

Lake Madrone Success Story

Bald Madrone Fuels Reduction and Fire Recovery Project

Background:

Lake Madrone is situated in the community of Berry Creek in Butte County at 200ft in elevation. Berry Creek among other communities in Butte County was devastated by the 2020 North Complex/Bear Fire. The Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) had planned and nearly started implementing a CCI CAL FIRE Fire Prevention fuels reduction project but the North Complex Fire burned through the community before it could be implemented. The Fire Prevention funds were transitioned to recovery including tree removal adjacent to standing structures, along evacuation routes, and strategic fuels reduction. A strategic fuels reduction project was implemented adjacent to the community of Lake Madrone on 35 acres for fire recovery at which time the American Forest Foundation (AFF) offered a partnership opportunity.

Partnership Success:

Post Fire Disaster Recovery funding through the U.S. Forest Service offered the opportunity for the American Forest Foundation to collaborate with the BCFSC to implement fire recovery quickly for communities in need. The Bald Madrone fuels reduction project was identified and prioritized based on private landowner participation *before* the North Complex/Bear Fire, as well as the strategic location for future fire prevention within



Figure 1: Dana Walsh with USFS and Jessica Daughtery with Land Life Company on a site visit to Bald Madrone.



Figure 2: Post Fire Mastication on the Bald Madrone Project.

the community. Collaboration between the BCFSC and AFF to implement My Sierra Woods in Butte County before over three years allowed for quick implementation from initial conversations to work on the ground in four months.

The Project:

The Bald Madrone Fuels Reduction and Fire Recovery Project is situated along ridge tops adjacent to Lake Madrone on 100 acres. A majority of private landowners participating have had their properties salvage logged which led to mastication being the primary treatment for dead and dying trees less than 10" DBH in preparation for replanting.

Project Layering Success:

The original CCI Prevention grant implemented by the BCFSC offered an opportunity for the AFF to leverage emergency funds through the Bald Madrone Fuels Reduction and Fire Recovery Project. The Bald Madrone project through AFF is treating 100 acres. The BCFSC applied for and received a CCI Forest Health grant to expand the project area to treat an additional 210 acres with replanting planned on 179 of the treated acres. The map shows how the current Bald Madrone project supported by AFF and the CCI grant leverage work across non-industrial private forest lands in this area.

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