



## ***Pollock Pines - Camino Fire Safe Council***

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***Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space***

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Environmental Protection Agency  
EPA Docket Center, Mail code 28221T  
Attention: Docket ID No. OAR-2008-0699  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20460

March 16, 2015

The Pollock Pines - Camino Fire Safe Council opposes the proposed revision to the Ozone Standards (EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0699) as written. We request an exemption or accommodation to the rule to allow for controlled burning to maintain forest and watershed health and a similar exemption for property owners to burn small piles (4'x4'x4') when conditions permit.

Two recent Incident Wildfires directly threatened the communities of Pollock Pines and Camino, the 97,000 acre King Fire and the 4,000 acre Sand Fire. During these wildfires, 31 homes and numerous outbuildings were destroyed, emphasizing the importance of wildfire mitigation and prevention. In addition, the intense heat of large wildfires vaporizes elements in the soil, including mercury and masses them into the atmosphere, causing significantly more ozone damage than all the small pile burning combined.

The elimination of controlled burning in the forest and additional restrictions on rural landowner small pile burning will remove a valuable fuel reduction tool. This proposal will increase the probability and intensity of a catastrophic wildfire, which will have the unintended consequence of greater damage to the environment.

The communities of Pollock Pines and Camino are rural communities in the Sierra foothills, largely made up of a mixed conifer landscape with larger parcels. The population of those over 65 years old is higher in our foothill communities, as it is where many come to retire. Pile burning is not only affordable but also more feasible than having to transport forest debris to the dump in Placerville. El Dorado Disposal does have a good Green Waste program, but for parcels even as small as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre, it is not enough help to maintain Defensible Space. In my Neighborhood, neighbors ban together to use each other's Green Waste barrels and garbage bag allotments ... yet still, we all need to burn piles to maintain our parcels. The smoke dispersal we enjoy in the mountains helps to keep pile burning a vital part of our Defensible Space toolbox.

Sincerely,

Heather Campbell  
Chairperson