

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy-Progress Report**

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program  
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control  
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2008 (Proposition 84)**

**Grantee Name:** Fire Safe Council of Nevada County

**Project title:** Nevada County (FIRST) Defensible Space Recognition  
& Home Tour

**SNC Reference Number:** SNC 070128      **Submittal Date:** April 6, 2012

**Report Preparer:** Joanne Drummond      **Phone #:** (530) 272-1122

**Check one:**

6-Month Progress Report  
 Final Report

6-Month Progress Reports should reflect the previous six months. Final Reports should reflect the entire grant period.

**A. Progress Report Summary:** (Please provide a general description of work completed during this reporting period.)

This final report covers the period September 30, 2011 through February 29, 2012. The committee met numerous times to finalize criteria, develop promotional materials, review draft designs and conduct site evaluations of the twelve homes nominated for the tour. Committee members include: Chief Tim Fike, Nevada County Consolidated Fire Department, Lynn Lorensen, UC Master Gardeners, Judy Scott, Lake Wildwood Firewise Committee, Karen Schimke, retired Forest Service sivilculturalist and Barbara Rivenes with The Sierra Club. After evaluating the homes nominated, eight were determined to meet the minimum requirements and would be featured on the tour.

Volunteer specialists provided interpretation of the individual home site features to be given to tour guests on the home information sheets. Home sites offered various focuses such as wildlife habitat, water conservation, passive solar for energy conservation, a native forest setting, formal landscaped grounds, privacy on a small lot, land stewardship beyond defensible space and a home shielded from wildfire ember intrusion. The variety of the homes on tour was remarkable. Please refer to the home tour guide and individual home fact sheets provided with this report.

The tour was held on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 12-4pm. We hosted over 100 people at the eight home sites. Some guests did not tour all sites, while other did. We received several accolades from tour guests including a nice letter to the

editor of The Union newspaper in Grass Valley. We had eleven people sign up for on-site home advisory visits at their own homes following the tour. Several people asked if we would do it again because they enjoyed it so much.

**B. Deliverables or Outcomes completed during this Reporting Period or Milestones Achieved:** (Include specific information, such as public meetings held, agency participation, partnerships developed, or acres mapped, treated or restored.)

We implemented the home tour and developed home site data sheets that continue to be available on our website. We had volunteers from The Sierra Club, the US forest service, the Audobon Society, individual homeowner associations and Firewise Communities. Please see the attached home tour guide and home data sheets attached.

**C. Challenges or Opportunities Encountered:** (Please describe what has worked and what hasn't; include any solutions you initiated to resolve problems. If your project is not on schedule, please explain why here.)

Even with getting this project off the ground late, we were able to fully implement the vision of our grant proposal. We are fortunate to have a number of dedicated volunteers to provide their time to make the tour a success. We were also grateful for the strong response from our community. Our committee felt it may be difficult to get people on board, so they offered cash prizes as an incentive due to the current economy. The homes selected were within an easy 2-3 hour drive around the town centers of Grass Valley and Nevada City. One challenge was putting up and taking down the signs – due to our rural geography, a tremendous number of signs needed to be posted for directional purposes and then taken down again after the event. This was much more labor intensive than originally anticipated and due to having over 200 signs to post, took staff time in addition to volunteers to make it happen in a timely fashion for the day of the event.

The board of directors of the council is considering hosting the tour again with undesignated donations considering the strong response from those who attended. Staff is providing a cost breakdown for consideration in the 2012-2012 fiscal year budget.

**D. Unanticipated Successes Achieved:** (Please describe any additional successes beyond completing scheduled tasks or meeting scheduled milestones.)

We were pleased to receive multiple stories in The Union newspaper in Grass Valley. While we provided paid advertising to recruit homeowners and promote the tour itself, we did not anticipate obtaining such strong local media support of

the event. We were also featured on the KNCO Master Gardener's radio talk show promoting the tour.

- E. Compare Actual Costs to Budgeted Costs:** (Please refer to your grant agreement to list your deliverables/budget categories and budgeted costs compared to actual costs incurred during this reporting period in the table below.)

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>Budgeted SNC Dollars</b>	<b>Actual Grant Dollars</b>
Coordination of committee	\$1,000	\$1047.59
Home site inspections	\$1,000	\$1047.59
Ads, signs, guides	\$15,450	\$10290.55
Administration	\$550	\$605.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$12990.73</b>

**Explanation:** (if needed)

Expenditures from July 1, 2008 through February 29, 2012.

- F. Do you have information to report on the project-specific Performance Measures for your project?** (If so, please list the Performance Measures below and describe your progress.)

The tour featured eight homes as was projected in our grant proposal. Attendance was less than projected at 100. Volunteer commitment and homeowner participation was strong and exceeded our expectations.

- G. Were there any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this Agreement that are not a part of the budgeted deliverables? If so, please attach copies.** (Include digital photos, maps, media coverage of project, or other work products.)

We have attached the tour guide, home site data sheets, media coverage and participant feedback. The educational materials continue to be available online at our website: [www.areyoufiresafe.com](http://www.areyoufiresafe.com)

- H. Next Steps:** (Work anticipated in the next 6 months, including location and timing of any scheduled events related to the project.)

We will continue to evaluate hosting the tour without grant funding in the 2012-2013 fiscal year due to the strong support from our community and the board of directors for the program.

**Win Up To \$500!**

*Be featured on the*

## *Firewise Living Tour*

[www.AreYouFireSafe.com](http://www.AreYouFireSafe.com) or call 530-272-1122



Brought to you by:



THE UNION  
... BUILDERS ...



Download your entry form or learn more at:  
[www.AreYouFireSafe.com](http://www.AreYouFireSafe.com) or call 530-272-1122

- Good access
- Meet Defensible Space Requirements (PRC 4291)
- Have a structure hardened from ember intrusion

## *How do you qualify?*



**Win Up To \$500!**

## Firewise Living Tour



The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County is looking for properties that showcase:

- Good access
- Requirements of PRC 4291 for defensible space
- A hardened structure to protect it from ember intrusion

Win Up To \$500!

If you think your home site meets these three requirements you could win up to \$500 and be featured on the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County's Firewise Living Tour.



To download your entry form or to learn more about defensible space visit:

[www.AreYouFireSafe.com](http://www.AreYouFireSafe.com) or call 530-271-1122

Funded by a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

# Firewise Living Tour

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012 • Noon-4pm



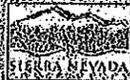
Wildfire is the number one natural hazard in Nevada County. Insurance companies are requiring homeowners to meet the requirements of the state law for defensible space to retain coverage.

Join us on the Firewise Living Tour to see some of the best examples of living in harmony with nature, including wildfire. Visit any or all of the eight featured sites.

For more information and to print out a tour map  
or to learn more about defensible space visit:  
[www.AreYouFireSafe.com](http://www.AreYouFireSafe.com) or call (530) 272-1122



Funded by a grant from



THE UNION  
Nevada

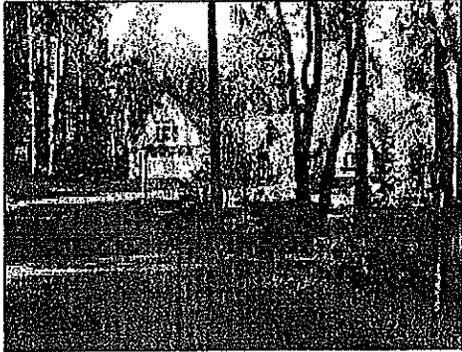
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REGIONAL

**2012 Firewise Living Award Winners**

Author: Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC)

Published on Feb 16, 2012 - 3:55:48 PM



(Grass Valley, CA, February 15, 2012) The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has announced the 2012 Firewise Living award winners. The concept of Firewise Living represents living in harmony with nature, including wildfire. Home sites were nominated for evaluation based on access, defensible space and a structure equipped to withstand firebrands. Additional considerations were given to land stewardship beyond 100 feet, wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation and the aesthetics of framing the home.

Over a dozen homes were nominated for consideration and award recognition. Eight homes will be featured on the free self-guided tour for the public to learn more about effective defensible space and the additional measures that may be taken to protect your home from wildfire. The tour takes place Saturday, February 18th from noon to 4pm. Depending on how long you visit each home, the tour should take between two and three hours.

The grand prize winner is located in the Banner Mountain Homeowner's Association Firewise Community on Banner Mountain Trail. Council Executive Director, Joanne Drummond, said "We're proud to showcase such prime examples of Firewise living in Nevada County. The Fire Safe Council assists communities in attaining the national recognition as part of our mission."

The second prize winner is located in the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association which is currently undergoing the Firewise certification process on Bodie Ridge Road. The third prize winner is located on Deer Creek Park Drive. A cash award of \$500 is given to the grand prize winner, with the others receiving \$250 and \$100 respectively.

The tour is funded by a generous grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and sponsored by The Union newspaper. To download your tour guide and driving directions or for more information on the Fire Safe Council go to [www.arenoufirewise.com](http://www.arenoufirewise.com) or phone (530) 272-1122.

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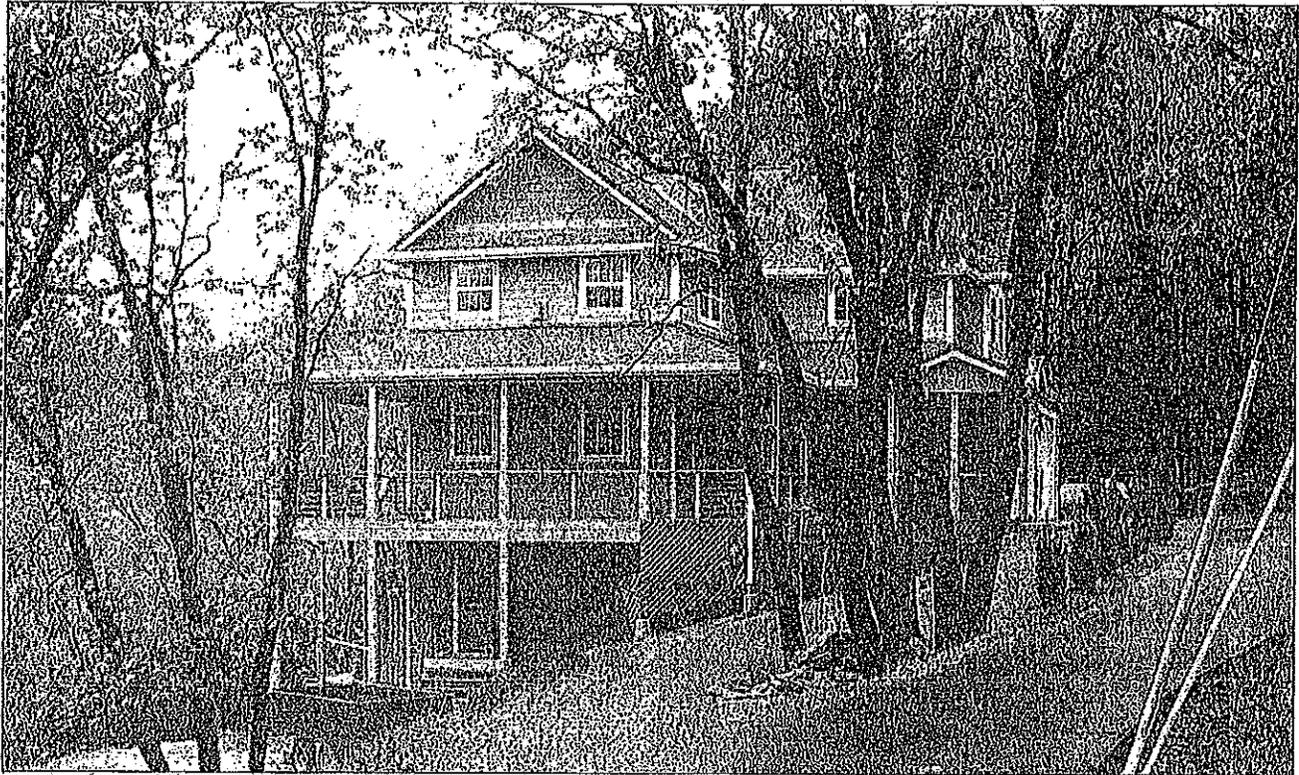


Photo courtesy Fire Safe Council of Nevada County

This home has good defensible space with clearing around the structure, no tree debris on the roof and no clutter underneath its decks.

## Firewise tour offers examples of fire-safe living

SUBMITTED TO THE UNION

Join the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County on the free 2012 Firewise Living Tour noon to 4 p.m. Saturday for some examples in Nevada County of living in harmony with nature, including wildfire.

Wildfire is the number one natural hazard in Nevada County. Insurance companies are requiring homeowners to meet the requirements of the state law PRC 4291 for defensible space to retain coverage.

Being Firewise includes

considerations such as good access to your property, a home that is shielded from ember intrusion and living in harmony with the natural environment.

Many homeowners are confused and believe that meeting the PRC 4291 requirement and being Firewise means that all vegetation within 100 feet must be removed from around their home — this is not true.

Effective defensible space should be aesthetically pleasing and support wildlife while mitigating the wildfire hazard.

Defensible space can be a

ONLINE

Visit [www.arenofiresafe.com](http://www.arenofiresafe.com) for more information on the FireSafe Council's 2012 Firewise Living Tour, including a map of the eight featured homes.

confusing concept to relate through words or diagrams.

The Firewise Living Tour allows the community to view various examples of effective defensible space in the community and honor those who have worked to find a balance

between fire safety and ecosystem health.

The eight homes featured on the self-guided tour provide a wide variety of examples of Firewise living.

Home settings vary from an oak woodland to chaparral and mixed conifer forest.

Information sheets will be available at the different sites and include additional education on topics relating to each site such as wildlife habitat, fire construction retrofitting, hydrology and forestry. 88 of 95

# Firewise Living Award winners announced

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A cash award of \$500 is given to the grand prize winner, with the others receiving \$250 and \$100 respectively.

The tour is funded by a generous grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and sponsored by The Union newspaper.

To download your tour guide and driving directions or for more information on the Fire Safe Council go to [www.arenofiresafe.com](http://www.arenofiresafe.com) or phone (530) 272-1122.

## Firewise Living Award Winners

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## Letters to the editor

### KUDOS: FIRE WISE LIVING TOUR

Thank you to Fire Safe Council of Nevada County for staging a tour of eight local homeowners who have created effective defensible fire space.

On Feb. 18, we visited these homes, learning about fire safety and much more.

The volunteers and homeowners also shared information about landscaping, native plants, drainage and erosion control and preserving animal habitat.

Questions were answered and printed information provided, including grant funding opportunities and resources available to help financially in our efforts to be "fire wise."

Very well organized and executed event. Thank you all for your time and expertise. I hope this Fire Wise Living Tour becomes an annual event!

RICHARD AND WENDY CHASE  
*Grass Valley*

### 'UNDER GOD' A RECENT ADDITION TO THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It may behoove Chris Delcol (The Union Fri, March 2) to review history a bit before decrying any possibility of removing "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance as leaving us "one nation under nothing."

As written by Francis Belknap in August of 1892, the pledge was to "one nation indivisible" with no mention of God.

That pledge served us well through myriad events, including a Great Depression and two major World Wars.

It was not until the hysteria of the McCarthy period that, as we searched for Communists in every closet and under every bed, the movement to insert "under God" begun by Louis Bowman in 1942, began to gain momentum cul-

minating in that point on Flag Day, 1954 when President Eisenhower signed the bill inserting "under God" into the pledge.

To suggest that up until that signing we were a "nation under nothing" is ignorant and insulting to those who fought, with or without God, through two great wars to preserve this nation.

DANITA SORENSON  
*Nevada City*

### PARENTS PLAY KEY ROLE IN EDUCATION

In a 2011 working paper, "The Effect of Evaluation on Performance: Evidence from Longitudinal Student Achievement Data of Mid-career Teachers," Eric Taylor and John Tyler investigate the effectiveness of Cincinnati Public Schools' Teacher Evaluation System (TES).

The article presents the merits of evaluating a teacher's performance through the test scores of their students.

I am just a parent and not a teacher, but I contend that parental involvement in a child's education is as at least as important as the quality of instruction in the classroom.

Without it even the best teachers are hamstrung.

When it comes to measuring a teacher's performance through comparative test scores, the playing field will never be level for those teachers whose students have little or no support in the home.

Unfortunately, it appears in this day and age it is much easier to point the finger of accountability at a teacher than at a parent or guardian.

PATRICK FARRELL  
*Grass Valley*