRE and PCFD work together to provide Advanced Life Support and Paramedic services, firefighting aviation operations, heavy equipment and hand crew operations, pre-fire planning and mitigation, loss prevention, fire prevention, arson investigation, Fleet Management, Logistics, and Command and Control 911 dispatching services out of the Grass Valley Emergency Command Center.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE PLACER COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT INTO THE FUTURE?

The PCFD is an amazing Fire Department and our support and trust from the Board of Supervisors and our Executive Office is second to none. We face many of the same challenges as our allied fire agencies in Placer County in that the costs of providing services and the demand for those services is ever increasing. Our call volume goes up 5% annually and we struggle to meet those increased demands on current revenues.

Another challenge is the changing face of service demands on the fire service. From Covid 19, Emergency Operations Centers, and civil disturbance to large damaging wildfires within the wildland urban interfaces, the current state of

emergency services is an ever changing model. Placer County has more habitable structures within our high fire danger areas than any other County in the State. The protection of those lives, properties, and structures in our communities is my top priority as the State Unit Chief and the County Fire Chief.

WHAT CAN THE PUBLIC DO TO HELP IN THIS EFFORT?

We have a robust network of community-based organizations including fire safe councils and Firewise communities. As we move forward, we need public efforts and objectives to be prioritized across the County, measurable and obtainable, and consistent with Fire Department priorities.

Be active, get engaged, and be a part of your community when it comes to fire safety. Sign up for Placer Alert, commit to defensible space around your home and property, and understand evacuation preparation and planning.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE PLACER COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT?

I believe the PCFD has a bright future. We are working on efforts to regionalize services across our jurisdiction, planning for development mitigation in western Placer County and planning to increase EMS service levels across all of our stations in the County. We will continue to work closely with the public and the Board of Supervisors to understand County priorities, and to work through fiscal impacts to our fire services. I am so proud to serve as your Placer County Fire Chief and lead our men and women who work the front lines every day. As a team, we are committed to the protection and service of our Placer County residents and we look forward to the future.



CAL FIRE IS DOING OUR PART,

THE NORTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER SHADED FUEL BREAK PROJECT

SETTING AN AMBITIOUS PACE FOR 2020

To fulfill Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-05-19 issued on January 9, 2019, CAL FIRE released the Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Report. This report delivered recommendations to reduce public safety hazards associated with catastrophic wildfire and specifically prioritized 35 projects that will protect 200 of California's most wildfire-vulnerable communities.

The North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break Project is one of the thirty-five priority projects identified in this Report.

The North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break is a fuel break that extends from the City of Auburn northeast parallel to HWY 80 along the predominate ridges that border the North Fork of the American River. Immediate implementation of this project is critical to protecting vulnerable communities, including the City of Colfax.

Fire history demonstrates that fires in this vicinity grew rapidly and became large. Rapid residential development between the mid 1970's and mid 1990's, coupled with decades of vegetation growth have created a high-risk wildfire environment. The resulting wildland urban interface condition requires immediate action to prevent future fires from endangering lives and property.

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Phase 1: 950 acre emergency fuel break project. | All phases: North Fork American River fuel break project.

TREATMENT METHODS AND EQUIPMENT THAT WILL BE USED:

This 950 acre project includes approximately 30% pile burning, 30% mastication (heavy equipment), 30% chipping and 10% biomass. Live and dead vegetative fuels will be treated to eliminate fuel ladders, decrease horizontal and vertical continuity of flammable vegetation, decrease flammability, and accelerate decomposition. The target post treatment average stand density is 75-100 square feet basal area on tree dominated sites.

On brush dominated sites, at least one bush or groups of brush shall be retained so that no point is further than 150 feet from a specimen. On poorly vegetated sites, one shrub or group of shrubs shall be retained so that no point is further than 30 feet from a live shrub. All conifer trees greater than 12 inches diameter breast height, hardwoods greater than 10 inches diameter breast height and brush greater than 8 inches stump diameter (6" above ground, uphill side) shall be retained unless: (1) A tree of any size is a direct threat to personnel safety or infrastructure, or (2) a Registered Professional Forester determines that an alternative standard better meets management objectives or improves the health of the forest stand, and (3) is identified prior to cutting by a Registered Professional Forester or supervised designee.



LEARN MORE:
READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG | FIRE.CA.GOV

<https://vimeo.com/416008110>
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<https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/5584/45-day-report-final.pdf>

The Water-Wise Home

Each drop of water drawn from our local lakes, rivers and streams is precious. Here are some ways to both upgrade your lifestyle with high-efficiency products and fixtures while making water efficiency a way of life.



TIPS!

1 Check and fix leaky toilets

Add food coloring to the tank. If the color seeps into the bowl within 15 minutes, your toilet is leaking. Flush quickly to avoid staining.
Saves 30 to 50 gallons per day per toilet

2 Take five-minute showers

Saves 9 gallons per shower with a water-efficient showerhead

3 Turn off the faucet when brushing teeth or shaving

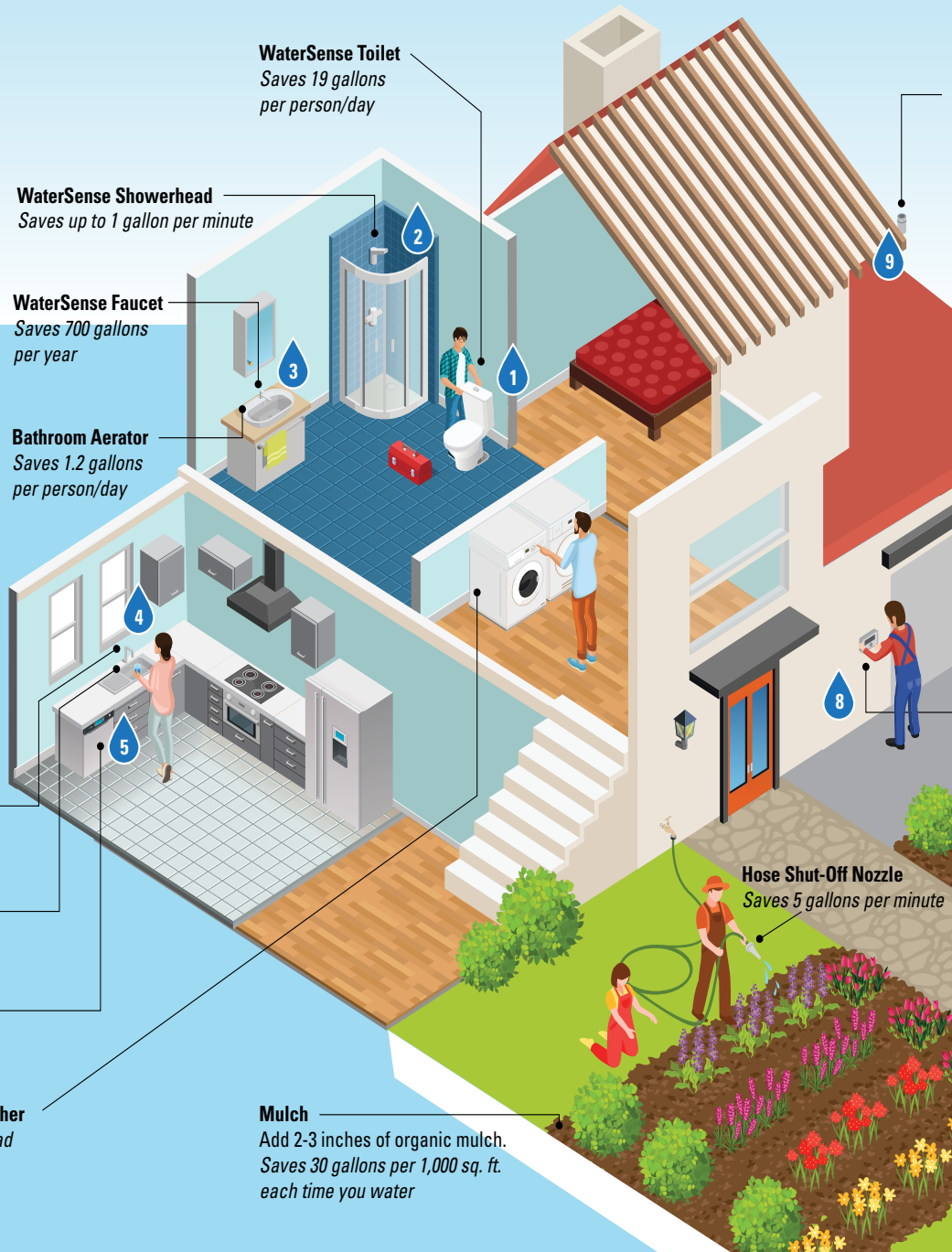
Saves 8 gallons per day

4 Fix leaky faucets

Saves 5 to 20 gallons per day/leak

5 Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when full

Saves 2 to 4.5 gallons per load of dishes
Saves 15 to 45 gallons per load of laundry



WaterSense Toilet
Saves 19 gallons per person/day

WaterSense Showerhead
Saves up to 1 gallon per minute

WaterSense Faucet
Saves 700 gallons per year

Bathroom Aerator
Saves 1.2 gallons per person/day

Water-Efficient Faucet
Saves 700 gallons per year

Kitchen Aerator
Saves 0.5 gallons per minute

Efficient Dishwasher
Saves 3 to 8 gallons per load

High-Efficiency Clothes Washer
Saves 15 to 45 gallons per load

Mulch
Add 2-3 inches of organic mulch.
Saves 30 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. each time you water

Hose Shut-Off Nozzle
Saves 5 gallons per minute

WaterSense-labeled fixtures ensure efficiency and performance.



pcwa.net



bewatersmart.info



nidwater.com



roseville.ca.us/eu

Ready for an Upgrade?

Many water providers offer rebates to replace older water-wasting fixtures and irrigation equipment with high-efficiency models. Ask your water provider or visit BeWaterSmart.info to learn more.

Rain Sensor

Automatically turns off your sprinkler system when it rains.

Saves 4,300 gallons per year

Drip Irrigation

Saves 15 gallons per 500 sq. ft. each time you water

Replace Grass with Low-Water Trees & Plants

Saves 90 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. each time you water

Hot Water Recirculating System

Gets hot water to the tap fast. Saves 7 gallons per person/day

High-Efficiency Rotator Sprinklers

Saves over 2,300 gallons per 800 sq. ft. per year

Sprinkler Heads Adjusted to Water Plants not Pavement

Also stops fertilizers and pesticides from washing into the storm drain, which leads directly to our creeks, streams and rivers. Saves 40 gallons each time you water

TIPS!

6 Look for and quickly repair leaks in your irrigation system

Saves 20 gallons per day/leak

7 Set mower blade to 3 inches

Longer grass reduces evaporation. Saves 16 to 50 gallons per day

8 Water in the morning

To beat evaporation from sun and wind. Saves 50 gallons each time you water

9 Check out the Smart Sprinkler Scheduler at BeWaterSmart.info

To create a custom watering schedule based upon the weather.

10 Cycle and Soak

Water in several shorter segments, allowing water to soak in, rather than one long cycle. Saves 12 to 40 gallons each time you water

Did you know...

Most household water use occurs outdoors? There are lots of ways to save, but using water efficiently in the landscape can make the biggest difference of all.



NEW 40-YEAR LICENSE ISSUED FOR MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN RIVER PROJECT

In early June, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new 40-year operating license for the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP).

The MFP is owned and operated by Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and provides water supplies, clean hydroelectric power, public recreational opportunities and environmental stewardship for the people of Placer County and the region. PCWA, along with Placer County through the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority, oversee energy contracting and financial matters.

The first license for the MFP was issued in 1963 - the same year construction began on the project. Issued by the then Federal Power Commission (now FERC), that license granted a 50-year operating window. The new license is the culmination of more than a decade of preparation and collaboration by PCWA and Placer County.

“The process of getting a new FERC license is extremely rigorous,” explained Andy Fecko, PCWA’s General Manager. “We began our relicensing effort in 2005.”

Over the following six years, project leaders hosted more than 300 stakeholder meetings to collaboratively develop





and reach agreement on new operating conditions. In 2011, PCWA filed its application with FERC for a new operating license. That application triggered the next step of environmental review, which included completion of both the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act processes, and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on potential impacts to endangered species. PCWA and Placer County completed those reviews in 2013 at a cost of over \$30 million.

Since 2013, PCWA and Placer County have been working with the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests, where the MFP is located, to plan and develop improvements to implement upon receipt of the license. With the issuance of the new license, PCWA, Placer County, and other stakeholders can begin implementing the license requirements.

Under the new license, PCWA will implement higher streamflows to support environmental and recreational resources, and a variety of improvements to recreation facilities including campgrounds, day use areas, and boat ramps. In addition, numerous infrastructure improvements, designed to enhance project operations and environmental conditions, will begin construction.

The MFP is an essential resource for the prosperity of local communities. In addition to protecting the region's natural resources for future generations, the new license assures that the MFP will continue to generate clean hydroelectric energy for the California grid and use the proceeds to improve water resilience throughout Placer County, including underserved rural communities.

Located on the Middle Fork American River, and the Rubicon River, the MFP consists of five powerhouses, five diversion impoundments, five tunnels, and two reservoirs. It is the eighth largest public power project in California.



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Water for Life

We Partner for Fire Safety

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT IS CREATING HEALTHIER FORESTS & IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY



Reducing Fire Fuels

NID has cleared more than 1,000 acres and efforts continue to remove dead and dying trees, small diameter trees, and shrubs that compete with larger trees for water. We are able to reduce the fuels for large fires and allow more water to flow through the watershed. When forests are selectively thinned, they grow faster and capture more carbon, which helps to reduce global warming and other effects of climate change.

Working Collaboratively

NID has partnered with CALFIRE, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service and others to implement forest thinning.



Clearing Around Power Lines

Keeping vegetation and hazard trees away from a primary power line is of utmost importance, and our team has been walking the line for years to manage vegetation and provide a safe clearing. Now, efforts have increased to maximize protection against wildfire.



NID IS WORKING TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY

Providing Fire Hydrants

Throughout the District, NID has installed 2,551 hydrants to help protect neighborhoods in the event of fires. Water to the hydrants is supplied by the treated water system. Is there an NID fire hydrant near you? Check out our locator map at nidwater.com.



Water for Firefighting

NID's sediment removal at reservoirs and other efforts have increased our water supply. Now, more than 2.4 million gallons of NID water is available to air tankers to help combat wildfire regionally and around the state.



Safe Recreation

Visitors enjoying NID reservoirs and campgrounds benefit from NID's high safety standards. NID personnel monitor and inspect campsites to enforce campfire rules as well as educate visitors about fire safety.

Subscribe for news and information on NID's projects and programs at nidwater.com.



Preparedness *through* partnerships

North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break

Whether it is discussing the increasing cost of fire insurance, forest health, preparation and planning, or protecting county resources, everyone has a part in the conversation. Partnerships and coordination are critical to ensuring Placer County is prepared.

Coordinating with local and state partners to prepare for wildfire

Preparing for wildfire takes all forms in Placer County. CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit / Placer County Fire Department, local fire districts, federal fire partners, cities, fire safe communities and Placer County all work toward creating and maintaining defensible space around homes and infrastructure, regional fuel breaks, fire education campaigns and more. One example is CAL FIRE's North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break. The project is designed to protect the residents of Placer County and help safeguard over 5,500 structures and critical infrastructure such as the Union Pacific Rail Line, Interstate 80, the Kinder Morgan Petroleum Pipeline, and Pacific Gas and Electric power and water infrastructure that serves approximately 500,000 customers.



Working together on forest restoration and water conservation



The French Meadows Project is a forest restoration and fuels reduction project located in the headwaters of the Middle Fork American River in the Tahoe National Forest. It is an extensive public-private partnership of numerous regional and federal partners - all working together to not only improve the health and resilience of a vital municipal watershed, but also to address critical barriers to increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration in the Sierra.

The Middle Fork Project is a multi-purpose water supply and hydro-generation project designed to conserve and control waters of the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, and several associated tributary streams.

Combining efforts to reduce wildfire risk



Placer County partners with the Placer Resource Conservation District on multiple programs, one being the low-cost Chipper Program to help homeowners improve their defensible space.



Placer County Parks Division's goat grazing program is an environmentally friendly option for open space management and fire risk reduction.



The Placer County Office of Emergency Services runs the Tree Mortality program in coordination with the Public Works Department to remove dead or dying trees on county land.



Placer County Environmental Utilities Division's green waste recycling program helps residents reach their defensible space goals.

Placer County Firewise Communities

Placer County has one of the largest networks of Firewise USA communities in the state

Our county residents provide the most valuable opportunity for developing effective partnerships. The Placer County Fire Safe Alliance is made up of federal, state and local agencies and community partners, who support residents' preparedness efforts through Firewise Communities and Fire Safe Councils. Visit placer.ca.gov/FiresafeAlliance to get involved.

48
OFFICIAL
FIREWISE
COMMUNITIES

+
59
MORE
IN VARIOUS STAGES
OF FORMATION

☆☆☆☆☆

26,225
FIRESAFE COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

In 2019, Firesafe Community members



Completed **37,192** community service hours



Hosted **25** educational meetings and **9** fire safe events



Received **\$1,394,718** of grant funding, contributing to **\$3,497,310** of wildfire risk reduction investment



Cleared **66,838** cubic yards of potentially flammable debris throughout the county



Preparedness starts at home

The Placer Alert public notification system, operated by the Placer County Sheriff's Office, is vital for informing residents during an emergency. Be prepared and sign up for notifications at PlacerAlert.org.

Visit ReadyPlacer.org to learn more about what the county is doing and what you can do to ensure you are prepared. Put together emergency supply kits in an easy-to-carry "go bag" so you're ready to go at a moment's notice in the event of a wildfire or other disaster.

PlacerAlert

 **ReadyPlacer**



A portion of the French Meadows project, post initial forest health treatment. In this location, hazardous fuels have been cut and consolidated into piles for prescribed fire burning. French Meadows Reservoir is just visible in the background.

PRESCRIBED FIRE IN THE TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

In May of 2019, smoke rose above the mixed conifer forest north of Foresthill Divide Road on the Tahoe National Forest's American River Ranger District. Beneath the tall pines, the forest floor hummed with activity. Fire snapped and popped in the understory burning a buildup of dead pine needles, underbrush, and other hazardous fuels. Wielding tools and donning personal protective equipment, Tahoe National Forest wildland firefighters spread across the landscape near the flames. Radios crackled with instructions as the crews narrowed in on their target.

These wildland firefighters were not suppressing the flames though. They were tending them. With drip torches in hand, the same firefighters who spend most of the year battling blazes across the country had purposely ignited this fire as part of the Deadwood Project, a series of prescribed underburns planned and managed by the Tahoe National Forest.

In 2019, the Tahoe National Forest burned more acres through prescribed fire activities than any other prior year—more than 6,000 acres in total. Many of those prescribed fires took place on the American River Ranger District surrounding Foresthill. Due to weather and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Tahoe National Forest will not reach 6,000 acres in 2020, but many prescribed fires are still planned for this coming fall.

“Prescribed fire is one of the most important tools we uti-

lize to restore our National Forests and reestablish resilience to catastrophic wildfire, forest disease, and drought,” said Michael Woodbridge, American River District Ranger. “The ongoing Deadwood project will continue to be a visible example of this work through 2020 and beyond, and we will begin implementing prescribed fire in the French Meadows Partnership project at a greater scale this year.”

FIRE ADAPTED ECOSYSTEMS

Natural fire is a vital ecological process within the Tahoe National Forest and across the Sierra Nevada. Historically, low and medium-intensity wildfires occurred frequently, ignited by lightning or native peoples. The Tahoe National Forest landscape evolved with fire; the shrublands and mixed-conifer forest historically relied on low and medium-intensity fire to remain healthy and resilient.

NATURAL FIRE MAINTAINED FOREST RESILIENCE

Like nature's clean-up crew, natural fire reduced surface and ladder fuels (small trees that allow fire to climb from the forest floor into the tree canopy) and, because of its frequency, reburned areas before these fuels could accumulate to unhealthy levels. As modern society spread throughout the Sierra Nevada, wildfire was deemed harmful and suppressed. Most natural fire—including beneficial low and medium-inten-

“WE WILL BEGIN IMPLEMENTING PRESCRIBED FIRE IN THE FRENCH MEADOWS PARTNERSHIP PROJECT AT A GREATER SCALE THIS YEAR.”

Dead and down fuels accumulate on the forest floor.

sity fire—has been suppressed for more than 150 years. The result of this suppression can be seen across much of the Tahoe National Forest: an overabundance of ladder fuels, brush, and down fuels combined with excess tree growth. This buildup of hazardous fuel and overgrowth can lead to large catastrophic wildfires, negative effects from drought, and the spread of harmful disease and parasites.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF FIRE AND FOREST HEALTH PROJECTS

Restoring low and medium-intensity fire to the Tahoe Na-

tional Forest landscape can reestablish forest resilience. Before fire is reintroduced, however, the surrounding forest is usually thinned or ‘treated,’ as part of an initial forest health project. Forest health projects utilize a host of different treatments to initially remove many hazardous fuels, including mechanical thinning, mastication, and hand thinning.

In the French Meadows Partnership project, a large collaborative project planned and implemented by the Tahoe National Forest, Placer County Water Agency, Placer County, American River Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and Sierra Nevada Research Institute, more than 12,000 acres are being

A Tahoe National Forest wildland firefighter ignites a prescribed underburn as part of the Deadwood project, a series of planned prescribed fires. Prescribed underburns reintroduce low or medium intensity fire that benefits fire adapted ecosystems.



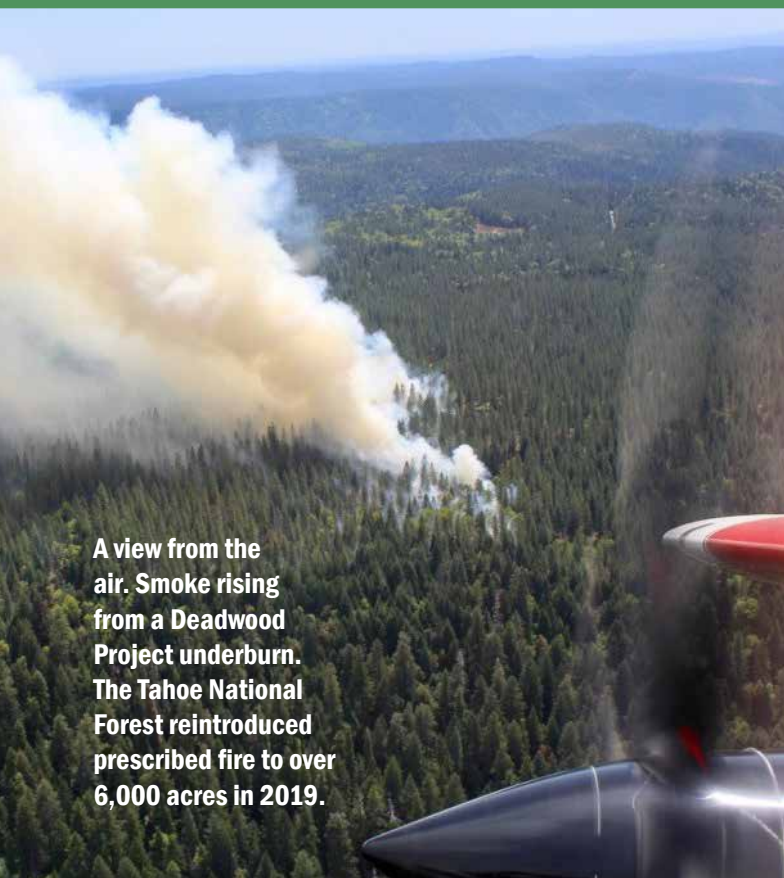
Pine needles, brush and small trees are consumed by low or moderate intensity prescribed fire.

treated to increase forest health. Many of these treatments have already occurred or are happening now.

In total, more than 7,000 acres of the French Meadows Partnership project will experience a reintroduction of fire's crucial ecological role through various prescribed fire activities. Prescribed fire activities are planned for this fall and will continue through at least 2028, often following successful forest health treatments. The goal, in fact, is to regularly return to treated areas with secondary and tertiary prescribed fires –thereby maintaining forest resilience for years to come.



Vegetation, such as ferns, brush and small trees, thrive the year following a prescribed burn.



A view from the air. Smoke rising from a Deadwood Project underburn. The Tahoe National Forest reintroduced prescribed fire to over 6,000 acres in 2019.



The Tahoe National Forest reduces the risk of wildfire across the forest, throughout the year, through forest health projects utilizing a host of different treatments, including prescribed fire, mechanical thinning, mastication, and hand thinning.





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BUILDING ON ROSEVILLE'S PAST, SECURING WATER FOR THE FUTURE

Since purchasing a private water company back in the early 1900s, Roseville has continued its track record of comprehensive water planning to maintain the quality and reliable service customers have grown to expect.

Our city's inception was a result of the railroad boom, but the need for utility services helped build this community along the way.

As our community continues to thrive economically, sustained utility service expansion is necessary. To meet the future challenges head on, we're implementing a multi-faceted water supply strategy – known as Roseville's Water Future Initiative – because we must keep pace with ongoing changes.

Part of our strategy today pays tribute to the pioneers of the past but also acknowledges the need to manage water supplies much like your stock portfolio. Diversifying water sources – having access to more surface water, groundwater, and purified wastewater – will allow us to use water interchangeably and with local control depending on water supply conditions.

ROSEVILLE'S CURRENT WATER SUPPLIES

We receive our water from Folsom Lake through a contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). In addition to securing an indefinite water service contract with Reclamation, we also receive additional surface water from Placer County Water Agency from sources in the upper American River. We also have a growing groundwater program to complement our surface water supplies and produce recycled water primarily for irrigation.



Our water

ROSEVILLE JOINS OTHER AMERICAN RIVER WATER CONTRACTORS AT FOLSOM RESERVOIR FOR THE SIGNING OF A PERMANENT WATER CONTRACT WITH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION.



WHY WE NEED TO BUILD IN RELIABLE WATER SUPPLIES NOW

Although Roseville's water supplies are more reliable than many California communities, factors creating uncertainty over how much water we can use are growing.

"Emerging from the most recent drought in the 2010s, planning for more weather extremes and variability is critical to our future water supply availability," said Sean Bigley, assistant director for water. "Developing flexible and reliable water supplies will help us create reliability now and as economic growth continues in our community. Having reliable water supplies is an essential ingredient towards economic vitality."

In addition to managing climate change and a growing Roseville, changes in regulatory requirements will remain constant, including managing our groundwater resources sustainably and keeping pace with water-use efficiency rules.

Many of these changes have direct impacts on how much

water can be stored in Folsom Reservoir – the primary source of our water supply in Roseville.

RANGE OF WATER SUPPLY OPTIONS WE'RE BUILDING, PLANNING FOR

Having all water infrastructure – water, wastewater, recycled water, stormwater – under one integrated utility service allows us to be more innovative because we can manage water at every stage of use.

- **SEEKING WAYS TO DIVERSIFY SURFACE WATER:**

We are evaluating ways to diversify water supplies by participating in regional and statewide infrastructure projects to relieve overall pressure on water supplies for communities in our region. For example, we are working alongside Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) to obtain water from

r. Our future. Your utility.





its future Ophir Water Treatment Plant as well as share a board seat on statewide storage opportunities as part of the proposed Sites Reservoir.

- **GROWING GROUNDWATER STORAGE AND USE:**

In the next two years, we're expanding our groundwater program to include more well sites throughout Roseville. Our program uses technology to both store drinking water within the groundwater basin and extract it for later use – effectively creating a go-to water resource regardless of weather conditions.

- **EVALUATING IDEAS TO EXPAND RECYCLED WATER:**

Since the early 1990s, we have produced recycled water for beneficial uses and have grown to distribute one billion

gallons annually. Because we have more recycled water to use, we are examining the best way to expand this program to increase year-round usage of this vital water supply resource.

- **ENCOURAGING CUSTOMERS TO USE WATER WISELY:**

A key component of our water management strategies is continued partnerships with our business and residents to maximize the efficient use of water through education, rebates, and other programs.

What is clear is that ensuring water reliability for Roseville will require us to do even more to diversify water sources, use water efficiently, and build water infrastructure under our control.

LEARN MORE

- Roseville's Water Future Initiative: www.roseville.ca.us/waterfuture
- Groundwater program expansion: www.roseville.ca.us/groundwater
- How we use recycled water: www.roseville.ca.us/recycledwater
- Ways to save water: www.roseville.ca.us/savewater

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AUBURN RESIDENTS JOIN TOGETHER TO BECOME FIREWISE

Embers flying in the air. A strong smell of smoke. The piercing sound of responding sirens. These are the signs of a raging wildfire. By this point, preparation efforts are futile. Immediate evacuation is the only option.

Each year wildfires ravage California's landscape, threatening communities and destroying hundreds, if not thousands of homes. For many in the Auburn area, stopping this cycle has become their mission and, in return, have made their homes and neighborhoods "Firewise."

That mission starts with 100 feet of Defensible Space. Defensible Space is the area around a home cleared of all dead or dying vegetation like weeds, brush and even trees. This 100-foot zone around the home also includes limbed trees with branches six feet from the ground, as well as the removal of leaves, needles and debris from roofs and gutters.

For several years now, neighbors along the American River Canyon in Auburn from Robie Point to Aeolia Heights have been working together to reduce fire risk. What started as a grassroots effort is now known as "Project Canyon Safe." Barbecues and pot-lucks raise funds to support Project Canyon Safe. Careful planning provides the framework for a community day of clearing brush and cutting down weeds.

This neighborhood-based approach to reduce wildfire risk is occurring in California and the nation. It has proven to be an excellent tool to prepare homes and neighborhoods against catastrophic wildfire. The national Firewise USA® Program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to reduce the risk.

The benefits of a Firewise Community include:

- Support analyzing wildfire risk and get steps to reduce them
- Help neighbors work together and take action to reduce wildfire risk
- Access to neighborhood resources to remove brush from clean-up activities.
- Eligible for grant funding
- Potential reduction in fire insurance costs

Becoming a Firewise Community is easy. Start a dialogue with your neighbors about reducing wildfire risk or bring it up at your next homeowner's association meeting. There are resources and people who can help. The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council was established for this very reason. Made up of residents and fire officials, the council can help neighborhoods address their specific fire risk, recommend steps to reduce it, and coordinate community work. The council meets on the third Friday of every month at City Hall at 9 a.m. Come join us!

You can learn more at www.Firewise.org. There is also a great website that will give you the steps to take to protect yourself, your family and your home; www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

If you are like me, you live in Auburn because of the serene lifestyle and endless amounts of beautiful scenery. Clearing dead weeds and brush is a small price to pay to live in such a beautiful part of the State.

Daniel Berlant is the Mayor of Auburn and Chair of the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council. He can be reached at dberlant@auburn.ca.gov.

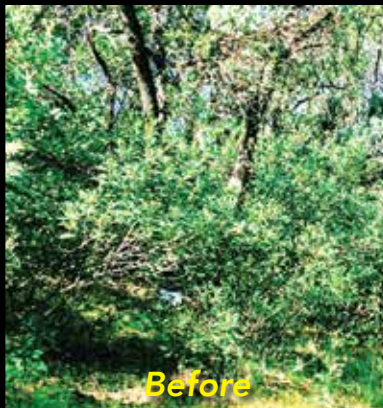
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Before



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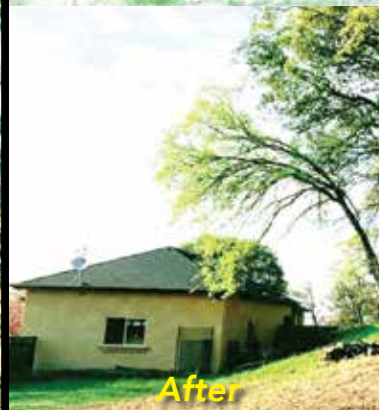
Before



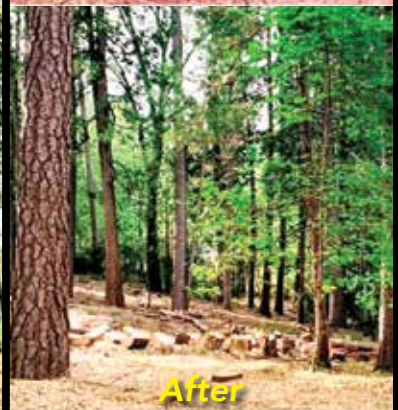
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After



After



After

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