



2024 Annual Report



Auburn Lake Trails
Fire Safety and Improvement Council

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safety and Improvement Council (FSIC) is to provide education, exchange information, and foster fire prevention and fire safety within Auburn Lake Trails (ALT). ALT is a recorded real estate development, consisting of approximately 2862 acres, in the community of Cool, El Dorado County, California.

OUR GOALS

The Goals of the Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safety and Improvement Council are:

- Creating and maintaining defensible space around structures and community
- Reducing hazardous vegetation across the landscape
- Educating citizens regarding fire hazards and fire behavior through the guidance of local agencies and partnerships
- Promoting environmental quality
- Obtaining grants, contributions and other funding sources

OUR STATUS

The FSIC is a registered charitable organization [501(c)(3)]. The FSIC is independent from the ALT Property Owners Association (POA), but the FSIC coordinates its activities with the POA. The primary tool for this coordination is the ALT Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The funding of the FSIC is derived from several sources. The POA provides important monetary and other support to the FSIC and its activities.

OUR OFFICERS

OFFICERS OF FSIC	2023	2024
President	Michael Connelly	Michael Connelly
Vice President	David Halpin	David Halpin
Secretary	Curt Kruger	Curt Kruger (until June) Ron Means (from June)
Treasurer	Joy Hemp	Joy Hemp
Member at Large	Edward C. Grout	Edward C. Grout
Member at Large	H. Buckwalter (until June) Ron Means (from October)	Ron Means (until June) Dan Mullen (from June)

The Board of Directors of the FSIC are all volunteers. There is no paid staff.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The year 2024 was a successful year for the FSIC. We received \$1,552,400 in Grants for wildfire resiliency measures, more than in our previous 20 years of existence combined. The following review evaluates the grant activities, efforts at improving community wildfire resiliency, community outreach activities, cooperation with other entities and a summary of significant aspects of the 2024 fire season.



Presentation on Home Hardening in January



New Chipper Dedication in September

1. GRANTS

- **NEW CHIPPER FOR THE ALT POA (5GG22104)**

In 2023, the FSIC applied for and were awarded a Grant for \$99,975 from CAL FIRE for the purchase of a new chipper. The Grant (5GG22104) funds are provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Wildfire Prevention Grants Program as part of the California Climate Investment Program. The Agreement between CAL FIRE and the FSIC was executed on December 29, 2023, and transmitted to the FSIC on January 3, 2024.

During early 2024, the FSIC prepared a specification for the equipment; solicited and received bids; performed an economic evaluation of the bids; and in conjunction with the POA performed a technical evaluation of the bids. On June 28, 2024, the FSIC entered into an Agreement with RDO Equipment of Sacramento for the supply of a Vermeer BC1200 trailer-mounted chipper with winch.

There was a ceremonial 'transfer of the keys' between the FSIC and the ALT Property Owners Association (POA) on September 21, 2024 attended by our County Supervisor (Lori Parlin) and representatives from CAL FIRE, the El Dorado County Fire Protection District, the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, the El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Prevention and Resilience and representatives from the POA Board. The Chipper Dedication Ceremony was held at a popular neighborhood event, the Autumn WIFFS Yard Sale. Choosing this date encouraged residents to attend the dedication.



The actual chipper was delivered to ALT on November 6, 2024.

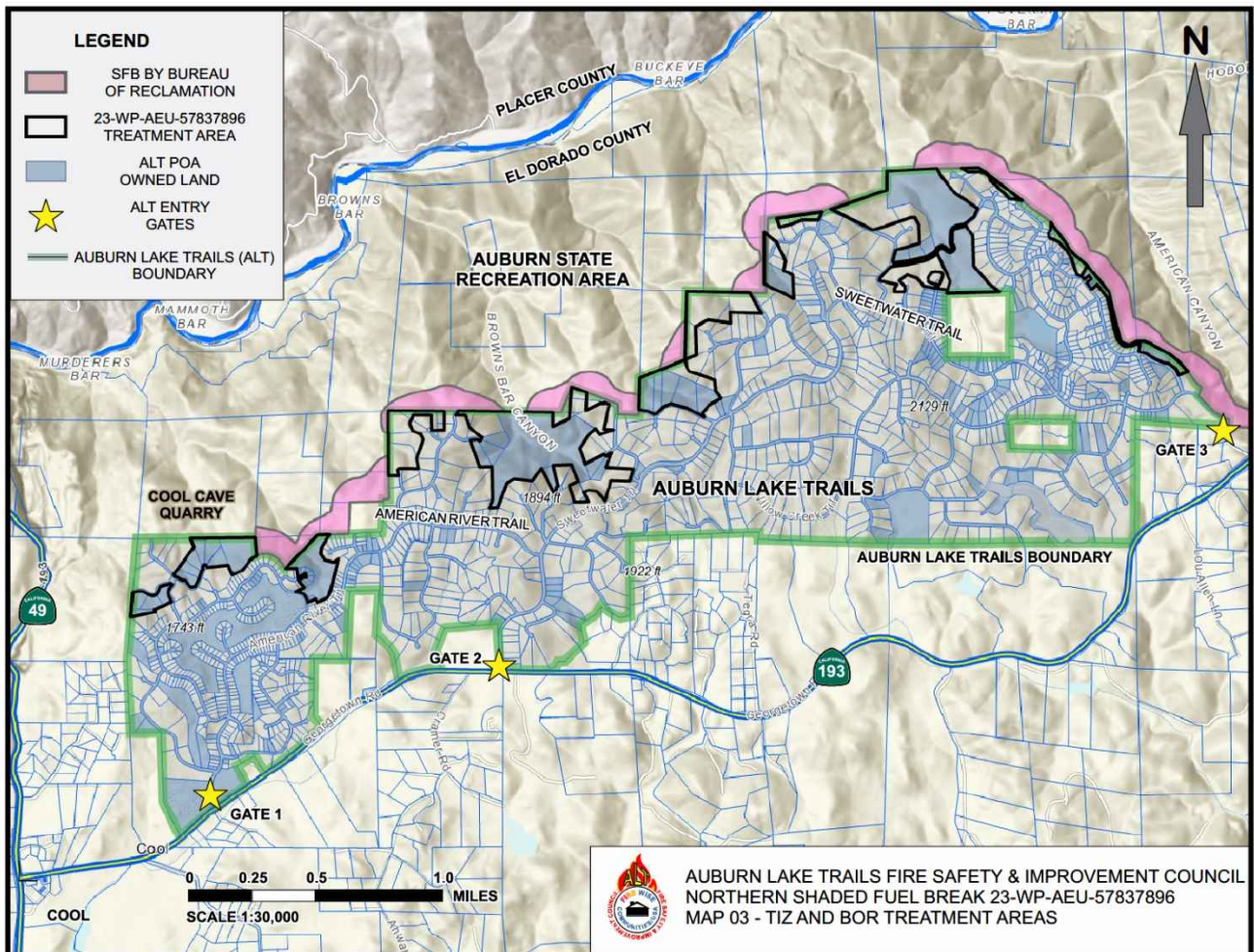
CAL FIRE approved the FSIC invoice for the equipment on December 27, 2024, and the FSIC is undertaking closure the Purchase Order and the Grant in 1Q25.

- **NORTHERN SHADED FUEL BREAK (5TR23101)**

In 2024, the FSIC applied for and were awarded a CAL FIRE Grant (5TR23101) for \$1,349,400 for the development, through maintenance and new work, of a 350.0-acre Shaded Fuel Break (SFB) along ALT's northern boundary with the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA). Grant Applications were due on January 10, 2024, and the FSIC submitted its application. On August 19, 2024 the FSIC was awarded a Grant for \$1,349,400.

On October 28, 2024, CAL FIRE sent the FSIC the Agreement for the Grant. It was returned to CAL FIRE on November 22, 2024 and CAL FIRE returned the signed version to the FSIC on December 3, 2024.

The FSIC worked on the Project Execution Plan during December.

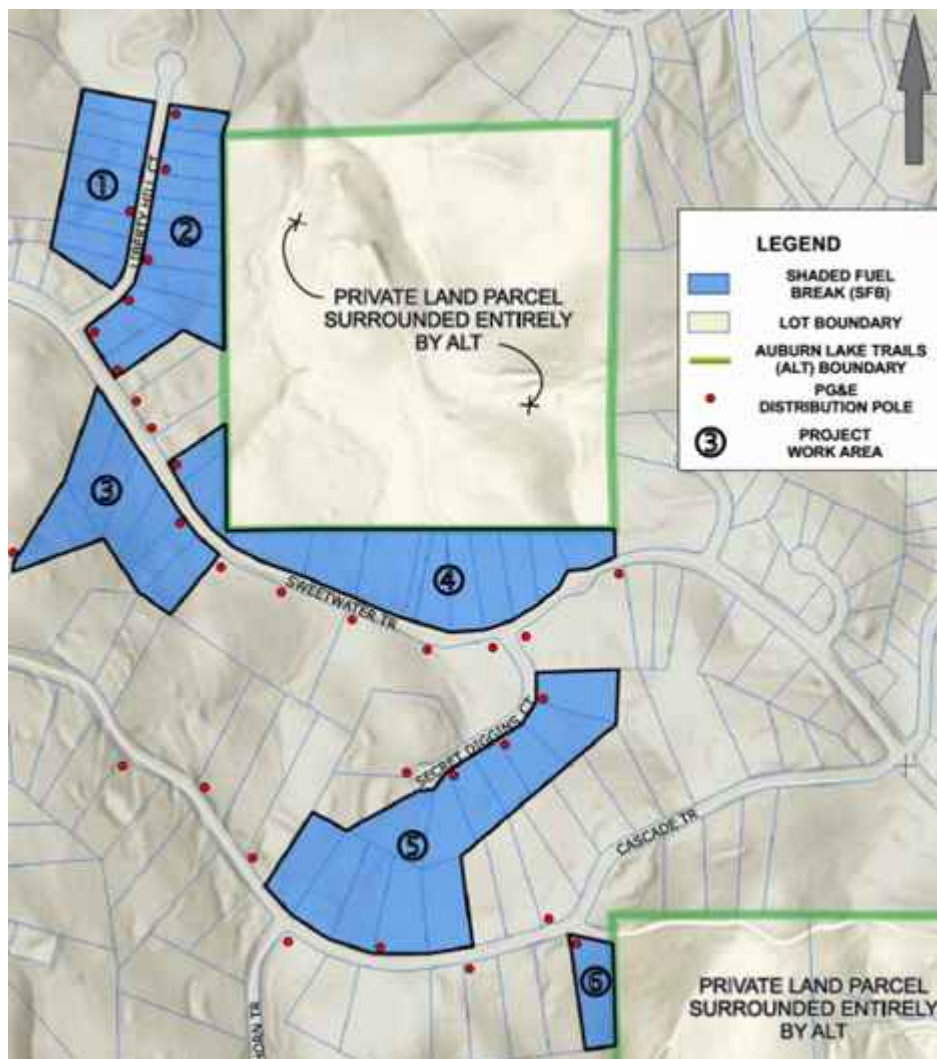


In the map above, the Treatment Areas for 5TR23101 are outlined in Black, adjacent to Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) work in ASRA

- **UPPER CASCADE SHADED FUEL BREAK (ALTFSIC 2024-01)**

In 2024, the FSIC applied for and was awarded a Grant from PG&E. The Grant (ALTFSIC 2024-1), for \$97,500, provided for the construction/maintenance of a 33.12-acre SFB on POA property along Liberty Hill Court and through Sweetwater Trail and Secret Diggins Court to Cascade Trail. The Project is called the Upper Cascade SFB.

On February 8, 2024, PG&E invited several Fire Safe Councils, including the FSIC to submit proposals for Fuel Reduction Work in the PG&E service area. On March 29, 2024, the FSIC submitted the project application to PG&E. On April 25, 2024, PG&E announced the award to the FSIC for the Upper Cascade SFB Project, assigning Project Number ALTFSIC 2024-1. The FSIC acknowledged receipt on May 1, 2024.



In May, the FSIC engaged a Register Professional Forester to visit the Project area, and provide input on vegetation treatment. In May, the FSIC engaged an environmental consulting firm to perform a nesting bird survey.

In May, the FSIC prepared specifications for Fuel Reduction on the project area and solicited bids from experienced contractors. Site visits were made with contractors in early June. Proposals were received from four contractors, the proposals were evaluated technically and commercially, and on June 20, 2024, the Fuel Reduction Contract was signed with Daves Tree Works and Forestry Management (DTW), CLSB #1090335.



Previous commitments of DTW prevented starting the field work until early July. Unfortunately, by that time the fire climate in ALT had deteriorated significantly, and by mutual agreement between the FSIC and DTW, work was postponed until a favorable fire climate was obtained. The FSIC received an extension from PG&E on the completion of field work from November 30, 2024 until December 15, 2024.

Weekly communication between DTW and the FSIC monitored the fire climate. The autumn rains finally arrived in October and DTW mobilized on October 25, 2024. Field work started on October 30th. Site work proceeded well, and the field work was completed on December 4, 2024 and DTW submitted their final invoice to the FSIC on December 5th.

The FSIC prepared the Final Project Report and submitted the report to PG&E with the FSIC final invoice on December 9, 2024. The Invoice was approved by PG&E on December 9th the final check to DTW was prepared on December 12th.

The Project was completed without any recordable Environmental, Safety or Health incidents.

- **MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS**

- i. In 2023, the FSIC obtained a Grant from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDC FSC) for \$2,500 for a Green Waste Dumpster Day for our community. This Dumpster Day was held on May 11, 2024.
 - ii. In 2024, the FSIC obtained a Grant from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDC FSC) for \$3,000 for two Green Waste Dumpster Days for our community. The Grant was approved on December 1, 2024. These Dumpster Days are planned for May and July 2025.
 - iii. In 2024, the FSIC obtained a Grant from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDC FSC) for \$2,750 for preparing and publishing a brochure for the ALT Community regarding insurance credits offered by the FAIR Plan for particular Home Hardening actions.
- See Appendix A for details on the \$2,800,722 worth of grant funds used to improve the Community Wildfire Preparedness since 2007. Individual efforts by ALT residents have greatly exceeded this monetary value, averaging \$262,291 per year since 2018, with similar amounts between 2005 and 2017.

2. FIRE RESILIENCY EFFORTS

- **HOMEOWNER PARTICIPATION**

The FSIC documented the fuel reduction efforts of ALT residents, during 2024, totaling \$237,832 (in the value of volunteer hours, payments to contractors and equipment use by POA). This work increased the fire resiliency and defendability of residents' homes. This data was obtained from forms completed by POA staff and the ALT residents.

The ALT POA conducts annual evaluations of all occupied and unoccupied lots, following the requirements of CAL FIRE for Zone 1 and Zone 2 Defensible Space. Property owners are also required to meet the Defensible Space requirements on their property that come within 100 feet of a neighboring structure. In 2024, the POA completed 1156 evaluations in June, and an additional 229 evaluations in July (some of which were follow-ups to evaluations in June that did not pass the evaluation).

- **SHADED FUEL BREAK BETWEEN LIBERTY HILL COURT AND CASCADE TRAIL**

As mentioned above, the FSIC was awarded a contract from PG&E for fuel reduction along Liberty Hill Court, through Sweetwater Trail and Secret Diggins Court, to Cascade Trail. This project was titled the Upper Cascade SFB. The work consisted of mastication and limbing along with select mowing and weed eating covering 33.12-acres.

The purpose of the construction of the SFB was to remove low lying vegetation (ladder fuels), remove trees as required to provide breaks in the tree canopy and remove limbs on the remaining trees that are below 10 feet from the ground.

Details of the Grant and Fuel Reduction work are included in Section 1 – Grants.

- **WORKING WITH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ON THE NORTHERN SFB**

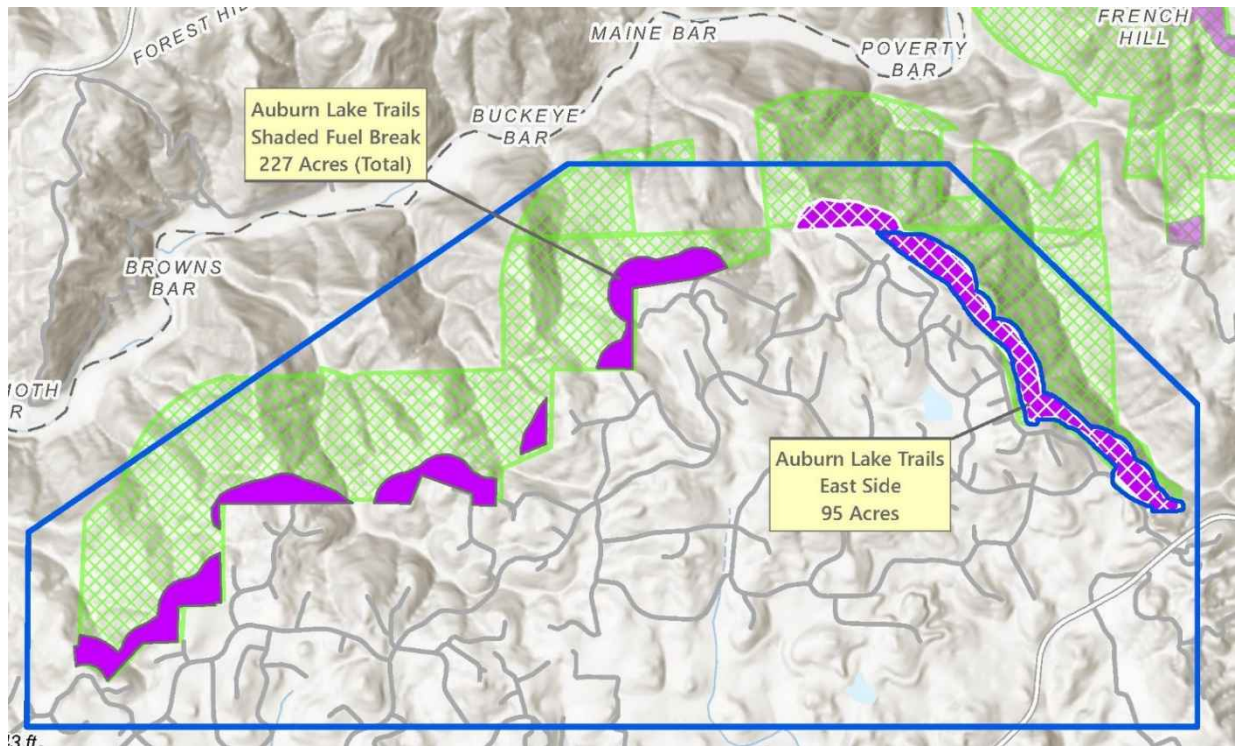
The FSIC was successful in obtaining assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in the maintenance of the Northern SFB on BOR lands. The BOR has an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The agreement provides for the BLM to perform fuel management activities on BOR land within ASRA. This work was managed by the BOR. In June 2021, a site visit was made with the BOR and the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to review the work required to maintain the fuel break. On December 6, 2021 the CCC began clearing work near Gate 3. The work continued intermittently until March of 2022.

For new work in 2022, the BOR engaged a private contractor, Wildfire Services Group (WSG) of Windsor, CA, to accomplish fuel reduction work in ASRA. In October, WSG commenced work in the Knickerbocker Area west of the town of Cool.

On October 12, 2022, Dave Halpin and Joy Hemp met with representatives of WSG and BOR at Gate 3 to discuss the work near ALT. It was agreed that WSG would commence work at Roses Bar Court and advance to the south.

The FSIC obtained permission from the landowner at Roses Bar Court for WSG to access the area utilizing their property.

The WSG crews commenced work on ASRA lands adjacent to ALT on January 11, 2023.



The crews worked along the eastern boundary of ALT, on ASRA property along the American Canyon. The terrain was very steep, and although the contractor marshalled significant equipment, much work had to be accomplished with hand cutting.

The extent of the work is shown in the 95-acre area outline in blue with violet cross-hatching on the above extract from a BOR drawing. WSG completed its work in this area on May 12, 2023.

For 2024, the BOR decided to use grazing to augment the mechanical work. On January 15, 2024 two herds, each with approximately 400 goats, began work near Double 'O' Mine Trail. The goats continued in an eastward direction, working in the purple areas until reaching Middle Mountain Court in approximately two months.



In parallel with the goat herds, mechanical clearing began on January 29, 2024. Crews from WSG followed the goats, clearing underbrush left by the goats and limbing and thinning trees as required to establish a shaded fuel break. The WSG crews were here until mid-July, and then returned on August 12, 2024 for one week of additional work near Deadwood Court.



The BOR intends to arrange for crews to return in 2025, to burn piles that were left by the mechanical work in 2023 and 2024.

• **NEW CHIPPER FOR THE ALT POA COMPLIMENTARY CHIPPING PROGRAM**

CAL FIRE grant 5GG22104, described in detail in Section 1 - Grants, will support the ALT POA program of providing complimentary chipping for ALT residents and POA members. The POA chipping program has been in place since 2005, and in 2024 some modest limits were introduced. The Chipping Program now provides for free service for up to four times a year, for up to 30 minutes per visit. If a chipping session is more than 30 minutes, or if an additional chipping visit is required, the fee is charged at a unit rate \$100/hr.

The work performed in the chipping program is summarized in the following table:

	Member Hours	Contracted Services	Chipper Hours	Total Value	Forms
2018	4,522	\$ 22,809	87	\$ 153,597	449
2019	8,509	\$ 71,897	142	\$ 287,735	558
2020	5,684	\$ 93,206	128	\$ 247,671	530
2021	6,224	\$ 85,987	517	\$ 287,394	562
2022	7,602	\$ 162,738	396	\$ 370,648	721
2023	5,806	\$ 92,078	358	\$ 251,162	623
2024	4,362	\$ 81,868	296	\$ 237,832	446

• **MAY 11 GREEN WASTE DAY**



Cars queue along American River Trail waiting to unload Green Waste

On May 11, 2024, the FSIC sponsored a ‘Green Waste Day’ for ALT residents. More than 65 residents brought vehicles full of the products of their fuel reduction activities for Defensible Space. All three 20-yd³ dumpsters were filled by mid-day. This program compliments the Chipping Program, and also allows for disposal of green waste that cannot be chipped (e.g. oleander, juniper, etc.).



Volunteer unloaders Marcia Kreofsky, Bettie Smith, Paige Palombo and Bob Mason

- **JULY 20 GREEN WASTE DAY**

An additional Green Waste Dumpster Day was held on July 20th. As with the event in May, the three 20-yd³ dumpsters were filled before mid-day.



Cars waiting the Green Waste Dumpster gates to open



Volunteer unloaders Mark Liebenow, Bettie Smith, Bob Mason and Marcia Kreofsky

3.COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **HOME HARDENING PRESENTATION**

On January 18, 2024 and January 20, 2024, public meetings were held with the ALT Community to inform the public of valuable efforts that home owners can take to make their homes more wildfire resilient.



Led by Curt Kruger of the FSIC, presentations were made by Alice Cantelow of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, Lucas Shepard of the El Dorado County Sheriff Office of Emergency Services and Kit Veerkamp, Master Gardener. Representatives from CAL FIRE, the El Dorado County Fire Protection District, and the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District attended the community event and provided insight, and answered questions.



The presentations focused on the general benefits of Home Hardening in protecting homes from destruction by wildfire. The importance of ember transport was emphasized and actions addressing control of ember ignitions were highlighted.

The presentation discussed specific Home Hardening measures that can be taken to reduce the FAIR Plan insurance costs. Proposed CAL FIRE Zone 0 regulations were discussed, and while not specifically Home Hardening, related to actions to be taken close to the house.

The meeting was well attended and received by our community.

- **SPRING WIFFS YARD SALE**

On May 18, 2024, the FSIC set up its Kiosk at the Spring WIFFS Yard Sale. There was significant public interest regarding the CAL FIRE proposed 'Zone 0' regulations.



- **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

On the 4th of July, the FSIC erected its information kiosk at the ALT POA Independence Day Celebration. The FSIC provided information on the new FHSZ, Home Hardening, Defensible Space and other wildfire resiliency activities.



In addition to the information kiosk, the FSIC also arranged for the local fire station, El Dorado County Fire Protection District (EDCFPD) Station 72, to bring fire-fighting equipment to the flagpole roundabout. The EDCFPD volunteers set up equipment and demonstrations for the crowd, which were especially enjoyed by the children.

- **THE AUTUMN WIFFS YARD SALE**

On September 21, 2024, the FSIC erected its information kiosk at the WIFFS Autumn Yard Sale. The FSIC provided information on Home Hardening, Defensible Space and other wildfire resiliency activities.

- **CHIPPER DEDICATION**

On September 21, 2024, the FSIC held a 'Chipper Dedication Ceremony' at the Autumn WIFFS Yard Sale. A new chipper was on display, and speeches by Mike Connelly (FSIC); Lori Parlin (El Dorado County Supervisor District IV) and Tanya Harlow (El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience) addressed the importance of the new chipper machine and wildfire preparedness in general.

Following the speeches, there was a ceremonial 'handover' of the keys from Mike Connelly of the FSIC to Dave Halpin of the ALT POA.



The Chipper Dedication highlighted the Inter-Agency cooperation that is needed for an effective program of Wildfire Preparedness. From left: Lucio Vera (EDCFPD), Ron Means (FSIC), Courtney Jackson (Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District), Dave Halpin (Vice President ALT POA), Mike Connelly (President FSIC), Lori Parlin (El Dorado County Supervisor District IV), Bryon Pooling (CAL FIRE), Tanya Harlow (El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience) and Rob Sime (EDCFPD).

- **NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**

The FSIC submits an article on wildfire resiliency topics each month to be published in the community newspaper, “ALT Trail Views”, which is distributed to all ALT POA members (over 3000 potential readers). The monthly articles often include information on ongoing legislative actions, insurance issues, community outreach, Home Hardening and wildfire preparedness.

The FSIC cooperated with the ALT POA Communications Committee regarding the emphasis on fire safety and resiliency in the May issue of the “ALT Trail Views”. Coinciding with the National Wildfire Preparedness Month, the May issue of the “ALT Trail Views” focuses on Wildfire Preparedness actions, including special emphasis evacuating on large animals, as many people in ALT own horses.

- **NEW RESIDENT INFORMATION**

New ALT residents are provided with a 'welcome packet' that generally includes:

- i. Emergency Phone Numbers
- ii. Design Committee Rules (which include information on Home Hardening)
- iii. ALT Fire Mitigation Effort handout
- iv. 'Fire Emergency Information' handout including checklists, handling horses and pets, preparation for evacuation, evacuation route map, scanning frequencies, emergency services information and information sources, etc.
- v. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- vi. How to create a defensible space, including the forms used by the POA to verify whether defensible space requirements have been met by the homeowner

- **THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN**

Since 2005, the FSIC has participated in the production of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for ALT. The original CWPP was updated in 2013, and in 2019, FSIC member and retired EDCFPD Captain Jeff Tolson prepared a draft update of the CWPP. In 2020 this update was finalized utilizing new maps.

In 2020, the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDC FSC) decided that a county-wide CWPP should be prepared, with information incorporated from each of the Associate Fire Safe Councils (FSC). The FSIC coordinated with the EDC FSC contractor. The “Western El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan” was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in June 2022, and is currently the official CWPP for ALT.

In 2024, it was decided that the existing CWPP should be updated, and the entity responsible for the updating would be the newly-formed El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR).

In 2Q24, OWPR selected Jensen Hughes (JH) as the consultant to prepare the CWPP, and appointed Tanya Harlow as the OWPR Project Manager for the Project.

On June 26, 2024, the FSIC hosted a meeting at the Holiday Market in Cool for the introduction of the community to representatives from JH. In attendance were approximately 25 people, including representatives from community FSCs. These included Gallagher Ranch FSC, Cool-Pilot Hill FSC, Coloma-Lotus FSC, Gold Hill Estates FSC, Georgetown FSC and Greenstone FSC. Also in attendance were Tom Meyer (Program Manager OWPR), Tanya Harlow (OWPR), Ken Pimlott (EDC FSC) and Tamara Johnson (EDC FSC Grants Coordinator).

At a meeting on August 21, 2024, at the American Legion Hall in Diamond Springs, JH presented the plans for the development of the CWPP, and prepared a 'tool kit' for the Associate FSC's to use in making a community presentation on the CWPP.

The FSIC held the ALT Community CWPP Meeting on September 5, 2024.



At the September 5th meeting, the FSIC presented the progress to date on the CWPP, and in breakout sessions worked with the residents to determine suitable projects for grant applications.

The FSIC collected and reduced the data, and presented a summary to OWPR/JH later in September.

On October 3, 2024, OWPR and JH made a community presentation at Golden Sierra High School in Garden Valley. Mike Connelly and Dan Mullen of the FSIC attended the presentation, and utilized the opportunity to interface with other Fire Safe Councils in the area.

JH is in the process of producing the new CWPP, which should be distributed for review by the Associate Fire Councils in El Dorado County in 1Q25.

WEBSITES

The FSIC maintains a website (www.altfiresafecouncil.com) detailing the structure and function of the FSIC. The website includes governing documents, the CWPP, certifications and the Annual Report.

The FSIC coordinates with the POA on its website (www.auburnlaketrails.org) with detailed information on Emergency Planning and contacts, actions to increase wildfire resiliency (home hardening and defensible space) and other important aspects in maintaining ALT as a Firewise USA® Community.

4. Cooperation with Other Agencies

- The FSIC has coordinated with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to designate ALT as a Firewise USA® Community. This year, 2024, was the 20th consecutive year that the FSIC has been recognized. ALT was the first of over 900 active communities in California to achieve this designation.
- The President of the FSIC also serves as a Director on the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. As such, he participates in the monthly EDC FSC meetings and votes on significant matters presented to the EDC FSC. He is also a member of the EDC FSC Grants Committee.
- Members of the FSIC participate in the 'Strategic Planning Sessions' of the El Dorado County Fire Protection District (EDC FPD). The EDC FPD is responsible for the Fire Station in the town of Cool, and therefore are often the first units to respond to fires in ALT.
- Members of the FSIC frequently attend the monthly meetings of the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council, coordinating our efforts regarding wildfire mitigation within the ASRA.
- Members of the FSIC also regularly attend meetings of the Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection ("WRAP") Working Group.
- The ALT FSIC works with the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District (RCD) on preparing its grant applications, management and execution of awarded grants and other initiatives.

5. Comments on the 2024 Fire Season

- General Situation

Wildfire Suppression in 2024 was slightly better than California's 5-year average, but not nearly as good as 2023.

The winter storms were stronger than normal, and for the first time in 18 years, California experienced a 'better than average' snowpack result for two consecutive years.

As is shown below, the peak snowpack for the Sierra Nevada was 110% of normal for the State as a whole and in our zone was 107 % of normal.

Snow Water Equivalents (inches)

Provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys

Data For: 01-Apr-2024

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Change Date :

NORTH	
Data For: 01-Apr-2024	
Number of Stations Reporting	26
Average snow water equivalent	35.2"
Percent of April 1 Average	124%
Percent of normal for this date	124%

CENTRAL	
Data For: 01-Apr-2024	
Number of Stations Reporting	49
Average snow water equivalent	28.9"
Percent of April 1 Average	107%
Percent of normal for this date	107%

SOUTH	
Data For: 01-Apr-2024	
Number of Stations Reporting	25
Average snow water equivalent	23.0"
Percent of April 1 Average	100%
Percent of normal for this date	100%

STATEWIDE SUMMARY	
Data For: 01-Apr-2024	
Number of Stations Reporting	100
Average snow water equivalent	29.0"
Percent of April 1 Average	110%
Percent of normal for this date	110%

[Printable Version of Current Data](#)

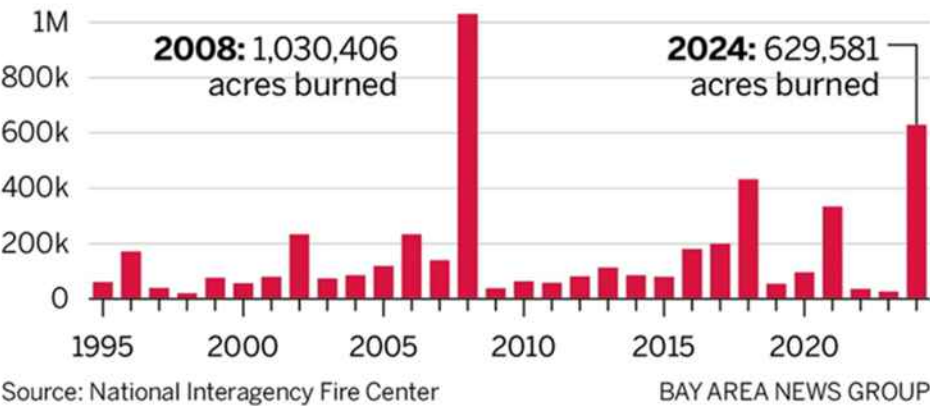
In addition to being a strong snowpack year, a special characteristic of the 2024 season was the presence of heavy precipitation in May. In fact, May 4, 2024 was the day with the greatest recorded snowfall of the year at the UC Berkeley station near Soda Springs, the latest day ever recorded for the greatest snowfall of the year.

These late rains provided substantial moisture for grasses, and coupled with the abundant sunshine in May and June, resulted in grasses that were significantly denser and taller than normal. As a result, when the summer progressed and the grasses died, they presented an easily ignited fuel. This was manifest in the substantially greater acreage than normal which burned in June and July. As can be seen from the chart, the acres burned by the end of July were the second highest in at least 30 years.

A HISTORIC CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE SEASON

After two relatively mild years in a row, California is off to its most severe wildfire season in 16 years.

Total acres burned in California by July 30 from 1995-2024



Fortunately, the grass fires, although capable of spreading very rapidly are easier to control than fires in woodlands, and structure damage in these early fires was minimized.

Unfortunately a very large fire, the Park Fire, was started in Chico by an arson on July 24, 2024. At 429,603 acres, it is the largest fire in California history to be started by arson. Another arsonist ignited a fire in December that destroyed the historic Bidwell Mansion in Chico.

In December, an ominous foretelling of dangerous conditions in the mountains around Los Angeles was realized when the Franklin Fire broke out on December 9th. The fire consumed 4,037 acres and destroyed 20 structures and damaged another 28 structures, primarily in Malibu.

The final statistics for 2024 were:

Interval (Jan 1 to December 31, 2024)	Fires	Acres
2024 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & US Forest Service)	8024	1,050,012
2023 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & US Forest Service)	7386	332,822
5-Year Average (same interval)	7589	1,712,748

As can be seen, the number of fires were 106% of the five-year average, but the acres burned were less than 62% of the five-year average.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

A summary Financial Report for 2024 is included as Appendix B.

Highlights for the year include:

1		Income for 2024 \$1,454,022.00		
	a.	Contributions \$20.00		
	b.	Interest \$2.00		
	c.	Grants \$1,453,461		
	d.	Misc \$0.00		
	e.	Sale of Signs \$539.00		
2		Expenses for 2024 \$95,881.00		
	a.	COG Sold \$770.00		
	b.	Taxes \$75.00		
	c.	Grant Work \$90,208.00		
	d.	Dumpsters \$2084.00		
	e.	FSIC expenses \$1.347.00		
	f.	Insurance \$1,397.00		
3	Net Income for 2024 \$1,358,141.00			
4	Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024 \$1,384,634.00 equity			

CERTIFICATIONS

The FSIC has been recognized as a Firewise USA® community by the National Fire Protection Association and a Fire Safe Council by the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and the California Fire Safe Council.



CONCLUSION

The year 2024 was a successful year for the FSIC. We obtained three major grants, and we were able to work with the BOR to establish a program to maintain the Northern SFB on ASRA lands.

The CAL FIRE grant program in 2024 was substantially greater than the program in 2021 or 2019 (there was no program in 2020). There was increased competition within the CAL FIRE AEU due to significant cleanup and other efforts associated with the Caldor Fire. The local Resource Conservation District (RCD) received major grants for the cleanup, and this effort significantly stretched the RCD's resources.

Despite the competition, the ALT FSIC was the only community Fire Safe Council in El Dorado County to obtain a CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant in either 2023 or 2024, and we were awarded grants both years (for the new Chipper and for the Northern SFB). For the fourth consecutive year, the FSIC obtained a significant grant from PG&E.

During 2024, the FSIC participated in several events for the community. Our Green Waste Dumpster Days were well received, and the presentation on Home Hardening helped many residents, particularly those who are experiencing difficulty in obtaining or maintaining fire insurance coverage.

The Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safety and Improvement Council is a registered 501 (c) (3) Corporation, operating within approved Bylaws.

EIN number: 20-3262737
California Corporate Number C2796148
DUNS Number 965875219
CAGE Number 7L2W1

Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safety and Improvement Council
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Cool, CA 95614

Phone: 916 778 9527
Email: altfiresafe@gmail.com
Website: www.altfiresafecouncil.com

President, Board of Directors

Michael A. Connelly

APPENDIX A SUMMARY OF FSIC GRANTS

<u>Granting Entity</u>	<u>Grant Category</u>	<u>Monitored by:</u>	<u>Matching Amount Required</u>	<u>Grant Purposes</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Grant Term</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Awarded Grants								
EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Green Waste Dumpster Days	Dumpster Days Programmed for May and July 2025	7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025	In Progress	\$3,000
CAL FIRE	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Construct Shaded Fuel Break on POA and Private Lands along ASRA boundary	Grant period started 1/1/2025. Administered by ALT FSIC	1/1/2025 to 3/15/2030	In Progress	\$1,349,400
PG&E	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Construct Shaded Fuel Break on POA property know as 'Upper Cascade SFB;'	Grant period started 5/1/2024. Administered by ALT FSIC	5/1/2024 to 11/30/2024	In Progress	\$97,500
EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL	Public Outreach	ALT FSIC	no	Prepare and distribute a Insurance Discount Brochure to community homeowners	Grant period started 7/1/2024. Administered by ALT FSIC	7/1/202 to 6/1/2025	In Progress	\$2,750
PG&E	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Construct Shaded Fuel Break on POA property known as 'Campground'	Grant period started 6/1/2023. Administered by ALT FSIC	6/1/2023 to 11/30/2023	Completed	\$63,346
EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Green Waste Dumpster Day	Dumpster Day Programmed for May 2024	7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024	Completed	\$2,500
CAL FIRE	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Provide a Chipper for use by the POA in the ALT POA Chipping Program	New Chipper will be purchased by the ALT FSIC and handed over to the ALT POA which will maintain and operate the equip.	12/31/2023 to 12/31/2029	In Progress	\$99,750
PG&E	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Construct Shaded Fuel Break on POA property known as 'Old Steever Ranch'	Grant period started 7/28/2022. Administered by ALT FSIC	7/28/2022 to 11/30/2022	Completed	\$24,969
EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL	Public Outreach	ALT FSIC	no	Prepare and distribute an Emergency Evacuation Brochure to community homeowners	Grant period started 3/18/2022. Administered by ALT FSIC	3/18/2022 to 9/6/2022	Completed	\$3,397
USDA/NRCS	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC & ALT POA	yes	Control Scotch Broom on Select POA properties through chemical treatment	Grant award period starts Jan 1, 2022 Administered by ALT FSIC/POA	1/1/2022 to 12/31/2025	In Progress	\$38,721
PG&E	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Control Roadside fuel through chemical treatment	Grant period started 6/28/2021. Administered by ALT FSIC	6/28/2021 to 11/30/2021	Completed	\$38,385
PG&E	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	no	Construct Shaded Fuel Break on Cool Cave Quarry Lands, 150 feet wide	Grant period started 6/28/2021. Administered by ALT FSIC	6/28/2021 to 11/30/2021	Completed	\$95,000
Cal Fire SRA 2016/17 Grant - 5GS16101	Dead Tree Removal	ALT FSIC & ALT POA	\$239,202	Remove 500 Dead or Dying Trees	Grant award period starts Jan 26, 2017 Administered by ALT FSIC	1/26/2017 To 3/15/2019	Completed	\$200,000
Cal Fire SRA 2016/17 Grant - 5GS16131	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC & ALT POA	\$117,570	Extend PSFB by 60 Acres	Grant award period starts Jan 26, 2017 Administered by ALT FSIC	1/26/2017 To 3/15/2019	Completed	\$110,000
USFS thru CFSC Clearinghouse #2016-SFA-54353	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC & ALT POA	\$194,075	Remove 100 Dead Trees and Extend PSFB by 65 Acres	Grant award period starts Oct. 1, 2016 Administered by ALT FSIC	10/1/2016 To 9/31/2018	Completed	\$130,250

2024
Annual Report

<u>Granting Entity</u>	<u>Grant Category</u>	<u>Monitored by:</u>	<u>Matching Amount Required</u>	<u>Grant Purposes</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Grant Term</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Cal Fire SRA 2014/15 Grant - 14-SRA-HF-01-0132	Fuel Reduction	ALT POA, ALT FSIC & RCD	\$0	Fuel reduction on private lots & common area in or close to PSFB	Grant administered by EDC RCD	2015.12 TO 2017.03	Completed Jan. 2017	\$100,000
Prop.40 thru CDF 2013: Community Assistance Grant (CAG)	Fuel Reduction	ALT POA, ALT FSIC & RCD	\$0	Fuel reduction on private lots & common area in or close to PSFB	Grant administered by EDC RCD	2 yr	completed	\$96,000
US Forest Service thru FSC Clearinghouse #10USFS - ES 580	"Neighbor to Neighbor" Chipping Service and Education	ALT FSIC	100,007	Free Neighborhood residential fuel reduction chipping service and education	Grant funded by US Forest Service; new match by FSIC is \$5096, homeowners & ALT POA is \$94,911. In-kind forms to be filled out for match funds by homeowners	10/1/09 thru 10/1/2011 extended to 12/31/2011	completed	\$22,800
U.S. Forest Service thru State FSC Clearinghouse #09UFS0168	"Neighbor to Neighbor" Chipping and Education	ALT FSIC	\$92,924. (Last years in-kind forms = \$120,213.00 for homeowners	Free neighborhood residential fuel reduction chipping service and education	Grant funded by US Forest Service; new match by FSIC is \$5213, homeowners & ALT POA is \$87,911. In-kind forms to be filled out for match funds by homeowners	12/15/08 thru 12/15/10	completed	\$21,590
Title III thru El Dorado Co. Bd. of Supervisors #1014-00810	Fire Safety EDUCATION	ALT FSIC	\$0.00	Training, Coordination, & Management of "Risk Educators" (VIPs) and Education of ALT homeowners	Activities of this Grant are a follow on to 2007 Title III grant	7-1-08 thru 6-30-09	completed	\$16,929
Prop.40 thru CDF 2007: Community Assistance Grant (CAG) #8CA06534	Fuel Reduction	ALT POA, ALT FSIC & RCD	\$0.00	Fuel reduction on common lots adjacent to or on PSFB - by masticator	Grant administered by RCD	1 yr.	completed	\$50,000
Prop.40 thru CDF 2007: Community Assistance Grant (CAG) #8CA06508	Fuel Reduction	ALT POA, ALT FSIC & RCD	\$0.00	Fuel reduction on private lots in or close to PSFB	Grant administered by RCD	1 yr.	completed	\$75,000
Title III thru El Dorado Co. Bd. of Supervisors #638-S0711	Fire Safety EDUCATION	ALT FSIC	\$0.00	Training, Coordination, & Management of "Risk Educators" for residential lot inspection	Activities of this Grant are a follow on to 2006 Title III	7-1-07 thru 6-30-08	completed	\$18,390
BLM thru State FSC Clearinghouse #07-BLM 9691	"Neighbor to Neighbor" Cul-de-sac Chipping and Education	ALT FSIC	\$27,300 (Matching amount far exceeded requirement (\$120,213.))	Free neighborhood chipping service, coordination of cul-de-sac residents, and education on Firescaping	Grant partially funded by BLM; new match by ALT is \$2000, homeowners & ALT FSC is \$25,300	11/1/06 thru 4/30/08	completed	\$15,000
Proposition 40 thru CDF - 2006: (CAG) Community Assistance Grant #9220	Clearing of Right-of Ways on Evacuation Routes	ALT POA	\$15,000 (Waived by CDF?)	Clearing of Right-of-Ways on ALT Evacuation Routes	Grant implementation was originally delayed due to undeveloped Prop.40 procedures & requirements.		completed	\$41,736
BLM thru State FSC Clearinghouse #06-BLM9167	Weed Abatement	ALT POA	\$16,982	Weed Abatement: ALT Common Areas & ALT Roadway Right-of-Ways	Final Grant documents were only recently received	11-1-05 to 4-30-07 (+extension requested)	completed	\$16,450
National Forest Foundation (NFF) #5-5-01-25	Fuel Reduction	ALT FSIC	\$48,970	Full Applications requested for only 2 of the original 8 proposed projects.	#1.) Maintenance of portion of Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break (\$67,840); #2) Eradication of Invasive Weeds in PSFB and ALT Common spaces (\$29,100). Total amount for both Projects = \$97,940 (NFF:\$48,970; ALT \$48,970)	1-1-06 to 1-1-07	completed	\$48,970
Title III thru El Dorado Co. Bd. of Supervisors #679-F0611	Fire Safety EDUCATION	ALT FSIC	Showed \$31,830 of Inkind Match	Training, Coordination, & Management of "Risk Educators" (VIPs) and Education classes in ALT	Activities of this Grant needs to be coordinated with with BLM 9681 for same purpose	7-1-06 thru 6-30-07	completed	\$18,890
					<u>Total Grant Funds Awarded</u>			<u>\$2,800,722</u>

APPENDIX B
FINANCIAL REPORT

I certify that this Financial Report was prepared without audit from the books and records of the Corporation.



Joy Hemp, Treasurer

Date 3-1-25

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

1		Income for 2024 \$1,454,022.00		
	a.	Contributions \$20.00		
	b.	Interest \$2.00		
	c.	Grants \$1,453,461		
	d.	Misc \$0.00		
	e.	Sale of Signs \$539.00		
2		Expenses for 2024 \$95,881.00		
	a.	COG Sold \$770.00		
	b.	Taxes \$75.00		
	c.	Grant Work \$90,208.00		
	d.	Dumpsters \$2084.00		
	e.	FSIC expenses \$1,347.00		
	f.	Insurance \$1,397.00		
3	Net Income for 2024 \$1,358,141.00			
4	Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024 \$1,384,634.00 equity			

APPENDIX C
FUEL MANAGEMENT MAP
AUBURN LAKE TRAILS

