

Challenges for Small Landowners after Wildfire

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Outline

- Getting Past the Shock, Developing Trust
- Regulation
- Comparison of CFIP & EQIP Programs
- Funding
- Case Studies



Landowner Shock & Trust

- Shock
 - Some landowners have just lost everything!!!
 - Foresters & Loggers appear as Ambulance chasers
 - Making sense of all the regulation
 - Local rumor mill is very active
 - Landowners both large & small trying to regroup



Eiler Fire 2014



Tornado Aftermath



Burney Mountain, Eiler Fire



Fireside Cafe



Ponderosa Fire in Manton 2012



Fountain Fire 1992



Destroyed Property, Where to Start?



Understanding the Regulation

- Leadership is needed from the agency's
 - need to provide informational meeting ASAP after fire is contained to provide accurate information to help develop trust and direction for the landowners
- Cal Fire
 - Emergency's vs. Exemptions
 - Timeliness of harvest for value
- Fish & Game, 1600 permits? In-lieu's
- Water Quality, Waivers and Monitoring
- County Planning Dept. for Building Permits, many have lost there houses, how to clean up and get started again.



Developing Trust

- What is the Forest Practice process for salvage?
 - Forest Practice Inspector needs to show up
- What is the Process to get Reforestation Funding?
 - Cal Fire Forest Stewardship Foresters need to show up
 - NRCS Conservationists need to show up
- Provide a vision, show landowner's it is possible



Fountain Fire, 1995



Fountain Fire, 2002



Fountain Fire, 2007



Fountain Fire, 2012



Fountain Fire, 2010



Programs Available & Funding

CFIP, focus on forest mgmt.

- Recently stabilized with Timber Regulation & Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF)
- Starting in 2015, 3 million plus annually
- First Come First Serve
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF)

EQIP, focus on Erosion

- Changes yearly based on Congressional budget
- Applications accepted continuously, funded 5 times per year
- Projects rated & funding goes to highest ranking projects, priority to projects with plans



Ownership Size & Zoning

CFIP

- 20 acre min. ownership size
- 5 acre min. activity size
- Can combine ownerships to min. acre size
- Maximum of 5,000 acres
- Must be zoned TPZ or compatible zoning
- Land use addendum

EQIP

- No acre Minimum
- Must show Forest Management
- Land must have forest cover or be suitable for growing trees
- No maximum ownership, but must be non-industrial timberland **



Funding Rates

CFIP

- 75% for Green projects
- 90% for Substantially damaged timberlands, for 10 years
- First Come First Serve
- Rates recently updated
- Percent based on actual costs to contract max.

EQIP

- 50-90% depending on activity and situation
- Rates can change yearly
- Percent based on NRCS Average Cost Payment Method not Actual Costs
- Funding based on meeting threshold ranking scores within Regional pool, Wildfire within 18 months of fire



Timing of Funding

CFIP

- For Wildfire minimum 2 months often 3-4 months
- Timing is a problem after wildfires to make timely seedling orders
- Apply by Oct. 1 to get decision & contract by Dec. 1
- Availability of staff in Sept/Oct a problem (fire season)

EQIP

- For wildfire, Catastrophic Fire Initiative funding is available, minimum 2 months, no guarantees
- Waiver available for Seedling orders
- **Contact NRCS early** to allow time to get application approved and funded in time to make December seedling order

Fund Timing Problems

- After wildfire, getting applications filed, approve by FAS & “Contracted” in time to make seedling order is difficult
- Timing – Biological vs. Bureaucratic
 - Seedling Orders, need to be made in December.
 - Field folks understand biology, contracting folks don’t, only worried about CYA and preventing fraud
- Post December decision costs:
 - year of increased brush competition, i.e.. Extra herbicide application (public likes this) and associated costs (landowner likes this).
 - Usually reduced survival



Timing of Payments

CFIP

- Interim Payments allowed
- Proof of Payment to Contractors required before payment to landowner
- Cal Fire needs to inspect activity for completion

EQIP

- Interim Payments allowed
- Practice must be field verified by NRCS staff (or TSP) & meet requirements prior to payment



Management Plans

CFIP

- Forest Management Plan required prior to any work
- Funding for Cooperative Management Plan is available to cover 90% of cost

EQIP

- Forest Management Plan is NOT required but recommended, may change in future
- NRCS Conservation Plan required, done by NRCS



Other Qualifications

CFIP

- Project must be maintained for 10 years
- Won't pay for Required THP activities
- Good idea to pre-review project with Cal Fire Forester before application

EQIP

- Projects must be maintained for practice lifespan (variable)
- Must be pre-review project with NRCS conservationist
- Adjusted Gross Income less than \$900,000/year



Supervision

CFIP

- RPF supervision of projects required and funded

EQIP

- No requirement for RPF supervision
- Supervision Possible if Qualified Technical Service Provider (TSP)

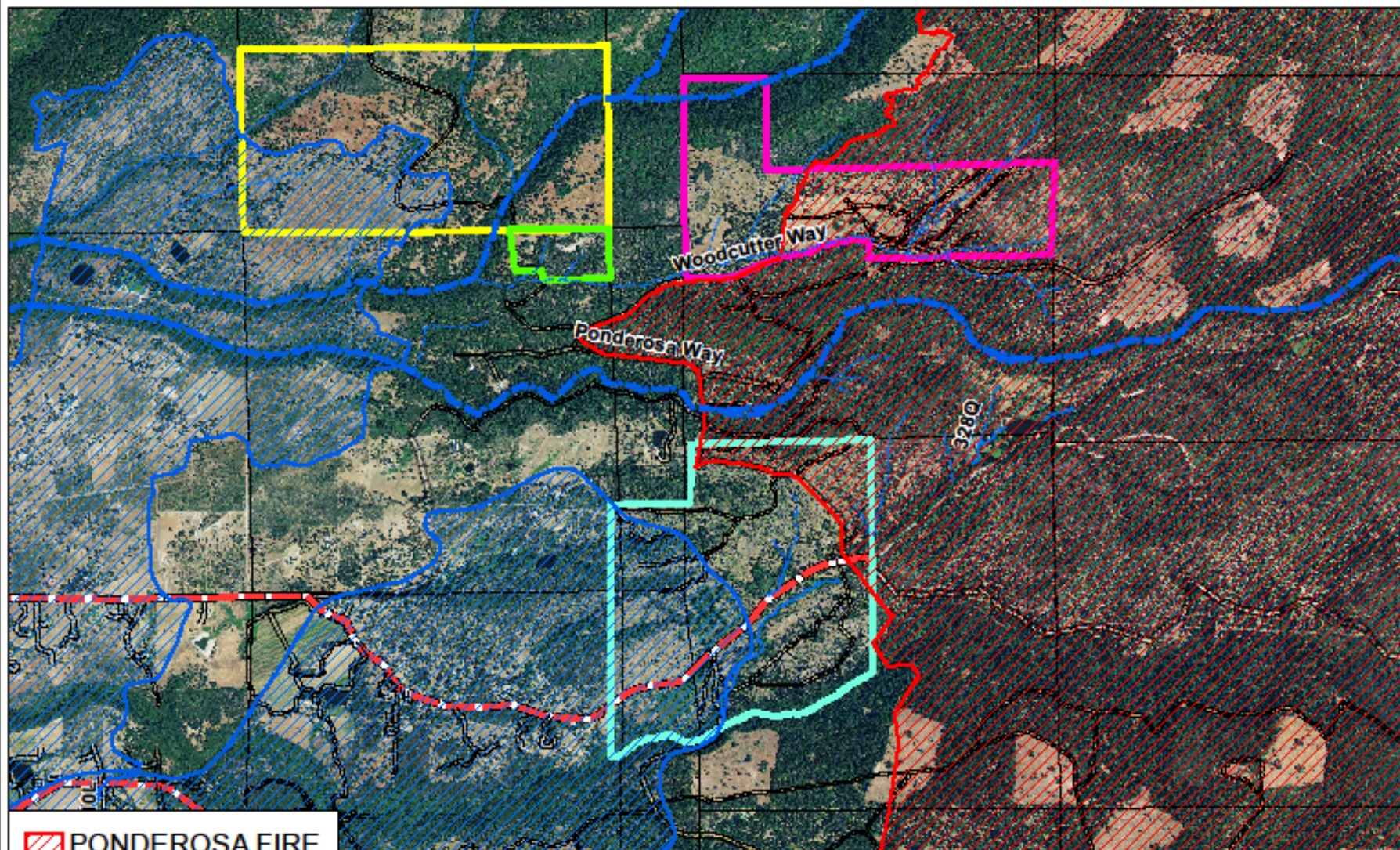


Case Studies



Tools

- Mechanical
 - Piling
 - Mastication
 - Sub-Soiling
 - Small Chipping
 - Commercial Chipping
- Burning
 - Tractor Piles
 - Hand Piles
 - Broadcast
- Spraying
 - Site Prep
 - Release, this one is often neglected
- Integration – Usually a Combination



-  PONDEROSA FIRE
-  MANTON FIRE
-  Schraml Property
-  Peacock Property
-  Graves property
-  Escove Property

Manton Fuel Reduction Effect on Shingletown

1:22870

0 1800 3600 5400 7200 Feet



Created By:
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Escove Property, Pruned



2014/02/10

Ponderosa Back Fire in Escove Pruned Plantation



Escove Pruned Plantation Survival 2 years after Ponderosa Fire



2014/02/10



Schraml Pruned Defensible Space

Schraml Back Fire



Peacock Chip & Pile - Before



Peacock Chip & Burn - After



2012/11/23

Neal Mastication Thin & Interplant



2012/10/27

Paul - Pile, Burn & Plant



2014/01/29

**Winrock – Brush
Chipping Test**



Winrock – Brush Chipping Test



Fountain Fire Reforestation Crew Reunion 2012



Questions?

