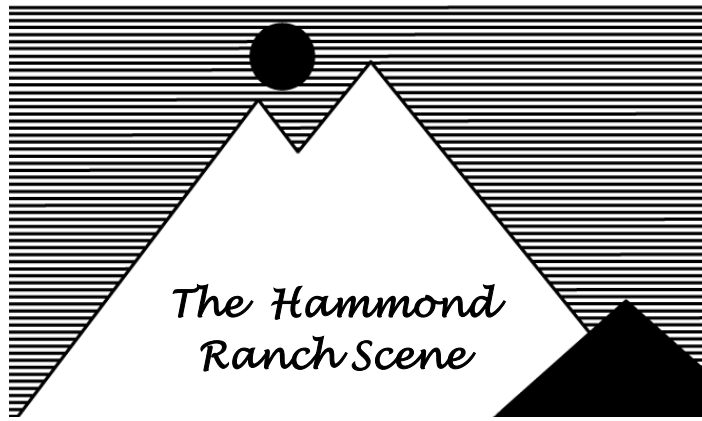


# Hammond Landowners Association



[www.hammondlandowners.org](http://www.hammondlandowners.org)

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OCTOBER 2022

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Number 4

### Message From the President

We were fortunate to enjoy a summer of clean air in Hammond Ranch this year, but it was unusually hot and dry. Unfortunately, we were once again reminded about how quickly disaster can strike. I urge everyone to make sure that they have their preparations in place and be extremely fire conscious. Let's keep the Ranch safe.

I would like to thank Sally McGregor, Rebekah Sluss, and Susan Grove for the time and efforts they contributed to the HLA Board. Sally continues to represent the Ranch on the county Fire Safe Council. Their commitment and hard work have helped to make the Ranch a better place for all of us.

As we enter a new year, I would like to request that others offer their knowledge and skills to help keep the Ranch moving in a positive direction by joining the Board. There are always controversies and challenges that can only be solved by honest, committed research and cooperation. In addition to our long-time residents, I know that there are many new, younger residents who have moved to the Ranch for the lifestyle and to raise families. We urge them to become involved.

Contact one of the current Board members so that you can be included in the election at our November 5 members' Board meeting. As the Ranch continues to grow, you have the opportunity to help create the type of community we all can enjoy for decades to come.

*Erich Ziller*

"Autumn is the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful."



### Message From the Board

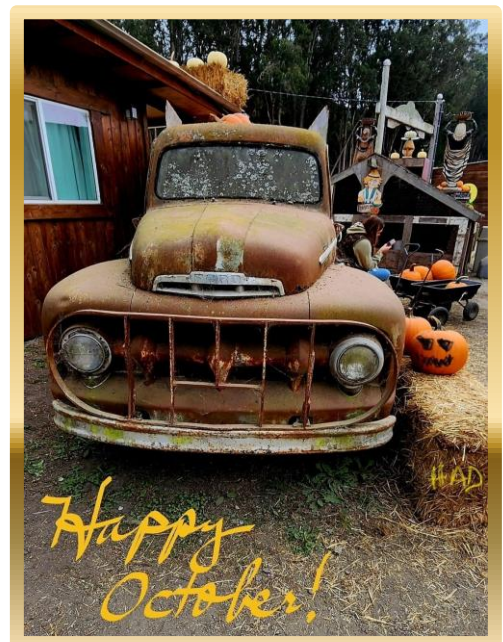
The HLA Board welcomes Evan Hadfield to the Board. We look forward to working with him on Ranch matters in the future.

We gratefully thank Sally McGregory, Susan Grove and Rebekah Sluss for their service on the Board.

### Annual Members' Meeting

Members should have received their invitation to the HLA Annual Members' Meeting on November 5, 2022. **RSVPs due by October 21.** If you have not, please contact Larie Wearing at 530-859-0990.

**Members, come to the meeting!** We look forward to seeing you there. Please arrive on time. Our guest speaker, Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue, is schedule to speak at the start of the meeting.





## Run Report

Hammond Ranch Fire has had 18 calls for service from July 1 through September 30: Other Fires, 2; Medical Aids, 15; Public Service/Other, 1.

### From the Chief

We are currently working on the purchase of a new-to-us tactical watertender that will better suit our needs.

There is one new additional sleeper that will be responding to calls as soon as we get his credentials squared away.

This summer has been busy in the north state, but we're looking forward to things slowing down so some new grants can be worked on.

*Kyle Lunsford, Chief*

### Drought-Stressed Trees

Because of questions received about the dead and dying trees on the Ranch, we contacted Steve Wilson, CAL FIRE's Unit Forester. He shared with us the following information.

Due to the drought conditions we have been experiencing in our area we are observing trees that are stressed and dying from the lack of moisture. When the trees are drought-stressed, they become more susceptible to insect attack. CAL FIRE is very willing to provide Forestry Assistance to homeowners in your community. We can talk to landowners on the phone and even visit them at their properties to discuss forestry-related concerns. The CAL FIRE Forest Practice Inspector for your area is Pete Feller, and his contact number is: 530-598-0068.

If a landowner plans on removing their dead trees to sell, barter or trade the wood, a harvesting document will be necessary. Pete Feller can help answer any questions a landowner may have regarding whether a harvest document is needed or not.

I recently found a document that was written for small forest landowners living in Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascades. I think it is very informative for the forest landowners in your community. Here is a hyperlink to this document: [Forest Management Handbook](#).

There are currently no approved grants in the county to help a landowner with the costs associated with removing dead trees.

### Fuel Reduction Project Update

The Fuel Reduction Project is working on Dogwood Ridge at this time. It had been stalled for a while during the time the operator of the masticator was working on various fires this summer. They hope to continue working till the weather changes. The grant to complete the work has been extended, giving plenty of time to get all the work finished.

## Fire Safe Council Update

Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council meets virtually once a month and has useful presentations from various fire safety programs, updates from public agencies and local jurisdictions, as well as useful information on their website, [www.firesafesiskiyou.com](http://www.firesafesiskiyou.com). In the last few months, these matters have been discussed in the forum.

The California Department of Insurance and Governor Newsom have issued a one-year moratorium that will prohibit insurance companies from not renewing or dropping policy holders, starting July 31, 2022 through July 31, 2023. This fix is temporary, meant to buy time while options are explored.

Here are some resources from the State of California.

- Wildfire Resources - <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/140-catastrophes/WildfireResources.cfm>. This includes new regulations that have standards that were worked on by Commissioner Lara and CAL FIRE.
- Safer From Wildfires - [www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/saferfromwildfires.cfm](http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/saferfromwildfires.cfm).
- Residential Property Insurance Companies Currently Offering Discounts for Fire Hardened Homes and/or Communities - <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/105-type/95-guides/03-res/Insurers-Currently-Offering-Discounts.cf>.

### Fire season is not over yet. If you haven't already done so:

- **Know your Zonehaven zone. FAQ page:** <https://help.zonehaven.com/articles/zonehaven-aware-faqs>,
- **Download the Watch Duty app on your smartphone and/or laptop:** <https://app.watchduty.org/>,
- **Sign up for Siskiyou County Code Red:** <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/emergency-services/page/codered-emergency-alert>.

*Sally McGregor*



## Wildlife on the Ranch

### Ponderous Borer/Western Pine Sawyer, Western Pine Beetle and Western Sculptured Pine Borer

With all our pine and fir trees drought stressed, the borers are extremely active and can cause tree mortality in Ponderosas and other trees weakened by drought, fire, etc. What's been seen on the Ranch are the ponderous borer beetle, also called the Western Pine Sawyer (*Ergates spiculatus*), the Western Pine Beetle as well as the Western Sculptured Pine Borer. A triple whammy!

The Western Pine Sawyer is a big, red-brown boring beetle whose larva feed on the roots of Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and other conifers. Ponderous borer larvae, which can measure almost three inches long, tunnel through the sapwood and heartwood of their dead or dying host trees, hastening their decomposition and the fall of dead stands. The sawing jaws of the larvae are said to have inspired the design of the chain saw. Pesticides are ineffective. The adults emerge from midsummer into fall and move about nocturnally, drawn to light, which may disperse them on full-moon nights. Adults may be over 2 inches long with grubs growing around 3 inches long. They range from California to British Columbia and east into the great basin states and Eastern Washington.



Western Pine Sawyer

The Western Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus brevicomis*) is one of the smaller members of the genus and is dark brown and cylindrical in shape, about 1/8" long. It feeds mainly on mature Ponderosa pines throughout Oregon, Washington and California. There are several generations per year. They are virtually inactive during the winter months but as soon as the weather becomes warmer, they will increase their activity. The first sign of Western Pine Beetle attack is the production of pitch tubes on ponderosa pines. They create serpentine galleries where the eggs are deposited along the margins of the central gallery.

The beetles pack these galleries with frass (boring dust and beetle excrement) once the eggs have been deposited. These eggs hatch out, and the tiny larvae feed briefly within the inner bark on the phloem layer. However, after this brief period, the larvae turn out into the bark of the host tree and continue to tunnel within the outer bark. Pupation occurs within the outer bark of the host, and the next generation of adult beetles will emerge to renew the cycle. The beetles also transport a fungus on their bodies as they bore into the tree's bark. The combination of this fungus and the beetle feeding on the inner bark kills the tree



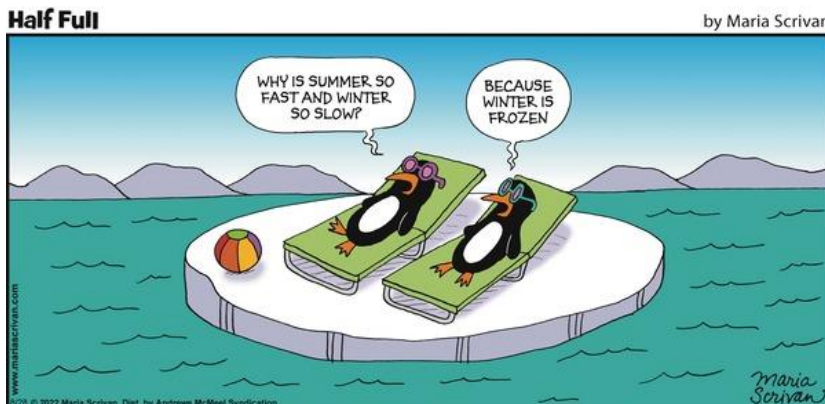
Western Pine Beetle

The Western Sculptured Pine Borer flies noisily when alarmed. It is about 20-33mm long, dark brown to black, sculptures on upper side, iridescent bronze luster, especially on the underside. Eggs are laid on bark of large branches or trunks of conifers, especially white fir (*Abies*), or western yellow pine (*Ponderosa Pine*, *Pinus ponderosa*). Larvae hatch and cut through to inner bark, where they form tunnels. The adults feed on the leaves. Their range is Western North America, Alaska to California, to South Dakota and Texas.



Western Sculptured Pine Borer

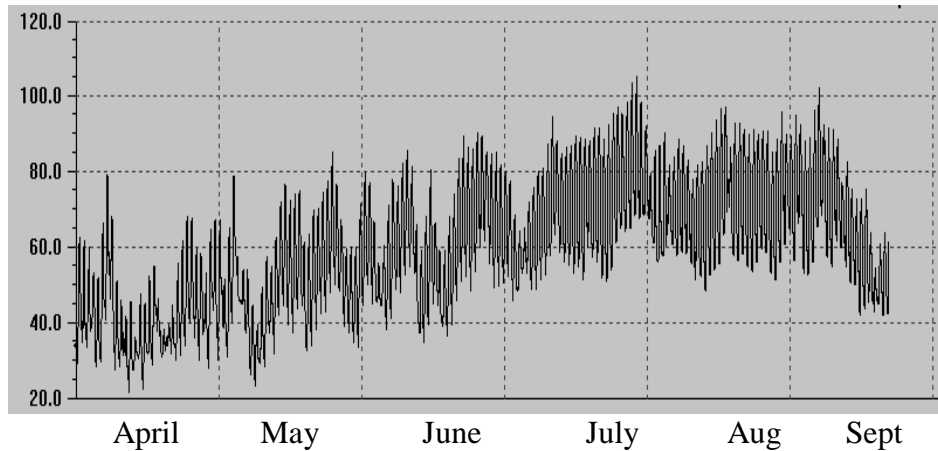
It's amazing our trees survive these critters!



## Hammond Ranch Weather Article, Fall 2022

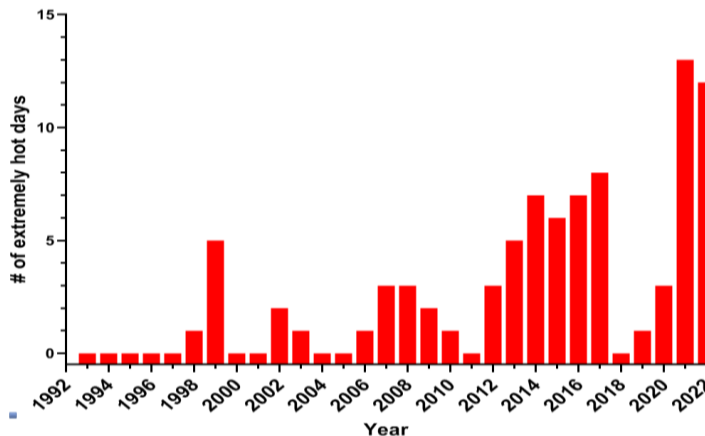
by Dan Axelrod

The features of summer weather that have become most prominent here in recent years are heat and wildfire smoke. We will attempt to discern trends in both of these features. First, here is the temperature trace for this past spring and summer, as recorded at the 4200' elevation in the SE part of the Ranch:



As can be seen, three days saw maximum afternoon temperatures greater than 100° F, and many days saw temperatures of greater than 95° F. How does this record of numerous extremely hot days compare with past summers?

We look back at the 30 summers between 1993 and the present and define "extremely hot" as any day where the temperature peaks at 95 deg or higher. Since local records do not go back that far, we will use official NOAA temperatures recorded in Mt. Shasta City. But since the elevation there is about 700' lower than the Ranch, temperatures down there are normally 3° warmer. Accordingly, we need to redefine "extremely hot" to mean 98° or greater at Mt. Shasta City. Here is a bar graph of the number of such days every summer:

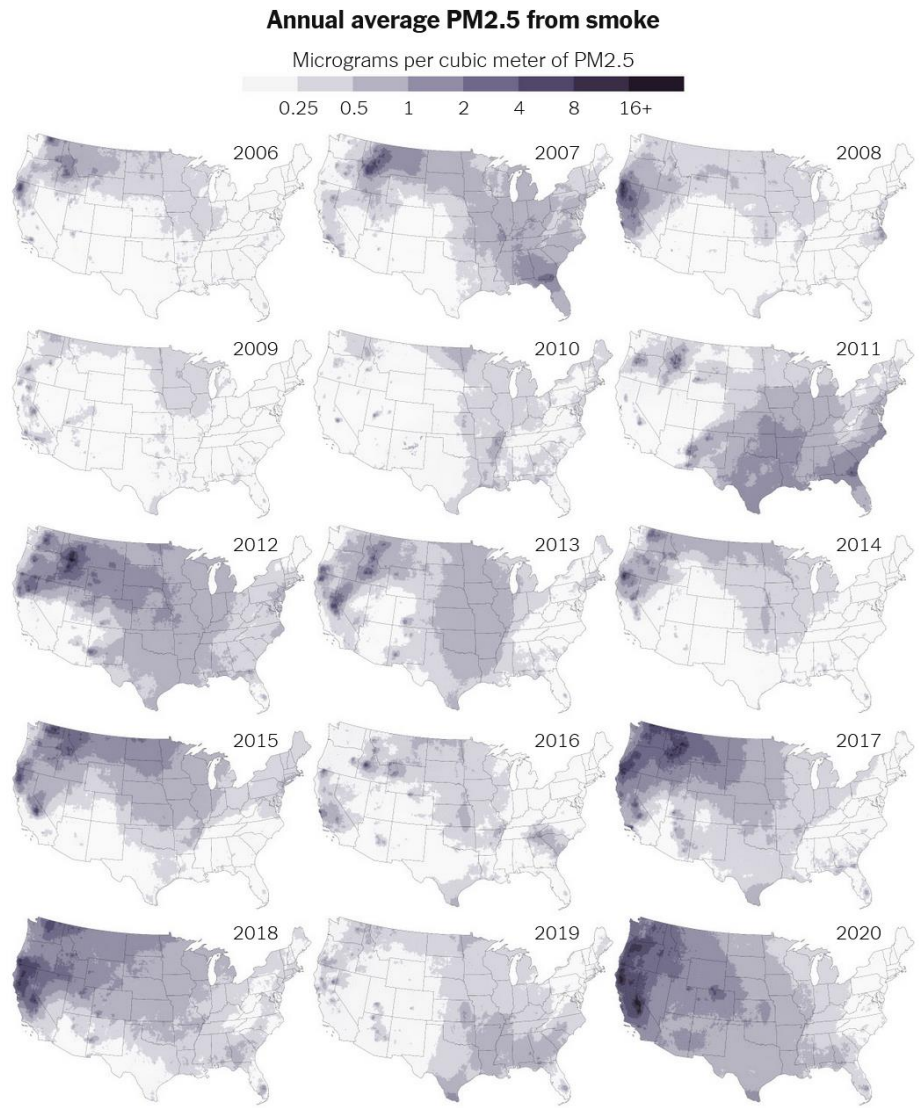


It is easy to see that the number of extremely hot summer days has been increasing. The last two summers in the last 30 years are the only ones to exceed 10 extremely hot days each, reaching 13 and 12, respectively. Is this just a random fluke? It is worth calculating the probability of such a record assuming it is a total fluke. In fluke-land, the average number of extremely hot days (based on the above graph's data) is just 2.8 hot days per year. If the hot-day occurrences were just random, then the probability of seeing more than 10 in any given summer can be calculated to be just 0.015 %. The probability of seeing two such summers in a row is a miniscule 0.000002 %. Therefore, seeing this heat two years in a row is almost certainly *not* a random fluke. If the cause is a long-term phenomenon (like our local manifestation of global warming), we can expect that the past two summers will become the "new normal," or even seem relatively cool compared to the future.

As usual, precipitation was minimal this past summer, but with a couple of significant rain events in early September slowing down the active fire season. The first half of October has been completely dry, which is unusual. This persistence has been caused by a high pressure "ridge" essentially parked over the West Coast. Stationary or very slow moving weather patterns is a theoretical prediction of global warming.



Heat and drought of course increase the probability of devastating wildfires. Most wildfires recently are not caused by lightning. Rather, they are human-caused: arson, downed above-ground power lines, sparks from metal chains dragging off vehicles, individual and industrial carelessness, etc. Some of the large fires came fairly close to Hammond Ranch - notably the Mill and Mountain fires to the immediate NE and NW - within about 10 miles. But regardless of the cause or exact location, the smoke from wildfires in northern California and southern Oregon has become a prevalent feature of our local summers. A study published in September from Stanford University shows maps of the smoke problem (measured as concentration of 2.5 micron-sized particulates, PM2.5):



Smoke is clearly becoming more intense in the West and also spreading over larger areas.



*From the Editor: If you have information you would like to share in the Newsletter with Ranch residents, give Larie a call or email her at [lariedw@gmail.com](mailto:lariedw@gmail.com).*

### **2022 Board Members**

President	Erich Ziller	530-261-0683
Vice President	Larie Wearing	530-859-0990
Secretary	Susan Grove	530-925-6859
Treasurer	Valerie Baake	925-788-9875
At-Large	Neera Paine	530-859-1924
	Rebekah Sluss	808-557-5834
	Tricia Elberts	530-859-1036
	Evan Hadfield	214-620-7434

*The Hammond Ranch Scene* Editor  
Larie Wearing 530-859-0990

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 [hla@hammondlandowners.org](mailto:hla@hammondlandowners.org).

### **Calendar**

- HLA Board Meeting – Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Call any board member or send an email to [hla@hammondlandowners.org](mailto:hla@hammondlandowners.org) 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. In 2023 it will be the 8th of July.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 5 this year. We hope you can attend.
- 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 -- Contact a Board member about participating.



### **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](mailto:hla@hammondlandowners.org)