

Along the Magalia watershed, brush clearing has begun



County Supervisor, Doug Teeter talks about the watershed project with Gus Boston of Cal Fire. By Eli Stillman

By Eli Stillman, Estilman@paradisepost.com, [@Estilman13](https://twitter.com/Estilman13) on Twitter Posted: 03/24/17, 1:17 PM PDT | Updated: 4 days ago



Crews from the CCC have been working to protect the Magalia Watershed by clearing brush and low hanging limbs into piles which will be burned. By Eli Stillman

Magalia>>Tending to one's garden is an ongoing task that requires care in preparation for the future.

Above Paradise, near the Magalia reservoir, multiple groups are working together on a project to tend the watershed, which will provide fire safety and protect drinking water.

This is second phase of the Little Butte Creek Fuels Reduction Project, a large collaboration that received over \$350,000 funding through Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

While projects like this have been feasible in the past, due to Proposition 43 and now Proposition 1, their future isn't always certain because they don't receive regular backing.

"There's no guaranteed funding in the future," explained Doug Teeter, District Five Supervisor for Butte County and member of the SNC. Teeter also stressed the importance of the project under current time restraints of the coming fire season.

Coordinating this large project, which involves resources and involvement of various groups, is the Butte County Fire Safe Council. The organization works in conjunction with the local council to devise plans of evacuation and provide information about making homes fire safe on the Upper Ridge.

On March 6, crews from the California Conservation Corp started thinning out vegetation on the 180 acres of land, much of which is owned by Paradise Irrigation District, so that small trees and brush don't overrun the watershed area.

Low hanging branches, invasive species and smaller bushes are being cut down and stacked by crews to make sure that the forest is healthy.

The CCC is an organization comprised of men and women ages 18 to 25 who work to restore the state's environment and help out during disaster situations. Their motto, "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions and more," isn't just for show, but a real work ethic that crew members have exemplified during the last few weeks of the project.

Greg Dobbs, the senior lake patrolman of PID, has been overseeing the crews and said that the CCC has worked to clear one acre a day and stack it into large piles. These piles will be chipped and burned with controlled flames in the fall.

Dobbs explained that while a fire might be inevitable, clearing the ground brush can eliminate ladder fuel which, like its name implies, provides flames a step up to the crown of trees.

"Anything will catch on fire," Dobbs said, "This isn't a cure all by any means, but the problem is when it gets in the trees."