



NORTHERN SIERRA SUMMER HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ 2022



Hello Caldor Fire survivors. We have endured a lot these past two years: the pandemic, catastrophic fire from the American River Canyon to Amador County and now entering our third year of drought.

Many of you have stepped up to work with county, state and federal agencies to establish a path forward for those who wish to re-build their cabins.

NSSHA is behind these efforts. We are partnering with Caldor Cabin Owner Recovery Project (CCORP) to identify options for clean-up expenses, clarification from the forest service regarding permittee responsibility and answers to tax, insurance and other questions. This group was established by Tony Franks, who lost his cabin in Sayles Canyon. Since last fall, Tony has been hosting Zoom meetings the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend these meetings. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86164531712?pwd=dzNNVH pIM3gwL0xRV0JWdkp3VFB5Zz09>



There has been a recent development about the debris removal process. This will be conducted by Cal OES. FEMA will reimburse them 90% of the costs; the state of CA will reimburse the other 10%. If cabin owners elect to participate in the program, there will be no cost to them. The important thing is to obtain a Right of Entry (ROE) form. These will be sent to all cabin owners electronically and by regular mail. Time is of the essence. You have two weeks to return them.



We will be returning to our annual cabin owner meeting held at the Sciots Clubhouse on **June 25th at 10 a.m.** Space is limited. We encourage you to have a representative from

your tract attend so they can share the information with the rest of the cabin owners in your area.

Scot Rogers, Placerville District Ranger, will be attending this meeting and will present any new updates regarding the cleanup process and other forest issues.



We will be reinstating dues for 2022 (suspended for the last two years) - still \$20 a year! You can pay the general meeting or send your check to: Tony Planchon, 1768 11th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95818.



NSSHA Officers terms will be up for reelection in 2023, however, two positions will be open now: Vice President and Area 4 Super Tract Rep. If anyone is considering either of these – or any other – positions, please contact Kathy Lewin at: kslewin@sbcglobal.net or call (916) 481-6527.



NSSHA SUPER TRACT REPS

Area 1: Bull Creek, Alder Creek, 29 Mile, 30 Mile, 31 Mile, 33 Mile, Riverside, 34 Mile.

Area Rep: Meredith Randall

Email: meredithrandall14@gmail.com

Area 2: 35 Mile, 36 Mile, 39 Mile, Forni Creek, 41 Mile

Area Rep: Mike Caselli

Email: mjcaselli@comcast.net

Area 3: Strawberry Creek, 42 Mile

Area Rep: Tim Williams

Email: tjw4142@gmail.com

Area 4: Strawberry Tract, Pyramid Creek, Twin Bridges, Sayles Canyon

Area Rep: Dawn King

Email: dawn_king@comcast.net



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Area 5: Fir Tract, Bryant Creek, 46 Mile, Aspen Creek, 47 Mile, Phillips

Area Rep: Jennifer Lane
Email: lane.jenslucy@yahoo.com

Area 6: Wrights Lake, Dark Lake, Gerle Creek

Area Rep: Mary Clarke Ver Hoef
Email: mcvh95608@yahoo.com

Area 7: Kirkwood, Silver Lake, Bear Valley, Devil's Gate, Woods Lake, Caples Lake

Area Rep: Jim Botsford
Email: jbots42@gmail.com

Area 8: Echo Lakes, Echo Road, Echo Summit, Atwood

Area Rep: Nancy Allen
Email: na11en@sbcglobal.net

Area 9: Sciots Tract, Cody Creek

Area Rep: Debbie Glauz
Email: dglauz@hotmail.com

HOSPITALITY TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR CABINS

While those of us who still have our cabins are grateful to have been spared, many of us want to reach out to those who lost theirs. A few cabin owners in the American River Canyon have offered the use of their cabins to those who may have traveled many miles (some out of state) just to survey what's left before being able to clear the land to rebuild. These offers can range from a rest stop to overnight stays. It is understood, too, that there will be many levels involved after the cleanup – this may be a multi-year process so the offer of staying at someone's cabin can range that span of time.

To that end, NSSHA is offering a secure way for these two groups to be in touch with each other. NSSHA is providing

a form to fill out to help us line up the two parties. If you would like to offer your cabin or need a place to stay, please contact Meredith Randall at: (404) 545-4462 or by email her at: meredithrandall14@gmail.com. Your personal information remains private. No fees are involved – this is completely voluntary. These forms will also be available at the General Meeting on June 25th.

NEW PARTICIPATION FROM PAST PRESIDENT

The Board has authorized past President Hal Thomas to lead a legal research and evaluation effort to understand the scope of cabin owners (permittees) liability for cleanup of fire debris for those of our members who were burned out in the Caldor Fire. Approximately 177 cabins burned down in the fire of August 2021 and both cleanup and rebuilding discussions have been ongoing between local El Dorado County Environmental Management staff, the US Forest Service, and our members who have organized themselves informally as the Caldor Cabin Owner Recovery Project (CCORP).

NSSHA has retained Downey Brand LLC, a prominent local Sacramento law firm, to assist in the research and evaluation of options for the various affected families. The issue is complex as modern building codes concerning reconstruction materials, water supply, and sewage treatment now must be considered in the rebuilding process. Many of the permittees did not have adequate or any fire insurance coverage and those individuals face difficult challenges both economic and regulatory as they seek to "thread the needle" of rebuilding on federal national forest land. NSSHA is here to assist in whatever way possible consistent with our mission to represent cabin owners in the Northern Sierra Nevada forests. The process may be long and difficult and we seek the help



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of our local National Forest administrators as well as local federal elected officials.



AFTERMATH

By Bill Keye

There are no living trees visible in any direction. The fire was so hot that it sizzled the life out of every tree far up into the Sayles Canyon watershed, even fire-adapted Jeffrey Pines.

If we could un-destroy and go back, we would be more receptive to aggressively treating flammable fuels by selectively logging, thinning, chipping, and prescribed burning. If these things had been done at the appropriate pace and scale, the Caldor would not, could not have behaved the way that it did. Our cabins would still be standing. As it was, on the night of August 28th, Caldor was roaring along the top of Lover’s Leap, making its furious run to the Tahoe Basin, feasting on heavy fuels baked by drought and summer heat. Caldor, in fact, would have gobbled up Meyers and then South Lake Tahoe, had it not been for pre-fire fuels reduction successes in the Basin below Echo Summit.

Fuel treatments work. The science is settled. If we are to end the megafire plague, we will need to implement restoration forestry urgently, and on a mass scale. There is only so much intact forest left at this point.

Before we can rebuild, all of the dead trees – snags – that could possibly fall on the site will have to be removed. The Forest Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to clean up snags

within 150 feet of roads, including recreation residence tract roads. The EA is expected to be approved this fall, which means that the work will likely take place next year (2023).

The Forest Service is also preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address recovery work across all of the burned areas. Don’t expect anything to happen under the EIS until 2024 at the earliest, due to the required planning processes.

Another issue is reforestation. As the snow melts, will there be viable conifer seed left to sprout? This is *natural regeneration*, and it’s what we want. If tree planting is needed, it will take time for seedlings to be available in sufficient volumes. At high elevations, plant Jeffrey and western white pines! They are likely to do better in our warming climate.

In forestry, you have to think long term. The land is good and can recover over time with our help. If I can rebuild after the Caldor, and watch little seedlings grow into saplings, that will be enough. That has to be enough.

William Wade Keye is a forester and past chair of the Northern California Society of American Foresters. Bill’s cabin was located in Sayles Canyon Tract.



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