



SPRING 2020

Building **RESILIENCE**

in Plumas and Lassen Counties

Inside The Issue:

- West Shore Community Wildfire Protection Project
- Update from Director on forest restoration during quarantine
- Your questions - answered! Invitation to virtual town hall

HARNESSING THE POWER OF **HAZARDOUS** TREES

SIERRA INSTITUTE IS ADVANCING FOREST RESTORATION AND JOBS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES BY WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO INCREASE THE PACE OF FUELS REDUCTION TREATMENTS IN OUR FORESTS AND WATERSHEDS

Over the past decade, nearly 150 million trees have died due to stressors such as disease, drought, and pests. Approximately 30% of the state's 33 million acres of forested lands are in urgent need of treatment to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire. Experts assert that we must treat a **minimum of 1 million acres of fire-prone land annually** through thinning, prescribed burning, and reforestation. California is far from reaching this goal.

Here in Plumas County, we are piloting a long-term solution by proactively **harnessing the power of hazardous fuels before they result in landscape altering wildfire and the community devastation that follows.**

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Youth on our P-CREW building burn piles in Butterfly Valley near Quincy, CA.



Partnering with Plumas Fire Safe Council and Plumas National Forest, we transported and processed 1,425 cubic yards of chips.



Using wood chips from hazardous fuel reduction in the WUI to heat public buildings and save taxpayer money. **A win-win!**

MAKING THE SIERRA SAFER - ONE BIN LOAD AT A TIME

It starts with collaboration. After in depth planning and environmental analysis with our partners, our youth conservation corps helps restore the wildland-urban interface.

Often, piles are safely burned on site to reduce fuel on the forest floor. But **burning these chips in an enclosed boiler can reduce the release of harmful pollutants by 99%**. From Butterfly Valley, we converted over one thousand cubic yards of chips to heat and power Plumas County's Health and Human Services building in Quincy.

Partnerships are required to turn forest waste into productive heat. A private family foundation helped us acquire a specialized truck to transport chips to be sorted and processed at our Crescent Mills wood products campus. We plan to expand these efforts with help from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to install a second biomass boiler in Quincy and grow the Indian Valley Wood Products Campus in Crescent Mills.

Our innovative approaches to combining forest restoration with biomass heat and power is another step in promoting healthy and sustainable forests and improving economic opportunities in rural communities.

**VIRTUAL
TOWN
HALL**

**Local experts will answer YOUR questions
about wildfire, water quality, and
economic recovery.**

Date and time to be determined. To be invited, please call 530-284-1364 or send an email to mstout@sierrainstitute.us.

WEST SHORE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PROJECT

- REDUCE THE RISK OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE
- RESTORE FOREST AND WATERSHED HEALTH
- IMPROVE THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE

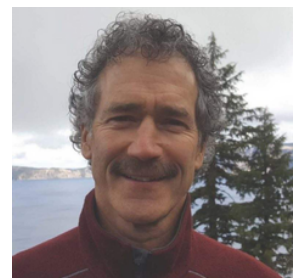
Because wildfire doesn't stop at property lines, we are working with public and private landowners to treat hazardous fuels across different ownerships.

We provide resources and support for interested private landowners to create defensible space around their homes, collaborating with the Maidu Summit Consortium to restore Maidu lands following traditional ecological knowledge principles and collaborating with large landowners, like Collins Pine, to create a fire resilient landscape.

TO SEE A MAP OF THE PROJECT AREA AND LEARN MORE VISIT WWW.SIERRAINSTITUTE.US/ALMANOR

AN UPDATE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Like the rest of California, and indeed, the world, staff at Sierra Institute are adjusting to sheltering-in-place and doing our part to "flatten the curve." And yet, our work goes on. Changed, yes, perhaps forever, but still a critical part of a healthy future for California's forests and watersheds - and by extension - all Californians.



Jonathan Kusel, Ph.D.

One certainty that remains is **wildfire season is rapidly approaching** and California MUST address the crisis of overstocked forests as quickly and economically as possible.

One immediate effort is to develop novel and safe ways to recruit and hire workers for our restoration woods crews to do the necessary fuels reduction work that is needed now.

THIS WORK IS NEEDED FOR OUR FORESTS AND WATERSHEDS BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO THOSE WHO ARE READY, HEALTHY, AND NEED THE WORK.



MOTIVATED BY OUR IMPACT?
INSPIRED BY OUR WORK?

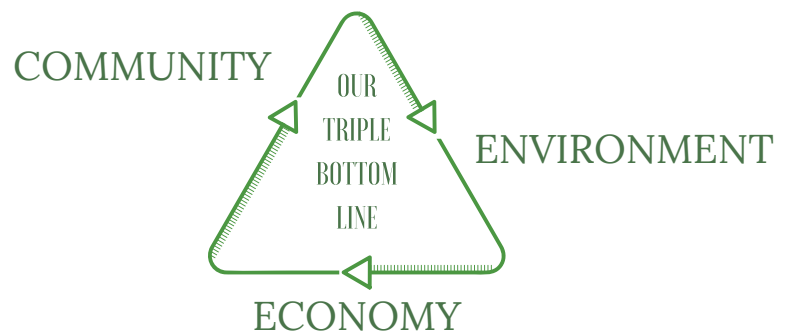
LEARN MORE

WWW.SIERRAINSTITUTE.US/ALMANOR

OUR MISSION

Promoting healthy and sustainable forests and watersheds by investing in the well-being of rural communities and strengthening their participation in natural resource decision-making and programs.

SIERRA INSTITUTE IS A NON-PROFIT 501-C-3 ORGANIZATION AND HAS BEEN A LEADING ADVOCATE FOR RURAL VOICES SINCE 1997



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FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

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