



The Trinity County Fire Safe Council was formed in 1998 to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in Trinity County and to promote management activities to achieve this goal. The Fire Safe Council is a cooperative effort of several agencies, including many local volunteer fire departments, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the US Forest Service (both Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests), the Bureau of Land Management, the County Planning Department, the Trinity County Resource Conservation District, the Watershed Research and Training Center, and members of the public.

Together, these groups are working to involve the residents and landowners of Trinity County in fire prevention and response in order to best avoid catastrophic fires in the future. Trinity County, with its hot, dry summers, is extremely prone to wildfires. One of the goals of the Fire Safe Council is to involve the whole community in working to protect its property as well as its neighbors' by being aware of the risk of fire damage and taking some simple steps to help prevent it. Currently the Fire Safe Council is leading an effort to develop a Landscape Scale Fire Management Plan for Trinity County.

**What is the Trinity County Fire Safe Council?**

**TRINITY COUNTY FOREST IMPROVEMENT TOUR**



*This roadside tour will take you to current examples of forest health improvement projects and forest fuels reduction activities.*

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*Continue on Old Lewiston Rd and make a left (north) on Trinity Dam Blvd. At Rush Creek Road, turn left. As you leave Lewiston along Rush Creek, look to your left. You will see the site of the Browns Mountain Fire which was accidentally started during a timber harvest in 1994. You can see that recovery is very slow.*

The impacts of this fire will be felt for many years:

- Landowners will have to rebuild.
- The forest is being replanted, but it will be 20 to 30 years before you see a forest (of sapling size trees) here again.
- Heavy rains can carry sediment into small streams that deliver the sediment to the Trinity River, where it can bury salmon nests.

From this overlook you can see the pasture where a July 1999 prescribed burn got out of control. Looking up to the hills to the east you can see the path of the fire as it crossed Old Lewiston Road driven by strong, dry summer winds. As you drive northeast on Old Lewiston Road note the almost complete loss of the native forest on many of the slopes.

Effects of this fire:

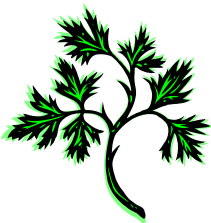
- Nearly 2000 acres were burned
- 40 structures burned, including 23 homes
- \$3.5 million were spent to control the fire
- \$2 Million have been spent in restoration (not including replacement of homes and buildings)

**Stop 1: Hamilton Ponds Parking Lot on Old Lewiston Road**

Please see maps on reverse.

For more information, please feel free to contact or visit the TCRCD. TCRCD is currently looking for additional funds to implement more projects in at-risk communities. Interested landowners should contact the TCRCD:

**Trinity County Resource Conservation District**  
 One Horseshoe Lane  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Weaverville, CA 96093  
 (530) 623-6004  
 (530) 623-6006 fax  
 www.tcrd.net



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Funding for this tour brochure was provided through a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. Contract: 9-134-250-0

*Continue north on Hwy 3 until you reach Guy Covington Drive then make a right. At Greenhorn Rd, make a right into the Covington Mill Neighborhood (see inside page).*

The owners of this 40-acre forest parcel are currently working to improve forest health and to make their property more fire-safe. They have been implementing defensible space fuels management in the 150 foot zone around the home using a 5 year EQIP grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. That is a five-year grant funding this work in progress. The thinning has also produced sugar pine and fir lumber that they have used on their property for construction.

**Stop 2: Fall-Frost Property 56301 Highway 3**  
 (Call ahead at 286-2855 or 623-6004 for a tour)  
 Please see maps on reverse.

*Proceed to Hwy 3 and turn right (north). Driving on Highway 3 you travel through forest that is typical for this part of Trinity County. You will note that in many areas the forest is very dense with small-diameter pines, firs, and cedars growing close together beneath a canopy of mature trees. These dense stands of trees are very susceptible to fire and cause fires started along a roadway to spread rapidly up into the forest canopy.*



**Stop 6: Timber Ridge Neighborhood**

Please see maps on reverse.

You will notice a meadow to your right that was mowed with fire protection and wildlife habitat concerns in mind. It is ideal for the monarch butterfly because it provides critical milkweed habitat. As you continue up Timber Ridge Rd, you can see many homeowners' fuels reduction efforts. Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) staff advised interested landowners on how to do fuels reduction thinning on their property. Homeowners did the work and piled the resulting wood. TCRCD brought in a chipper and spread the chips onto the ground. Over half of the neighborhood has participated thus far. Currently, landowners are thinning dense stands and trimming limbs to reduce ladder fuels. At the same time, the TCRCD has been working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and adjacent landowners to design a shaded fuel break on the ridge above the subdivision to protect the homes.



TCRCD Crew chipping excess fuels.

### Stop 3: Covington Mill Neighborhood

Please see maps below.

This small rural residential neighborhood is typical of communities in Trinity County. Homes are nestled in the trees and the neighborhood is surrounded by forest. A fire that starts in the neighborhood could spread out into the forest and a fire that starts in the forest could threaten the neighborhood. Recognizing the high fire risk, the Covington Mill neighborhood worked closely with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) to obtain a grant from the CDF Forest Stewardship program to design and implement a forest health and defensible space program. You can see the results of landowners' work. They thinned the ladder fuels – small trees and shrubs that can take a ground fire up into the canopy --- from around their homes to create a more park-like openness in the first 30-50 feet. The TCRCD then came and chipped this material, spreading the pieces on the adjacent slopes. Chips on exposed slopes help to prevent erosion. This neighborhood demonstrates the DEFENSIBLE SPACE design, reducing some of the risk of fire spreading.

Make your way back up to Guy Covington Drive then onto Hwy 3, heading north. At Long Canyon Rd, make a left. Continue past Sheep Corral Creek and the 'S' road curve.

### Stop 4: Long Canyon Shaded Fuel Break

Please see maps below.

The County maintains this Forest Service Road. It is a primary access to the Trinity Alps Wilderness, receives heavy seasonal traffic and serves approximately 50 private properties – a mix of summer homes and year-round residences. The East Fork of Stuarts Fork is the large stream that you see south of the road and whose tributaries you cross a number of times. Drive up the road about 2.5 miles to the Long Canyon Shaded Fuel Break sign. For 50 feet on both sides of the road, the dense growth of small trees was thinned from around the larger trees and some trees were removed to thin the canopy. The project was designed by a Registered Professional Forester, who specializes in both community and sustainable forestry. The goal of this shaded fuel break is to reduce the forest fuel loads and to break up the ability of fire to move horizontally — along the ground or in the canopy — and to reduce the ability of fire to move from the ground up into the canopy. The informational brochures at the sign give you more details about the project.

Return south on Hwy 3, turning right on East Weaver Road. At the fork in the road, take East Branch Road (right).

### Stop 5: East Branch Neighborhood Project

Please see maps below.

This project demonstrates several aspects of fuels management and fire safety. Homeowners thinned brush and brought it to the road for chipping. The USFS did a fuels management forest thinning – note the park-like characteristic of the forest starting 3/4 of a mile in from the start of East Branch Rd. Natural pools in the stream were marked with signs to show fire crews where they could fill water tanks.

Make your way back down East Branch Rd and go south (right) on Hwy 3. At Hwy 299, make a left (SE) and turn right on Mill St. Mill St will eventually become Timber Ridge Road. Continue on Timber Ridge Rd until you come to a fork in the road just before a meadow. Stay on Timber Ridge Rd (left). See information for stop #6 on reverse.

