

LESSONS LEARNED: RECOVERY AFTER THE CAMP FIRE

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A large volcanic eruption is shown, with a massive plume of ash and smoke rising from a forested landscape. The plume is dark and billowing, dominating the upper right portion of the frame. The foreground is filled with a dense forest of trees, and the sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is dramatic and powerful.

November 8, 2018

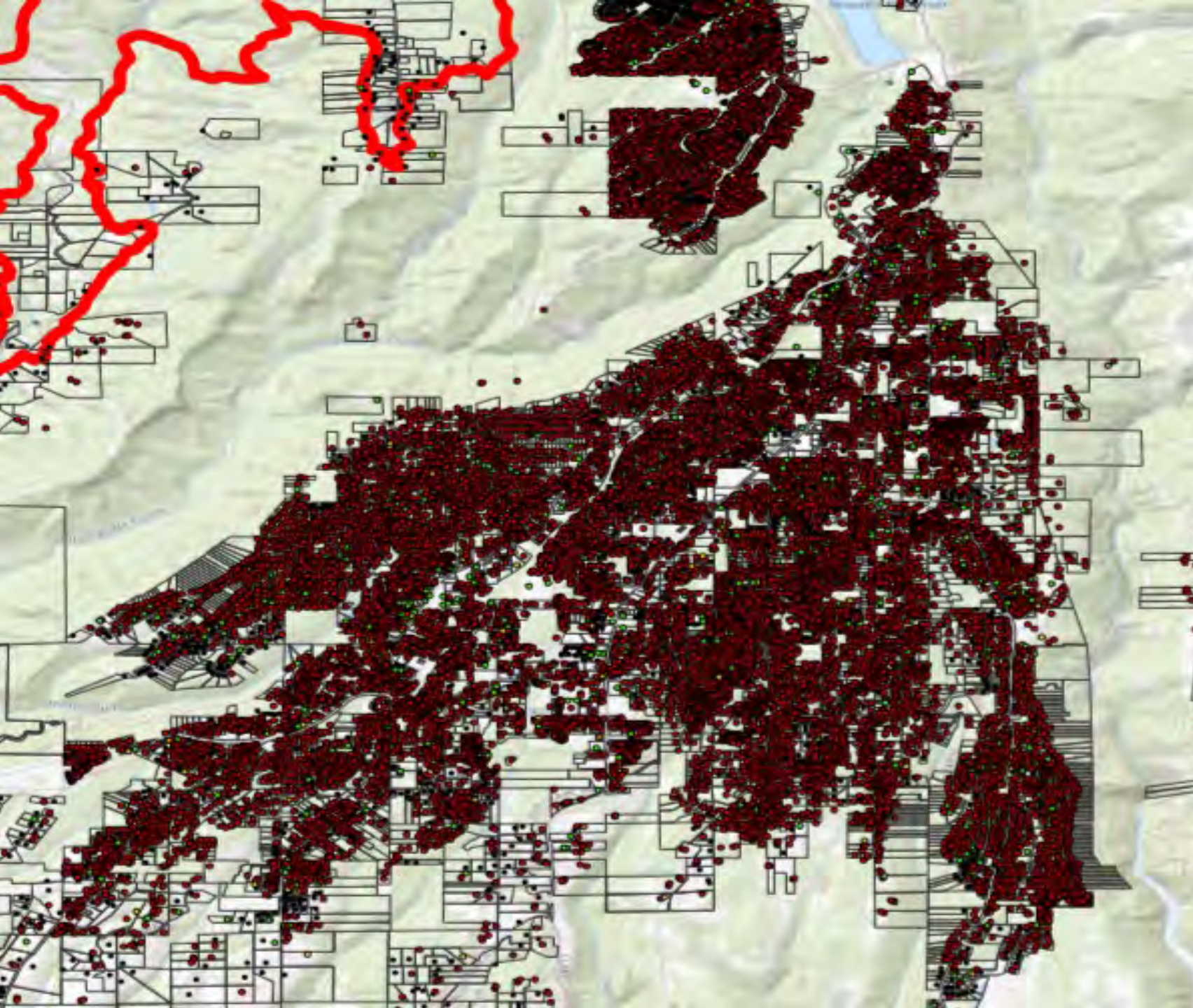
www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjxrqcPuteU

“The Camp Fire spread as fast as 80 football fields per minute.” – *After Action Report*

Camp Fire Losses

- 85 fatalities
- 18,800 structures
- 90% of Paradise’s housing stock
- Over 27% of the County’s mobile home units
- Housing for 10% of the construction workforce
- All 1,200 businesses closed, with approximately 350 re-opened to date





Destroyed Structure Map

November 9, 2018

Red Dots Destroyed
Structure
Green Dots Standing
Structure



Building Permit Data

As of May 2022

- 2,297 Building Permit Applications Received
- 2,105 Building Permits Issued
- 1,347 Certificates of Occupancy Issued
- 536 Multi-Family Units Applied
- 423 Multi-Family Units Issued
- 257 Multi-Family Units Rebuilt



State Consolidated Debris Removal Program Stats


Largest project of its type in California history 



10,900 participating properties

More than **305,000** loads hauled 



Debris crews traveled **28.2 million** road miles - which is equal to **59** round trips to the moon 

The tonnage removed is equivalent to -



4 Golden Gate Bridges



The Cost of Recovery

- **\$1B** in CDBG-DR for disaster declarations 4407 (ours) and 4382 (two other wildfires)
- **\$240M** PG&E settlement for the Town of Paradise
- **\$121M** in total CIP/DR over 5 years from 17 funding sources, compared to \$6-10M over 3 years pre-fire
- **\$77.3M** federal dollars for road reconstruction
- **\$68M** FEMA IA provided to owners and renters in Butte County
- Unsettled **insurance claims** for property and equipment replacement.
- State of CA provided **3 years of revenue backfill** for lost property tax funds to the Town. (2018 - 2021FYE)
- 16 recovery projects funded by Butte Strong Fund, NVCF



Lessons Learned

Employee Care

Plan for the Worst

Stress Test

Insurance

Communication

Regional

Partnerships



Employee Care

- All Town Staff impacted
- Most lost homes
- Logistical/Housing issues
- Trauma

Plan for the Worst

- The Camp Fire far surpassed our “worst case scenario”
- Plan for what you think is the worst that could happen, then multiply it by 10



Stress Test Your Insurance



- Challenges with Insurance
- The Town is still working to settle with insurance three and a half years later



Communication

- Most important non-first responder function in an emergency
- Hard to get it right
- Frequent, reliable, vetted
- Role of the PIO

Regional Partnerships

- 50,000 people evacuated within 6 hours on Nov. 8, 2018
- Challenges with inter-jurisdictional evacuations
- Surrounding counties received thousands of evacuees





Planning for Recovery

- Long Term Community Recovery Plan
- Public Input
- Professional consultant with disaster experience

Managing Recovery Projects

Town-Led Projects

- Hazard Tree Removal
- Early Warning System
- Weed Abatement
- Sustainable Fiscal Model
- General Plan / Housing Element
- Sewer Service Area
- Transportation Master Plan
- Walkable Downtown
- New Fire Station 82
- Resident Fire Safe Education
- New Civic Center
- Opportunity Zone

Partner-Led Projects

- Underground Utilities
- Cultural Recovery
- Economic Development Strategy

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LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN

Paradise, California



Discussion

Panel

Steve Crowder - Mayor, Town of Paradise

Kevin Phillips - Town Manager, Town of Paradise

Colette Curtis - Recovery and Economic Development Director,
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