



# Summer 2025 News

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

## Reaching Out to the Community

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SVRCD has several large projects that need community support and input. Without a daily newspaper or local radio station, it can be challenging to spread the word about these interesting and important projects.

This newsletter is full of opportunities for landowners to engage with local agencies and learn about efforts being made in your back yard to improve natural resources for the future. Projects center on fire prevention, irrigation flows and how you can participate in projects that benefit your community.

## Juniper Removal along Big Springs Road

### Project Manager: Mallory Pappas

Over the past century, juniper populations have dramatically expanded across the Shasta Valley, largely due to shifts in fire patterns and land management. This unchecked growth puts both our grasslands and communities at greater risk. Compare historic and present-day photos for a striking look at the change. Junipers not only crowd out native grasses and increase the threat of severe wildfires— they also absorb more rainfall, reducing the water that reaches the soil and ultimately decreasing flow in vital waterways like the Shasta River.

SVRCD has been awarded funding to conduct targeted juniper removal within the community of Lake Shastina,

along the east side of Big Springs Road. This project is funded by the CalFire Forest Health grant program and aims to improve the natural Ponderosa pine stands, increase native vegetation for deer and wildlife, and make the community more fire resilient.

**If you are a Lake Shastina Resident and want to find out if your property is eligible to be cleared of juniper, at no cost to you, please reach out!** Properties that are successfully cleared will also receive targeted plantings of native plant species and Ponderosa pine seedlings. Interested parties can email [mpappas@svrccd.org](mailto:mpappas@svrccd.org)! More detailed project information can be found by following this link:

<https://www.northcoastresourcepartnershipprojects.org/Project/FactSheet/17697>

**Do you have a project idea for your property? We are actively working with private landowners who want to improve their natural resources by tailwater reductions, forestry thinning , prescribed burning or other project types. Email us at [info@svrccd.org](mailto:info@svrccd.org)**



Present day photo of Goosenest from Shasta Valley. Note the hills are covered with juniper trees.



Historic photo of Goosenest from Shasta Valley

## Upper Shasta River Assessment

### Ayn Perry-Project Coordinator

The SVRCD is actively collecting basic information about irrigation diversions in the Upper Shasta River watershed. Letters were sent out to more than 70 of the 300 plus landowners to gather details of irrigation ditch diversion in Carrick, Boles, Beaughton, Dale, Eddy Creeks and the Shasta River above Dwinell Dam in the Edgewood and Weed reaches. The project is designed to collect data for future diversion improvements including fish screen, headgates, weirs and staff gages where needed. Many ditches serve multiple properties managed with the help of the Scott-Shasta Watermaster.

Once the assessment is complete, funding will be sought to work with willing landowners to improve their headworks.

These improvements will protect important ecological, cultural, and sport fishing species that are present in the Upper Shasta River and its tributaries. California Department of Fish and Wildlife is funding this work. If you would like to participate contact SVRCD at 530-572-3120. <http://www.svr.cd.org/2025-08-06-upper-shasta-river-assessment>



Typical diversion in the Upper Shasta River watershed. Steep topography characterizes the area, with diversion ditches serving multiple properties that have been subdivided in the recent past.

## Osgood Fuel Break

### Anna Parry-Project Coordinator

The Osgood Fuel Break is funded by a CalFIRE Wildfire Prevention grant working with private landowners and extends the previously completed Yreka Ridge Fuel Break by over 600 acres. This project is working on property under the Yreka Ridge fuel break. The project treatment will be vegetation removal for fire prevention and restoring oak woodland habitat and increase soil health. Once completed, almost 900 contiguous acres of fuel reduction work will protect the north edge of the city of Yreka. These efforts will reduce the risk of high severity wildfire reaching homes and infrastructure within the city and greatly contribute to community protection.

The Shasta Valley RCD appreciates the CalFIRE Siskiyou Unit and the City of Yreka for their support and collaboration on this project. We are looking forward to managing this project and contributing to a more fire-safe Yreka. Implementation will begin in Fall 2025.



Photo of treatment area beneath Yreka Ridge Fuel Break

## Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association Update

### Patty Grantham- SPBA Coordinator

The Siskiyou PBA did our best to keep warm this winter by working with landowners and partners in reducing hazardous fuels on properties in Scott Valley, Guys Gulch, Greenhorn, Mill Creek and West Mount Shasta. While the opportunity to host volunteer events was low, SPBA Coordinator Patty Grantham, SVRCD Forestry/Fuels Manager Michael McGill and SVRCD Forestry/Fuels GrizzlyCorps Fellow Anna Parry where the dynamic trio on several burn days. This spring they participated in a number of collaborative burning opportunities

with CAL FIRE Siskiyou Unit that include the chance for volunteers to join in the work. The focus of the SPBA through the summer months is to continue building a program of work to support landowner burning this fall and into the future. Outreach/training events to increase local knowledge on burning practices and options are also on the tentative docket. Questions or interest in burning can be directed to [siskiyoupba@svrcc.org](mailto:siskiyoupba@svrcc.org).



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## Building Skills, Building Recovery

The SPBA has had the chance through the winter to work with the residents of Riverside Christian Teen Challenge, a faith-based addiction recovery program located in Yreka. Working with SVRCD/SPBA staff, Teen Challenge members have learned fundamentals of prescribed fire safety and pile burning, putting in long days under mostly wintry conditions to assist a local landowner in reducing hazardous fuels. The SPBA looks forward to continued work with Teen Challenge as their program, skills and recovery grow!



## Easy, Cost-Effective Ways You Can Protect Your Home

### Anna Froelich-Project Manager

Here in Siskiyou County, we are no strangers to the dangers of wildfire. So many new techniques, regulations, and products have been implemented and produced due to the destruction of wildfires. Unfortunately, the cost of the materials and treatments have also increased making it difficult to protect your home and property from flying embers or flames. But, all hope is not lost! Whether you live in a populated neighborhood, out in the boonies or in-between, there are many things you can do as a homeowner to help protect your home in the event of a fire that are easy and low in cost!

The area from the house to 5 feet is considered Zone 0. According to CalFire regulations, all combustible materials and dead or live plants should be removed and replaced with either bare soil or a non-combustible material, such as decorative rock or pavers. This creates a barrier and stopping point if flames are close to your house and lower to the ground.

It is recommended that beyond the 5 foot barrier around the house, brush and small trees should be at least 10

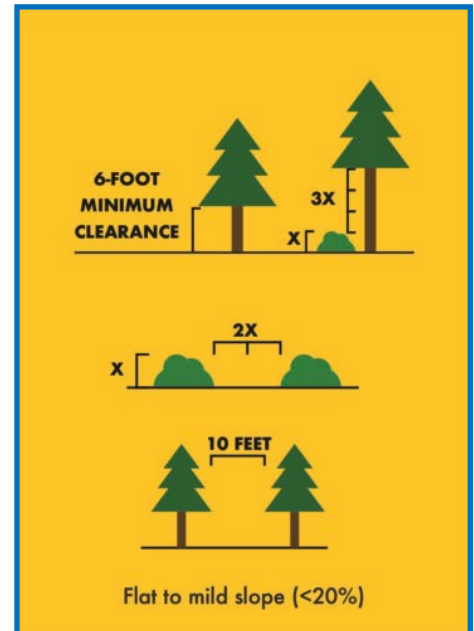
feet apart. Sapling trees are easier to cut than established trees and a great way to reduce ladder fuels. Larger trees also can be pruned so the lower branches are at least 6 feet above the ground, preventing a ground fire from reaching the taller canopies. Branches leaning over the house also need to be pruned to be 10 feet away from the structure.

Defensible space might seem daunting, but vegetation can be slowly cut away and pruned to create a decent barrier, without removing larger trees. Landscaping is still an option, even as fire regulations get stricter, you can still have a beautiful area around your house while still being in compliance and protecting your home from flames and embers.

If you are struggling with where to start, there are many resources for you!

Start here at the CalFire website!

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace>



Vertical and Horizontal spacing of trees and shrubs. Reduce ladder fuels with proper spacing and removing dead/dying branches.



### Example of Firescaping Landscape in Zones

**Zone 0:** 0-5 ft: Nothing flammable can be within 5 ft of the structure. Trees, shrubs, wood chips, grass, etc. Zone 0 extends 5 ft beyond if there is an attached porch.

**Zone 1:** 5-30ft: Trees and shrubs are to be thinned and pruned.

**Zone 2:** 30-100ft: Trees thinned and limbed up to 8 ft from the ground, shrubs spaced 10 ft apart, all scattered debris cleaned out.

**Zone Other:** All outbuildings are required to be cleared of all ignitable fuels 10 ft on all sides, as well as fuel tanks and firewood piles.



## Seeking New Board Members

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District  
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### Stewardship Through Collaboration

We are excited to announce that **we are hiring**.

Join a dynamic team making a difference in Siskiyou County.

Check out our website for job announcements and

Project bid outreach for local contractors.

Do you own property in our district? We are always looking for new Associate Board Members. An Associate Board Member is someone who has an interest in our natural resources, perhaps has a special skill such as business, forestry or water issues. The role of the Associate Board Member is to attend meetings and keep the Board of Directors informed, as well as advising the Board on complex issues. They may also become a Board Member in the future.

*Currently we have an unscheduled vacancy on our Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please contact Rod Dowse at [rdowse@svrkd.org](mailto:rdowse@svrkd.org)*



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