



Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

www.AmadorFireSafe.org



February 16th, 2022

3:00-5:00

Virtual & In-Person Meeting

The February Meeting will be held in-person and as a virtual meeting

| Attend In-Person | Attend Virtually |
|---|---|
| 19888 Church Street, Pine Grove (Behind to the Pine Grove Park) Volcano Communications Tech Center Gates for both parking lots will be available | Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542 Meeting ID: 267 484 6542 Call-In Number: 1(669)900-6833 Code: 2674846542# |

AGENDA

1. Approve/Modify Agenda*
2. Approve/Modify January Minutes*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)*
5. Coordinator Report
 - a. Project Updates
 - b. Community Fuel Break Project (Amanda & Nell Raymond - River Pines FWC)
6. AFSC Strategic Plan Review & Approve*
7. Website Discussion* (Frank)
8. Virtual Meeting Software/Annual Zoom License*
9. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee (Connie)
10. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update (Frank)
11. FireWise Community Groups Update (Dick)
12. Lockwood Neighborhood Radio Watch Update (Jackie Vaughn, LNRW)
13. Public Comment
14. Other items/adjourn

*Action items



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January 19th, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

3:00-5:00



MINUTES

The Board had a 1-hour Strategic Planning Discussion prior to the public meeting.

Present: Frank Leschinsky, Dick Stamm, Susan Peters, Connie Gonzales, John Heissenbuttel, Pat Minyard, Richard Yarnell & Jay Francis

Staff: Amanda Watson

Public: Jason Schroeder (BLM), Patrick McDaniel and Steve DeBenedet (CAL-FIRE), Supervisors Jeff Brown & Brian Oneto, Paul Machi & Lance Doyle (WSS), Barbara McPhail, Deidre Mueller, Kirsten Machi, Madalain Brown, Jackie Vaughn, Jan Bray, Tom Ellison, Mike Schultz, Dave Dell'Aquila and Julie Harris

1. Approve/Modify Agenda – Connie called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. The proposed Agenda was approved unanimously.
2. Approve/Modify December Minutes – The December, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Introductions – Board members and the public in attendance introduced themselves.
4. Treasurers Report – John reported on the Ad Hoc meeting he had with Susan & Jay on 1/17 to review the proposed 2022 Budget. Susan graciously volunteered to put the budget summary in an Excel format where prior year's expenditures were visible for easy comparison. The Budget shows that as of **12/31/21** we had an account balance of **\$476,653**. John stated that some of the unrestricted funds were used to pay some bills but all accounts should be reconciled shortly.
5. Coordinator Report – see attached Coordinator Report for specifics.
 - a. Project Updates – The CALFIRE issue that has been holding up work on private roads will be resolved soon so that work can begin.
 - b. AmCo Stewardship Presentation – Jan Bray gave an overview presentation of the project on the 9 BLM parcels. Work will include fuels reduction as well as commercial timber harvesting using both ground-based and cable equipment.
 - c. ARCD/AFSC Partnership Agreement – This Agreement would allow AFSC to use Contracted Employees from ARCD to help with the increasing workload that we are experiencing with the additional grant funding and fuels reduction work
6. Grants Committee Update –

a. Grant Proposals

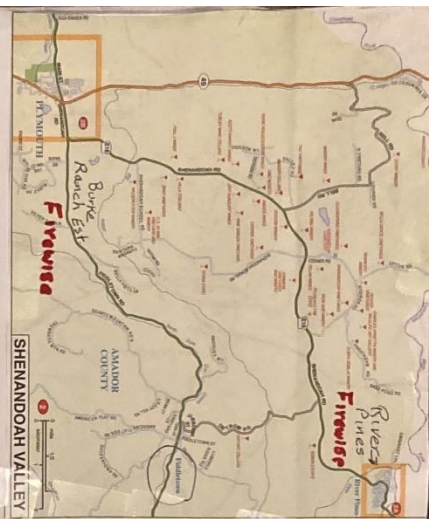
AmCo Stewardship Grant Proposal Resolution* - The Board voted unanimously to support this project through Resolution # AFSC 2022-1-19-3

Community Fuel Break Grant Proposal Resolution* - The Board voted unanimously to support this project through Resolution # AFSC 2022-1-19-1

Ingress & Egress Phase 2 Direct Award Resolution* - The Board voted unanimously to support this project through Resolution # AFSC 2022-1-19-2

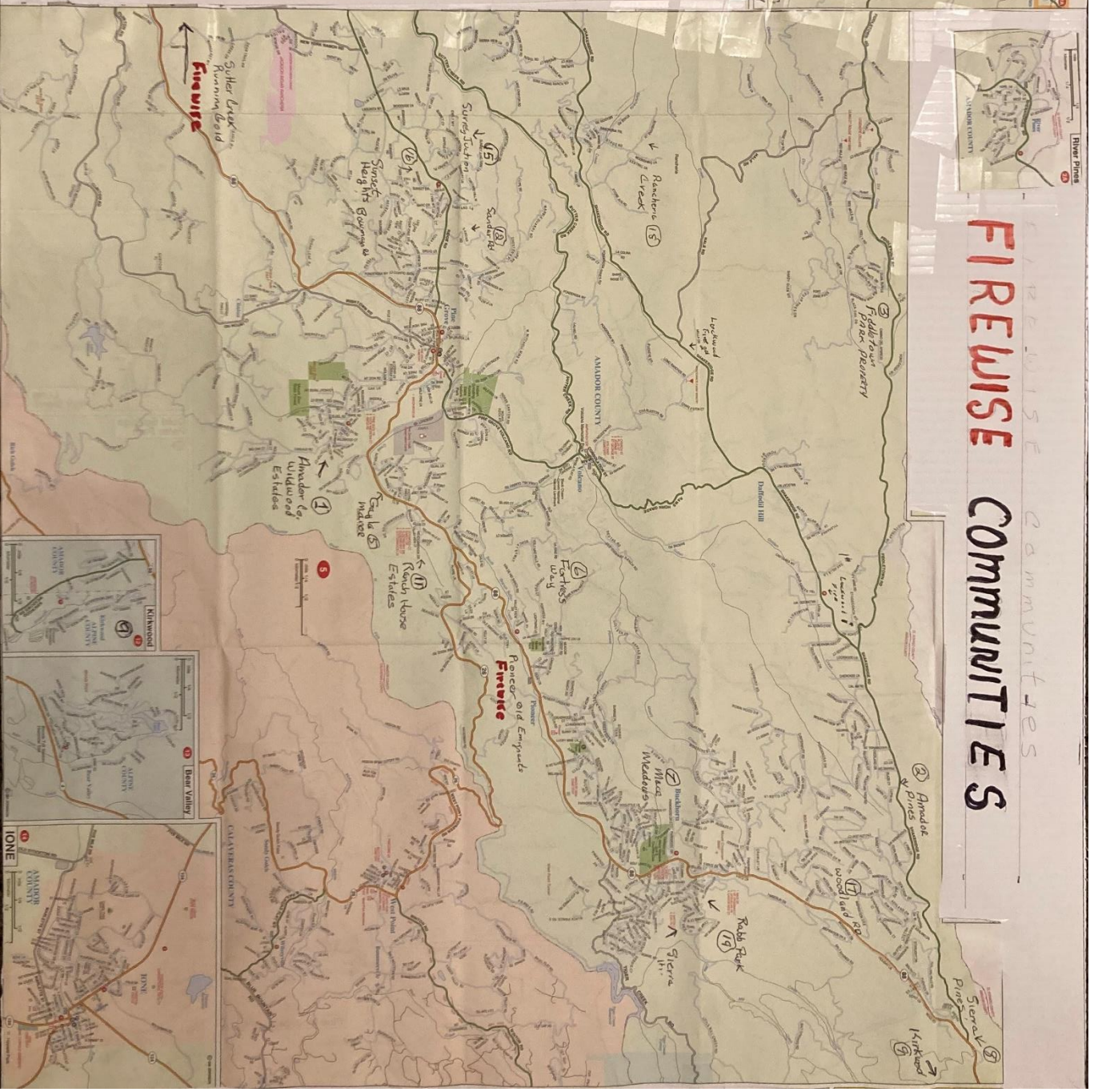
7. Review Website Maintenance Bid* – Frank reported that Tori from CPU Onsite diagnosed that our web site had been hacked. She was able to correct the issue and provided a bid for ongoing support. The Board unanimously supported allowing CPU to maintain the website to free up Amanda for other responsibilities associated with the increased grant management.
8. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee – Connie reported there would be an Ad Hoc committee meeting on 1/20/22 @ 10:00 am and something should be resolved at that time.
9. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update –Frank said there was nothing new to report.
10. Firewise Communities Groups – Dick reported that Ranchhouse Estates is the latest community to receive the FireWise designation. Fiddletown & Surrey Junction have nearly completed their applications and should submit them soon. Dick is working to create a sign to display what the procedure is to become a FireWise Community.
11. Wildfire Safety Solutions Presentation – Paul Machi & Lance Doyle gave a 30 minute presentation to introduce themselves and their business which focuses on home hardening techniques and hardware to prevent home fire ignition and minimize structure loss from a wildfire.
12. Public Comment – A public member wanted to recognize ACSO Sergeant Patrick Wert for his work.
13. Other items/adjourn – *Meeting Adjourned at 4:59 pm*

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES



FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

- 1# AMADOR WILWOOD Margaret Hamilton Tabaud Rd
- 2# AMADOR PINES Robin Bell 295 5030 Ted Novelli
- 3# FIDDLETOWN PARK PRCP. Ramona Purvis 981 0655 Dave Don Aquila
- 4# FIDDLETOWN UPPER AREA Bob Deakin 304 3305 Ralph Meier 256 1261
- 5# GAYLA MANOR Garrett Simmons 418 9605
- 6# FORTRESS WAY Tom Ellison 295 8111
- 7# Mace Meadows Ted Novelli 295 1302 Jeff Brown
- 8# SIERRA PINES Des Hughes 295 2021
- 9# KIRKWOOD Anne ~~Novelli~~ 530 220 2531 Beth McAllister
- 10# ROLLING OAKS Robin Lee 295 8302
- 11# RANCH HOUSE ESTATES Sarah Reashead 925 421 4113 Audon Harnold
- 12# SANDBAR RD MAINT. Heath Himmer 295 7942
- 13# SIERRA HIGHLANDS Roger Groeth 295 4111 Kayla Dale
- 14# SUTTER HIGHLANDS Rich/Nancy Reed 916 835 2699
- 15# SURREY JUNCTION Mike/Sue Dubois (295) 714-7332
- 16# SUNSET HEIGHTS Ron Kasago 296 2528 Bowman Rd.
- 17# WOODLAND RD. Kelly White 295 6617 916 719 0124 Pat Minyard
- 18# Ranch Drive Ralph Meier Rob Daska
- 19# Rabbit Park Dutch Poon
- 20#



**Amador Fire Safe Council
Coordinator Monthly Report**

Feb-22

Date Range: January 18th 2022 - February 15th 2022

| Project | Update | Future Planned Actions |
|--|---|---|
| Mitchell Mine | Summit Forests Inc. signed contract. Schedule for work to start on final 10 acres of handwork. | ARCD is working on UCCE contract. AW will work with ARCD to complete CEQA |
| | Ed and Scott from UCCE conducted a site visit. A Good location for demonstrations site was identified and access was granted. | |
| Tiger Creek Fuel Break | Ground work is ~50% complete on Phase 2. May have to delay several units due to access and road conditions. | Continue work on Phase 2 Implementation, Reporting. |
| | Tiger Creek South Project (Calaveras County). Implementation has started will be completed by March 1st. | |
| AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest | EA/DR/FONSI signed. SNC proposal submitted. ~\$1.6 million | Awaiting funding results |
| Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan | Re-advertising work for 3 sections of county roadway, total 22 miles. | Collect ROES. Review new bids for Phase 1. |
| | AW has started to compile non county road projects for 2022 implementation. The hope is that the contractor will be selected and ready to go when CEQA is complete. | Introduce Megan to the project. Put together RFP for non-county roads. |
| County Coordinator - CAFSC | Held meeting with CAFSC, first report is due at the end of February. | Finish outreach and workplan details/ need to strategize how to do this will AW not attending in-person mtgs. |
| | Have used funding to apply for 2 projects. | |
| | First advance submitted | |
| Communications Grant | Purchased Owl Meeting Device, testing Zoom software. This device will help hold more interactive and streamlined in person/virtual board mtgs as well as help record good quality presentation, such as town hall mtgs. | Continue to research and purchase equipment, i.e. video editing software and drone. |
| | Dana and Amanda have been trained on the Owl device. | Continue to train staff and interested board members on |
| Grant Opportunities | PG&E grants, \$75,000-\$100,000 available due March 4th. | Hold grant committee meeting to finalize private roadways clearing and PG&E application. |
| | Jan and John are scheduling a time to do site visits of the community projects that have been submitted. | |
| | Community Fuel Break Project - Applied for funding through the CALFIRE Fire Prevention Grant, \$760k To plan and implement River Pine FB and work with 3 other FWC to plan community fuel breaks. | |
| | Submitted Ingress/Egress Phase 2 Direct Award documentation | |
| | AmCo Stewardship Project - applying for funding through the SNC Forest Health and Resiliency Grant. \$1.5 million | |



+

Community Fuel Breaks

Presentation to the AFSC Board

February 16th 2022

Fuel Break Defined



FUEL BREAKS BUILT IN TIMBERED AREAS WHERE THE TREES ON THE BREAK ARE THINNED AND PRUNED TO REDUCE THE FIRE POTENTIAL YET RETAIN ENOUGH CROWN CANOPY TO MAKE A LESS FAVORABLE MICROCLIMATE FOR SURFACE FIRES.



THESE ARE PLACED IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS ALONG A RIDGE, ACCESS ROAD, OR OTHER LOCATION SUCH AS AROUND A SUBDIVISION.

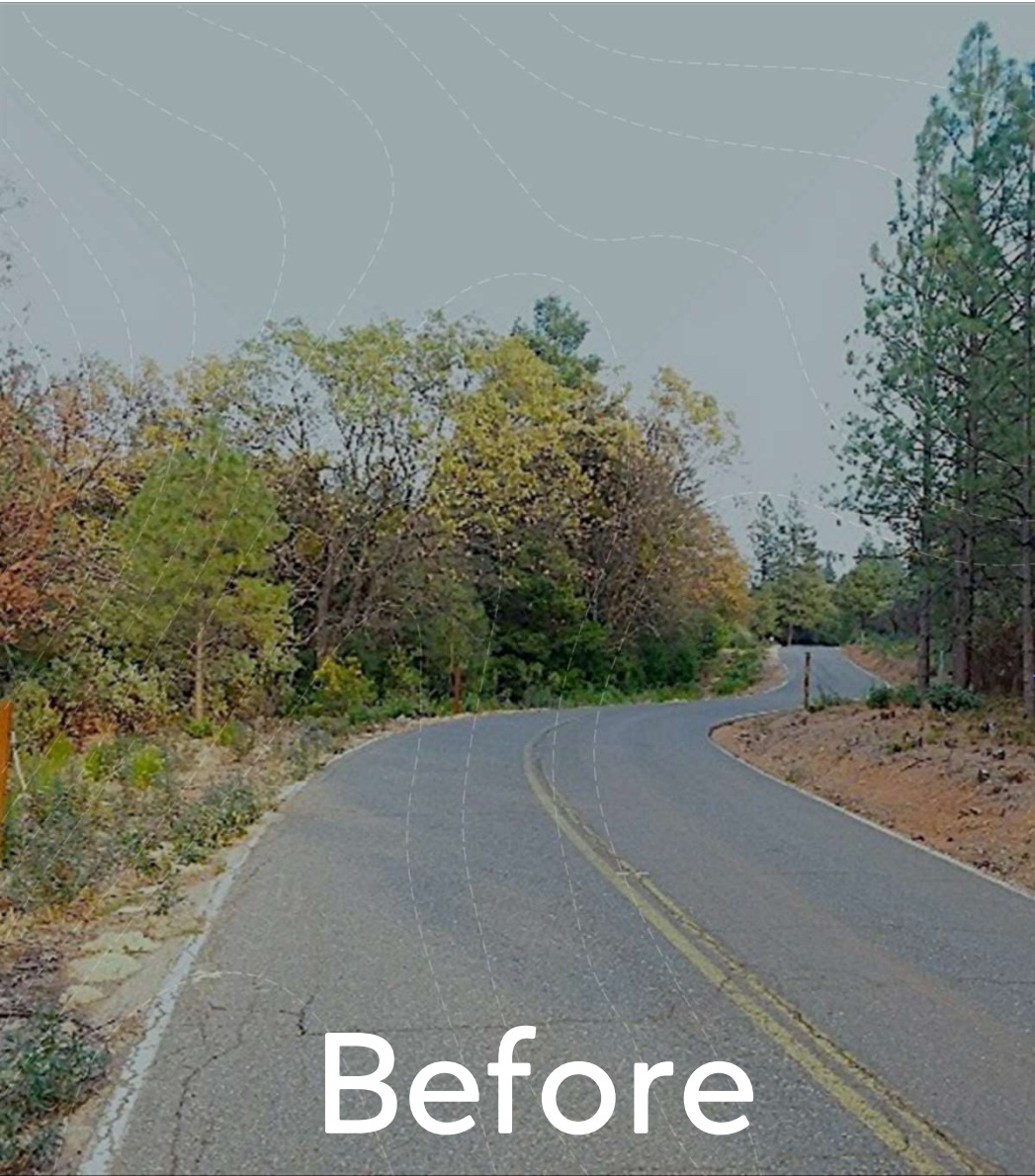


TREATMENT OR PRESCRIPTION: SPACING, DIAMETER OF TREES TO BE CUT, HEIGHT TO WHICH REMAINING TREES SHOULD BE LIMBED, PRIORITY TREES FOR RETENTION.

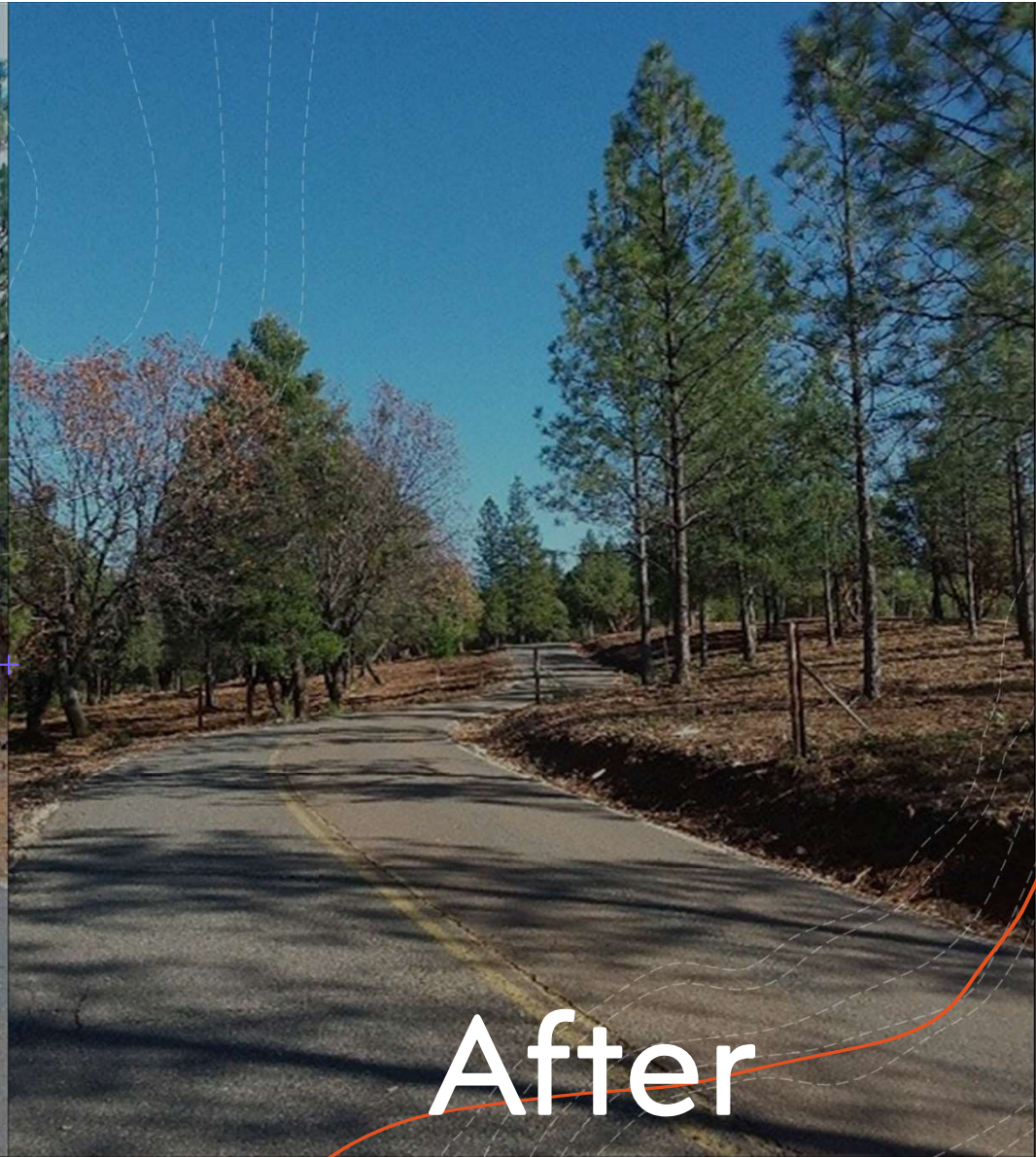


Example Prescription

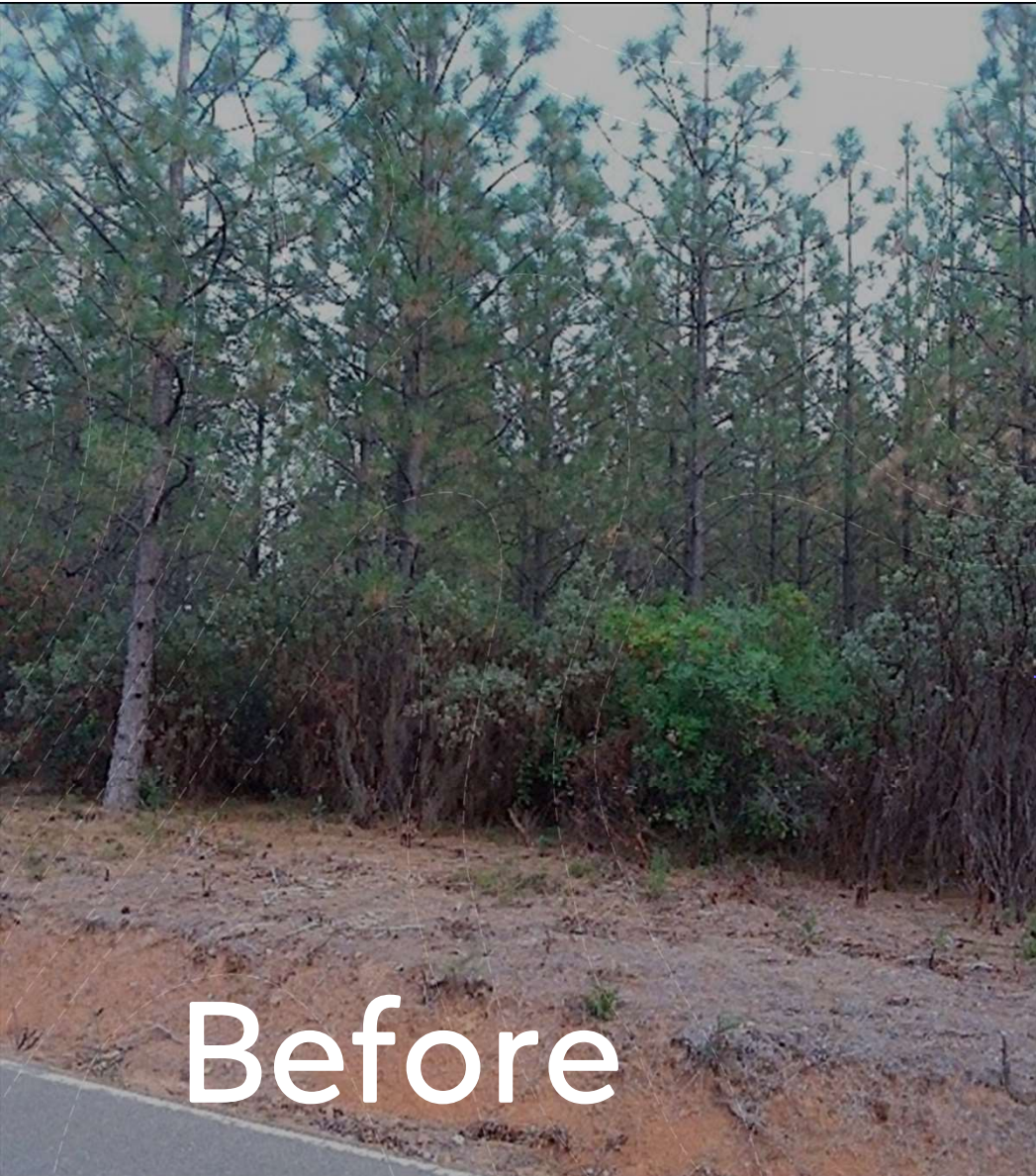
- Fuels to be treated include removal of brush and small trees (up to 14" dbh for hardwood species and up to 12" dbh for conifer species) and pruning of ladder fuels (along the bole, at least 10' from ground level). Annuals such as grasses should not be targeted for treatment.
- The target for both hardwoods and conifers is approximately 30-foot by 30-foot spacing.
- All material must be masticated, except the larger stems/boles of trees larger than 10". Large stems should be masticated, chipped, or disposed of.
- Trees within the treatment area shall be cut flush at the ground level and fuels shredded (chipped) and blown back as evenly as possible onto the treatment site.
- All dead and dying trees of any species and any size must be felled and treated.
- Limbs of remaining trees shall be pruned along the bole vertically at least 10 feet from the ground level. Limbs overhanging the road shall be treated (removed/chipped). These pruned limbs shall be cut flush with the tree bole. All pruned material will be chipped or masticated.



Before



After



Before



After

Community



An important aspect of fuels breaks is that they are strategically placed and well thoughtout.

This project will utilize the growing network of FireWise Communities to help plan and coordinate new fuel breaks that will protect homes and infrastructure.

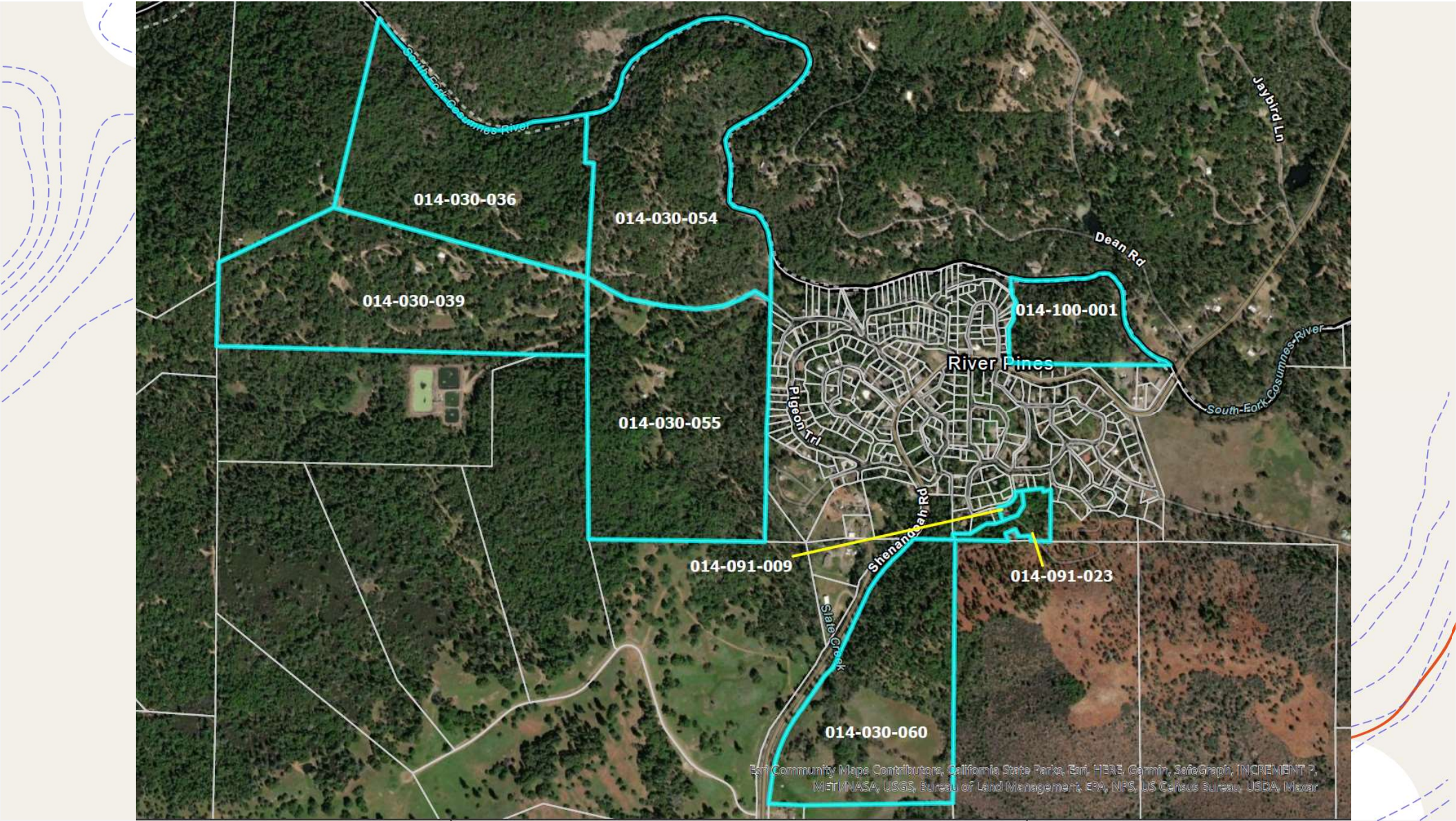
Why FireWise Communities? Local planning/priorities, coordination, community leads, local buy-in, ect.

Our pilot Community Fuel Break will be in River Pines.





Nell Raymond, River Pines FireWise



Esri Community Maps Contributors, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METAUNSA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Moxar

Seeking Funding

- + AFSC and River Pines FWC worked to develop a pilot Community Fuel Break.
- + AFSC recently submitted funding for the “Amador County Community Fuel Break Development Project” to the CalFire Fire Prevention Grant Program.
- + \$726,000 requested.
- + Funding will pay for:
 - + Environmental Compliance (CEQA), Implementation of a 200 acre fuel break surrounding River Pines.
 - + Coordination/mapping and general planning for 3-4 other community fuel breaks.

FireWise Communities Development



Community Strategic Planning



Create a network of neighbors



Plan Projects



Helps to get Project Funding



'Start Up' Assistance Available through AFSC



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



Thank You!

Amanda Watson

AmadorFireSafe@gmail.com

www.AmadorFireSafe.org

Amador Fire Safe Council Strategic Plan 2022-2025



Date: February, 16th 2022

Prepared By:

The Amador Fire Safe Council Board of Directors



Amador FSC History

Formed in 2002, the Amador Fire Safe Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a volunteer board composed of local residents and stakeholders. We are active in the community and invest thousands of hours every year to benefit our neighbors.

Mission

The Amador Fire Safe Council Mission is to...

Improve the protection of Amador County residents and their properties from the catastrophic effects of wildfire through action, partnerships, education and outreach.

Amador FSC Priorities

The AFSC has identified several priorities that it must address in order to complete its mission now and into the future . . .

1. Reduce potential for catastrophic wildfire
2. Ensure the community is prepared in the event of catastrophic wildfire
3. Operate in a financially-responsible manner through good stewardship of limited funds

Timeframe: The timeframe to achieve the goals outlined in this plan and meet these needs is seven (7) years.

Reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfire

Goal: Enhance & maintain forest and watershed health

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Implement Best Management Practices and CA Forest Practice Rules & Regulations
2. Serve as a lead in coordination and facilitation in local and regional planning efforts, such as the Coordinate Interagency Fuels Reduction Collaborators

Goal: Improve fire safety via reduced fuel loads

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Fuel break development & maintenance
2. Promote governmental ordinances for enforcing fuel hazards

Ensure the community is prepared in the event of catastrophic wildfire

Goal: Educate public about fire threats and coordination measures

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Implement Outreach Plan (i.e .County Fairs, Social Media, AFSC webpage, Schools outreach, Townhall meetings)



2. Coordinate and inform local agencies and leadership (i.e. Tribes, Amador Water Agency, AFCA, Fire Agencies, Board of Supervisors)
3. Coordinate with state/federal stakeholders (Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Sierra Pacific Industries)

Goal: Implement/coordinate Amador County fire plan with fire agencies/entities

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Cover major population areas under Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)
2. Encourage communities to participate in the Firewise Communities Program through technical assistance and financial support when feasible.

Goal: Improve public/emergency response (evacuation)

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Develop evacuation routes (ingress/egress)
2. Promote private landowner responsibility for maintaining ingress/egress
3. Educate community about evacuation (i.e. Code Red alerting)
4. Support early detection technology (i.e., fire cameras, wireless sensors, drones)

Goal: Build awareness of fire insurance issues and preparedness for wildfires

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Educate the public of value of fuels reduction efforts that may affect insurance availability and rates

Operate in a financially-responsible manner through good stewardship of limited funds

Goal: Secure funding adequate to achieve annual goals under Priorities 1 and 2

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Seek grant funding
2. Seek diversified funding sources i.e. local/state/federal sources, in-kind donations, private companies, foundations, and service clubs
3. Maintain an active AFSC Grant Committee to maintain revenue stream
4. Maintain positive relationships with funders
5. Bolster community awareness of the value provided by AFSC
6. Contract with sufficient staff to manage current projects

Goal: Ensure a diverse Volunteer AFSC Board that reflects the values and concerns of the County

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Implement Director recruitment plan

Goal: Operate in a transparent, legal manner with full public disclosure

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Enforce full compliance with standard financial practices
2. Conduct monthly open meetings encouraging public participation
3. Maintain AFSC with pertinent information

DRAFT