

*Fuels Reduction Presentation  
Grazing and Broadcast Burning Discussion*



# *Grazing Discussion*



## *Current Animal Regulations:*

- *Goats and sheep are permitted to graze for up to 60 days a year on any parcel within Town limits (new in 2022).*
- *In the residential AR, RR, & TR zones, goats and sheep can potentially be kept year-round with a livestock permit if there is a house on-site.*
- *On properties zoned purely Agricultural (AG), uses such as ag buildings and livestock are permitted uses without an established residence.*





**AR-3/5**

**Requires a house, no standalone ag buildings**

**AG-10/20**

**No house required, allows ag buildings**

**Livestock permitted-by-right**



### **Possible zoning amendments:**

- **Amend the AR-3 & AR-5 zones to add ag buildings as a permitted primary use without a residence.**
- **Amend the animal keeping regulations to allow livestock in the AR-3 & AR-5 zones without an established residence.**

**This potential alignment would bring consistency to the zoning districts allowing livestock by-right.**



# ***Broadcast Burning Discussion***

***Broadcast burning, also known as prescribed fire or controlled burning, is the process of intentionally setting fires under controlled conditions to manage ecosystems, reduce fuel loads, enhance public safety, and restore health to fire-adapted environments.***

# Benefits and Challenges Associated with Broadcast Burning

- **Benefits -**

- **Reduces Fuel Loads:** By burning accumulated dead and live vegetation, broadcast burning significantly reduces the fuel available for wildfires, decreasing the likelihood and severity of uncontrolled fires.
- **Promotes Ecosystem Health:** Many ecosystems, especially those in fire-adapted environments, depend on periodic fires for regeneration
- **Controls Invasive Species:** Controlled burns can reduce invasive plant species that out-compete native vegetation.
- **Pest Management:** Fire can help control forest pests and diseases by killing insects and pathogens that cannot withstand high temperatures.
- **Cost-Effective:** Can be a cost-effective option to other fuels reduction methods. *\* Depending on the type and accumulation of the fuels, pre-treatment methods such as cut and pile burn, cut and chip or mastication might be required prior to broadcast burning\*.*

- **Challenges**

- **Risk of Escape:** One of the primary risks associated with broadcast burning is the potential for fires to escape control, especially under changing weather conditions or if the burn isn't properly managed.
- **Air Quality Concerns:** Smoke produced from burning can significantly degrade air quality, posing health risks to nearby residents, particularly those with respiratory issues.
- **Timing and Weather Dependency:** The success of a prescribed burn heavily depends on specific weather conditions.
- **Public Perception:** There can be a negative public perception towards using fire as a management tool, particularly among communities unfamiliar with its benefits or those who have experienced wildfire threats.
- **Regulatory and Permit Challenges:** Obtaining the necessary permits for controlled burns can be complex, involving strict compliance with local and environmental regulations.
- **Impact on Wildlife:** While fire is a natural part of many ecosystems, the timing and intensity of controlled burns must be carefully managed to avoid detrimental impacts on wildlife, particularly during breeding or nesting seasons.



## Current Burning Regulations in the Town Of Paradise.

- ***Permit required burning is currently allowed and regulated under the Paradise Municipal Code: 15.09.100 Chapter 3 Section 307.***
- ***Three types of burning are currently allowed in the Town of Paradise.***
  - ***Residential Burn Permit***– Small 6’ piles are allowed to be burnt by property owners on their lands.
  - ***Fuel Reduction Permit*** – Property owner may obtain a fuel reduction permit for lots that are 2/3 of an acre or greater. This permit requires an inspection by fire prevention prior to being issued. Allows permittee to burn larger piles on the property to reduce hazardous fuels.
  - ***Land Clearing Permit*** – With council direction the Fire Department could develop a new Broadcast Burn Permit under this section.





## Recommended Requirements for Broadcast Burning in the Town of Paradise.

- It is recommended that a CA RX certified Burn Boss complete a written Burn Plan for the broadcast burn regardless of size or complexity.
- Apply for and obtain a Broadcast Burn Permit from the Fire Department or Code Enforcement.
  - Fire Department and/or Fire Prevention will review the Burn Plan and perform a site inspection prior to issuing the permit.
  - To be eligible for the claims fund CAL FIRE will have to approve the Burn Plan
- Obtain a Broadcast Burn permit from the Butte County Air Quality District. Typically, this is a \$30 fee, plus \$1 per acre.
- It is recommended that the Town of Paradise regulate broadcast burning to lot sizes of 5 acres or greater
- Establish areas within Town of Paradise limits to allow broadcast burning. See Map
- Encourage the Burn Boss to apply to the CAL FIRE administered Prescribed Fire Claims Fund.



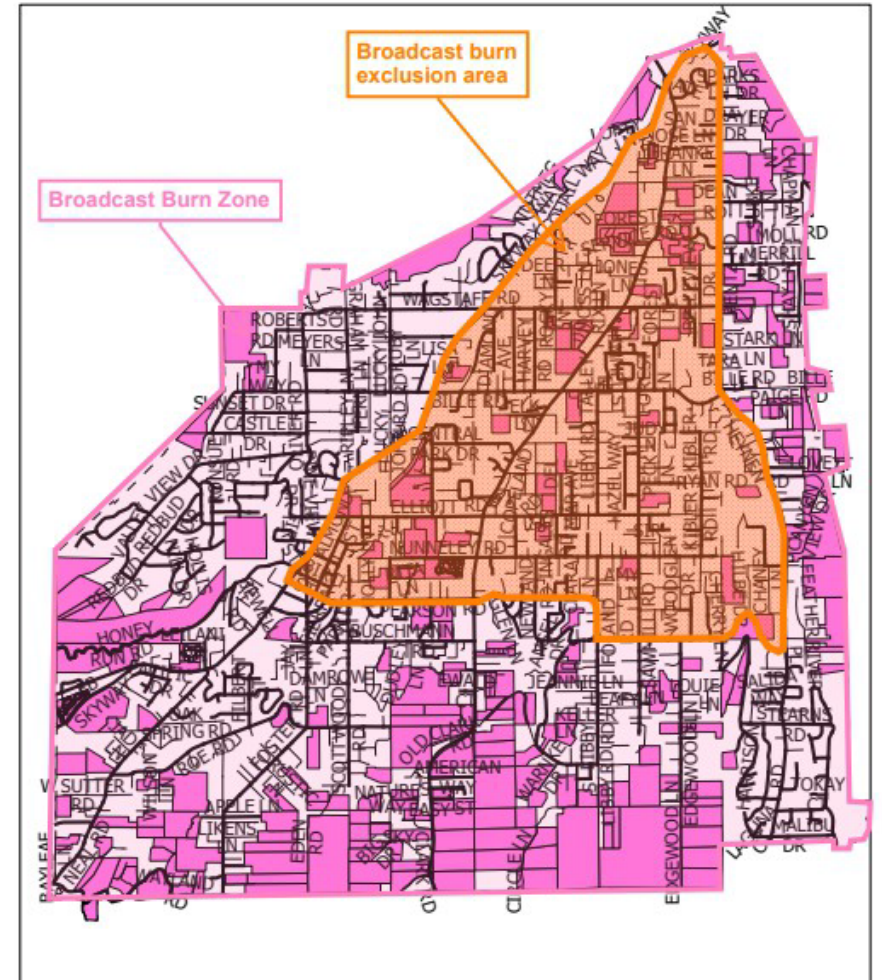
## *Elements of a Burn Plan*

- Project Name
- Project area description
- Fuel Type
- Objectives of the burn
- Identify control lines
- Prescription – Temperature, RH, Wind Speed and direction, 10 hr fuel moisture, Probability of Ignition (PIG)
- Required suppression equipment and water supply
- Required personnel and PPE
- Smoke Management Plan (if required)
- Firing Plan
- Holding Plan
- Contingency Plan
- Mop up and Patrol
- Risk management Plan
- Communications Plan
- Medical Plan
- Notifications Plan
- AQMD burn day Confirmation
- Maps – Control lines, structures, hazards



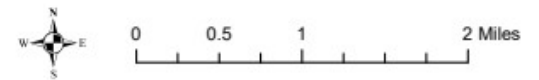
## Parcels 5 Acres and Larger

- Total number of parcels 5 acres or greater within Paradise Town limits
  - 230 parcels
- Total number of parcels 5 acres or greater outside the exclusion area.
  - 191 Parcels
- Broadcast Burn Exclusion Zone Boundaries:
  - East of Skyway
  - West of Pentz Rd
  - North of Pearson Rd



**Roads**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- 5+ Acre



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# Current Broadcast Burn Requirements within Unincorporated Areas of Butte County

- No burning allowed during the burn ban which is typically July 1<sup>st</sup> until late fall or early winter. Depends on rainfall and weather.
- Once the burn ban is lifted in Butte County, residential (dooryard) burning, LE-5 General Burn Permit (used for large pile burning) and LE7/8 Broadcast Burn Permit, is allowed but the property owner must first obtain a permit from CAL FIRE. LE7/8 broadcast burning may require a burn plan and smoke management plan depending on the elevation, size and complexity of the burn.
- Once the Unit Chief declares the end of fire season, property owners do not need to obtain a permit from CAL FIRE to burn on their properties.
- Typically, after May 1<sup>st</sup>, lasting until June 30<sup>th</sup>, property owners still can burn but a valid permit is required from CAL FIRE. LE5 and LE7/8 require an inspection.
- All agricultural burning, broadcast burning, and large pile burning (if completed by a contractor on your property) requires a Butte AQMD permit regardless of the time of year.









## COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Provide staff with directions on desired changes, if any, to the Paradise Municipal Code to present at a future council meeting; OR
2. Provide alternative direction to town staff.