

Debbie Shipman

From: Jill Micheau <jillmicheau@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:39 PM
To: Debbie Shipman
Subject: Fuel break projects
Attachments: 01- Article on Ebbetts Pass Projects.pdf

Debbie,

I have compiled a short document that highlights all the various fuel break projects in the Ebbetts Pass Corridor, including "ours" (meaning the Murphys-to-FM WUI Fuelbreak, which is just getting started). I have sent the attached document to all of the HOA managers that I know in the area in hopes that they will provide it to their members.

I plan to send this to all of the landowners impacted by the Murphys-to-FM WUI Fuel Break project (the folks that have signed Right of Entry forms), but I thought you might want to inform the rest of your homeowners about this work as well.

Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Thanks,

Jill Micheau

Home (best): 209-813-7019

Cell: 209-400-1326



2020 Fuel Break Projects Along Ebbetts Pass

A Bright Spot in a Very Bad Year

2020 has been universally declared the worst year in memory. But along the Ebbetts Pass Corridor, there is a bit of good news.

First of all, we did NOT have a wildfire in our area this fire season. Yes, we had to contend with smoke from the terrible fires in the rest of the state, but we were spared, and that is something to be grateful for.

The other bright spot, and the point of this article, is that our corridor has received several grants to develop or complete fuel breaks in the area. Over the past several years a network of fuel breaks along the Ebbetts Pass Corridor has been planned, coordinated, and implemented by several agencies, including CAL FIRE, the US Forest Service, the Calaveras Foothill Fire Safe Council, The Calaveras Amador Forestry Team, The Calaveras County Resource Conservation District, Sierra Pacific Industries, homeowners' associations, and private landowners.

Fuel breaks are usually strips of land about 300 yards wide, often along ridgetops, that are cleared of dead and dying trees and other vegetation that can feed and accelerate fires. The goal is to break up fuel continuity to eliminate the fuel chain between structures and surrounding forest vegetation. The breaks are placed to provide firefighting teams strategic access and staging areas to effectively stop wildfires before they destroy homes and critical structures. These fuel breaks have the potential to save lives and property and preserve our beautiful community.

Projects on federal or state lands are generally paid for by the agencies that manage them (USFS, BLM, CA State Parks, etc.). But some areas that would benefit from a fuel break are on private property. Clearing strategic areas is expensive work that usually requires large machinery and crews of experienced and knowledgeable people – this is often too expensive and difficult to coordinate for private landowners, especially those with smaller parcels.

In these cases, grants of federal or state money are often the answer, and Ebbetts Pass was awarded several grants in 2020 that are being implemented now. As citizens of the Ebbetts Pass Corridor, you may be interested in the following list of current projects, each with a short description and map. You may see evidence of the work as you walk the Arnold Rim Trail or drive along Highway 4.

The following map was developed in 2018 and shows the many projects along Highway 4 and their status at that time.

