

Emergency Preparedness Priority Objective

Alex Keeble-Toll and
Lieutenant Mike Vingom

**FIRE ACCESS
ROAD ONLY**



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

Evacuation in Nevada County



2024 Evacuation Study

Three Parts:

1. **The “Study”**: Fire Behavior and Traffic Analysis of highest priority areas/scenarios (PyroAnalysis)
2. **Appendix A**: Community Identified Concerns (OES)
3. **Appendix B**: County-Wide Modeling Analysis (Ladris)



THE STUDY

What did we learn?

Identified the 5 most evacuation-impacted communities County-Wide:

- Alta Sierra
- Greenhorn Road
- Cascade Shores/Banner Mountain
- Lake of the Pines
- Lake Wildwood



What are we doing: Alta Sierra

- Included in FEMA/HMGP funded Roadside Vegetation Project (Phase 1 is complete, Phase 2 is pending)
- Support provided for Community Green Waste Events



What are we doing: Greenhorn Road

CRITICAL EVACUATION GRANT

- Shared evacuation route for Banner Mountain and Greenhorn Firewise Communities
- Hazardous vegetation removal on 17 parcels along 7,000 feet of road
- 5 acres of mitigation



What are we doing: Cascade Shores/ Banner Mountain

- Critical Evacuation Grant partnership with Greenhorn Firewise Community: innovative “shared match” model
- Part of the *Greater Banner Mountain Ingress/Egress Project* included in the CAL FIRE NEU 2025 Strategic Fire Plan





What are we doing: Lake of the Pines

CRITICAL EVACUATION GRANT

- Hazardous vegetation removal along 12 miles of priority roadways
- 29 acres of mitigation
- Treatment area adjacent to 957 parcels (50%) of the parcels in LOP

What are we doing: Lake Wildwood

LOWER DEER CREEK – PENN VALLEY HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

- Funded by FEMA/HMGP (currently in the planning phase)
- 1,100 acres total, 726 acres focused on ingress/egress
- Right-of-Entry collection underway
- Partnership with Nevada County Resource Conservation District to build in maintenance opportunities



THE COMMUNITY APPENDIX

What did we learn?

Created an information repository of community-identified concerns from 23 communities:

- One way in/out
- Limited road networks
- Narrow roads
- Evacuating into other communities
- Turnouts

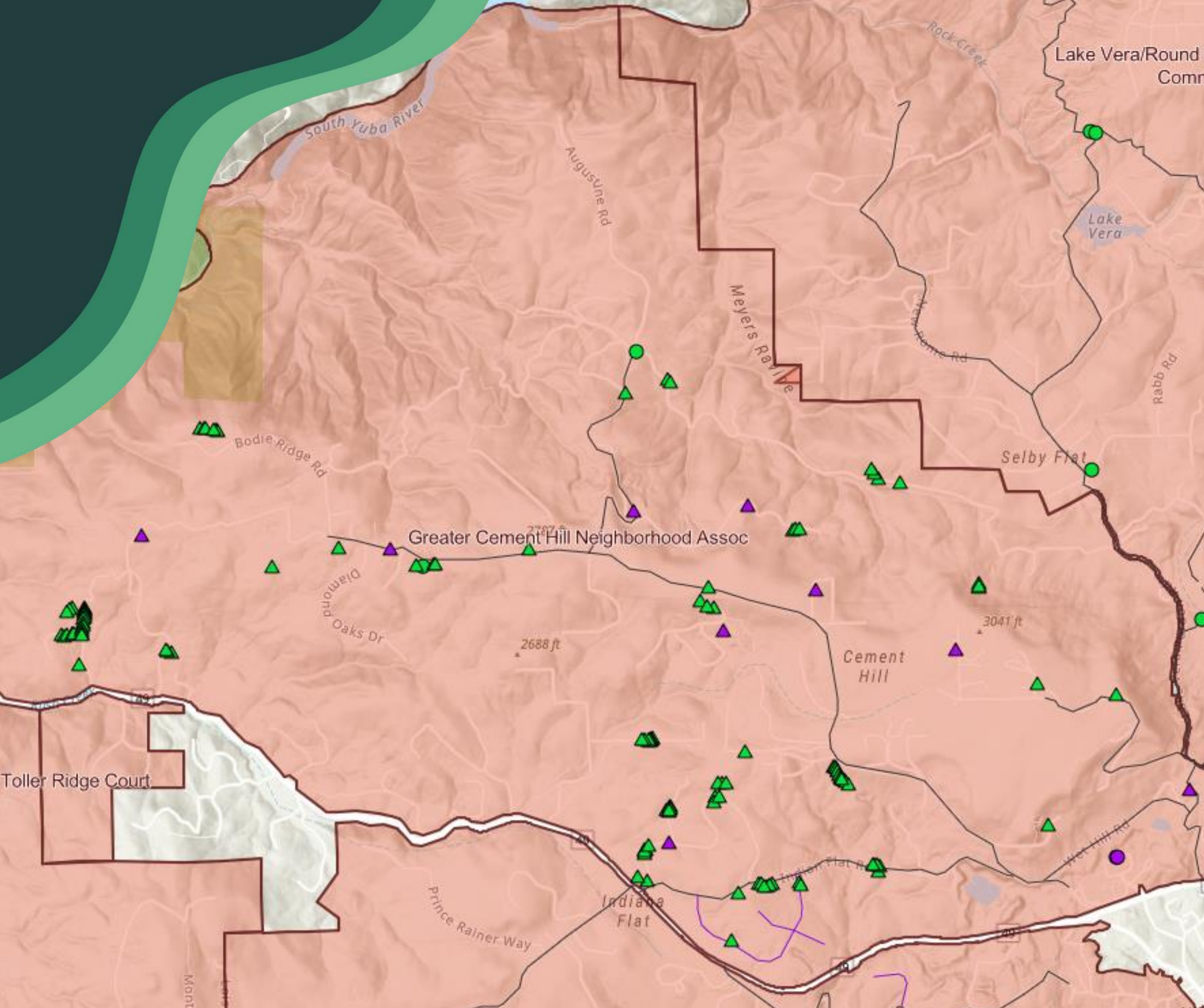


What are we doing: Free Roadside Chipping

- Communities listed in 2024 Evacuation Study prioritized
- Used as match for communities participating in Critical Evacuation Grant Program

SNAPSHOT

Greater Cement Hill Firewise Community had 100 piles of debris chipped (shown by green triangles) with additional piles to be processed (shown by purple triangles)





What are we doing:

Critical Evacuation Grants

- Micro-grant program for hazardous vegetation removal along evacuation routes
- \$10,000-\$60,000 projects with 1:1 match
- Preference given to communities listed in the Evacuation Study and projects on private roads

SNAPSHOT

Towle Mountain Firewise Community had roadside vegetation cleared along 6 miles of privately owned roads providing access to 45 subdivision lots

What are we doing: Roadside Collaborative Wildfire Risk Reduction



- Good Neighbor Agreement with USFS Tahoe National Forest
- Goal is to reduce hazardous fuels along priority roads in preparation for controlled burning
- Aligned with CWPP and Evacuation Study

SNAPSHOT

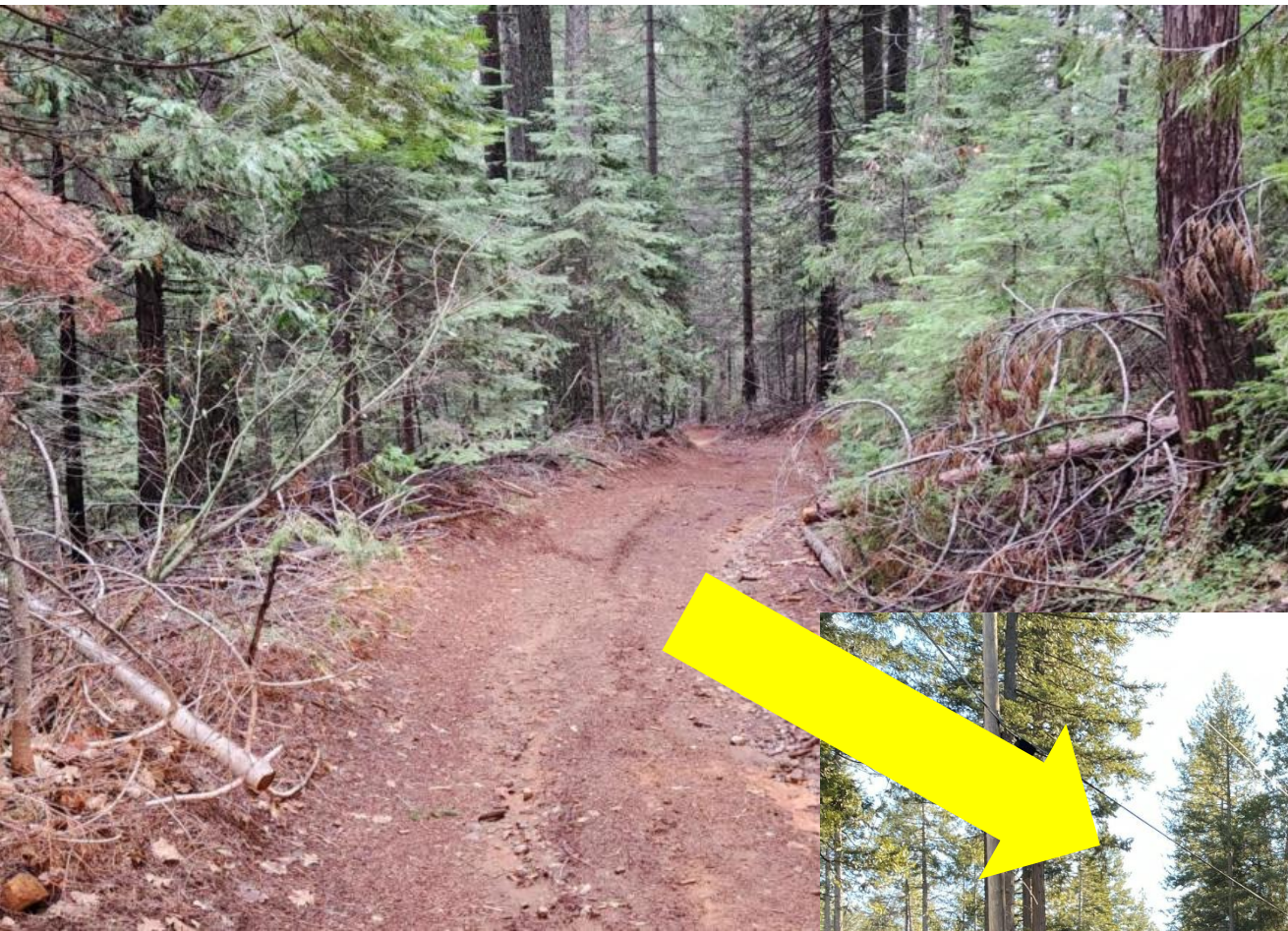
Under the Yuba Ranger District Roadside Shaded Fuel Break over 100 acres have been treated along Cruzon Grade, identified as an alternative evacuation route by the Jackass Flats Firewise Community in the 2024 Evacuation Study

New Partnerships: CAL FIRE Washington Ridge Crew

- Agreement with CAL FIRE for leveraging WA Ridge Crew for fuels reduction work along key evacuation routes
- Casci Road Project: treatment on along key evacuation route between Scotts Flat Lake and Highway 20



Casci Road Project



OES Role:
Right-of-Entry
Environmental Permitting
Chipper
Toileting

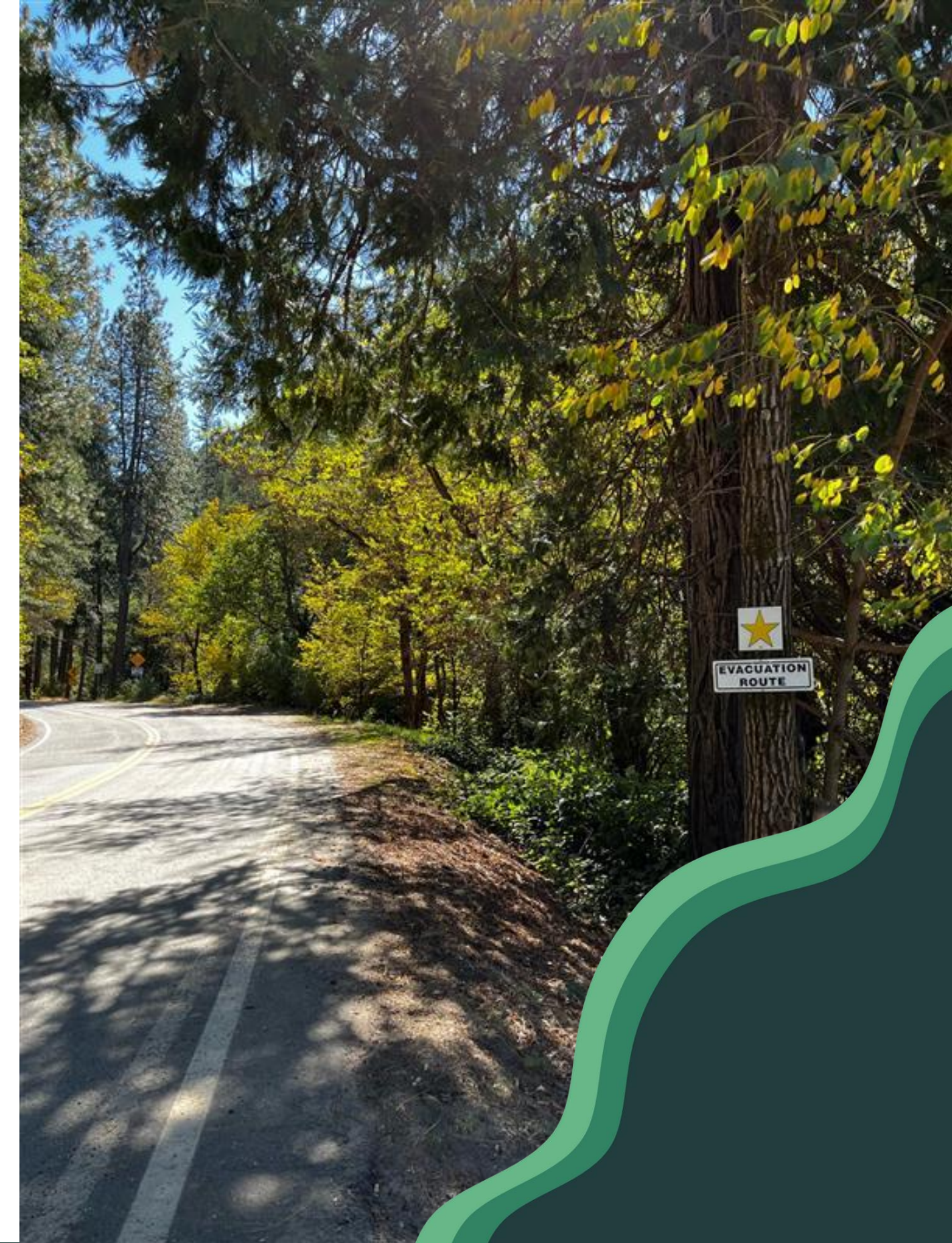
CAL FIRE Role:
Cut, pile, chip

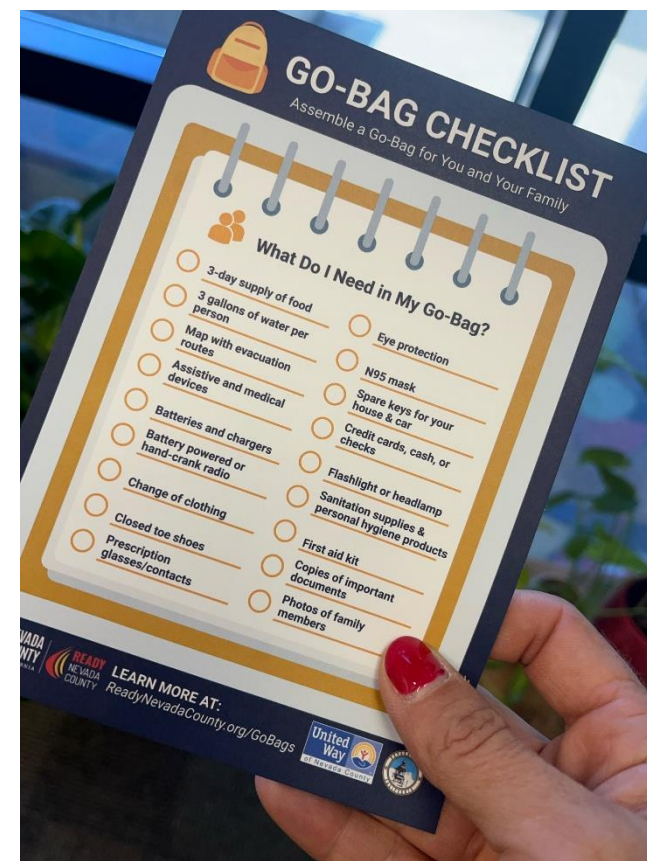


New Partnerships: USFS and Tribes

TOWN OF WASHINGTON WILDFIRE DEFENSE

- 172-acre project on USFS land
- Evacuation route improvements along Washington Road and Alpha Road
- Partnership with tribally-led California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project fuels crew





Impact of Planning and Preparedness Education

Free Community Green Waste Events

- 1,353 vehicles dropped off 603 tons of green waste in 5 days

Free Roadside Chipping

- 18 communities had 773 piles removed through roadside chipping

Educational Materials

- 2,300 community members received direct outreach and 2 county-wide mailers were sent out



NEVADA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE & OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES PARTNERSHIP



Lt. Mike Vingom, NCSO

Roles & Responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office

- Fire Evacuations – Goal is to efficiently evacuate the impacted community as quickly and safely as possible
 - Unified Command
 - Emergency Alerts
 - Door-to-Door Notifications
 - Hi-Low Siren
 - Liasion with EOC as needed



Expansion of Resources that Directly Benefit Our Community

- Nevada County Sheriff's Search & Rescue (NCSSAR) Evacuation Team
 - Specialized ICS training to assist w/ community disasters
 - Capable of providing real-time updates, tracking capabilities of LEO's in the field
 - Can also search burned environments for remains



Expansion of Resources that Directly Benefit Our Community

- Nevada County Sheriff's Office Humane Emergency Animal Rescue Team (H.E.A.R.T.)
 - Launched in January 2023
 - Consists of approx. 125 trained community members
 - Helps coordinate and manage animal evacuations
 - Care and shelter for animals



OES Partnership & Community Outreach

- The Sheriff's Office and OES
 - Currently, Sgt. Liller is assigned as the EOC Coordinator in partnership with OES
- Outreach Events
 - Local Events, Firewise Community Town Halls, Neighborhood Groups
 - Encourage awareness and self-responsibility
 - Emergency alerts, zone awareness, go-bags, Watch Duty, social media, Ready Nevada County Dashboard, etc.



Evacuation Routes

- Designated Evacuation Routes
 - Origin came from Tsunami Zones
 - Known direction of threat
 - Commonality on escape routes “gain elevation”
 - Cannot predict future fires or fire behavior
 - Unknown locations, dynamic and rapidly changing conditions
 - Varies with weather conditions



Opportunities and Challenges

- CRIS Radio System
- Continual training
- Mutual Aid
- OES Collaboration
 - Emergency Operations Center Coordinator
 - Helps address unmet community needs after evacuating
- Limited Local Resources
 - Law Enforcement Mutual Aid
 - Evacuations, traffic control, security patrols
 - Sheriff's Office is the County's LEMA Coordinator
- Public Awareness / Readiness
 - Continuous community education through multiple outlets to encourage awareness and readiness

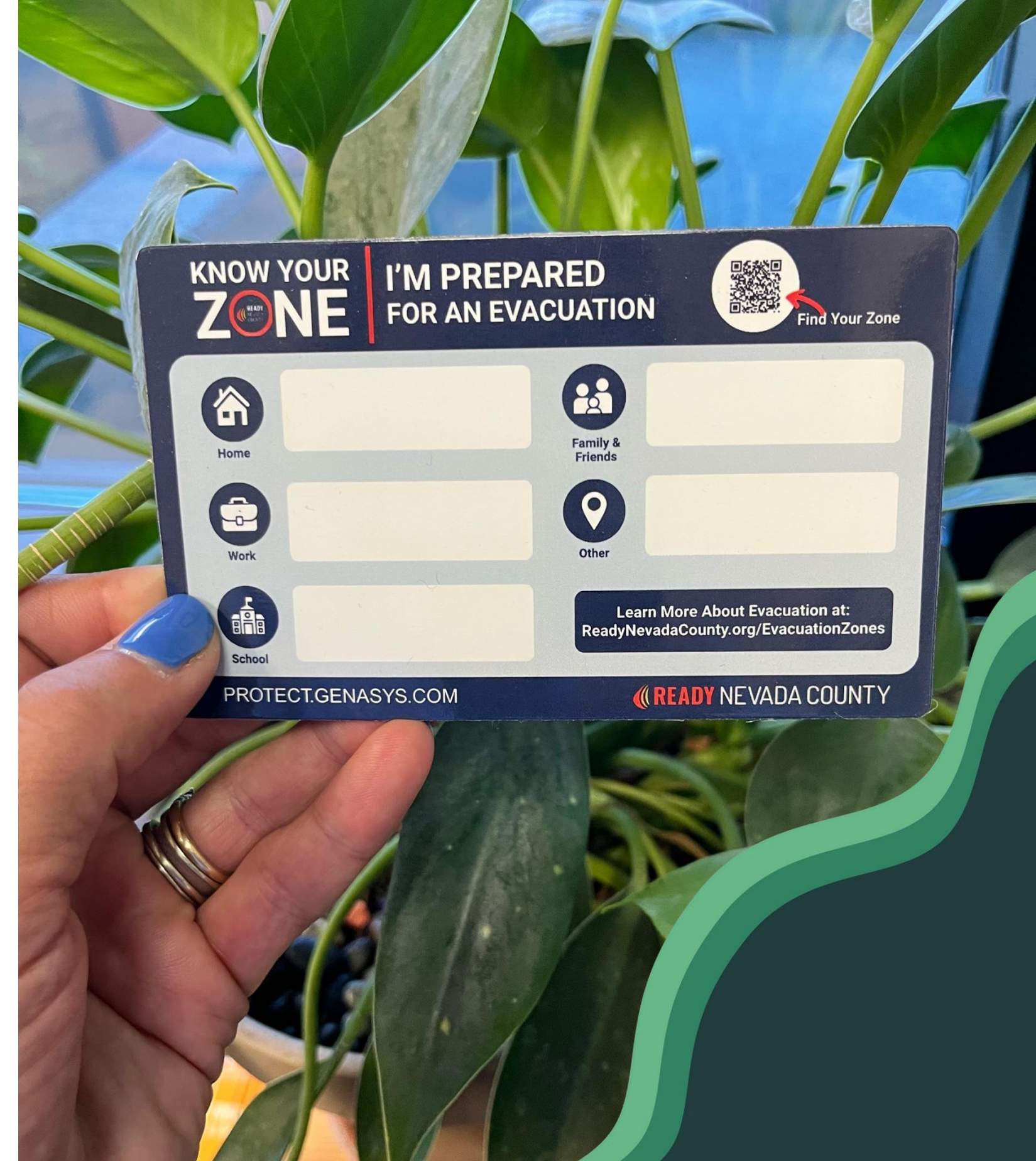


THANK YOU!



Update on Alert and Warning

- Request for Proposals developed in partnership with Sheriff's Office (RFP No. 207857, closes February 12)
- Evaluation Panel includes Sheriff's Office, OES, Information Systems,
- Town of Truckee, COAD, and local Police Departments
- Community education and county-wide test in advance of "fire season"



Update on Biomass Opportunities

- Biofuel Development Opportunity Zone risk rating complete for Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado Counties
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to the Board on February 10 for coordinated effort to identify biomass solutions



Proposed 2026 Actions

INDIVIDUAL SCALE:

- Focus on alert and warning education to ensure that households are aware of changes to platform

COMMUNITY SCALE:

- Continue to support Firewise Communities in evacuation route improvements through Free Community Green Waste and Roadside Chipping

LANDSCAPE SCALE:

- Build on partnership with USFS to increase roadside acres treated under Good Neighbor Agreement

FY 26/2027 Support for Community Scale Evacuation Route Improvements

IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL FUNDS:

Continue to support Firewise Communities in evacuation route improvements through Roadside Chipping and bins for Firewise Communities (\$200,000). This would fund 70 green waste bins and 70 days of roadside chipping (*comparable level of service to prior two years*).

IF THERE ARE NO NEW FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Use existing funds in OES budget to support Free Community Green Waste events (\$47,000). This would fund two West County events and two East County events (*lower level of service than prior two years*).

Board Discussion

1. Where would the Board like to see OES focus efforts? (*top five evacuation impacted communities, private roads, primary evacuation routes*)
2. What does the Board see as the ideal source of funding to advance implementation of the 2024 Evacuation Study? (*grants, general fund, capacity building for NGOs to take on*)

Board Discussion