

Q&A REGARDING the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) grant -

ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART? The Mosquito Fire Safe Council (MFSC), an affiliate of the El Dorado County FSC, was recently awarded US Forest Service money in the form of an in-kind/matching grant in the amount of \$540,000+. The money is meant to be used to hire professional companies to clear potential wildfire ladder fuels along sections of Rock Creek Road and along the Swansboro Road/One-Eye Creek areas, with the goal of creating shaded fuel breaks to prevent and protect Mosquito from wildfires coming from those directions. Every resident and every absentee owner in the Mosquito Fire Protection District has a stake in this effort and as such is being urged to work to create and maintain defensible space on his/her own private property.

The grant provider requires a coordinator from the MFSC to compile records of all the work the individual residents and owners perform and send in quarterly reports. We provide tracking sheets and ask everyone to use them regularly to help us reach our committed matching goal. Tracking sheets are available on the home page of the Mosquito Fire Safe Council's website— mosquitofsc.org — scroll down the page to the topic "Tracking Log, You'll Need This One". Instructions for use were listed on page two of this newsletter.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: When is my property going to be cleared?

A: The grant was not designed for individual property cleanup, it was designed to create community firebreaks within the identified treatment areas.

Q: How much money does the property owner receive from the grant?

A: No monies are received by an individual or their property. The grant monies have allocated to hire professionals to work on those areas deemed needing the work to create firebreaks. However, we should still do our part.

Q: What is my part?

A: Your part is to follow the CalFire guidelines to create a defensible space on your property, and to utilize the tracking work log, available on the home page of the Mosquito Fire Safe Council's website at mosquitofsc.org.

Q: What is the CWPP (County Wildfire Protection Plan)?

A: This is a plan that allowed us to receive grant monies. It identifies the high-risk areas around communities such as the MFPD where cleanup needs to be concentrated

Q: Why is SCPOA the only organization to pledge cash toward the grant if it is for the entire district, not just SCPOA members?

A: The rationale is that other organizations in the area are all volunteer groups. SCPOA is not a volunteer organization. The monies SCPOA put up were to 1) help protect SCPOA and its members; 2) as a byproduct helps the overall community, 3) was necessary to obtain a \$540,000 grant, 4) benefits you and all of our neighbors.

Q: Will all my trees be cut down and a mess be left behind?

A: No. The grant monies are to abate shaded fuels, and ladder fuels. Only smaller trees and brush will be masticated, burned, or removed. This pertains to properties within the grant area.

Q: Will the grant remove all the trees I want removed?

A: No. This grant is not about removing trees, unless they are dead, or dying. It is for the abatement of shaded fuels, and ladder fuels.

Q: Am I signing away my rights in signing the Right of Entry form? When and where is the grant work going to start?

A: No. The Right of Entry form only allows for the workers to enter your property to do the work, which they must tell you the scope of prior to it being done. They are fully bonded and insured. The grant work is scheduled for either December or January, weather permitting. Work will begin on Rock Creek Road, dependent upon receipt of the Right of Entry forms.

Q: Can I get some help on my defensible space? If so, where do I go for help?

A: Yes, help is available, but not as a monetary assistance. There are four programs available. Go to mosquitofsc.org or edcfsc.org for assistance.