



# BUTTE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Berry Creek, CA - November '25

## ***Fire, Forests, and the Future of Butte County***

The Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) is a grassroots nonprofit founded in 1998, born from a simple yet enduring belief: that the wellbeing of our communities and the health of our forests are inseparable.

Over the last 27 years, the stakes have only grown higher. Today, we work where ecology and community meet, helping protect lives, preserve the forests we love, and foster the shared responsibility it takes to thrive in a fire-adapted landscape.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR,

This year, our work across Butte County demonstrated the power of a true grassroots movement. With the continued growth of Firewise USA communities, the formation of a new local Fire Safe Council, the expansion of our Chipper Program, the largest hazardous tree removal project we have ever managed, and community events reaching residents throughout the region, we saw firsthand how local leadership and community-driven action are transforming the way we prepare for wildfire.

With our partners, we also increased the pace and scale of prescribed fire, utilizing broadcast burning for the first time as an organization. These collective efforts reflect a meaningful paradigm shift in Butte County: one that embraces the power of prevention, restores balance to our landscapes, and recognizes beneficial fire as an essential tool for a safer, more resilient future. Together, we are advancing a new chapter of stewardship rooted in collaboration, shared responsibility, and hope.



  
**Taylor Nilsson,**  
*Executive Director*



## 30+ BCCG PARTICIPANTS

Forging strategic partnerships through the Butte County Collaborative Group (BCCG) through tours, regular meetings, and project planning for forest health, ecological restoration, and wildfire safety.

## 46 FIREWISE USA® COMMUNITIES

Expanding our impact by helping communities adapt to living with wildfire and encouraging neighbors to work together to take action.

## 31 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mobilizing community learning and stewardship through high-impact engagement events—tours, workshops, volunteer days, and more!



## 500 ACRES TREATED WITH PRESCRIBED FIRE

Implementing landscape-scale beneficial fire projects that support native plant regeneration, ecological resilience, and community safety across the county.



## 429 CHIPPER SITES

Assisting residents clearing their defensible space with no-cost chipping throughout Butte County.



## 22 HOMES PROTECTED WITH DEFENSIBLE SPACE CLEARANCE

Supporting low-income, elderly, and disabled residents across the Butte County WUI with 100 feet of defensible space clearance.



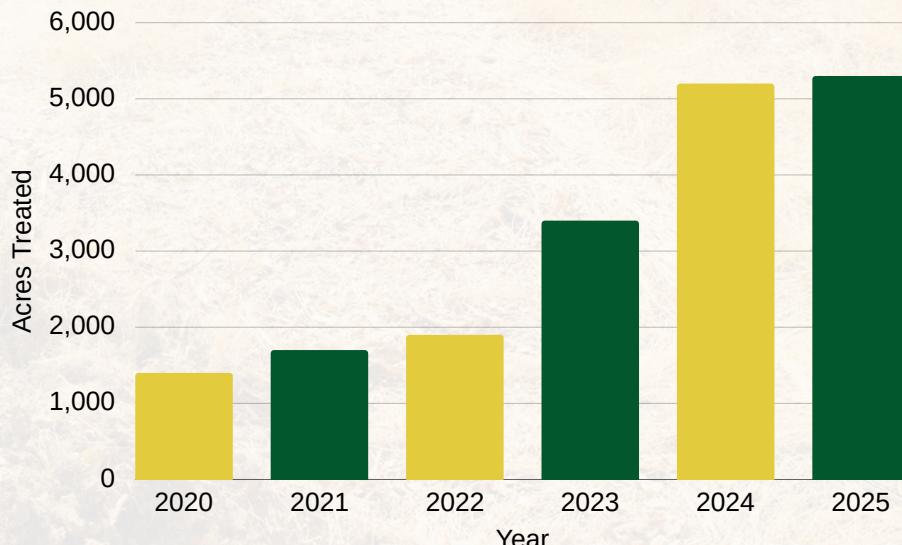
## 8,796 HAZARDOUS TREES MITIGATED

Hazardous dead and dying trees were mitigated within communities across the Camp, North Complex, and Park Fire footprints.

*The power of prevention is clear.*

**Disaster recovery after the 2018 Camp Fire cost roughly \$120,000 per acre, while prevention averages just \$5,000 an acre.**

## INCREASING PACE AND SCALE



\*figures do not include hazard trees mitigated or chipper program

# 5,297

## TOTAL ACRES TREATED

\*Does not include hazard trees mitigated or chipper program

# 2,000+

## PARCELS PARTICIPATED

\*Within a BCFSC project or program

# 10,470

## MATCH HOURS REPORTED

\*Supporting BCFSC grants and Firewise USA® status



"I personally witnessed how the Park Fire, which initially raced up Mud Creek Canyon as a crown fire, transformed when it encountered areas where the forest had been thinned. In these treated areas, the flames dropped to the ground, making them far more manageable for CAL FIRE. Their hard work, combined with the Fire Safe Council's commitment to reducing the fuel load throughout Cohasset, played a crucial role in saving large portions of our community."

– **Ron Ward, Cohasset**

"THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH to the organization for the guidance and support! We are very passionate about keeping our home, our neighborhood and our community safe from potential wildland fires and will continue to support the statewide and nationwide mission of promoting and maintaining forest health!"

– **Allison Denofrio, Upper Neal Firewise USA® Leader, Paradise**

"I know for a fact I could not have completed the work the Fire Safe team gifted me with in the rest of my life. The best part is, almost all of my neighbors participated in the program, so my entire immediate area is a dramatically safer and fire-prepared area. Since I am located between the paths of the Camp & Park Fires, the peace of mind resulting from this program is tremendous. And a nicer or more professional group of people you couldn't ask for."

– **Pat Robinson, Forest Ranch**



**[buttefiresafe.net](http://buttefiresafe.net)**

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