



*To educate the community, to increase the awareness of fire risks, to reduce wildfire fuel loading, and to prepare for other disasters.*

August 18, 2008

Dear friends and family,

First and foremost, thank you for your support and concern for our well-being during the catastrophic wild fire event called Butte Lightning Complex, which burned 60,000 acres. Of that 30,000 acres was the Camp Fire that destroyed a large portion of the Concow basin, took a life, destroyed 202 homes, 45 outbuildings, and eradicated timberland. This is a lot to rebuild in the way of lives and homes and at times is overwhelming to think about.

I am personally fortunate to still have my home, healthy animals and green trees. This has helped me be in a stronger position to help our community and mobilize our community fire safe council. Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council facilitates frequent community meetings, manages a fire recovery information center and has established the "Concow – Fire Recovery Fund". With this fund, we have an opportunity to rebuild a part of our community more fire wise and fire safe by replacing what were trailers and older wooden cabins with "Firewise Concow Cabins," which is in alignment with the Katrina Cottages.

The fund began as a request from people in our community. Without asking, they donated \$12,000 to it. So now we have a goal to raise \$1 million. That is what it will take to, build (20) Firewise Concow Cabins, assist with human basic needs not being met, and do land and watershed restoration. We will not hand out cash or pay for resources already available. The goal is ambitious, the goal is reasonable and this is where we can use your help. You know people, who know people, who know people. Circulate the flyer to those you know. Engaging many to do a little can do a lot.

The success of our field projects has the community's attention. We stand behind our messages about fire prevention, community and personal preparedness, and reducing the fuel loading around homes to create defensible space. As destructive as this fire was to our community, homes with defensible space and fire resistive building materials survived, our fuel breaks performed by lowering the fire's intensity in those zones, letting trees survive so we still have some trees to hug. Fire safe councils play an important role in their communities and having been part of mine for 10 years. I am convinced time after time we are going in the right direction with our fire prevention messages and efforts.

I only ask now, to please help us reach our goals with the fire recovery fund and influence an area of our community that housed our poorest of poor, to help us rebuild and do it in a fire wise and fire safe way.

Any assistance and suggestions you have would be welcomed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brenda A. Rightmyer, Chairperson