



Board of Supervisors

CalRecycle Assists Mono County in Round Fire Cleanup: Debris Removal Efforts Could Reach \$2.5 Million

- SACRAMENTO--The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has begun work with contractors to clean up areas of Mono County that were damaged by the 7,000-acre Round Fire. The February fire damaged or destroyed about 40 homes and structures, mainly affecting the communities of Paradise and Swall Meadows. Debris removal and restoration efforts began March 23 and should take about four to six weeks to complete.



“Our primary focus is to ensure the health and safety of our fellow Californians while acting quickly to assist Mono County in their efforts to restore the affected communities,” CalRecycle Director Carol Mortenson said. “We want the people of Swall Meadows and Paradise to know we’ll be working in partnership with the county to perform the cleanup effectively and efficiently, and allow rebuilding to begin as soon as possible.”



On February 6, the wind-driven Round Fire broke out west of U.S. Route 395 near the border of Inyo and Mono counties. The fire burned nearly 11 square miles and forced the evacuation of 250 residents. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Damage to homes and outbuildings appears randomly dispersed, likely



due to wind direction at the time of the fire. The scattered nature of the damage provides a unique challenge for debris removal teams as they deploy necessary resources to the affected areas. Ash material is being hauled to the Lancaster Landfill, while CalRecycle will ensure concrete, steel, and other materials suitable for reuse will go to local recyclers.



For fire impacted residents who still wish to participate in the CalRecycle program, please contact Tony Dublino, Mono County Solid Waste Superintendent at (760) 932-5453 or via email at tdublino@mono.ca.gov to enroll.

CalRecycle was requested by Mono County and the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services to lead this phase of recovery efforts. CalRecycle has worked closely with Mono County officials to develop a debris removal operations plan. Site sampling and documentation precede debris removal efforts, which are expected to cost \$2.5 million. The Office of Emergency Services will ultimately cover the cost using California Disaster Assistance Act funding. For high-res photos, please contact lance.klug@calrecycle.ca.gov.



County Administrator's Office

Comments Sought on Sage-Grouse Habitat Enhancement Project - The Inyo National Forest is seeking comments for a sage-grouse habitat enhancement project. The forest is proposing to implement sage-grouse habitat enhancement at various locations in Long Valley.

In the absence of a natural fire regime, Jeffrey pine trees are gradually moving into historically pure stands of sagebrush. Sage-grouse tend to avoid areas with overhead cover; likely because trees provide perches for predators such as hawks that feed on grouse.

The project would entail removing trees from seven sites within the Long Valley Caldera. The small diameter young trees would be felled and limbed using chainsaws and allowed to naturally decompose on site. This type of project has proven to be an effective habitat enhancement tool. An area treated last summer was repopulated by sage-grouse within weeks of the project's termination.

For more information regarding this project or if you wish to comment on this proposal, please call Richard Perloff, 760-924-5508 or contact him via e-mail at rperloff@fs.fed.us. Comments on this proposal would be most useful if received by April 30, 2015.

Travel Analysis Process Public Meeting Planned - The Inyo National Forest announces that a public meeting to share the Draft Travel Analysis Report (TAR) is planned for Tuesday, April 21st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm at the Cerro Coso Community College in Bishop, CA .

The Travel Analysis Process (TAP) is required by the 2005 Travel Management Rule and requires that forests provide a safe, financially, and environmentally sustainable road system that can realistically be maintained. Due to increased use, aging infrastructure, and decreasing budgets, the forest cannot maintain all roads to standards for safety and environmental protection. TAP fulfills the requirement in Subpart A of Travel Management that states each forest uses a science-based roads analysis to help identify the minimum road system.

The Inyo National Forest, as well as other national forests in the country, is required to complete TAP by September 30, 2015 to receive federally appropriated funds for its road system.

Under TAP, the forest must determine the risks, benefits, and opportunities for every designated system road and identify possible changes or repairs to the road system. These may include safety, the cost of maintenance, recreational experience, or environmental impacts. The results will be shared in a Travel Analysis Report (TAR). To learn more, check out this worksheet that explains the process further.

Inyo National Forest staff will share how they developed the Draft TAR, answer questions about TAP, and have the Draft TAR available for review at the public meeting.

TAP not designate the minimum road system, but rather a set of recommendations. It will not close roads, add roads to the system, or otherwise change the current road system. However, TAP will be used to inform future planning regarding management of the forest's roads.

TAP does not replace the decision made during Travel Management, Subpart B; which designated routes for the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) for the Inyo National Forest. Rather, TAP will help to identify possible changes to the road system that was identified in Travel Management.

The Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center will open on Saturday, March 28th. It will be open from 9 am - 4:30 pm, Thursdays through Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). The visitor center will begin their summer hour schedule, open seven days a week from 8 am to 5 pm, in May.

Mechanical Thinning Project at Old Shady Rest - The Inyo National Forest announces that a mechanical thinning project will begin this week in the Old Shady Rest Campground and surrounding area.

The project is designed to provide needed defensible space for the community of Mammoth Lakes in the event of a wildland fire. Approximately thirty acres will be thinned in the Jeffrey pine forest. Generally, trees less than 20 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) will be removed to open the forest and to reduce ladder fuels that can help carry fire into the forest canopy. While the primary purpose of thinning is to create a zone of wildfire defensible space near private homes in the town of Mammoth Lakes, hazard trees may also be removed.

The thinning will restore the area to a more natural forest structure (age, size, trees per acre, and species distribution).

This project will help create a more resilient forest during this long-term drought by reducing competition for water, nutrients and sunlight. Many areas in California are seeing trees dying from bug kill and/or for lack of water. Thinning provides better opportunities for the survivors to be stronger and therefore more resistant to bug and fungal infestations that can target drought-stressed trees.

For safety reasons, the area will be closed while work is completed. While the campground is closed for the winter, the area is still popular for local recreationists.



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CSAC Provides update on Secure Rural Schools Funding and other top issues – A two-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program has been included as part of a deal (often referred to as the “doc fix”) to replace Medicare’s physician payment formula. Specifically, the SRS provision would cover payments for fiscal year 2014 (retroactive) and fiscal year 2015. It also would require the U.S. Forest Service to provide the fiscal year 2014 payment in a timely manner – within 45 days of enactment.

STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION: GOP leaders negotiated the “Doc Fix” package with House Democrats, so the measure does have bipartisan support. However, there are still a few remaining roadblocks. For starters, the proposal is not fully offset, so there will likely be some pushback from fiscal

conservatives/budget hawks. In addition, the package includes an abortion rider that could be a concern for some Democrats, although Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)—along with House Pro-Choice Caucus Chairwomen Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Diana DeGette (D-CO)—are encouraging their colleagues to support the legislation. Both parties are currently whipping votes to make sure the measure has enough support to pass the House.

Time is running short as the current Medicare payment formula expires on March 31, and Congress will recess for two weeks at the conclusion of this week's business. The House is currently on pace to consider the legislation Thursday, leaving very little time for Senate consideration. For their part, Senate Democrats are seeking additional concessions from Republicans in the package, but it's unclear whether they would be willing to hold up final passage.

BACKGROUND ON SRS: In the previous fiscal year, the SRS program provided more than \$32.7 million to 39 California counties. These funds—which are provided to rural counties affected by the steep decline in federal timber harvests—are used to maintain local roads and schools, operate search and rescue missions, and provide many other essential local services.

CSAC has continued to encourage key members of Congress to provide a sustainable, long-term solution to SRS. In particular, the association has urged lawmakers to develop bipartisan legislation that would address active forest management, streamline the environmental review process, and revise the Forest Service's day-to-day approach to managing the nation's federal forests. Additionally, Congress should ensure that counties are appropriately compensated under any potential new payment system.

In the absence of such a proposal, CSAC supports an immediate short-term extension of funding to help forest counties and schools avert a major budgetary crisis.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM: The legislation also includes a two-year extension of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP/Healthy Families). Without the enhanced federal funding provided through the program, California's Health and Human Services Agency estimates a loss of up to \$533 million annually in federal funding to provide health services to children.

HOME VISITING PROGRAM: Finally, the bill contains a two-year extension of funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. This program supports pregnant women and families and helps at-risk parents of pre-school children by using evidence-based, cost-effective models that improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness. California received \$22.6 million in FY 2015 funding last month. As of February 2015, 21 California counties participated in the federal program.

CONTACT: **Geoff Neill**, Principal Policy and Fiscal Analyst, CSAC gneill@counties.org
(916) 650-8115

April North County Employee Round Table on Thursday April 2nd at 8:00am at Memorial Hall in Bridgeport – Please join us for our monthly chance to meet and discuss any issues employees may have. As always the CAO brings the coffee and donuts and the county does not pay – mostly because I eat too many.

CONTACT: **Jim Leddy**, (707) 529-4510

Mono County's first ever Strategic Planning Framework Heads to the RPACS – Thank you to everyone on staff (which is ALL of you) who helped bring forward the Strategic Planning Framework. This unprecedented effort is circulating out through many public committees the County has to garner public feedback. On March 19th the Mammoth Lakes Noon Time Rotary received a presentation.

Please feel free to come on by the following RPAC meetings:

- June Lake CAC** **April 7th**
- Mono Basin RPAC (2nd review)** **April 8th**
- Antelope Valley (2nd Review)** **April 9th**
- Bridgeport RPAC (2nd Review)** **April 16th**
- First Five (2nd Review)** **April 16th**



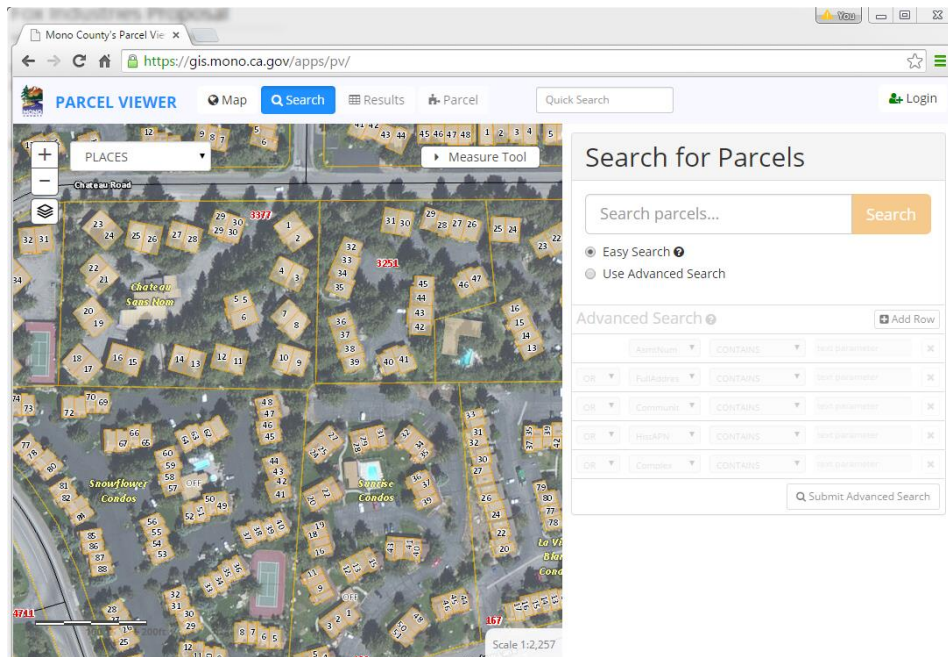
Thank you all very much for being a part of history and building our future!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Information technology

ParcelViewer 4.0 Coming Online - Thanks to the great work of Joel Hickok, after three months of development and a month of Beta testing, Mono County IT is excited to present the Release Candidate of ParcelViewer 4.0 to County staff and the general public.

The new application features a fully re-designed interface that leverages 'Responsive Design' making the application mobile friendly and functional on any size screen. Enhanced search features, layer & basemap control, an improved map and result interface, new measurement tools, and the ability to buffer parcels and generate mailing lists are just a few of the features in the new application. New functionality will continue to be added in future releases, and the GIS team appreciates any and all feedback on the application to help us improve it. As with any new software or



application, there will certainly be some bugs, so users should feel free to email any comments to gis@mono.ca.gov.

The application can be accessed via <https://gis.mono.ca.gov/apps/pv>. Users navigating to the old ParcelViewer will be prompted with a page giving them the choice of either the new or old version of the application. Help documentation is in the works, so stay tuned...

For questions, comments, or more information, feel free to contact **Joel Hickok** at jhickok@mono.ca.gov or (760) 924-1817.

CONTACT: Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1819

Public Health

Mono County Ranks 15th in State for Health Outcomes – Check out Mono County’s most recent standings in overall health ratings. At the following weblink, you can review how we have moved from 19th in the state to 15th. This increase reflects that since 2010 we have moved from 36th to 15th and speaks to the great County and community efforts to improve health across Mono.

http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/state/downloads/CHR2015_CA_0.pdf

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 925-4510

Public Works

1. The USFS, **Brett McCurry, Cory Gonzales** and his Road Area 4/5 crew have begun work to repair sections of Buckeye Road damaged during last summer’s heavy rain events. The USFS have also supplied culverts, equipment and staff. Picture is of **Brad Dunn** spotting for the USFS backhoe operator as they locate the culvert to find the buried inlet.



2. The Memorial Hall ADA restroom remodel is nearing completion.

Check out photo of **Donn Nunn** and **Jason Davenport** putting the final touches on the facilities.

3. Some of Mono County’s surplus heavy equipment are being sent to Reno for an



upcoming auction. These include a D8 Dozer and two backhoes. The auction is on April 11th. Revenue will go to Road and Facilities divisions of Public Works.

4. REMINDER - Have you checked your county vehicle's fluids lately? How about if the vehicle is due for service? Just as it is with your own personal vehicle, it is every driver's responsibility to check fluids and mileage daily to ensure your valuable county "tool" is ready for travel. These vehicles are expected to provide at least 8 years of service or more for the county.
5. As a result of the Digital 395 improvements to our network **Kirk Hartstrom, Jerry VandeBrake, and Don Nunn** have successfully completed an upgrade to our fuel data system. This will allow us to better track our fuel use and other Motor Pool data.
6. The following information is regarding the highway pass openings:
 - a. Caltrans stated they will have their passes open for the fishing opener.
 - b. Yosemite National Park stated they will begin snow removal on April 20th (first Monday after the 15th which is the norm). They do not require County's help. They will probably finish snow removal that week then begin on tree and rock clean up, patch and pull ditches for a week, then the park will make a decision about opening to the public.

CONTACT: Jeff Walters, (760) 932-5459

Social Services

Upcoming Family Strengthening event - Thursday, April 30, 2015 a multi-agency event will be occurring and many agencies will be coming together in this effort. ***Family serving agencies across Mono County are strengthening families and building Protective Factors.*** When protective factors are strong in families, children are nurtured, protected, and parents are supported to be the best they can be, even when under stress. Come learn more about the Strengthening Families approach and explore how Mono County can work collaboratively to improve outcomes for our families and communities.

Place: Lee Vining Community Center

296 Mattly Avenue

Lee Vining, CA 93541

Sign-in: 8:30 am – 9:00 am

Convening & Training: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Registration Fee: Free - must pre-register to attend.

Registration Deadline: 4/22/2015

Light breakfast, snacks and beverages provided. Lunch is on your own. This Event is Free. You must pre-register to attend. Registration link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/4_30_15_Mono. Brought to you by the Mono County Strengthening Families Team and the Mono County Child Abuse Prevention Council.

CONTACT: Didi Tergesen, Program Specialist, Mono County Office of Education
(760) 934-0031 x 109