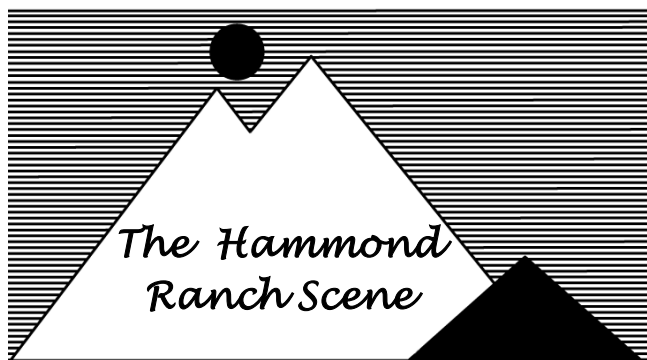


Hammond Landowners Association



www.hammondlandowners.org

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April 2025

YEAR L

Number 2

Message From the President (including Spring chipping project)

As we emerge from winter and head into another fabulous Hammond Ranch Spring, Summer and Fall, now is the time to clean up broken trees and branches and continue thinning efforts to decrease our wildfire load.

As mentioned before, CalFire is planning a spring and fall chipping program this year. They anticipate starting the middle of May for the spring work. If possible, HLA will notify you of the start date when it's determined and include instructions for how to participate.

In addition, CalFire is exploring the possibility of using their crews to thin vegetation along easements to assure safe access for their firefighters and equipment in case of emergencies. Information will be sent about this project as soon as it is available.

Also, progress is being made on creating a Hammond Ranch FireWise community. As you can see, fire safety is our main priority and we hope everyone will do their part to help keep Hammond Ranch safe. Have a great Summer!

Erich Ziller



Genasys Protect

A reminder that Genasys Protect is an evacuation management tool that helps communities and first responders more effectively plan, communicate and execute evacuations. It is an online platform where residents can look up their addresses using the search bar and use the zone map to find evacuation information for their area.

It would be wise to check for your zone in case of an emergency evacuation. Most of the Ranch is in several zones: Sis-5503, Sis-6007, Sis-6010 and Sis-6013. [Genasys Protect](#)

This year is the newsletter's 50th anniversary, founded in 1975!

County Ordinance

Some residents have expressed concern about a couple (or more) dogs roaming on the Ranch as well as being on Old Stage Road. The County does have specific laws regarding dogs roaming. It does not specifically address leashes, however, dogs must be under control. Below is a section of the law.

Sec. 5-3.14.01. - Dogs at large.

No person owning, having charge, care, control or custody at any time shall permit, allow, or cause any *dog* owned, controlled, harbored, or kept by him to roam, run, or stray away from the premises where such *dog* is kept or harbored, except in the company or custody and under the control of the owner or some responsible person.

No person at any time shall allow, permit, or cause any *dog* to run on the land of another without the permission of the owner or person in possession of such land.

The requirements of this section shall be in addition to all other restrictions applying to *dogs* and the owners of *dogs* within the County, and any violation of the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor with a minimum fine of Fifty and no/100ths (\$50.00) Dollars and may result in the impounding of the *dog*. [County Ordinance.](#)

There is a complaint form available if you see dogs wandering: [County Complaint Form.](#)



A Spring Quote:

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"
~ Robin Williams

Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council

Mahroushka Papazian, an HLA board member and HLA's liaison with the Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council, is planning on reactivating the Hammond Ranch Firesafe Council which has been relatively inactive for the past five years. The first order of business for the reactivated council would be to work on developing the Hammond Ranch FireWise community (see the January 2025 HLA Newsletter). To that end, the council will be setting up a community meeting at the Hammond Ranch firehouse in the near future.

Mahroushka is also working on setting up a Zoom meeting with members of the Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council, the Dunsmuir FireWise Community, our local firefighting community and anyone interested in heading up the Firewise "pods" in their respective areas. The purpose of the meeting would be to gather information on how Dunsmuir put their FireWise community together and determine the best path forward for Hammond Ranch. This will take place prior to the above mentioned community meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the reactivated fire safe council and/or leading the Firewise Community pod in your area, please give Mahroushka a call at (415) 307-9709 or drop her an email at Mahroushka@gmail.com.

Run Report

Hammond Ranch Fire Company made 12 runs the last quarter, January to March 31. The runs consisted of: 9 medical calls, 2 motor vehicle calls and one Public Assist/Person lift Assist call. Hopefully those who needed a medical assist are doing well.



From the Chief

It's the time of year we like to burn our winter waste here in the Ranch. I'd like to remind everyone to be sure you follow CalFire's regulations and call the Siskiyou County burn-day information line every time to make sure it's a good time to burn, 530-842-8123.

The Ranch has accepted a few new volunteers the last couple of months, which has been really nice. We had some water damage happen at the station this past winter. So, we are currently working on getting the damaged drywall addressed.

Please stay safe as the snow melts and remember the roads in the Ranch are not your private freeway. Slow down and enjoy nature that has awakened by the spring weather.

Thank you and stay safe.

Kyle Lunsford, Chief

Wildlife on the Ranch

The Northern Pygmy-Owl is a tiny owl but a feisty predator, sometimes capturing prey up to three times their size or even larger! They average about 7 inches in length and weigh around 2.5 ounces. Their wingspan is about 12 inches. They eat mostly songbirds but also feed on mice, chipmunks, insects and small lizards. Northern Pygmy-Owls are diurnal (hunt during the daytime), so they are easier to see than most owls, but they are so small that they often hide in plain sight. They may perch on the tops of a tree, sitting quietly and motionless, and surprise prey by seeming to come out of nowhere. Pygmy-Owls sometimes become prey for larger owls, diurnal raptors and predatory mammals (i.e. weasels). They nest in holes in trees made by woodpeckers.

Pygmy-Owls are barred brown and white on top and brown-streaked below, with long tails, rounded heads and bright yellow eyes and bill. They have 'eyespot' on the back of their neck (which may help deter predation from a sneak attack) and a small pair of tufts on the sides of their head, raised only when threatened by a predator, such as a hawk. Both sexes make a series of "toots" when calling and, like other owls, they snap their bill when alarmed by a predator.



Photos taken on the Ranch by George Stroud

Dan's Weather, April 2025

This past winter produced a total of 192" of snow at the 4200' elevation in the southern part of the Ranch. This could be considered "average" for winters at that location, as can be seen in Fig. 1:

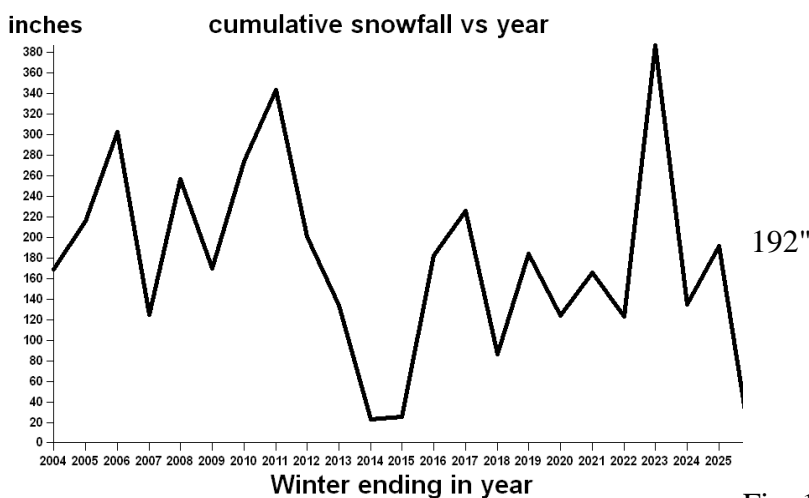


Fig. 1

However, a couple of features made this winter special. Most of the snow occurred in just three big blasts, in November, December and February (Fig 2).

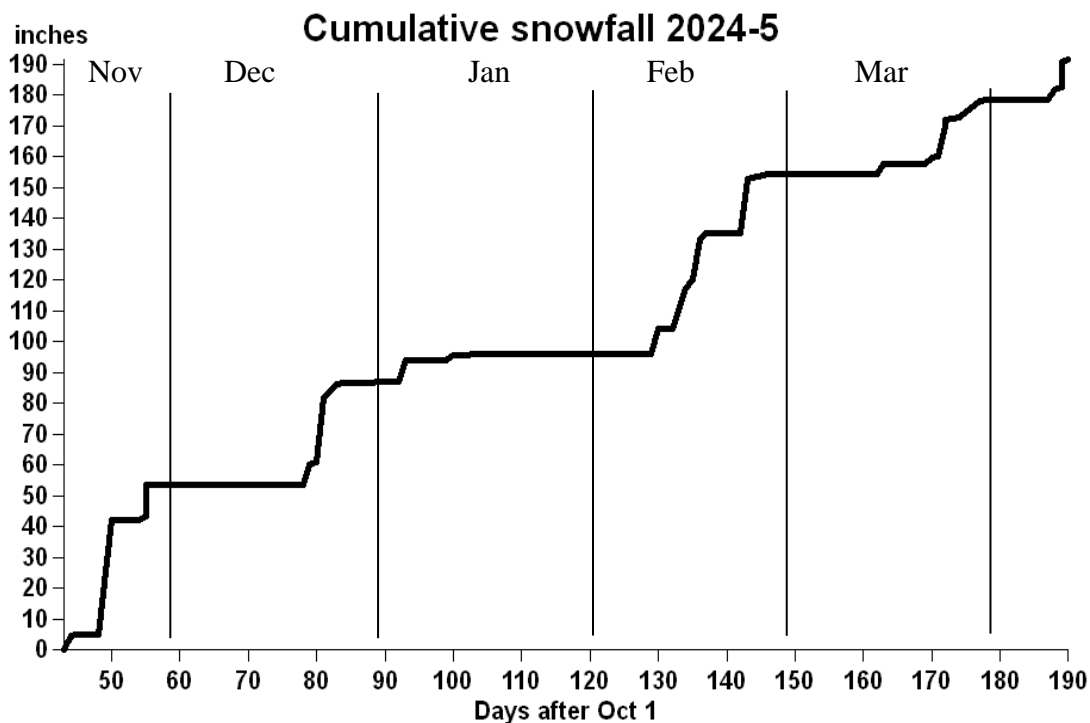
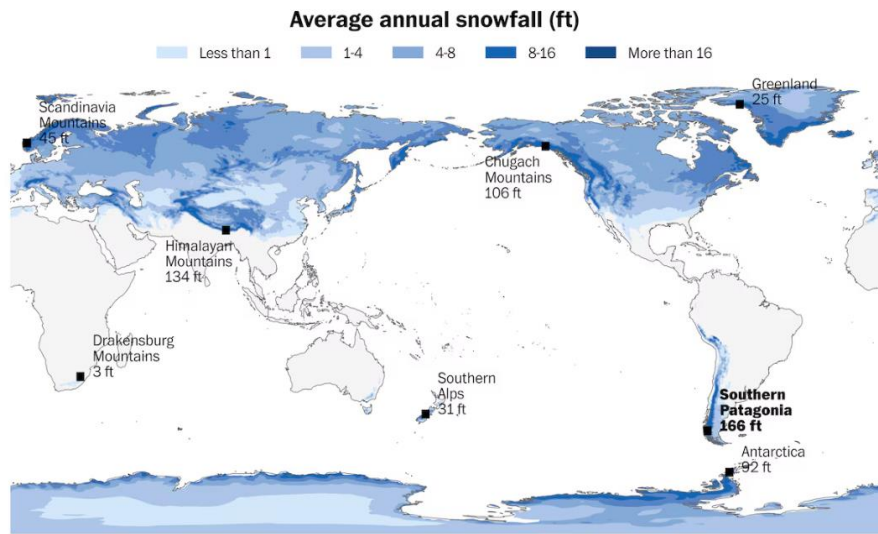


Fig. 2

January, on the other hand, brought almost no snow. Much of the Ranch at even slightly lower elevations experienced rain (or non-accumulating wet snow) rather than accumulating snow since the temperature was almost always within just a couple of degrees of freezing at 4200' during snowfalls. Temperatures generally increase by about 3 degrees F with every 1000' of decreasing elevation. Therefore, we can expect that global warming will eventually shift that rain/snow line farther up.

At least for the time being, our area is still among the snowiest places on earth. Here (Fig. 3) is a map of the world showing typical total snow over the winter:



The snowiest place on the planet may be the Southern Patagonian Ice Field in the Andes Mountains with an average annual snowfall of over 166 feet. (Ben Noll/Data source: ECMWF/ERA5)

Fig. 3

Fig. 4 shows the continuous temperature trace since last August.

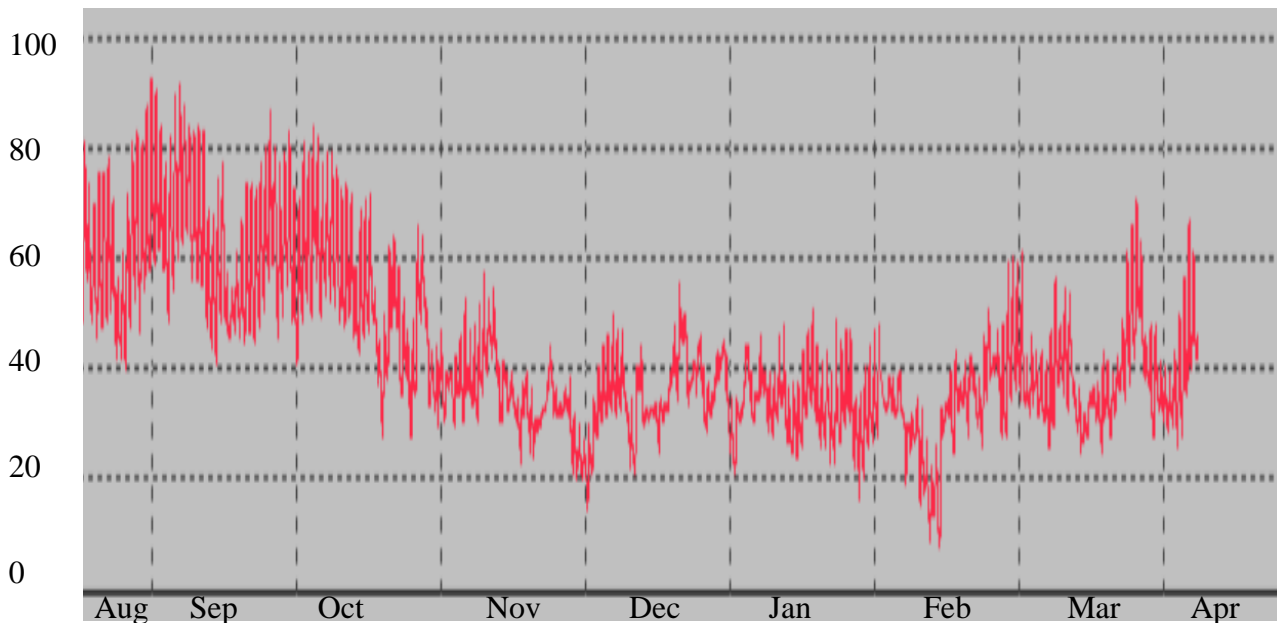


Fig. 4

An interesting feature is that the daily temperature range in the summer (up through mid-October) is generally much larger than the range in the winter. That is because the perpetually clear skies in summer here allow for more solar heating during the day and also more infra-red radiational cooling out into the cold of space during the night.

The water-equivalent precipitation (i.e., melted snow + rain), as measured by the National Weather Service (NWS) in Mt. Shasta City for the past winter through the end of March was 37.9". This was pretty close to the "normal" of 35.5" (defined as the average from 1980-2020). But the unusual feature was the huge amount occurring in November (11.35") and the small amount measured in that almost snowless January (1.26").

What can we expect this summer? This question, of course, is particularly relevant for the possibility of wildfires. The NWS predicts that our area (and most of the country) has a 40%-50% chance of seeing above normal temperatures (Fig. 5). (It would be only 33% if the chances of above or below normal were equal.)

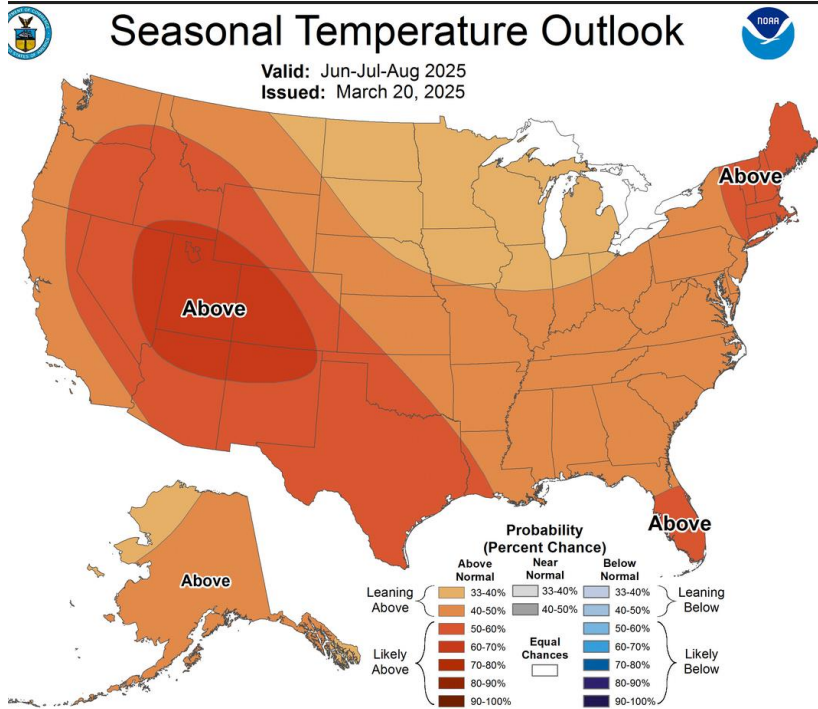


Fig. 5

The most important factor for wildfires, however - for the rapid spread of wildfires - is not the temperature several feet above ground (for which the above NWS projections are made) but the temperatures, wind and humidity only a few inches above the ground. That is where much of the "fuel" (dead grasses, branches, bushes, etc.) resides and catches fires. Of course, the less fuel the better. Forest "thinning", promoted by lumber interests and by some (but not all) personnel in the National Forest Service, is supposed to retard fire by removing "fuels". Unfortunately, depending on the weather on any particular day, the opposite effect can occur. By opening up the forest floor to the sky, thinning increases temperatures and wind in those bottom few inches, which speeds up drying and wind-driven spread of embers, and consequently, flammability. The surest method of protecting a structure (like a home) is not thinning of the forest some distance away, but rather, by "home hardening" as recommended by CalFire (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/home-hardening>).

Weather predictions have grown steadily more accurate over the past few years, largely because of the increasing sophistication of atmospheric computer software models, computer hardware, balloon-based measurement equipment and the experience of the NWS forecasters. However, the recent sudden layoffs, hiring freezes and resignation buy-outs have reportedly reduced staff at the NWS offices in Oregon by at least 20% (our area is covered by the Medford, OR office). Also, the frequency of balloon launches that take essential readings at higher elevations has been cut back. The consequent most-likely result will be less accurate, less frequent and less locally-specific forecasts. For more details, Google "cutbacks to NOAA".



by Dan Axelrod

Local Service Providers

		Rate/Hour	Equipment/Service
Mike Laurer	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
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 at 5:00 p.m. Call any board member or send an email to 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. This year it's July 5.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting is the first Saturday in November. It will be November 1 in 2025.
- 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.

2025 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	Neera Paine	530-859-1924
	Tricia Elberts	530-859-1036
	Doug Lathrop	530-219-5332
	Mahroushka Papazian	415-307-9709

Community Liaison - Neera Paine & Tricia Elberts
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.



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:

mailto:hammondlandowners@gmail.com