

# County of Lassen BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



CHRIS GALLAGHER

*District 1*

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*District 4*

TOM HAMMOND

*District 5*

County Administration Office  
221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4  
Susanville, CA 96130  
Phone: 530-251-8333  
Fax: 530-251-2663

April 27, 2021

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attention: Forest Health Grants Program  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors supports the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.'s (LFSC) Bootsole Forest and Watershed Restoration Project ("Bootsole Project").

The Bootsole Project is above the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) in Janesville and expands existing treatments within the Janesville and Milford communities onto the Plumas National Forest (PNF), and is a key part of the Thompson Peak Initiative. For several years, residents and businesses have been evacuated due to wildland fires emanating from the Plumas National Forest. This work has been selected for treatment because it contains heavy vegetation and hazardous fuel loading on the PNF, and is in proximity to existing and on-going treatments in the Diamond Mountain area.

In summer of 2020, a lightning storm ignited the Sheep Fire on the Plumas National Forest. The PNF's initial lack of fire-attack response allowed the fire to grow unchecked and traverse the Diamond Mountain summit into the communities on the valley floor. The fire traveled toward the Bootsole Project area and into the downhill communities near Susanville and toward Janesville and Milford, threatening U.S. Hwy 395, homes and property, schools, and public infrastructure such as the Johnstonville Water System, CalTrans Maintenance Facility, Susanville CHP office and Susanville Airport. Hundreds of local residents were forced to evacuate. This fire burned 29,570 acres of public and private land, and destroyed 26 structures.

The Bootsole Forest and Watershed Restoration Project proposes action for hazardous fuel reduction, watershed restoration, increased forest diversity, increased resilience to pest outbreaks, and drought stress to help protect the communities of Janesville and Milford.

Please accept this letter of support of the Lassen Fire Safe Council's Bootsole Forest and Watershed Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

AARON ALBAUGH, Chairman  
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

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April 12, 2021

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attention: Fire Prevention Grants Program  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors is in support of the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.'s (LFSC) Dyer Mountain Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuel Treatment Project. The purpose and benefits of this project are to implement forest restoration treatments to reduce hazardous fuel loads, improve public safety, and restore native forest and improve forest health.

This year, the Dyer Mountain WUI Fuel Treatment Project was ranked the #1 priority of the Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Working Group. The Working Group consists of both private sector and public sector local, state, and federal agencies who have an interest in forest health and planning, preventing or suppressing catastrophic wildfires. The County of Lassen has participated in this effort since 2002. Every year, the Working Group gathers project proposals from all LFSC partners and ranks them based on several criteria agreed upon by the group.

The Dyer Mountain WUI Fuel Treatment Project will reduce wildfire risk to habitable structures in the Clear Creek, Pine Town, Westwood and Hamilton Branch communities through treatments that will be designed to be a safer environment for suppression resources to operate in the event of a wildland fire. Additional benefits will be lessening the risk of catastrophic wildfire and the associated adverse effects on air and water quality. The watersheds of Mountain Meadows Reservoir and Lake Almanor Watersheds would benefit from this project.

Please accept this letter of support for the funding of Lassen Fire Safe Council's Dyer Mountain WUI Fuel Treatments Project.

Sincerely,

AARON ALBAUGH, Chairman  
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

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April 27, 2021

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attention: Forest Health Grants Program  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors is in support of the Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.'s Hog Fire and Sheep Fire Forest Restoration Project. This project would perform urgent and important restoration treatments in the combined footprint of the Sheep Fire and Hog Fire. The LFSC is seeking funding to do this work because it is necessary to reduce hazards and to foster growing a better-managed forest within and adjacent to the Susanville Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

During the summer of 2020, the combined footprint of the Sheep Fire and Hog Fire combined burned over 39,000 acres, mostly on private land, within the Susanville WUI. Currently, the remaining fire-killed trees pose risk and may be hazardous. Long-term, downed fire-killed trees inhibit reforestation treatments, increase watershed degradation, decompose, and increase fuel loads for a highly probable reburn event. In addition, there is urgent and important restoration activities to stabilize unstable slopes to prevent, lessen or avoid flooding, erosion, and sedimentation toward downstream property owners, public lands, and infrastructure.

Please accept this letter of support for the funding of Lassen Fire Safe Council's Hog and Sheep Fire Forest Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

AARON ALBAUGH, Chairman  
Lassen County Board of Supervisors