**IF YOUR LAND BURNED….**

We tried to summarize it all for you. If you need help, we’re here at 693-3173. Love, -your RCD.

**1.) For Farmers/Ranchers:** If you farmed for profit and you lost part of your farm, the Farm Service Agency can help. Call 534-0112 ext.2 and ask for the following programs if you lost….

* More than 15% of your **orchard trees, vines or berries?:** *TAP (Tree Assistance Program)*
* **Livestock?** (unfortunately won’t count horses or dogs): *LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program)*
* **Hay, feed, or pasture?** or had to pay to move your livestock to new pasture: *ELAP (Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish)*
* If you lost **bees**: *ELAP* (see above)
* If you lost **fences, irrigation lines,** gates, troughs, or **need debris removed**: *ECP (Emergency Conservation Program)* can pay 75-90% of the costs of replacement. This can also pay for the cost of removing burned barns, but (for some reason) not your burned house.
* Farmers/Ranchers Who Just **Need A Loan** To Get Back On Their Feet: Farmers can qualify for low-interest loans providing up to $50,000 within 4 days. Call the Farm Service Agency at 534-0112. Program: *ELP (Emergency Loan Program)*.

**↑↑↑ ALL THE ABOVE PROGRAMS ARE EMERGENCY AID, SO CALL TODAY! THEY WILL EXPIRE! ↑↑↑**

* **Need erosion control?** Farmers/ranchers/timberland owners can call NRCS (534-0112) and enroll in *EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)*. This helps pay for cover cropping, fencing, land clearing, streambank stabilization, tree planting, and many other practices. A special pool of money has been set aside just for Camp Fire survivors, and there’s no minimum acreage if your land burned. *It is not very fast*, and you still need to front the whole cost (and then NRCS reimburses you).

**2.) For Small Timberland Owners:** For **timberland owners,** Farm Service Agency can pay 75% of the costs of replanting your land, restoring your roads and erosion control systems, and replanting some habitat for the wild critters. Program: *EFRP (Emergency Forest Restoration Program).*

**3.) For Everyone Else: Preventing Erosion/Restoring Your Land:** Often, the best thing to do is nothing. If grass is already germinating, don’t bother seeding. Try not to disturb the soil – even hydrophobic soil. Staying off burned land is usually the best way to let it heal. Burned standing trees should be left to fall on their own if they don’t threaten life or property. Spreading loose rice straw is good because unlike most hay, it contains no weed seeds. **Straw wattles** are meant to slow sheet flows, NOT to be placed across creeks, rills, or culverts. Stake wattles along contour lines. Ideally, they should be trenched in (a 2” trench is plenty). If you think your land needs more help…. you can give volunteers permission to access your land and they may install straw wattles or spread rice straw for free. If **your land drains into Butte Creek**, DWR and the Friends of Butte Creek have mobilized a volunteer army: sign up at bcrcd.org. If you live elsewhere, esp. near **Yankee Hill or Concow,** call Matthew Trumm, Treetop Permaculture/Camp Fire Restoration Project, at 632-1864.

**Can I Get Help Removing Hazard Trees?** You can cut them yourself, or (ideally) hire a forester to assess them, but there is no program – ***yet*** -- to help pay the costs of removing hazard trees from private property. Stand by.

**IF YOUR LAND DIDN’T BURN…**

But you want to get busy and make your land more fire-safe:

**Farmers/Ranchers, Or Timberland Owners:** If you have more than 5 acres, call the NRCS at 534-0112 and ask about developing a brush management plan through EQIP. This process is not the fastest but can pay most of the cost of brush removal. You’ll need to show you are materially involved in farming (or raising timber) for profit. EQIP can’t cut trees more than 10” in diameter, not even hazard trees.

**Timberland owners with more than 20 acres:** You can also call CAL FIRE and enroll in their similar CFIP program. You’ll get a forester to write a plan for your timberland, and CAL FIRE will pay most of the cost.

**What About Cannabis Growers?:**  If you grow cannabis, even though it may be legal under CA law, NRCS (a federal agency) can’t help you. However, timberland owners with more than 20 acres can still get forestry services through CAL FIRE’s CFIP program (above).

**Non-Farmers Living In Brushland/Shrubland/Chaparral/WUI:** You don’t manage timber, so the programs to help you are different. If you have more than 20 acres, you can enroll in CAL FIRE’s Vegetation Management Program (VMP), which can help you cover the costs of managing your brush. If you have a smaller parcel, you can call the Butte County Fire Safe Council (877-0984) to enroll in their free chipper program. That means you cut, haul, and stack your own brush, then BCFSC brings a chipper for free to turn that brush into wood chips!