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President's Message

As I write this on the morning of July 5, I am feeling thankful that Ranch residents showed restraint in terms of setting off fireworks last night. Neither I nor my dogs heard even one boom. For those of you who are in the habit of discharging loud and dangerous devices, your neighbors thank you for your concern for fire safety. Also, the community pets and livestock thank you for not terrifying them this year. Here's a link to an article authored by a number of wildfire scientists suggesting that we make household fireworks a thing of the past:

<https://theconversation.com/skip-the-fireworks-this-record-dry-4th-of-july-over-150-wildfire-scientists-urge-the-us-west-163561>

The Lava and Tennant fires are winding down but, as we all know, this is just the beginning of what will be a long fire season. Be sure you complete your mitigation tasks around your house, prepare go bags, and have your last-minute evacuation checklist. Jay Perkins of Yreka Fire Safety has an excellent series on fire preparedness. He's posted it weekly on the Yreka Fire Safety Facebook page, and Larie Wearing has kindly re-posted it on the Hammond Ranch Nextdoor site.

Speaking of fire and emergency response, Siskiyou County Fire Warden Phil Anzo reports that an agreement for fire services with a local fire department is close to being finalized; he will keep us updated.

Additionally, although burn permits were suspended effective June 1, his message about reporting incidents is still relevant:

"There was an escape in your area and several others in the County. With the warming and drying trend, I decided to suspend dooryard burning on June 1st. I would ask that residents report any illegal burning or unattended campfires using 911.

This ensures that the incident receives an adequate emergency response, is properly documented and that any education or enforcement actions can occur.

This will help us prevent wildfires from starting in the first place."

Philip Anzo, Siskiyou County Fire Warden

On other fronts, the HLA Board continues to seek opportunities for streamlining membership processes and other website management, with contributions from multiple board members.

As always, the board seeks interested community members to serve on various standing and short-term committees. There are a number of projects, many related to fire safety, that need some energetic and research-minded individuals to investigate possibilities and grant funding.

These include:

- Researching community-wide notification options, such as a fixed alarm located at the fire station or another point on the ranch, or a similar mobile setup.
- Participating in creating and disseminating a CalFire/County Fire-approved evacuation plan.
- Becoming a community Code Red "ambassador", promoting Code Red sign ups and collecting info about any Code Red notification failures and serving as the HLA liaison with the County Code Red coordinator to identify and fix any problematic notifications.

Some of these options have been explored preliminarily in the past, and just need renewed commitment to do further research and investigate funding options. Note that it is important to involve CalFire/County Fire in reviewing options for notifications and plans, as there is potential liability for taking on certain functions, and it is only prudent to seek their input/advice.

***Sally McGregor
HLA Board President***

Our Mission Statement: To provide information, to assist in the coordination of group actions, to determine guidelines and make suggestions in matters relating to development and use of property on Hammond Ranch.



Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council News

HAMMOND RANCH WILDFIRE SEASON

Extreme drought, high winds, low humidity and high temperatures have created a hazardous wildfire condition in the Hammond Ranch area. The Lava wildfire demonstrates how rapidly a wildfire can explode and spread.



- Be prepared to quickly evacuate. Have a plan. Prepare an emergency evacuation kit. Be ready to go!!
- Ensure you are signed up for the Siskiyou County Code Red emergency alert system. Code Red notifications have improved and are providing good information. However-Never depend upon a community alarm system or wait for "official" notification to evacuate. If you feel unsafe or threatened...Evacuate!!
- Ensure you have identified a primary and backup emergency evacuation route. Be absolutely familiar with the routes. Understand the road could be burning during an evacuation and hidden by smoke. Know your route to safety.
- Ensure you remain extra alert especially during Red Flag weather conditions. There are multiple sources of wildfire internet information such as Code Red, CAL FIRE incidents, US Forest Service Inciweb, Nextdoor Hammond Ranch, Alertwildfire.org and NWCG Fire Heat Maps (National Fire Situational Awareness).
- Log onto these sites and pay attention!!

HAMMOND RANCH--WILDFIRE ACTION ITEMS

- The Hammond Ranch Shaded Fuel Break Project is suspended until wildfire conditions improve. Several properties were completed prior to suspension. Fuel reduction work will resume when authorized by the US Forest service and CAL FIRE.
- A backup evacuation route at the end of Ponderosa was identified on Next Door Hammond Ranch by Dave Scott. During the recent wildfire, Dave unlocked the gates to ensure open egress. Excellent job Dave!! Additional evacuation routes for other roads need to be identified and maintained open during hazardous wildfire conditions.
- Additional water storage tanks need to be installed along Hammond Ranch roads. Many Hammond Ranch

roads do not have a source of fire-fighting water within a reasonable distance. Landowners on some roads have installed 2,500-gallon water storage tanks to ensure fire fighters have a readily available source of water. Additional action is needed to develop a program to identify and install additional water storage tanks.

- A chipping program needs to be developed, funded and implemented. A landowner-contractor chipping program is one of the most successful programs for wildfire fuel reduction. The recent wildfire grant chipped approximately 3,800 cubic yards of hazardous wildfire fuel on 80 landowner properties. Less wildfire fuel means reduced fire intensity and severity. Additional action is needed to provide funding for future contractor chipping services.



LANDOWNER WILDFIRE EDUCATION CLASS

Landowners are often confused by the overwhelming and sometimes contradictory information regarding preparing for a wildfire. What are the best methods to protect yourself, family and pets during a wildfire? What are the most effective actions you can take to protect your home and forest? What actions are not helpful?

To assist homeowners, the Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council working with CAL FIRE has prepared a 1-day wildfire education class. The class is based on lessons learned from past wildfires such as the Paradise and Carr fires. The class will be co-taught by a CAL FIRE representative who will offer hands-on experience and answer landowner questions. Handout materials will include a homeowner handbook and a comprehensive homeowner checklist.

This is an excellent opportunity to quickly get the latest information regarding wildfire preparation. The class is scheduled for 11 Sept (Sat) at the College of the Siskiyous. Class size will be limited. There is a \$10 registration fee to reimburse the college and pay for the handout materials.

To register see:
siskiyous.edu//continuingedu/documents/continuingeducationbooklet.pdf

Look for the Fall class XNG 388-01 (page 8).



PREPARE.



ANTICIPATE.



EVACUATE

Modernizing Membership

As reported in our last newsletter, HLA has been working on streamlining and modernizing our membership process. Because our July newsletter is only sent to members, you will probably see this information repeated in January when we typically appeal to ALL of our landowners to join HLA for the coming year.

We now have a "fillable" membership form. It is available for download on our website and will be included as an attachment with our January newsletter.

The form will be able to be downloaded, filled out on the screen and sent back to us without the need for printing. Of course, the option to print and mail remains.

We have also settled on 2 types of payment systems that can be used in place of the "old fashioned" methods of written checks in stamped envelopes.

- Using on-line banking, most banks will send a paper check if you add HLA as a new payee and provide the mailing address: *HLA, P.O. Box 795, Mt. Shasta, CA. 96064.*
- We can also accept direct payments if you wish to use the Venmo App.
User Name: **@HLAmembers**
Our identification phone number (last 4 digits) is **5449.**

If you have never used Venmo and are curious about setting up an account, see the HLA Website for a Venmo Tip Sheet (www.hammondlandowners.org/membership) (bottom of the page).

Many Thanks to Mariana Harmon, Sally McGregor and Susan Grove for many volunteer hours dedicated to setting up these options.

Exploring Ideas for Alerts, Evacuation and Safety

Ranch resident and former board member/HLA President Eric Ricohermoso would like us all to be thinking about our plans for fire safety, methods of alerts for the ranch and our personal plans for evacuation in the event of a fire of very short notice.

He has written an article outlining some of his own ideas for possible ranch alerts as well as evacuation options for residents residing in the Dale Creek Road system.

More research needs to be done regarding these options, but Eric has seen a need and has stepped up to start a conversation about timely alerts, safety and evacuation issues on the ranch.

His experience with wildfire and evacuations includes 9+ years as a member of the "Hot Shots" elite firefighting crews for the US Forest Service.

*His article has been posted on **Nextdoor Hammond Ranch.***

If you do not have access to Nextdoor Hammond Ranch, contact us at HLA@hammondlandowners.org and we will "invite" you.

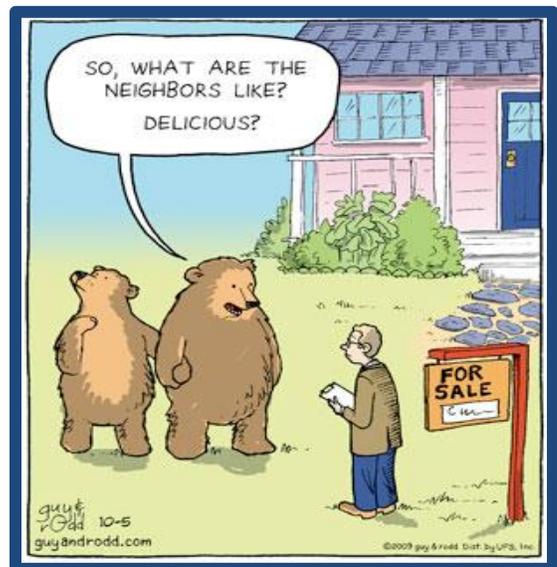


Love's Truck Stop Update

There have been no changes to the status of the Love's Lawsuit Appeal. It is still in process at the Appeal's Court in Sacramento. If any changes occur, they will be posted to our website at:

www.hammondlandowners.org/proposed-truck-stop

For more information contact: erichziller@yahoo.com





Water Issues Are Here to Stay

Our unusually severe drought this year has brought prevailing water issues to our attention. Perhaps your neighbors have had well and well-pump problems. Perhaps you have just read the many articles regarding water at the Big Springs area to our north. These problems are not going to resolve themselves. Some in our community may think that we are immune to water concerns, but as the world continues to warm, dry spells are becoming common and more severe. We should be planning for the future.

Landowners in California are entitled to pump and use a reasonable amount of groundwater from a basin underlying their land to put it to a beneficial, non-wasteful use.

(See Groundwater Law at www.watereducation.org)

Overuse of any water resource that would destroy its future utility is generally deemed to be an "unreasonable" use and therefore is forbidden by state law. The court can limit pumping to the "safe yield" of the basin through a process known as adjudication, which is the rate at which groundwater can be withdrawn without causing long-term decline of water levels or other undesirable effects such as subsidence (lowering of land above the basin). However, at this time groundwater is still being pumped with no statewide limits. That could be about to change.

See: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/07/05/drought-the-end-of-californias-groundwater-free-for-all>

Water has even joined gold, oil and other commodities traded on Wall Street, highlighting worries that the life-sustaining natural resource may become scarce across more of the world. Court ordered restrictions are unlikely to be enforced, *at this time*, in our rural, residential area, but in the agricultural regions of the central valley there *has* been talk of metering ground water usage.

That, too, is unlikely to happen in our area, but as a community, *we should be mindful of our impact on the groundwater supply for all of us.*

The last significant drought of 2015 resulted in state officials ordering all *urban* Californians to conserve a mandated a 25% statewide cut in the water used. Homeowners used smartphone apps to turn in neighbors for over-sprinkling their lawns, and cities hired water cops to enforce the rules. Hotels notified guests of reduced laundry service. In restaurants, glasses of water that used to automatically appear were served only after patrons requested them. Many of those changes have become permanent. We have become familiar with low-flow faucets and water conserving washing machines. Who remembers putting bricks in the toilet tanks? Some urban areas will pay to have you replace your old toilet with a new lo-flush type.

Most Californians in urban areas haven't lapsed back into their old water-wasting patterns. Between 2013 and 2016, Californians on average reduced their residential use by 30%. Since then, per capita water use has ticked up, but Californians used 16% less water in recent months than they did in 2013. The average person used 108 gallons of water per day in 2014 and used 92 gallons per day last year. However, some massive residential water users — called water buffalos — use 4,000 gallons a day. Over 500 gallons per day is considered excessive.

In our area, reports have come in from neighbors with failing wells, a lower water table requiring lowering of pumps (if they are lucky), well-deepening or new drilling altogether. Enloe Drilling Co. quotes a rate of \$50 per foot for a new well and that is without the pump and connections to the home water system. As an alarming added issue, Enloe will not, in most cases, deepen a well that they have not drilled. Since Aquarius Drilling has closed, there are few choices in our area. Wait times for service can be long.

Sandy Johnson, of SVM Well & Pump Co., has noted that many people seem to be concerned about the future of their water. They might not need well service at present, but are installing water tanks and "pump-savers" as a hedge against a lowered supply. Hammond Ranch is not unique, according to Sandy. SVM is busy all over the county. They are able to lower pumps, install flow regulators and quality water tanks. They use a remote camera to look down the well shaft in order to evaluate the problems.

So, what can we do as responsible members of a community? First of all, just be AWARE of your water use. If you have installed drip irrigation, congratulations. Having a lawn or other irrigated green space around your home is beneficial for the "lean and green" aspect of keeping fire at bay, but do you need 1000's of square feet of lawn or irrigated pasture?

A lawn is almost always the single largest user of water in the home landscape and over-irrigation is very common. Water in the early morning - about 1 to 3 hours before sunrise. That way more water gets to the roots instead of evaporating due to the sun and wind. Watering daily is not recommended. It creates a shallow root system. Watering deeply 2-3 times per week encourages strong roots and a more resilient lawn. For most lawns, it is recommended that they receive 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. To provide your lawn with one inch of water takes a little over half a gallon per square foot (0.623 gallons to be more exact). That means that every 10'x10' area will require over 62 gallons of water. That doesn't sound like much until you consider that a 100' x 100' lawn uses 6,230 gallons of water each week!

For good suggestions see:

1. *Your Lawn During Drought - UC Master Gardeners Program* <http://ccmg.ucanr.edu/files/186273.pdf>
2. *9 Things You Can Do to Use Less Water & Have a Green Lawn* - <https://spriggsbrothers.com/less-water-more-green/>

PLEASE! - Consider reducing the **size** of your lawn or pasture. Investigate drought-tolerant plantings, perhaps natural pathways, seating areas, patios. These can be fire-resistant and still use little or no water.

Our water is not an unlimited resource. We ALL share the same water table. The key word is "SHARE". Just as we share the air (with no-burn days) and share our roads (by careful driving)... in a community we look out for each other and help each other. Please be mindful of your neighbors and your water "footprint". We are all in this together.

Great Resources for more information:

www.watereducation.org
www.groundwaterexchange.org

Why Are My Trees Dying?

By John Schuyler (Retired Forester & Ranch Landowner) and Linda Klokow



Dead and dying trees are an all-too-common sight on the ranch. People are quick to blame insects, but while insects are commonly present in unhealthy trees, they are generally not the underlying problem. The majority of tree problems occurring in our area can be attributed to weather conditions.

If you are noticing individual dead or dying trees, or patches of trees that all died in the same year, the problem is most likely drought and/or heat-related. (If your trees are dying over a period of years in slowly expanding clusters, you may have a root disease problem.)

Here is an overview of what is currently happening to our trees, and some tips on how you can keep them as healthy as possible.

Trees need adequate moisture to keep their defense mechanisms fully functional. When subjected to drought, trees may lack the resources needed to resist disease-causing organisms. Ultimately, trees growing in overcrowded conditions; in marginal soils; in hot, dry sites (such as south and west-facing slopes); or those predisposed to disease will succumb to the forces of natural selection.

Excessive heat can cause trees to display drought symptoms, even when moisture is available in the soil. The vast majority of water consumed by trees is used to cool their leaf surfaces. On a very hot day, a tree may not be able to take up and evaporate enough water to meet its cooling needs, resulting in leaf damage and stress.

The stress of these weather conditions, leads to reduced resistance which facilitates insect invasion in the stem and branches.

There are over 20 different types of beetles inhabiting various evergreens in CA. Half of them are actually beneficial.

Bark beetles and borers spend portions of their lives in the stems (under the bark) of stressed, dying or dead trees. Signs of their presence include holes in the bark, boring dust, or pitch tubes which is the tree's defense mechanism in which it tries to "push out" the insect with its sap.

Beetle species often prefer a specific portion of the stem or branch where the bark thickness is most conducive to their needs. Most tree-damaging insects are specific to a given species. Thus, the bug or disease killing your incense cedar will not touch your ponderosa pine. This is a good reason to maintain a healthy mix of tree species to thin them out.

You may find one species near a tree's top or in branches, another in the mid-portion of the stem, and a third at the base of the stem. Note that by the time you notice the damage (such as reddening needles), the insects may be long gone.

There is always a background level insect population in the forest, usually relatively low. Then, certain events such as drought or green slash allow the insect populations to increase to epidemic levels and kill many trees. When insects reach the epidemic level, the pheromones (scents) deposited in a tree -- even a relatively healthy one -- attract other insects that overwhelm the tree and typically lead to its death. This is why you may see an entire patch of trees, both weak and healthy, killed by an epidemic.

For a great run-down on California beetles see:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5384837.pdf

Once a tree starts to die it is very difficult (or even impossible) to reverse. It is common to see conifers die in the spring or early summer from damage caused in prior years. It is important to recognize that the insects are seldom the direct cause of these trees' deaths. They merely take advantage of the trees' weakened condition. Killing the insects will not save the tree if the underlying moisture deficiency is not addressed (and even this may not be sufficient if the tree is too badly damaged before action is taken). It is common that several conditions (heat stress, water stress, root disease) weaken a tree and the insect finishes the tree off. Kind of like people, as they don't simply die from old age but typically from pre-existing conditions in combination with a recent illness.

What can you do?

Thinning is the best procedure for reducing stress in trees. First, remove most of the dead or dying trees. You do not need to remove all of them, however. Leaving some to form snags or downed logs can provide important wildlife habitat. Then thin crowded stands of trees. This allows each remaining tree to have a larger portion of the available moisture, retain its vigor and ward off invaders. Thinning also helps in reducing fire spread.

Douglas-fir and White fir appear to have been the hardest hit by our succession of hot, dry summers. Our native pine and oaks are more resistant to drought and heat, and thus are less likely to be affected by pests or disease organisms following a difficult summer.





Christmas In July?

By
Linda Klokow



Why should you be thinking about Christmas now? Well, if you want a nice full, fluffy Christmas tree, this is the time to make it happen. Think of how much fun it could be to have family or friends invited for a tree harvest adventure followed by warm drinks, by a cozy fire.

Some people order tree seedlings and plant them, but YOU don't necessarily have to do that. In our area Douglas Firs and White Firs grow quite well. The problem is that when they are left to grow naturally, most of them are quite scrawny compared to the fully branched, dense trees seen in tree lots. Now is the time to change that. With only a little work and forethought, you can select and develop your existing little firs into gorgeous specimens.

First of all, select a few small (3-4 ft.) trees that are primarily in the sun and have several feet of space around them. This will give them room to grow and reduce competition for nutrients and water. Tie a bright piece of ribbon or yarn on the trees, so you will be able to find them again later.

To encourage dense, lush foliage, potential Christmas trees need to be *sheared* each year. Although short-needled trees can be sheared any time of year, growth doesn't seem to be as vigorous after shearing done in winter or spring, so why not try it now! Professional growers use a variety of tools for shearing, but if you aren't trying to handle hundreds of trees, your small hand clippers will work well. As the tree get much bigger you might consider using a hedge trimmer for shearing. The goal of the shearing is to develop a full, symmetrically shaped tree. There are many resources online for detailed information about shearing including videos and fact sheets.

Given decent growing conditions, most of your little trees will reach 6-7 feet within six to nine years. You may decide to cut when it is shorter or taller. The year before you intend to harvest the tree, shear a little lighter and cut the top leader (candle) at a 45° angle about 10 in. long.

In general, your trees will take very little care. Of course, it certainly can't hurt to control weeds and grasses around the trees and perhaps add some extra water and a bit of fertilizer (tree spikes) formulated for evergreen trees.

Be aware that all evergreens drop approximately 30% of their needles every year in a natural shedding process. This occurs on the interior needles of the tree, not the new exterior needles. Visible needle drop on the exterior or external yellowing are signs of disease, pest problems or drought.

Enjoy watching your trees grow. Perhaps attach a name tag for the intended recipient.

Ho, Ho, Ho.....Let `em grow!



Options for Code Red Notifications

By Brooke Boyer

By now most of us have heard of **Code Red** and have signed up for this County-wide Emergency Alert Service. The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) has a new director and the system seems to be more robust. If you have not signed up recently, you may find several new features that would be of interest.

First of all, when using your computer to sign up or change items like your address, phone or email, go to the Siskiyou Co. website:

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/emergencyservices/page/codered-emergency-alert>

Clicking on the Code Red Logo will start the process. After selecting the option to have a "managed account", you can easily add your information, optional second addresses, phone numbers and emails. You will receive an email confirmation of your sign-up. Whatever information you include will automatically supersede previous information given.

The **Code Red MOBILE APP** is a whole different animal. You can add this app alone or in addition to the account you have set up via your computer or by phone. You do not have to have both of them. The app can be downloaded via the Apple App Store or Google Play. The mobile app is free. In testing for this article, there was mention of a 99¢/yr. charge for the weather alerts. That was found not to be the case.

Why would you want the mobile app? It allows many, many settings that you can customize right on your phone. There are options for several "Alert Types". The main one is "Code Red Alerts" with 3 broad sub-groups: *Emergency*, *Community*, and *Missing Person*. The remaining 7 Alert Types involve a wide range of weather warnings.

In "Settings" you can set the *Personal Warning Radius* with a slide bar (1 to 25 miles). Then choose the *Alert Sound* that you want and test it so that you can be familiar with the sound in an actual emergency. Remember to check/select "Remove expired warnings" to lessen the chance of confusion or false alarm.

In your phone settings make sure your cellular data is turned ON for Code Red. Also check that your "Notifications" option is on. If you think you should be getting an alert, but don't see one, open the app and check "Active Alerts" on the bottom of the screen. "Nationwide" or "Near Me" for any within your chosen radius.

Play around with the app to become familiar with it. During an emergency is not the time to learn how Code Red works or if your settings are correct.



2021 Board Members

President	Sally McGregor	541-973-7162
Vice President	Linda Klokow	707 255-7729
Secretary	Susan Grove	530-925-6859
Treasurer	Mariana Harmon	530-340-7152
At-Large:	Neera Paine	530-859-1924
	Brooke Boyer	530-859-7535
	Rebekah Sluss	808-557-5834

Linda Klokow *The Hammond Ranch Scene* Editor

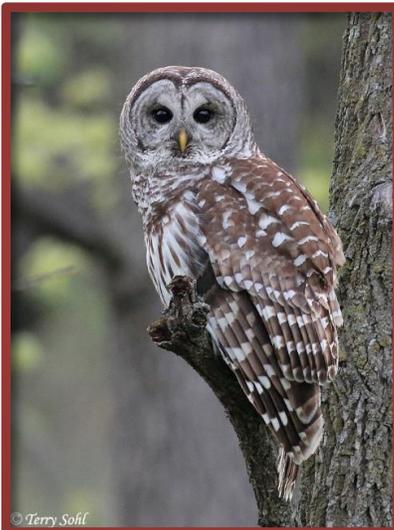
The HLA Board of Directors cares about and wants to hear members' opinions, suggestions and ideas.

We encourage members to write to us and create a dialogue on topics of interest to Hammond Ranch landowners. The Board members can be reached by phone at the numbers listed above, by snail mail c/o HLA, P.O. Box 795, Mount Shasta, California 96067, or via email at HLA@hammondlandowners.org.

Calendar

- HLA Board Meeting – Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. Call any board member or send an email to HLA@hammondlandowners.org for meeting location and so your questions or concerns can be included on the agenda.
- The Annual HLA Picnic unfortunately was not scheduled for this year.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon is usually scheduled for the first Saturday in Nov. 2021. Members will be notified of time and place.
- Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors – First, second and third Tuesdays of every month, 10:00 a.m., County Courthouse, Yreka. Call Clerk at 842-8081 to confirm the meeting.
- Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council -- Meetings are scheduled by Randy Klokow. He can be contacted at hammondfiresafe@gmail.com.

Wildlife On The Ranch by Linda Klokow



Barred Owl

The **barred owl** (*Strix varia*), is also known as the **northern barred owl**, **striped owl** or, more informally, **hoot owl**. Barred owls are largely native to eastern North America, but have expanded their range to the west coast of North America, reaching northern California in 1976. In our area they are considered invasive. Their diet consists mainly of small mammals, but are known to prey upon birds, reptiles, amphibians, a variety of invertebrates. In normal circumstances, barred owls tend to pair bond for life.

As a result of the barred owl's westward expansion, the species has begun to encroach on the range of the related and threatened spotted owl. In areas where barred owls moved in within ½ mile of a spotted owl nest area, 39% of spotted owls disappeared and were not seen again. Even so, in areas still free of barred owls 11% of spotted owls disappeared and were not found again, indicating other pressures, mostly in sync with large-scale logging operations and land development carried out by humans. Where spotted owls are found, some biologists have recommended culling the barred owls.

The barred owl observed here on the ranch was seen 3 times in the spring and once recently.

Great horned owls are the most severe competitor and predator of barred owls and are definitely entrenched ranch residents. It remains to be seen if the barred owl observed here becomes a permanent resident.

Run Report - Hammond Ranch Fire Zone

Second Quarter 2021 (Apr. to June) 12 vegetation fires, 3 structure fires, 3 medical calls, 1 illegal fire, 3 traffic collisions, 1 debris fire, 1 alarm sounding, 4 false alarms, 1 smoke check, 1 lift assist.

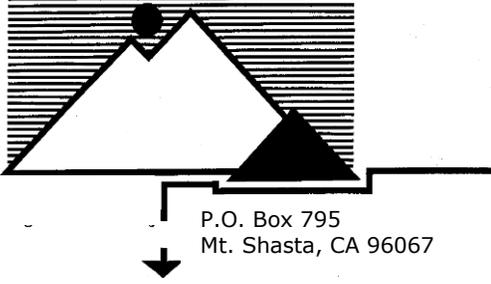
You can get real-time information about our Fire Company's calls on their their Twitter feed at: @HMM4200

FYI – HMM4200 is the call sign for our Fire Company.

Many thanks to our Fire Personnel for their Service



Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



We Love it Here !!



*Moving or changing email
address?*

Please send changes of address to:
The Hammond Ranch Scene

c/o HLA

P.O. Box 795

Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795

or email to:

hla@hammondlandowners.org