



BUTTE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL *2024 YEAR IN REVIEW*

Cohasset, CA - September '24

Building Resilience, Restoring the Land

Our ethos of responsible wildland stewardship, interagency collaboration and community education is the driving force that fuels our passion for the work we feel privileged to do.

The BCFSC is deeply committed to the long-term stewardship of the ridges, canyons, forests, streams, meadows, and communities that exist across Butte County – from Clipper Mills to Cohasset.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR,

As 2024 comes to an end, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation for the dedicated staff, partners and board members that make the Butte County Fire Safe Council the amazing organization that it is. The shared responsibility and commitment we have to this landscape has inspired me and is the driving force behind the BCFSC's efforts in making Butte County a more resilient, wildfire-safe community. The passion and determination I have witnessed from land managers, community leaders, county staff, and residents of our WUI communities has been profound.

This year has been living proof that the BCFSC excels at collaboration and effective partnerships. Throughout 2024 we increased our capacity to support implementation of prescribed fire and were able to celebrate the successes of collaborative efforts that protected over 717 acres in the community of Cohasset. While we mourn the loss of the homes and wildlands impacted by high severity wildfire, we are reminded that the work we do together is imperative and needed now more than ever. Together, we have planted, and will continue to tend, these new seeds of hope and renewal.

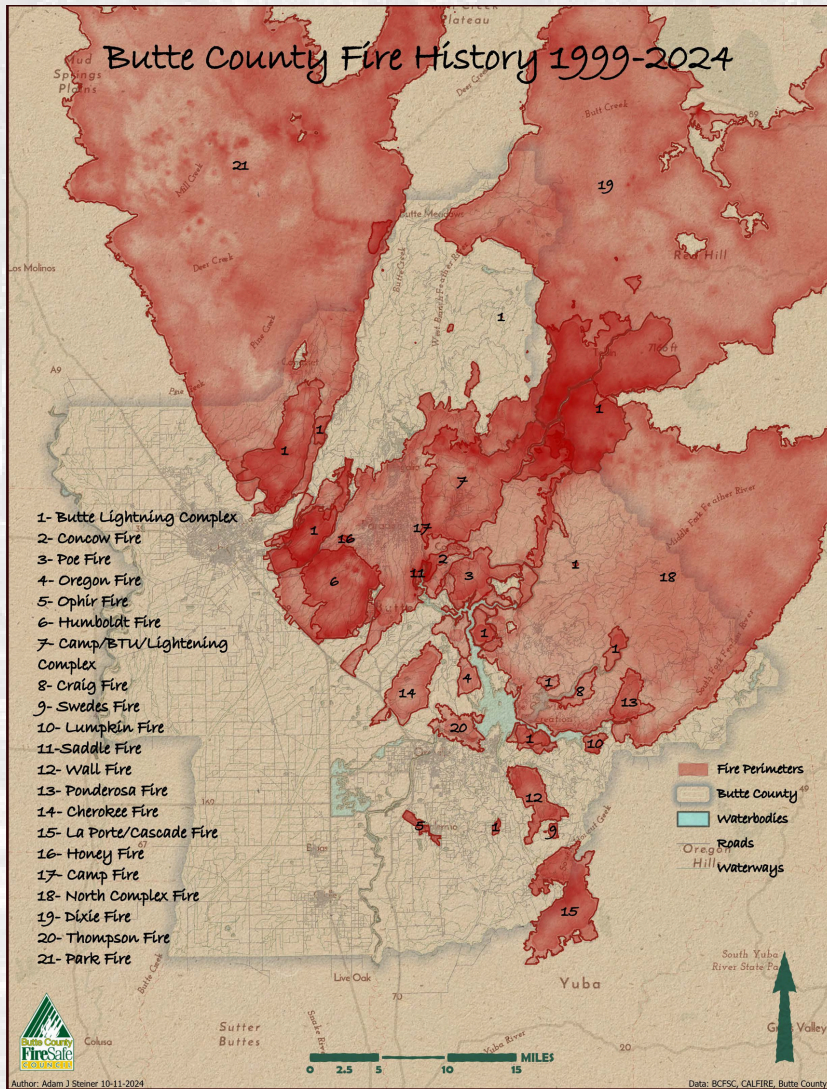
I consider living and working in Butte County a profound privilege. Its rugged beauty, resilient spirit and diversity of landscapes remind me daily why we do this work.

I want to extend my genuine appreciation and thanks to all who have supported us this year.

Your trust, partnership, and vision inspire us to continue building a safer, stronger future for this community we all love. As we look ahead – 2025 and beyond – I remain optimistic and filled with hope when I think about all that we will achieve together.



Taylor Nilsson,
Executive Director



RECOVERY + RESILIENCE

The fabric of Butte County is woven with selfless, strong, and resilient community members, many of whom have endured multiple wildfires in their lifetimes. Their perseverance in the face of unimaginable challenges inspires our work and reminds us why it is so vital. In 2024, we focused on restoring fire-damaged areas, stabilizing canyons and watersheds, expanding education programs, and providing critical assistance to affected communities. Recovery is not just about revitalizing what was lost—it's about forging a more resilient future.



PARK FIRE IMPACT

Pre-fire partnerships and efforts created an opportunity for firefighters to take a stand during the Park Fire. Preventative treatments included roadside fuels reduction, defensible space clearance, and biomass removal, every tool in the toolbox was utilized to engage the community of Cohasset, helping create a green island within the footprint of the 4th largest wildfire in California history.



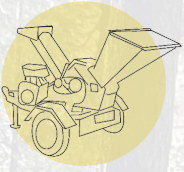
WATERSHED PROTECTION

Post-Park Fire, both Big and Little Chico Creek watersheds face significant challenges. Protecting and restoring these vital ecosystems, which support endangered species like Chinook salmon and sustain our forests, is critical. In partnership with others, we prioritized erosion control to safeguard habitats and prevent further damage. At the same time, we made substantial progress in restoring the unburned upper watersheds, reinforcing our commitment to preserving these invaluable natural resources.

547,150 ACRES BURNED

MORE THAN 60% OF BUTTE COUNTY'S FORESTED LANDS

2024 - BOOTS ON THE GROUND



228 CHIPPER SITES

Supported community members with no-cost chipping on 303 acres throughout the Butte County WUI.



291 ACRES GRAZED

Managed invasive and flammable plants for a sustainable, fire-safe landscape.



213 ACRES OF HAZARD TREES

Removed 213 acres of hazard and dead and dying trees for erosion control and fuels reduction efforts.



175 ACRES PREPARED FOR RX FIRE

Benefits of prescribed fire were found in Magalia and East Oroville supporting re-introduction of fire to the landscape through collaborative efforts.



19 NEW FIREWISE USA® COMMUNITIES

We expanded our impact by helping communities reduce wildfire risks. We now have 31 Firewise USA communities!

FOREST HEALTH + FUELS

For over a century, the fire-adapted ecosystem we call home has been deprived of holistic land management, contributing to the ecological challenges Butte County faces today. In the past six years alone, four of California's most destructive wildfires— Camp (2018), North Complex (2020), Dixie (2021), and Park (2024) Fires—have either started or burned in Butte County. These unprecedentedly intense wildfires have burned roughly 50% of our Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), leaving profound environmental, psychological, and socioeconomic impacts on the county we love and are privileged to protect. Through forward-thinking collaboration with our partners, we are addressing this imbalance by accelerating the pace and scale of hazardous fuels reduction to restore balance to these landscapes we cherish.

In 2024, we treated a total of 3,094 acres. 568 of these acres on federal lands and 2,526 acres on private lands—milestones that reflect our dedication to ecological health, community resilience, and wildfire mitigation.

All of our projects strive to honor the ridges, canyons, forests, and communities that make Butte County unique. From preparing units for prescribed fire to hazardous tree removal, defensible space clearance to roadside fuels reduction, our work reduces wildfire risk and creates safer communities across our county.

Guided by a passion for stewardship and a responsibility to protect these landscapes, we are building a legacy of collaboration, education, and sustainable land management for generations to come.

3,094

TOTAL ACRES TREATED

*does not include chipper program

COHASSET

401

FOREST RANCH

226

MAGALIA

1,455

STIRLING CITY

74

PARADISE

51

BERRY CREEK

231

OROVILLE

186

CLIPPER MILLS

470



30+

TOTAL PROJECTS
COMPLETED

“The Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council has partnered with the Butte County Fire Safe Council for 20 + years. As we work through wildfire recovery in Concow and Yankee Hill, we appreciate the programs the BCFSC offers to the residents in our area.”

– **Brenda Rightmyer**, *Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council*

“I’ve been meaning to thank you and all involved for the masticator work on my property. I’m very pleased with the opened up areas. I loved the “natural” look, but feel very good about the difference the work will make in any future wildfire.”

– *Cohasset Resident (Cohasset Loop Project Participant)*

“I’m sure that the work completed by the BCFSC helped our home survive. CAL FIRE was able to use our property as a staging point and used water from our pond to help fight the fire.”

– **Patrick Shinn**, *Cohasset Resident*



buttefiresafe.net

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