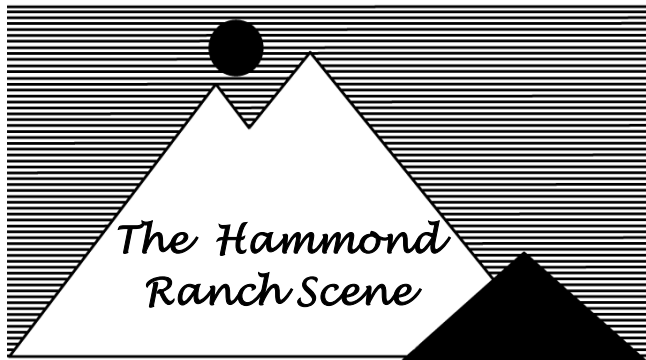


Hammond Landowners Association



www.hammondlandowners.org

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APRIL 2026

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Number 2



Message From the President

After a pleasant winter on the Ranch that had, unfortunately, virtually no snow, it is time to refocus on fire safety measures. CalFire's spring chipping program is scheduled to begin early in May. Be sure to check the chipping requirements and registration info in this newsletter.

The latest report is that the FireWise application is close to being approved. As soon as that occurs, all Hammond landowners will receive notification about the program. HLA will work with the FireWise Board to provide communication with owners and to assist in any way possible with this valuable program.

I wish everyone a fabulous spring filled with sunshine and northern California adventures. And remember, your Board is here to provide information and to help with Hammond Ranch issues.

Erich Ziller

A little Madness in the Spring

By [Emily Dickinson](#)

A little Madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King,
But God be with the Clown --
Who ponders this tremendous scene --
This whole Experiment of Green --
As if it were his own!

CalFire Chipping

If you have not signed up to have CalFire chip your debris pile(s), please do so right away! CalFire is planning again this year to provide wood chipping service to all Hammond Ranch landowners. They are planning to bring woodchippers and crews onto the Ranch beginning, hopefully, the **first of May**.

Those who wish to take part in this service should send an email as soon as possible with their address and contact information to:

hammondlandowners@gmail.com so we can inform CalFire of wood-pile locations for chipping. Those who thinned last year and CalFire did not chip, please let us know that so we can include you on their list as a priority this year.

The old general rule for landowners to thin 50 feet into their property that is bordering their road is being lifted. **Landowners can now bring material from any part of the property to along the roadways.** This will enhance evacuation of residents and access for firefighting equipment during a wildfire.

CalFire can chip small trees and limbs up to an 8-inch diameter. Material should be cut to 4 to 6-foot lengths for workers to feed into the chippers. Material needs to be stacked up alongside the road to about a 4-foot height, cut end toward the road.

Also, please communicate and coordinate with neighbors who may not have an email address - and respond for them - so we can have an accurate number of piles for your road. Clearing our roads for access and safety could help mitigate some of the increases in our home insurance premiums.

A follow-up confirmation email will be sent about one week before the project begins. Please take advantage of this free service to enhance everyone's safety.

By the way, this is not a grant. This is being done by our local CalFire battalion chief, Scott Irvine (who also lives on the Ranch), in order to make the Ranch safer, which is really appreciated. **A big thank you to Scott!**

Animal Control

The HLA has received several complaints about an aggressive dog on the Ranch. Siskiyou County requires dogs to be under control (either on leash or by strict voice control) to prevent them from running at large. Dog owners in Siskiyou County are legally responsible for controlling their dogs to ensure public safety. Dogs are not permitted to wander onto other people's property.

Under California law, owners must control their dogs in public, and allowing a dog to run loose can lead to fines of up to \$1,000 and misdemeanor charges if the dog injures someone or another animal.

If you have a problem with a roaming and aggressive dog, take a video, if possible, of the incident, note where and when the incident has taken place. For your safety, you may want to carry bear spray and/or some kind of noise maker.

Then fill out the complaint form at the Siskiyou County Animal Control website, <https://www.siskiyoucounty.gov/animalcontrol/webform/animal-control-report-form> or call 530-841-4028 and report it. If several people report a dog, the Animal Control Officer will respond and investigate.

The full code can be found at https://library.municode.com/ca/siskiyou-county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT5S_AHE_CH3ANCO_ART14ANLA_S5-3.14.01DOLA.



Road Right-of-Way

Hammond Ranch landowners have the right to use a Right-of-Way, a form of easement, to travel along all of the roads on the Ranch.

Uses of this Right-of-Way that landowners are permitted include walking, jogging and driving along the roads.

Uses of the roads by landowners that are **NOT** permitted are: parking, leaving the roadway for any purpose, hunting, fishing or any other form of trespass.

Hammond Pond

Sadly, what many affectionately call Hammond pond is not a part of Hammond Ranch. It is an agricultural reservoir and the water is owned by others downstream. Ranch landowners and the public do not have any right or permission to use it for recreation or any other purpose.

Wildlife on the Ranch

Have you seen these mushrooms on your property? They are a **Shaggy Mane** mushroom (*Coprinus comatus*), also known as a shaggy ink cap.



- **Edibility:** They are considered a choice edible mushroom when young, but must be consumed shortly after harvesting.
- **"Deliquescence":** These mushrooms are known as "ink caps" because, within hours of reaching maturity, they digest themselves into a black, inky goo.
- **Identification:** They have a distinctive tall, cylindrical, whitish cap covered in shaggy scales, and white gills that turn pink and then black.
- **Habitat:** They commonly grow in clusters in lawns, along gravel roads, or in disturbed soil.

Caution: Always consult with a local mycologist or field guide before consuming any wild mushroom, as many species have poisonous look-alikes.



Welcome Basket



In March MJ Watt and Tricia Elberts of the Welcome Basket Committee presented a welcome basket to new residents, Amanda, Jeremy and family.

Meet our new Hammond Ranch neighbors, Amanda Borman and Jeremy Kawecki and their three youngsters. They moved into their unique dome-shaped house on Elderberry last August and are settling into Ranch life. They come from Coos Bay, Oregon and have lived in our area in the past so there's not a lot of surprises with snow, bears and our rural community.

Jeremy is in construction with two friends here, and Mom Amanda has her hands full with three little ones and a new puppy, Greta. They're looking forward to more walks along our roads, meeting their neighbors and for Amanda – learning to drive the tractor.

Welcome Borman-Kaweckis!



Run Report

Hammond Ranch Fire Company went on 15 calls in the last quarter: 2 Other than Vehicle and Structure fires; 8 medical calls; 5 Public/Service Other calls.



From the Chief

The latest news from the Hammond Ranch Fire Company is below.

Hammond Ranch Fire has recently accepted one new sleeper into the program.

We have submitted the application for our FireWise community designation again and are now waiting to hear back about its acceptance.

We're still working on the community-wide wildfire preparedness plan with the county FireWise and CWPP folks. The CWPP will help the small communities apply for federal fuel-reduction and forest-health grants.

We will be looking to do some community fundraisers in the near future to help fund a new paint job on the station and some other maintenance items.

Also, recently we accepted a new assistant chief, Jim Beem, who served as a professional fireman for the city of San Francisco and as a long-standing volunteer for Mt. Shasta District.

Remember that the chipping program will start again soon, so please register for that sooner rather than later. As conditions dry out and burning remains permissible, please be mindful of your pile clearance and do not burn on windy days.

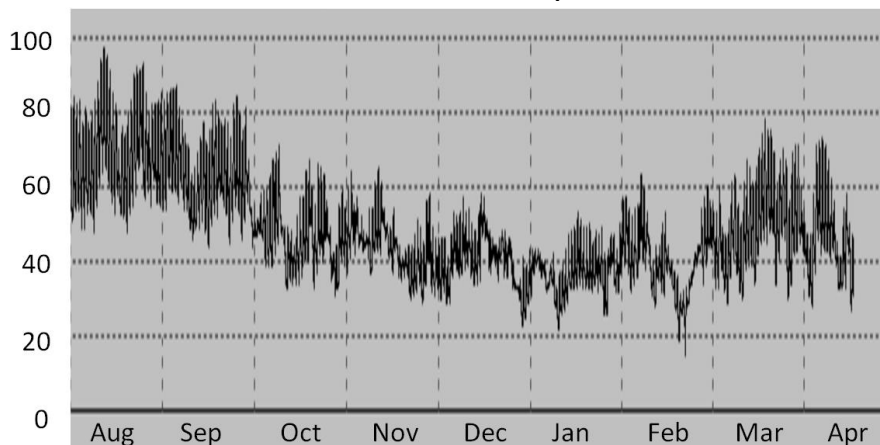
As always stay safe and enjoy the Ranch

Kyle Lunsford, Chief 4200



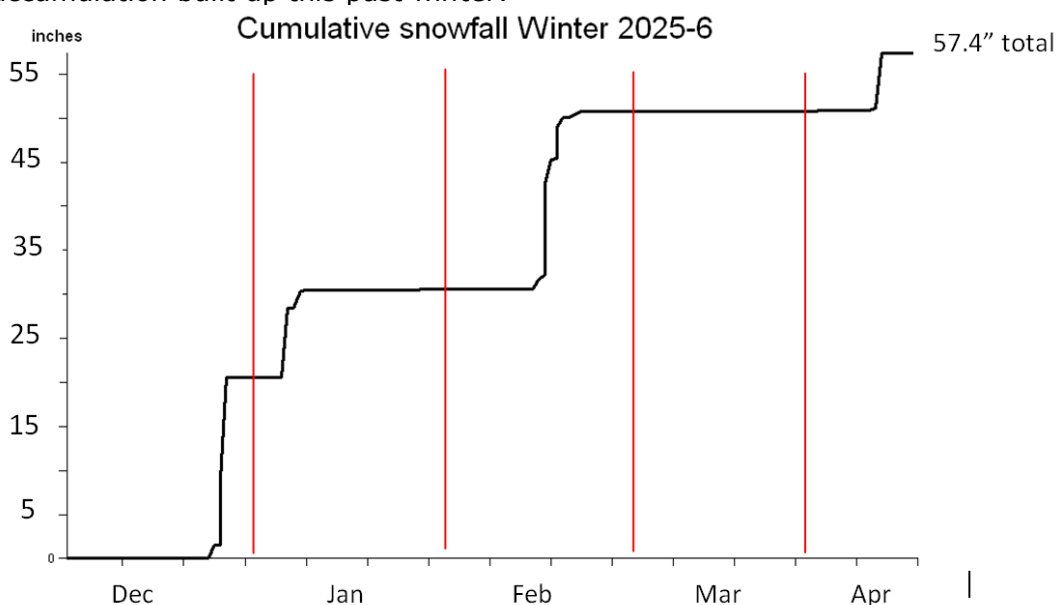
Dan's Weather, April 2026

This past winter was rather unusual, featuring far above-normal temperatures and far below snowfall (at least in the Hammond Ranch elevation range). Here is the temperature graph (in °F) for the August 1, 2025 to April 16, 2026 period (data taken at 10-minute intervals at 4200' elevation atop the Klamath/Sacramento divide at the south border of the Ranch):



The most remarkable feature is the warmth in March, with some afternoon temperatures in the middle of the month approaching 80°F! This prolonged anomaly led to budding of some plants several weeks in advance of the historical "normal."

Total snowfall (at 4200') reached only 57.4", which was the third lowest measured here in the last 23 winters. This is only 1/3 of the average seasonal snowfall over those winters: 178". Here is a graph of how the snow accumulation built up this past winter:



Several points stand out here. (1) The first accumulating snowfall did not begin until December 24. In most years, the first snow occurs in November. (2) There were only four big snow events. (3) Almost no snow occurred from early January until mid-February. (4) An unusually long snow-free period lasted from late February all the way to mid-April.

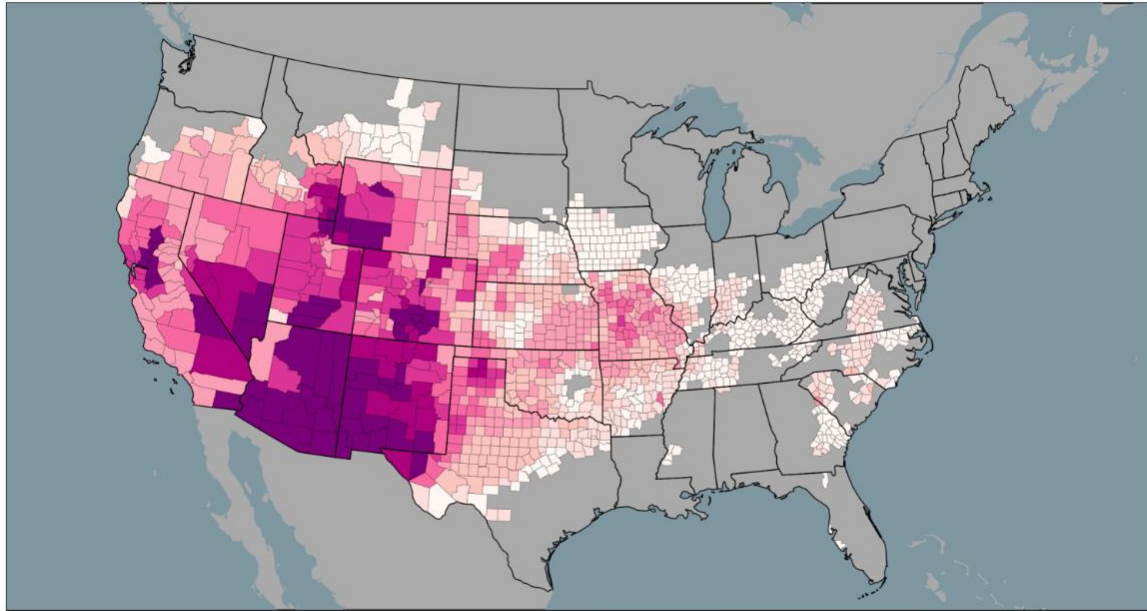
Unlike the two prior lowest-snow years (the back-to-back winters 2013-4 and 2014-5 with cumulative snowfalls with 23.3" and 25.3", respectively), this past winter was NOT in the midst of a long-term drought. Looking at just the "water-equivalent" content falling from the sky (i.e., snow + rain) in this winter's October through March period in Mt. Shasta City, we received 28.6" of water. "Normal" in that same period (as averaged since the year 2000) is only slightly higher, 34.47". Basically, it was fairly wet but just too warm to snow here. Hypothetically, if it were just a few degrees colder, we could easily have gotten 300" of snow. The slight deficit in precipitation was almost entirely due to March, which was both extremely warm and also extremely dry (only 0.24" of water equivalent).

That March warmth was also widespread, especially in the SW third of the U.S. According to NOAA, "The contiguous U.S. average temperature was 9.4°F above the 20th-century average, making March 2026 the warmest March in the 132-year record." Here is a map of places that set 75-year high temperature maximum records:

Maximum Temperature Monthly Records March 1–31, 2026

Total Days Setting March Records (1950–2025)
NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information

Counties: 1,432
CONUS Area: 58.2%
Est. Pop: 129.8M (38%)



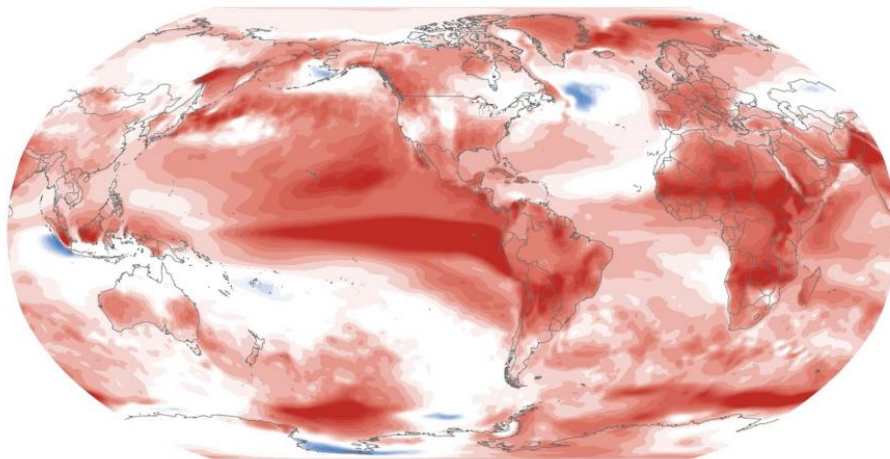
Created: Apr 07 2026
Source: nClimGrid-Daily

The warmth was also prolonged, not just limited to March. The April 2025–March 2026 period now stands as the warmest 12-month span ever recorded for the continental U.S. since 1895. It remains uncertain whether the locking-in of warmth for long periods is a feature of anthropogenic global warming (although it is likely). But it does not take much warming here to drastically reduce accumulated snow because the temperature during snowstorms is already very close to a changeover to rain.

Global warmth (relative to the past) is expected to continue worldwide this summer. Here are maps of this outlook for both temperature and precipitation:

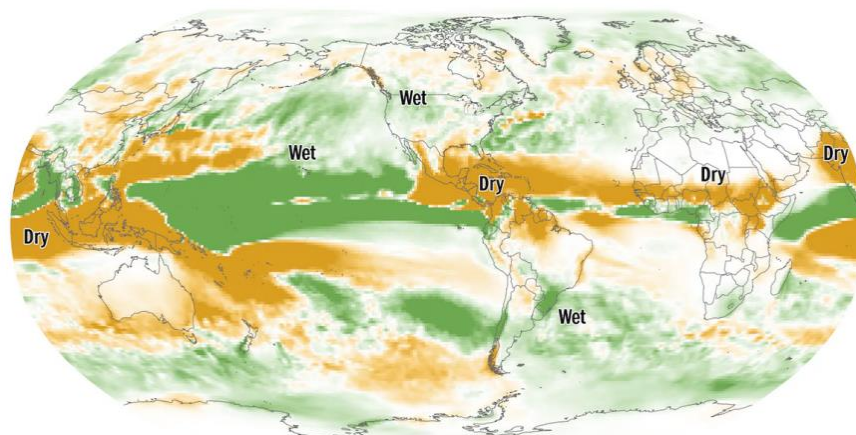
Temperature outlook, July to Sept.

Compared to 1993–2016 average



Precipitation outlook, July to September

Compared to 1993–2016 average



As can be seen, we are projected to be slightly warmer than “normal” this summer, but nowhere near as large a deviation as most other places on earth. Precipitation locally may also be slightly above normal, but very little normally occurs here in the July–Sept period anyway. A big influencer worldwide starting late summer is the expected “El Niño” phase, whereby warm water sloshes to the surface of the tropical Eastern Pacific every few years in response to an expected decrease in easterly trade winds near the equator. This may temporarily enhance the trend toward warmth that is already a consequence of climate change.

Of course, warm dry summers increase the risk of wildfires in this region. The idea of preemptive forest “thinning” at first seems appealing (especially to commercial foresters)¹ because it reduces overall fuels and particularly the smaller trees that act as fire “ladders” to ignite taller trees. But environmental advocacy groups point out² that thinning also makes the forest floor sunnier, hotter, drier, eventually clogged with flammable brush, and (worst of all) windier.

In view of the controversy over the science and the need to establish a workable policy, wildfire behavior has increasingly attracted the attention of meteorology researchers. For example, a recent scientific study³ by the well-known and respected UCLA meteorologist Daniel Swain notes “...growing evidence that the deadliest and most destructive contemporary wildfires tend to occur not in forests, but instead in the grasslands, savannahs and shrublands common in semiarid settings. These so-called ‘fast fires’—which are responsible for a highly disproportionate fraction of structure loss in the wildland–urban interface (WUI) and have served as the catalyst for multiple recent mass urban conflagrations can be rapidly propelled through fine fuels by strong wind events.” All sides in the controversy agree that “home hardening”⁴ – making landscaping and structural modifications so that the home is less likely to catch fire from hot embers – is the best protection of all.

Making predictions in the longer term, a new peer-reviewed study⁵ predicts a better-than-even chance that global warming will induce the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) to collapse by the year 2100, much sooner and with higher probability than previously calculated. The AMOC is the warm Atlantic Ocean current that includes the “Gulf Stream” responsible for keeping the northeastern US and most of Europe from becoming much colder in winters. (The Pacific does not run a corresponding circulation.) But a collapse of the AMOC will have worldwide effects (including here) that need further study. (Unfortunately, the new federal budget severely cuts back US research on climate change, so this important future work will be done elsewhere.)

¹ <https://www.usu.edu/today/story/ask-an-expert--does-forest-thinning-lead-to-increased-wildfire-danger-community-risk>

² <https://www.westernwatersheds.org/gw-poor-wildfire-strategy>

³ <https://weatherwest.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Swain-and-Stephens-2025-22Wet-to-Dry-Cascades-May-Increasingly-Drive-Wildfire-Activity-in-Nonforested-Ecosystems.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.fire.ca.gov/home-hardening>

⁵ <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adx4298>

By Dan Axelrod

Local Service Providers

	Rate/Hour	Equipment/Service
Mike Lauer	530-918-8158	Electrician
Matt Kosenko	530-859-8065	\$100 Plowing & fuel reduction tractor. Will buy plow blade if has regulars
Gary Scott	530-859-5644	Snow plowing
Larry Tadina	530-598-5094	\$160 4x4 backhoe & snow removal
Darren Turner	530-859-2122	Negotiable Gen. engineer/contractor: earthwork, road work, land development, septic, excavation & all phases of tree work – has various piece of large equipment
Thad Wallace	530-859-5817	Bobcat & plow
Russel Willis	530-772-7515	RGP Roofing
Cache St. Pierre	208-369-3812	cachestp@gmail.com – plowing & excavation

Calendar

HLA Board Meeting – Second Tuesday of every month, 5:00 p.m. Call any board member or send an email to <mailto:hammondlandowners@gmail.com> for meeting location and/or Zoom link. Let us know of your questions or concerns so they can be included on the agenda.

- The Annual HLA Picnic is usually scheduled for the Saturday after the 4th of July, July 11, 2026.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting is the first Saturday in November. It will be November 7 in 2026.
- Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors – First, second and third Tuesdays of every month, 10:00 a.m., County Courthouse, Yreka. Call the Clerk at 842-8081 to confirm the meeting.
- Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council – Meets the second Wednesday monthly at 5:30pm. Check their website for dates, <https://firesafesiskiyou.com/>.
- Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council -- Contact a Board member about participating.

2026 Board Members

President	Erich Ziller	530-261-0683
Vice President	Larie Wearing	530-859-0990
Secretary	Evan Hadfield	214-620-7434
Treasurer	Valerie Baake	925-788-9875
At-Large	Marisa DeAvilla	619-818-6478
	Tricia Elberts	530-859-1036
	Doug Lathrop	530-219-5332
	Mahroushka Papazian	415-307-9709
	MJ Watt	530-867-0202

Community Liaison - Tricia Elberts and MJ Watt
The Hammond Ranch Scene Editor - Larie Wearing

The HLA Board of Directors cares about and wants to hear members' opinions, suggestions and ideas. Members are welcome to attend any of the board meetings. If you plan to attend, please let the host know in advance so that accommodations can be made.

We also 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 hammondlandowners@gmail.com.

Helpful Links and Numbers

HLA Membership form:

<https://hammondlandowners.org/>.

Previous newsletters and Landowners Usage of Ranch Roads Newsletter Articles:

<https://hammondlandowners.org/newsletters>.

Road maintenance reimbursement:

<https://hammondlandowners.org/road-work-reimbursement>.

Hammond Ranch CC&Rs:

<https://hammondlandowners.org/hammond-ranch-cc%26rs>.

Trespass Authorizations and Landowner Handbook:

<https://hammondlandowners.org/news-and-information>.

Emergency Alerts:

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/ReadySiskiyou>.

Burn day information number: 530-842-8123.

Firewise: cristan.firesafecouncil@gmail.com.

Evacuation info: <https://www.watchduty.org/>.

Incident Alerts: www.genasys.com.



Moving or changing email address?

Please send changes of address to: Hammond Landowners Assn., P.O. Box 795, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067 or email to hammondlandowners@gmail.com.