

Strategies to build second-homeowner support for fuels mitigation in Mammoth Lakes

*A report prepared for the Whitebark Institute
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Project Overview

Over the next two decades, the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project aims to conduct a large-scale fuels mitigation project in and around the town of Mammoth Lakes. This necessitates widespread community support. As an initial step to develop outreach and education content aimed at increasing support, Whitebark Institute needs to understand the current public perceptions and basis of knowledge regarding wildfire risk and fuels management in the town of Mammoth Lakes. This project seeks to characterize a community group that is typically less connected in the Mammoth Lakes community – second-homeowners – and to develop a strategy that inspires them to engage in fuels mitigation efforts both on their own properties and to engage politically in support of mitigation projects on public lands.

Audience Research Results

From a review of published audience research, the following synthesis of relevant sources generally categorizes second-homeowners as well as WUI residents more broadly. The majority of this body of research was published prior to 2018. However, consultation with U.S. Forest Service Social Fire Scientist Sarah McCaffrey revealed that the literature provides a reliable foundation for understanding how communities like Mammoth Lakes understand and otherwise perceive wildfire risk and mitigation efforts. It also offers a framework of communication practices which are highly applicable.

Categorizing Second-Homeowners

For the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project to be successful, it is imperative that there is active community support both politically and individually/personally through civic engagement and private property management. Within the town of Mammoth Lakes, 59.4% of homes are dedicated to part-time use either as seasonal and occasional homes or as recreational rentals (Placeworks, 2019). Because so many of the homes in the area are not inhabited by primary residents of the town, the segment of the community that owns these homes is an important sector to target when cultivating wildfire resilience.

The town's primary residents are mostly non-Hispanic (~60%) and young, with nearly 90% of residents under age 65 and a median age of approximately 35 (*U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts*, 2020). It is likely that the age range for second-homeowners falls closer to 55-65, but there is some uncertainty to the exact age profile of this audience segment.

Research in other communities indicates that the way second-homeowners conceptualize wildfire risk and the appropriate response to it is distinct from that of full-time residents. In part, this is because they tend to value the landscape mostly for the aesthetic beauty or recreational value and are less likely to be well integrated into the community (Billings et al., 2021). The affinity of second-homeowners for what they perceive as natural beauty can mean that they tend to be less inclined to cut down the trees on their property (Bright & Burtz, 2006).

While property-level actions undertaken by individuals are most likely to protect from wildfire damage (KUMAGAI et al., 2004), communities like Mammoth Lakes that depend largely on recreational amenities rely heavily on governmental rather than on individual action (Paveglio et al., 2015). This indicates that communicating the importance of collective individual actions for wildfire resilience is imperative in Mammoth Lakes, particularly to people who may not spend all of their time in the area.

In Mammoth Lakes, there are likely two different sub-groups of second-homeowners: those who are the primary users of their property and those who mostly utilize their property as a rental. While this distinction is important when thinking about community ties, both groups are likely to be worried about time constraints when participating in fire mitigation activities. Generally speaking, while second-homeowners are aware of the risk of wildfire to a certain extent, they are less likely to think that fire is a certain eventuality than full time residents (Billings et al., 2021). This lowered risk perception may mean that they are less likely to engage in fire mitigation activities.

Second-homeowners are known to spend less time on fire mitigation activities and often cite time as a barrier to doing mitigation work (Bright & Burtz, 2006). They prefer to utilize their time enjoying the outdoors rather than doing yard work, which they may not perceive as urgent or even needed. This means that communications with second-homeowners around wildfire mitigation activities needs to either fit into their perceptions of time-saving or help to grow the salience of the issue.

General Perceptions of WUI Residents

There is little recently published research on current attitudes about wildfire among second-homeowners, but there is substantial evidence for how residents in communities similar to Mammoth Lakes, situated in the wildland urban interface (WUI), perceive wildfire and fuels management activities. These trends may still be useful in helping inform communication strategies.

California WUI residents tend to view mechanical thinning on public lands positively (Fried et al., 2006) (S. McCaffrey, 2008) and they tend to favor defensible space ordinances (Fried et al., 2006). WUI residents in the western U.S. are taking responsibility for managing their property's wildfire risk and a majority have taken action or plan to take action to mitigate fuels around their homes (S. M. McCaffrey et al., 2011).

In direct conversation, researcher Sarah McCaffrey imparted her thoughts on any potential changes in risk perception due to the historic fires seen since 2020. She finds they most likely have made the topic of wildfire more salient but does not foresee any significant shift in risk perception among this audience. McCaffery suggests that further on-the-ground research is needed to better understand the current perceptions of Mammoth Lakes' second-homeowners.

Interviews With Mammoth Lakes Community Members

Phone interviews with second-homeowners, as well as some primary residents and seasonal visitors, allow for a more detailed understanding of the audience in Mammoth Lakes. So far, these conversations have supported findings from the literature and answered specific questions about current levels of audience engagement. The questions probed for perception of fire risk, understanding and perception of mitigation efforts, efforts to create defensible space on personal property, time spent in Mammoth Lakes, participation in local politics, and popular sources of local news.

Table 1. Summary of Interviews

	# Interviewees	# Single-family res.	# Condo	# visits > monthly
Primary Residence	3	2	1	3
Second-homeowner	6	4	2	2
Seasonal Visitor	1	na	na	0

Overall, information gathered from interviews mirrors trends seen in our review of audience research. Responses among second-homeowners/visitors who visit monthly or less suggested a generally weaker understanding of fire risk and mitigation efforts, particularly when compared with those from permanent residents. Responses from less-frequent visitors (some second-homeowners + a seasonal visitor) also suggested some disconnection from local news and neighbors. However, none of the interviewees expressed negative sentiments around fire mitigation efforts, and many expressed positive sentiments about efforts to thin forests and manage fuels.

Additionally, there are some interesting outcomes that inform our understanding of second-homeowners, specifically. One of the most conclusive findings stems from the fact that every second-homeowner interviewed is not registered to vote in Mono County, so they likely did not impede the passage of the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection Dist.'s Measure F parcel tax in 2020. Further, it can be concluded that the political capital of second-homeowners is somewhat limited by the fact that local leaders are not influenced by the group's voting power.

Other interesting answers came from one question aimed at gathering how folks are staying connected to Mammoth Lakes. People are getting news in a variety of formats, both print and digital, including some social media (namely Facebook and Instagram). Notably, four second-homeowners mentioned local sources; the Mammoth Times was mentioned more frequently than The Sheet, but the two were often listed together as sources for local news consumption. These responses offer a better understanding of some ways to reach the second-homeowner audience segment.

Of the homeowners interviewed, condo owners were the only folks who did not take action to create defensible space around their property. Incidentally, consultation with a local realtor

uncovered that the majority of second homes in Mammoth Lakes fall under the purview of HOAs. Thus it is reasonable to assume that the majority of second-homeowners may not be directly responsible for property management. Further interviews with various HOA leaders and managers would help confirm this assumption.

Final notable insights:

- A second-homeowner expressed a barrier to clearing defensible space around their single-family home was the need for hauling. The town's 3-barrel/bin limit for trash pickup meant that they had to drive debris to the dump themselves.
- Six interviewees, both permanent residents and seasonal visitors, expressed concern about campfires in the Lakes Basin and at dispersed campsites on public lands.
- Some interviewees expressed the perception that land managers are doing enough to protect the town from wildfire because of the evidence of mitigation efforts in the Lakes Basin and on public lands near town.
- Permanent residents did not have much memory of Measure F.
- One of the second-homeowners interviewed is a landscape architect and mentioned a potential example of aesthetic landscaping on a meadow property owned by Snowcreek.
- A single-family homeowner mentioned that they had to switch insurance carriers recently and their rate increased by \$1,000. The issue of fire insurance was not a topic we sought to cover during interviews but it may be worth exploring in the future.

Proposed Communication Strategies

An important concept in incentivizing behavioral change is to focus communications on tangible benefits and outcomes that desired change(s) will certainly provide. Fire mitigation activities are preventative and generally do little to decrease uncertainty around wildfire risk; diffusion of innovations theory tells us risk-reduction is less motivating than the certain benefits created by mitigation activities, such as improved wildlife visibility (S. McCaffrey & Forester, 2022). While risk and fear can be effective motivators, in this context it is likely to be more effective and engaging to lean on community and aesthetic values, ecological concerns, and timesaving themes.

Recommended Frame: Aesthetic

Second-homeowners value the aesthetics of their home in part because they see it as an escape, as their home in the mountains among the trees. This can be a barrier to encouraging them to take individual actions on their properties because many of those actions require the removal of trees and vegetation.

To counter this, images of beautiful, healthy forest paired with messaging that makes it clear that the state of the forest in the image is both deliberately managed and more fire safe would be beneficial. The important thing is to center aesthetics over fire safety to amplify the notion that property-level landscape work can enhance the feeling of having a home in the forests of Mammoth Lakes.

Recommended Frame: Ecological

There is evidence from both the literature and interviews which suggests people are motivated by the benefits that mitigation practices like thinning and prescribed fire can provide for species and the environment. Some folks are motivated by the added visibility and improved forage that a treated forest provides so that they can watch wildlife. One interviewee was happy to see green growth proliferate in the understory because more sunlight was reaching the forest floor after thinning efforts. Others are happy with the knowledge that the forest is in a healthier ecological state because of mitigation activities.

Recommended Frame: Timesaving

Because many second-homeowners may not spend much time in the area, they often may not want to spend their limited time doing fire-safe landscape work on their properties. To encourage property-level mitigation, strategies can follow a few lines:

1. Materials about time-saving ways that people can participate in fire mitigation on their properties: The Fire Adapted Network has a [document with timed projects](#) that can serve as inspiration. If the resources are available, this kind of material would work well in a web application where users can input how much time they have and the application would suggest activities that the person can do.
2. Partnerships with landscapers in the area: By promoting property-level fire mitigation as a service they can cater to second-homeowners. The Mammoth Lakes Fire Department has a [list of landscapers](#) that is a good starting point for cultivating these kinds of partnerships.
3. Programs to enable HOA management of fire mitigation: Since most second-homeowners live in communities managed by an HOA, providing structures that HOAs can adopt to gain funding from second-homeowners and carry out mitigation work can increase the level of engagement and fire-awareness among second-homeowners without them having to make time to do the mitigation work.

Effective Channels

One of the biggest hurdles to engaging with second-homeowners is that, due to their transient presence in the community, it can be difficult to ensure material reaches them. This means that they are unlikely to receive mailers and fliers, and events need to be timed to when the concentration of second-home visitation is highest (i.e. holiday weekends). If the project can cultivate a social media presence that catches the attention of second-homeowners, this will help to draw more engagement. Facebook and Instagram are good options since they are popular among users in their 30s and older, and they lend themselves to visual material with concise information that can point to project web pages with more information. It is also worth communicating via traditional news channels, like The Mammoth Times, as they may be primary sources of local news for those who do actively seek it out.

Pointing to the ESCCRP website for materials will require the site to be polished and clean. This will help attract both second-homeowners as well as other audience members. The site is most

of the way there; however, people are particularly sensitive to the responsiveness and design of websites. The way that material is presented needs to be as clean and streamlined as possible to maintain engagement and trust. While the quality of material may seem to be the most important part of communicating, the more well-polished and modern material appears, the more trustworthy people will find it.

A few suggestions that would help improve the ESCCRP site include:

1. Content that fits on the screen width wise (no left-right scroll).
2. Left justified text in menus and in page content.
3. Remove the second space between sentences. Modern fonts are designed to leave the correct amount of space after a period without this. Makes the content seem dated.
4. Text boxes buffered to fit within text areas, rather than right up against the edges.

Similarly, some potential edits to the ESCCRP one-pager include:

1. Buffers around text. Text that runs right up to the edge of the shaded box below it looks crowded.
2. Consider rearranging to highlight resilience earlier on and focus more on community. This could even be achieved by shifting the order of the “About” section to read:

The ESCCRP is a project supported by a robust stakeholder group that shares a vision to promote both community and ecological resilience. The project sets forth to plan for ecological forest restoration on over 55,000 acres surrounding the Town of Mammoth Lakes. In the face of rapidly increasing climate stressors, the need for proactive forest management is urgent and action is needed to promote the resiliency of our communities.

3. The repetition of forest conditions and heightened risk in “Current Forest Conditions” and “Forests are at Risk” leans heavily on a fear framing. Consider eliminating “Current Forest Conditions,” moving Project Goals up, and including “Forests are at Risk” on the first page. This leaves room to include a small blurb on how people can get engaged and involved in the project goals.

Lastly, it should be stressed that communication efforts should be interactive—audience outreach and engagement should be ongoing. When seeking to change behavior, it is important to build trust with interactive (in-person) communication; this tactic also provides the opportunity to gather local context for incorporation into comms strategies (S. McCaffrey & Forester, 2022). The ideal setting is an informal one, like tabling at community events, where staff can ask open-ended questions to gain a better understanding of the audience.

We suggested including the following questions in future outreach:

- What are your concerns about wildfire in the area?
- Are you familiar with the term defensible space?
- Have you done anything to mitigate fire risk on your property?
- Do you have fire insurance? Any difficulties with coverage?
- Is there anything you would like to see happen to mitigate fire risk around Mammoth Lakes?

- Are you familiar with the concept of prescribed fire?

Potential Trendsetting Campaign

Whitebark Institute should consider leveraging connections with well known community members and utilize the “cool-factor” in a trendsetting campaign. A publicized campaign following their home-hardening journey would help to inspire people to do the same. Because of the recreational focus of the community, notable athletes are a good choice. These individuals may not currently have well-landscaped, fire safe homes. However, with some outreach it should be possible to find someone who would be willing to engage. It would be most effective if the spokesperson is someone well known among people 35-45 since this is the fastest growing demographic in the area. (A list of target athletes is included in Appendix A.)

This campaign could incorporate the reasons for making improvements and mitigating fuels, highlighting positive aesthetic changes and community values. It could also focus on the ease of making changes with the help of a professional landscaper. This is where partnerships with both local celebrities and landscaping businesses would help to create a culture among Mammoth Lakes second-homeowners that promotes fire-safe properties. Landscaping partners could advertise their services highlighting aesthetics with an added benefit of convenient fire mitigation.

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Appendix A

Key Contacts and Outreach

Top Potential Spokespeople for trendsetting campaign:

- Deana Kastor - Bronze Medal Olympic Marathon Runner deenakastor@gmail.com
- Steve Klassen - Long time local resident, Extreme Snowboarder, owns Wave Rave sklassen@qnet.com
- Kelly Clark - retired olympic snowboarder, foundation based in mammoth KellyClarkFoundation@gmail.com
- Chris Benchetler - Free Skier INFO@CHRISBENCHETLER.COM

Additional options:

- Nancy Fiddler - Olympic Nordic Skier, Tamarack XC Ski Center (Lives in Crowley Lake so maybe not a candidate for model home) nordicnancy56@gmail.com
- Chloe Kim - olympic medalist snowboarder (based in LA and may not have property in ML)
- Glen Plake - Legendary Free Skier (may not own property in ML, splits time between ranch in NV and Chamonix)
- Sean White - (based in socal and may not own property in ML)

Additional Contacts:

The following are individuals or groups who are good resources when attempting to engage with second-homeowners and other members of the Mammoth Lakes Community.

Haley Fitzpatrick: Haley.Fitzpatrick@aho.no

Micky Brown: mickey@rpexperts.com

Louis Medina: Louis@friendsoftheinyo.org (Spanish language outreach)

Outreach Tracker:

Finally, here is a [link to the spreadsheet used for tracking outreach](#).

Appendix B

Base Interview Questions and Anonymized Responses

Interview Questions:

1. Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?
2. Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?
(&/OR) How frequently do you visit mammoth lakes?
3. Are you registered to vote in Mammoth Lakes/Mono County?
4. Were/are you aware of Measure F, a Parcel Tax Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District put forward in the March 2020 primary election?
 - a. If so, what did you think?
5. Do you follow local news? If so, via which channels?
6. Are you concerned about wildfire hazard in Mammoth?
 - a. If so, what are you concerned about?
7. Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property?
 - a. If so, what are they? If not, why?
 - b. Any barriers?
8. What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

Interview with seasonal visitor

How frequently do you visit mammoth lakes

- 8-10 times per year

Do you follow local news?

- To a certain extent via instagram
- From mammoth and mono county as well
- Also gets info via google feeds
- Checks mammoth website a lot for skiing info
- Eastern sierra fb fishing groups

Were/are you aware of Measure F, a Parcel Tax Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District put forward in the March 2020 primary election?

- Not aware of it

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard?

- yes

If so, what are you concerned about?

- General concerns about elevate level of risk due to climate change
- Things are so dry fire could easily roll through town
- Bad air quality problem for rec and tourism

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- Done good work putting restrictions on chimneys
- "Not a fire expert" so unsure what else should be done

Interview with second-homeowner | condo

Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?

&OR How frequently do you visit mammoth lakes?

- 12 visits per year, does not consider self part time resident

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- yes

Are you registered to vote in Mammoth Lakes/Mono County?

- no

Do you follow local news? If so, via which channels?

- Newspapers (the sheet, the reader, and mammoth times)

Were/are you aware of Measure F, a Parcel Tax Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District put forward in the March 2020 primary election?

- No (did not get any info via homeowners association)

If so, what did you think?

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard in Mammoth?

- Yes, somewhat

If so, what are you concerned about?

- Dry years
- Lightning strikes in dry brush that hasn't been cleaned away
- See evidence of forest management with piles of dead foliage around town so not too concerned, appears that it's being managed

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why?

- No because HOA takes care of it
- Also don't see dry brush around house and not sure if forest around town would catch fire (not sure what burns easily or doesn't burn)

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- Doesn't have an action item to request
- Hasn't seen anything nearby be affected by wildfire, always been in another city
- Rely on experts and local fire authorities to monitor and assess what presents and actionable danger

Interview with second-homeowner | condo

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- Yes

Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?

&OR How frequently do you visit mammoth lakes?

- Snowcreek condo (meadows)
- 7-12 visits per year

Are you registered to vote in Mammoth Lakes/Mono County?

- no

Do you follow local news? If so, via which channels?

- Doesn't follow local news

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard in Mammoth? If so what concerned about?

- Think about fires
- Look at wood roofs and it comes to mind
- Hopes that its such a major center folks would do everything to protect it
- Lot of money at stake because of resort
- Wrong wind and sure it could happen

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why?

- Nothing

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- If there is a risk, assuming there is, communicate out more about risk and what folks can do to help that
- From insurance standpoint, has insurance for structure through HOA

- Envisioned wind coming in and affecting something

Other Info/Additional Thoughts

- One friend who is a renter in something slopes south of mammoth (resident)

Interview with second-homeowner | single-family

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- On forest trail, 2-300 yards up street from village

Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?

&OR How frequently do you visit mammoth lakes?

- 3 days per week every week in winter
- Every 3-4 weeks for 5 days

Are you registered to vote in Mammoth Lakes/Mono County?

- no

Do you follow local news? If so, via which channels?

- Usually reads mammoth times and sheet online
- Also word of mouth, talks to friends in town a couple times per week

Were/are you aware of Measure F, a Parcel Tax Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District put forward in the March 2020 primary election?

- Heard about it but not informed on it

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard in Mammoth?

- "In my life it is the single biggest worry"
- Huge concern
- Recently switched homeowners insurance, nationwide withdrew
- Went up 1k with state farm
- State backed fire insurance would have gone up 3.5k
- Fire would hurt economy and surroundings

If so, what are you concerned about?

- people camping out in forest lands north of town along scenic loop
- some of it is folks living all spring/summer
- Folks coming for weekend even scarier because they don't know

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why?

- Twice a year rake it out a good 45 ft
- Follow wildlands interface raking
- Don't let things accumulate around house that are flammable

Any barriers to creating defensible space?

- When do it in fall, have to take garbage down to benton station dump
- Limit to three trash cans in town

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- Fire mitigation around town's own right of way
- Forest service does a pretty good job cleaning
- Managing healthy forest with spot burning
- Wants to see ground cover burned off
- Surrounded by five houses, but three do not ever rake
- Would be good to make that an ordinance in town
- If everything lines up, a strong north wind, poor choices with campfires, there's nothing anyone can do
- Banning all fire during northeast wind time
- Worried about fire coming from that direction

Interview with permanent resident | single-family

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- Yes single-family

Are you registered to vote in Mammoth Lakes/Mono County?

- Yes

Do you follow local news? If so, via which channels?

- The sheet
- Listen to radio

Were/are you aware of Measure F, a Parcel Tax Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District put forward in the March 2020 primary election? If so, what did you think?

- Yes, disappointed it did not pass
- Next year everyone wished it did pass with wildfires

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard in Mammoth?

If so, what are you concerned about?

- Always concerned about wildfires
- For us lately smoke has been biggest issue
- When creek fire was happening, there was a lot of info put forth through town meetings that everyone could join online that was
- One thing that was lacking was critical points
- No notification to public about when fire hit those points and what the plan was

- Kind of in dark, knew it was a point for reassessment but didnt know what was happening

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why?

- Do try and clear out pine needles and cones and some of dry brush/weeds etc
- Also has sprinklers in the house
- Not sure what else should do
- Cut dead branches from trees

Any barriers to creating defensible space

- More info about things we could do
- Lack of knowledge

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- Removal of more dead trees
- Certain spots where dead trees have been there for years
- Need to maybe fine property owners
- More should be done to mitigate these risks
- Not disseminate info only via facebook
- Have facebook but doesn't use it often, so has to hear about from friends
- Algorithms isn't giving the newest most important info because infrequent user
- Having separate website or something connected to town is better

Interview with second-homeowner | FS cabin

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- On twin lakes in forest service, at base of waterfall

Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?

&OR How frequently do you visit mammoth lakes?

- Spend a lot of summer up there, opening cabin now
- June 1ish to 3rd week of october
- Used to work from there before retirement

Are you registered to vote in Mammoth Lakes/Mono County?

- No-Not allowed to be primary residence

Do you follow local news? If so, via which channels?

- Read the sheet online or pick up when in town
- subscribe to mammoth times and on steward brown community updates
- on fire dept instagram but don't look as often, facebook uses a little more
- and then through the grapevine with neighbors
- listen to reno npr and sierra wave, and when home has knr app on phone

Were/are you aware of Measure F, a Parcel Tax Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District put forward in the March 2020 primary election?

If so, what did you think?

- Vaguely aware

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard in Mammoth?

If so, what are you concerned about?

- Yes concerned because in the middle of the forest
- Mostly concerned about campers and see bonfires
- Camp hosts are good at shutting them down
- Last year happy that banned all fires regardless of campground
- Campers don't understand forests and fire and how quickly it can get out of control
- Once Non-campers put coals on ground next to buses on lake; Firemen who responded acted like not a big deal
- Not sure if town takes it seriously

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why?

- Yes, have cleared away what can from cabin, stacked wood is away from the cabin, has to fill out paperwork every year that is a checklist of defensible space actions
- Fireproofed a dead stump next to cabin
- Took out large stump next to cabin 4ft in diameter
- Fs controls so much of what can and can't do on property

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- People who live there understand
- Need to educate public when they come up
- Sees people throwing cigarette butts in the forest
- What do signs saying high wildfire risk mean people?
- Cant' stop lightning but can stop stupid things

Interview with second-homeowner | single-family

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- Yes, built a three bedroom in lakes basin

Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?

&OR How frequently do you visit mammoth lakes?

- Part time resident visiting once per month

Do you follow local news? If so, via which channels?

- Not following local mammoth news
- Would read mammoth times or sheet on occasion

- Otherwise taking to local friend

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard in Mammoth?

If so, what are you concerned about?

- Yes concerned
- Not concerned about naturally occurring fires
- Can't do anything about drought, lightning, beetles
- Worried mostly about irresponsible campers in campgrounds, other humans

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why?

- Remove fuels from around house
- Leave pinecones for bears
- Don't do clean culture around but remove pine needles
- Don't burn wood outdoors, have propane fire ring

Any barriers?

- None
- She removes dead trees
- And pays attention to what neighbors are doing as well
- Back up to valentine, so try to keep it looking like valentine but do more removal because they don't have staff
- Keep it clean around the house

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- Thinks it's mostly wanting to see campgrounds monitored for fire rings etc
- Thinks it's irresponsible campers that are biggest worry
- Not sure what city does or doesn't do
- Wants to monitor campers off grid
- Too many people trying to get out and they aren't aware or aren't playing by rules

Interview with second-homeowner | single-family

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- Yes, log cabin

Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?

&OR How frequently do you visit mammoth lakes?

- Once a month, spending 3-7 days

Do you follow local news? If so, via which channels?

- Usually watch network news to get weather report
- Otherwise read la times for general news
- seek bit of online sources if there

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard in Mammoth? If so, what are you concerned about?

- We know that it's a heavily wooded area
- With drought have dry areas, which is a fear
- But has positive feelings about mitigation measures actively being accomplished
 - Just bought cabin but before owned a cabin on forest service land, and while there saw wildfire mitigation campaigns that FS did
 - At first were very hesitant to see them cutting trees
 - They gave recommendations of other areas where they were clearing
 - Went to look at those and found it was a good idea
 - Cleaning around the cabin gave confidence
 - Other advantage that they saw other grasses growing because more light was getting to forest floor
 - So very in favor now
 - Also sensitive to need to clear around cabin
- Also a bit cooler in mammoth than la

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why? Any barriers?

- Cleaning pine needles and pine cones around property on annual basis after snow melts
- Makes sure no dead trees that need to be removed
- Take responsibility seriously

Barriers

- None, very easy for us because we don't store things outside cabin

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- Would love to see all phone lines and power lines put underground but sure its expensive

Other info/additional thoughts

- Beautiful to see open space under trees around mammoth lakes loop
- Jenny at mammoth nurser, otherwise don't know landscape architects in mammoth
- Example of great landscape is meadow next to snow creek, between meridian and next big street to the west
- Several acres, owned by snowcreek
- Beautiful walk
- Great potential for fire-preventive planting, with native grasses etc
- Familiar with having to do fuel modification plans in so cal
- Limited on what can put into landscape

Interview with permanent resident | condo

Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?

- full-time

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- yes, condo (2 units per building)

Are you registered to vote in Mammoth Lakes/Mono County?

- yes

Were/are you aware of Measure F, a Parcel Tax Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District put forward in the March 2020 primary election? If so, what did you think?

- I recall voting yes, not much else

What are your concerns about wildfire in Mammoth?

- concerned about wildfire throughout the sierra nevada

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard? If so, what are you concerned about?

- damage, loss of life, campfires, closure of forest service land, air quality from smoke from fires elsewhere

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why?

- live near a meadow, area near house (5-6 meters) is clear.

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- support efforts to manually thin, as a potential way to reduce fire risk without burning.
- otherwise like to see many fewer fires in campgrounds, dispersed camping, etc.
- it would also be nice if the supermarkets did not sell firewood.

Interview with permanent resident | single-family

Are you a part-time or full-time resident of Mammoth Lakes?

- full time

Do you own property in the Mammoth Lakes area?

- yes, single family home

Are you registered to vote in Mammoth Lakes/Mono County?

- yes

Were/are you aware of Measure F, a Parcel Tax Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District put forward in the March 2020 primary election? If so, what did you think?

- don't remember but would have voted for it

What are your concerns about wildfire in Mammoth?

- (1) large number of dead trees.
- (2) dispersed camping.
- (3) reluctance of nfs to ban campfires everywhere within a ten mile radius of mammoth lakes

Are you concerned about wildfire hazard? If so, what are you concerned about?

- damage, loss of life, campfires, closure of forest service land, air quality from smoke from fires elsewhere

Do you take any steps to mitigate wildfire risk to your property? If so, what are they? If not, why?

- we keep our lot as clear of dead trees as we can.

What, if anything, would you like to see done around Mammoth Lakes to mitigate fire risk?

- supports efforts to thin forest
- Otherwise wants fewer camp fires
- also, there has been talk of creating a 10-mile diameter "doughnut ring" around mammoth of greatly thinned trees and dead under story. we have not heard details. information flow to the community is badly needed.