



Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.
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Susanville, CA 96130-499

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Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 816 • Susanville, CA 96130 • (530) 251-5560 • www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org

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Kerri Cobb, Vice Chair
Kam Vento, Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Esgate, Managing Director
Katlyn Lonergan, Executive Office Assistant

First and foremost, we'd like to provide you with an update on our Thompson Peak Initiative (TPI). As many of you know, we suspended TPI meetings due to COVID-19 shortly after the outbreak began. Our region continues to see an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and the Lassen Fire Safe Council (LFSC) has been following public health & safety guidelines. In-person public meetings will continue **not** be held to avoid large gatherings. LFSC is working to provide virtual meetings in the future and will continue to notify you with project updates. In the meantime, we have been hard at work moving the project along and we are still on schedule.

Our 3.3 million-dollar TPI Grant Agreement is now in place and we have been busy with both federal land and private land environmental clearance work so that we can begin the actual project treatment work. Our next major step in the process will be the cultural resources survey on private lands. This requires a pedestrian survey by our contracted archaeologist. We expect this to occur in late July and August. With the large number of parcels in the project area it would be an insurmountable task to notify everyone individually in advance. As we have done in previous projects, including in the TPI area, we are using this update to provide everyone notice and hope residents will accommodate the archaeologists' access needs. This simply involves a walk through your property, generally in undeveloped areas. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Katlyn Lonergan at the information below, so they can be addressed. With an expected private land clearance early fall we hope to begin treatments shortly thereafter.

On the federal side we have been receiving great cooperation from our Plumas National Forest Partners. We are hoping to have federal land clearance by the end of this year.

Along with this update we are providing you with our Landowner Signup documents. Please review and return the last page which will provide us with information regarding your interest in participating, or lack thereof. **Due to the unsafe conditions of holding large meetings in person, please be sure to provide your email address on the following form to continue receiving updates via email and be included in future virtual public meetings.** We will begin scheduling our landowner consultations and risk assessments once we have received a substantial amount of returned forms. Also, please accommodate us by observing social distancing guidelines during our onsite visits.

You and your neighbor's ongoing involvement is critical to the success of this project and we encourage you to reach out to one of our representatives and continue checking our website for more information.

Phone: (530) 251-5560 Website: www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org

Email: katlyn.lonergan@lassenfiresafecouncil.org



We are active participants in FIREWISE Communities USA procedures.



**Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.
Thompson Peak WUI Fuel Treatments
Project
Sign-up Information**

www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org

Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.
PO Box 816
Susanville, CA 96130

Katlyn Lonergan
Executive Officer Assistant
(530) 251-5560

katlyn.lonergan@lassenfiresafecouncil.org

The Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LFSC), in cooperation with CAL FIRE, plans to implement a wildfire hazard fuel reduction treatment project on private lands in your neighborhood. The project, with your permission, may include work on property that you own. The Assessor's Parcel Number appearing with your name on the included permission document identifies the parcel being considered for hazardous fuel reduction and forest health treatments, which may include forest thinning, removal of dead and dying trees, mastication and/or hand treatments.

The following describes our initiative and contains an agreement requiring your signature so that we may consider working on your land only after we have fully consulted with you and gained your final permission to proceed. After completing this document, we strongly encourage you to contact us if you have questions, concerns or need any other information about our project.

Project Location & Treatments: The project encompasses private lands in areas where there is an overstocking of trees resulting in an unhealthy forest condition and/or a wildfire hazard. We may, with your permission and cooperation, remove primarily small and unfit-for-market suppressed trees and/or brush from your property. The end result will be a healthier forest and a community that will be Fire Survivable. In addition, if desired, we may remove and/or trim trees adjacent to your home in order to meet Fire Safe and Fire Survivability standards. We highly recommend you consider adopting Fire Survivable standards. State law now requires a minimum 100' clearance of hazardous fuels from the home. Many insurance providers also require this, and some are requiring more.

Equipment used on your property may range from a chain saw to a commercial shearing machine and skidder and/or a masticator. You can expect some ground disturbance. We believe this is by far preferable to the effects of a wildfire or a bug kill that can result from trees being stressed due to overstocking.

Our contractor will bid the job with the understanding that they will remove all cut material from your property (you can expect some minor debris like small branches, mulch, and chips on the ground surface after completion). Once material has been cut it may remain on your property for a week or more before it is processed by a chipper. Once the material is removed from your property it becomes the property of the contractor. Some of the removed material may be chipped and delivered to a biomass power producing facility, helping reduce the costs of the project.

Your Obligation and Involvement: First, you have **NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION**. The project is paid for entirely from grant funds. We will consult with you before and during the work to the level you wish. We want you to be an active partner in making your community as fire-safe as possible and in restoring the watershed and forests to a more natural order. If you are living on the property, we will work closely with you in areas near your home to ensure both an effective and attractive outcome. **We will need you to accept the responsibility for the temporary removal and replacement of fencing or other barriers that may need to be moved in order to implement the project on your land.** We will do our best to keep this to a minimum.

Risk Assessments in the Home Ignition Zone: In addition to fuel treatments, LFSC is also offering free Risk Assessments in the Home Ignition Zone to all residents in our project areas. Check out a video featuring a

real assessment on our website: www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org in the Multimedia section. We encourage you to schedule a consultation with us, even if you have previously completed a fuel treatment or even if you elect not to have treatments performed. These Risk Assessments will provide you with important information about what you can do to reduce the risk that a wildfire in or near the community could pose to your home.

Documents Required from The Landowner:

- ❑ **Signed Permission Form.** This form either authorizes or denies the Fire Safe Council permission to treat vegetation in the wildfire hazard fuel reduction/forest health project. Please return the signed form whether you opt to take advantage of this opportunity or not. Should you choose to have the work done, it will give the Fire Safe Council permission to act as your agent in executing any exemptions or waivers required by California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, or any other partnered agency required to authorize restoration/fuel treatment work on your property.

Dialogue on How Your Property Will Be Affected:

- ❑ You will receive but one opportunity to have this work performed. Once the work is completed in your immediate area the contractor will not return. Therefore, should you have concerns about the planned treatment, it is in your best interest to discuss the potential work on your property with a council representative and get your questions answered and your concerns resolved. Then we can go ahead with having the treatment work performed.
- ❑ By participating you are helping make your home and your neighbors' homes safer and helping to restore the forest health. Treatments may reduce the possibility of tree loss due to a bug kill and the end result will be larger, healthier trees, wildlife habitat improvement, and an increase in your property value. The work will improve your surroundings through beautification of your land and hopefully reduce the chance of homeowner insurance premium increases - or worse yet, cancellation.
- ❑ Please retain this letter for your records.
- ❑ Please sign and return the attached document at your earliest convenience, no later than thirty (30) days after receipt, to ensure your consideration in the project.
- ❑ **We will not do any work without your permission and we will not begin any work you may authorize until we meet with you, on your property, to develop a treatment prescription.** We'll need you to make an appointment to discuss the proposed work and/or schedule a Risk Assessment in the Home Ignition Zone. Please call **Katlyn Lonergan, LFSC Executive Officer Assistant, at (530) 251-5560** or email katlyn.lonergan@lassenfiresafecouncil.org to make an appointment. A council representative will meet with you to discuss the work and inspect the property to be treated so that both you and the council will have a precise understanding of the work to be accomplished on your property. In addition, the contractor will also meet with you prior to starting work on your land to ensure that everyone is informed and in agreement with the treatment to be performed.

Sincerely,

Tom Esgate,
Managing Director, Project



**Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.
Thompson Peak WUI Fuel Treatments
Project
Permission Document**
www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org

Katlyn Loneragan
Executive Officer Assistant
(530) 251-5560

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katlyn.loneragan@lassenfiresafecouncil.org

Assessor's Parcel #: _____

Property Owner: _____

Mailing address: _____

I, the undersigned, understand that my property, as described above, is included in the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc. wildfire hazard fuel reduction treatment project described in the letter and documents accompanying this permission document.

I hereby agree to allow representatives of the Fire Safe Council and/or their Contractor access to my property for purposes of treating vegetation in the project. I hereby authorize the Fire Safe Council to act as my agent in executing any required forms or exemption documents.

I further understand that, while the work is done to professional specifications included in the project plan, I may consult with the Fire Safe Council representatives and/or their Contractor at any time during the project to ensure that my specific wishes are clearly understood.

I further understand that all work will be done in a workmanlike manner, and that all necessary insurance coverage will remain in force while work proceeds on my property, and that no actions of the Fire Safe Council or its Contractor will produce any lien on my property.

I agree to use my best efforts to maintain the benefits received from the work in an effort to help restore our watershed and reduce wildfire risk in our community.

I also understand that if the project requires the temporary removal and replacement of fencing or other barriers in order to implement the project on my land, I agree to accept the responsibility for their removal and re-installation.

- I wish to have vegetation treated on my property.**
- I wish to schedule a Risk Assessment in the home Ignition zone.**
- I do not wish to have vegetation treated on my property.**

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Telephone #'s: Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____