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The Camp Fire Restoration Project and Camp Paradise, an initiative

<http://campfirerestorationproject.org>

VISION for Butte County/Bio-Region

Restored land and healthy ecosystems

Sustainable local food

Fire safe homes and buildings

Resilient individuals and communities with the tools

Green jobs

Create a bio-regional hub and model for community-based habitat restoration and resilient communities using permaculture and regenerative design

Our collective action will create a sustainable and regenerative model with new systems for disaster response, resilient communities, and landscape restoration that inspires a culture shift.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are setting up a long-term location known as Camp that will act as a Training Center and Resource Hub for ecosystem restoration, creating sustainable culture and livelihoods for the local community and bio-region/Butte County. This hub will be the home base for those who lost their homes and livelihoods in the Camp Fire to seek education, and demonstration of alternative sustainable design models for ecological rebuilding and livelihoods.

Our strategy is a mobile restoration unit of camps to expand out impact by creating demonstration sites and permaculture systems at public and private properties all over the area. These sites turn into Resource Hubs that provide plants and restoration materials for deployment and education and training for the Restoration Ecosystem we are mobilizing. Materials include wattles, straw bales, wood chips, seed, and biochar, compost, mushroom spawn, plants, trees, etc. The idea is that the sites will serve as a transfer station and place to train homeowners and other groups on how to

use and deploy these materials to aid in the ecological recovery of the fire damaged areas.

We will bring in experts in areas of ecological restoration, Permaculture, Natural Building, Regenerative land and Ag Practices to educate the citizens and public officials in both a hands-on and classroom settings and at demonstration sites for models and technologies that simultaneously benefits both humans and natural systems.

We hope from showing practical, well-working models, backed up by data, and science that community members and local governments will adopt some of these regenerative models.

The affected community benefits by coming together, learning restoration techniques and helping each other through direct actions. This will offer a way to help people get back on their feet while helping heal the land and their spirit.

Strategies:

- Education and training
- Network development
- Business/Livelihood development
- Ecosystem restoration

DETAILED OVERVIEW

EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER

Our model restoration site and long term location will serve as an Education and Training Center for the bio-region and hub to conduct trainings, events/experiences, grow food for our Action Days and house the infrastructure and restoration materials for our community restoration work. And be home to our office :)

This ideal property will be located right outside of the burn zone around Paradise or Oroville and involves acquiring our own land to facilitate long term educational programs and community enterprises to serve the system we've designed. We have already developed a preliminary budget to acquire land to begin to build the first phase - *our Plant and Tree Nursery* - to propagate plants for sale. This main hub and materials produced here (compost, plants, etc.) will then serve our spokes - *the Resource Hubs spread around the area* - to create staging areas that are accessible to the public.

- Main Storage and Infrastructure of Mobile Unit
- Resource Hub of restoration materials for our projects, giveaways and for sale
- Large Plant and Tree Nursery
- Garden
- Compost Yard
- Workshops/Classes/Camp Experiences
- Camping for Camp Action Days/Permi Blitz

RESOURCE HUBS

After the Camp Fire in November of 2019, our Founder Matthew Trumm knew instantly that the land needed to be covered with wood chips, rice straw, wattles and compost to begin to heal, restore and build up new healthy soil to prevent flooding and soil erosion. He mobilized a unique design, accessible to the public, of multi-location staging areas or Resource Hubs, where ecological restoration materials were housed, picked up or delivered to locals to cover their property. Think a 'Lumber Yard of Ecological Restoration Materials'. He used readily available materials donated by Wood Chipper trucks and materials he knew available within the permaculture ecosystem he worked. The team organized over 300 volunteers to help with disaster relief through restoration material deployment and deliveries, giving away approximately 1,000 wattles, 1,200 straw bales, and more than 500 yards of wood chips. What emerged from this were opportunities to train locals in how to apply permaculture and regenerative design systems to their land, and new people who wanted demonstration sites or to serve as Resource Hubs. Today, we have:

- **Large Resource Hubs** - We currently have three staging sites for large, bulk drop offs, a church, hardware store and fire station.
- **Small Resource Hubs** - Multiple individual or community, neighborhood sites serve as different staging areas for compost, seed propagation sites and woodchips.

Locals continue to pick up ecological materials by donation for their every day living to grow plants or for restoration efforts. We will continue to mobilize Resource Hubs from the mother stock of our main hub creating local systems all across the bio-region serving people's needs for every day sustainable living and for degraded land - plants for your garden, trees for your house that provide shade to lower your air conditioner usage, and more.

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION SITES

The work we do is where everyone can see it. Public demonstrations. It's in a healthy space near resources and where the community can interact with it. They can feel the temperature change, the beauty, the insect life - it's this felt experience that is accessible to people which inspires the culture shift - naturally creating exponential growth.

Schools are our first priority, as it's the place where youth, educators and parents - the influential mother stocks of the new system - gather. Our first major demonstration project we got funded was at an elementary school. We mobilized nearly 100 volunteers on our Action Weekend to install this. We designed earthworks with swales to collect water, planted fruit trees, native plants, a herb garden and food, removed toxic handrails and built a toolshed and bench. Our ideal model would've included a rainwater catchment system too.

Demonstration sites are schools, downtown squares, churches, backyards, farms and more where we can apply permaculture and regenerative systems. We support the

emergence of new demonstration sites by facilitating resources, volunteers, materials and training. Once a new site is in place, they become a node or hub in the ecosystem through which we facilitate our model. Some become resource or material sites for plant propagation or compost creation, while others serve as education sites.

They all have a certification seal as an approved partner, which is included in the directories and guides we create to market and educate people. This is how we create the new paradigm.

POP-UP CAMPS, ACTION DAYS AND EXPERIENCES WITH A MOBILE UNIT

Right now we need restoration action happening everywhere in public spaces to do the work that's needed, educate the mainstream and create influence. Based on our widely successful first Camp Weekend and Action Day in April of 2019 that gathered nearly 100 people to create a demonstration site at a public school, we will continue to facilitate regular experiences inviting local and non-local people to participate in building demonstration sites in the area and learn. The Action Day was open to the public and included a Resource Fair with educational materials and local food and farm producers as well. Urban dwellers in neighboring cities and the Bay Area just a few hours away looking to get their hands dirty are taking a great interest in our work. We host campers creating an off grid learning experience, and choose a location in need of ecological restoration to engage volunteers in work, from planting fruit trees, cover crop and native plants, installing water systems and earthworks, or whatever is needed for that particular site.

Until we are able to secure our own property for our Learning Center, we will continue to partner with existing local permaculture farms and sites to host paid Camping experiences and Volunteer Action Weekends as regular as possible that showcase our demonstration model and engage people in restoration work in the area. Rather than one Camp, we are facilitating a system that stacks functions to influence change and create synergy as quickly as possible. Our Mobile Unit goes with us to the demonstration site where we work, easily accessible to meet the needs of where we serve, and can be available for rent to property owners interested in hosting their own ecosystem restoration groups.

Our mobile Camp infrastructure built by our experts to serve 100 campers today includes 3 dry composting toilets, an outdoor heated shower, water filtration system and kitchen and sink, all low cost appropriate technologies easy to build. Teams design systems as needed and run additional areas for kids, communal space and Wellness/Healing for massage, movement, healing and compassionate listening.

We aim to enhance our collaborations with partners to co-sponsor marketing, organizing volunteers and logistics for producing successful Camp Weekends and collect feedback from participants on ways to improve the experience.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

To share our model and inspire action across the bio-region and globally, we will document our systems creating real time online and print educational materials and resources for the public. The content will cater to anyone who is interested in applying regenerative systems and permaculture in their backyard, and also to large scale

degraded land, and serve as marketing for our systems and experts in the network. Our team will continue to conduct speaking engagements for organizations, at conferences, on the radio and for magazines to continue to promote ecosystem restoration solutions.

- *Website with a Video Series of How To's using real footage from our projects and trainings by topic*
- *Downloadable How To's and Information Guides*
- *Printed Handbook*
- *Bio-region/County specific maps and directories of our Resource Hubs, Demonstration Sites and restoration experts for hire*

NETWORK AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Our system design is facilitated by the people and partners, locally, bio-regionally and California wide who play a role in it. We recognize for large scale change to occur, we need decentralized systems, grassroots networks and allies of all kinds to contribute in creating and spreading the movement. A network approach ultimately creates the culture we want to see - a ripple effect of people trained in ecological restoration, doing it and promoting it to carry forward the new system.

Locally, our approach is built around monthly *Community Meetings* open to the public where members of the community share their needs and provide input to inform our work. We have decentralized Committees around Policy Change, Shelter, Energy, Water, etc. that give volunteers and members an opportunity to organize with us and play a role in the work. Here we keep the community informed of our work, while creating a space for new people to come and learn about regenerative systems and permaculture.

A second strategy is the development of a *Restoration Business Collective* to facilitate a network of trained local and non-local permaculture and regenerative model experts to scale new model solutions and create sustainable jobs. Experts receive a certification seal in the form of a Badge Program to showcase what training they offer. These experts are then hired for our restoration projects, to be a trainer in our education programs and referred to the public for hire. With the Directory of contact information of these experts we will produce, we facilitate the marketing of their services to property owners and businesses interested in hiring them directly, and create a way for communities to self-organize. This strategy creates a ripple effect enabling more restoration work, and creates sustainable livelihoods in the restoration services we need to build the new systems and economy we envision.

Areas of expertise:

- *Cobb/natural building*
- *Water systems*
- *Composting toilets*
- *Earthworks*
- *Propagation*
- *Energy systems*
- *Arborists*

Our *Bio-Regional network strategy* includes resource sharing through partnerships with California ERC Council, Nor Cal Resilience Network, Permaculture Action Network and other allies already doing restoration and permaculture work to facilitate needs and spread the movement; experts, volunteers, resources, opportunities, trainings, event and logistical support for Action Days.

BACKGROUND

The Camp Fire Restoration Project quickly emerged mobilized by locals, shortly after the devastating 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County to support environmental and community restoration. The team of volunteers organized boots on the ground technical, educational, and financial support linking people to resources and demonstrating methods of recovery that worked with the needs of nature and humans through applying permaculture and other ecological restoration methods.

The recovery of both the land and the people will take years, and yet, they are inextricably tied together. As a result of our work and the synergy created, people are starting to feel a sense of home and a sense of purpose joining in community to heal and to repair the area. Feeling useful and part of something bigger than individual problems is a key to healing from the deep trauma so many are experiencing.

IMPACT DATA

Summary of CFRP achievements so far in partnership with local volunteers and allies in just 7 months, November 2018-May 2019:

- Local Community Mobilization: several community potlucks and three large public meetings asking what the community wants, that created committees with local leads to continue the organizing.
 - As of now the *Shelter Committee* has organized two events on Building Alternatives - tiny homes, and cobb.
 - The *Waste to Resource Committee* has organized an event on microbiology and fungi.
- Developed relationships with two schools in the fire zone and with fire survivors who have agreed to establish public demonstration gardens of our model.
- Engaged over 50 local landowners who are requesting ecosystem restoration work at their properties. We will work to organize tools, volunteers, and experts to help with this.
- Conducted Earthworks Course and Permaculture Design Course trainings for locals of Butte County, in partnership with local permaculture experts including TreeTop Permaculture.
- Organized over 300 volunteers to help with disaster relief through restoration material deployment and deliveries.
- Given away approximately 1,000 wattles, 1,200 straw bales, and more than 500 yards of wood chips to help landowners prevent runoff on their property and retain moisture in the soil.

- We mobilized material staging sites/Resource Hubs, where restoration materials were donated, picked up or delivered to locals to offer free trainings and inspire restoration.
 - **Large Resource Hubs** - We currently have three staging sites for large, bulk drop offs, a church, hardware store and fire station.
 - **Small Resource Hubs** - Multiple individual or community, neighborhood sites serve as different staging areas for compost, seed propagation sites and woodchips.
- Sharing information and relief services: a database of resources through our community network, 500 members in a Facebook Group, lots of online education through Permaculture and Restoration “How To” videos
- Worked to influence the language for new building ordinance, Title 25, which allows for 5 year temporary eco-friendly housing. Will work to bring in experts to help with the building process when the time is right.
- Outreach, speaking, and education - both within the local community and to other audiences at various events including Santa Cruz Bioneers, the Ecosystem Restoration Camp Council, Santa Cruz Fire Recovery Planning Weekend and other events and local community meetings.
- Our work has been featured in local and national media outlets, including a new article that will be featured in YES! Magazine about our Camp Weekend

ABOUT FIRST CAMP WEEKEND

April 26-28th we produced our first pop-up Ecosystem Restoration Camp at a permaculture farm. The weekend was an opportunity to come together in the area for an educational experience in regenerative design, ecological restoration, community organizing and permaculture gardening.

We brought in builders and permaculture designers to build 3 dry composting toilets and an outdoor shower. We designed Infrastructure Areas and Teams to build and run a Wellness/Healing Tent for massages, energy healing and compassionate listening, outdoor kitchen, kids corner, outdoor camping area, communal space and campfire and more. Music around the campfire was enjoyed and participants shared reflections about the experience, which included camp fire survivors who lost their home and outsiders showing up to support. We facilitated conversations on next steps for the project and gathering input. The feedback stated there was a lot of healing, letting go and awakening happening.

We organized a Volunteer Action Day that weekend at Pine Ridge Elementary School that brought in nearly 100 people to create action projects - designed earthworks with swales to collect water, planted fruit trees, native plants, herb garden and food, removed toxic handrails and built a toolshed and bench. This is one of our public demonstration sites aimed at inspiring and teaching permaculture to youth, educators, parents and families. The area around the school was burned, and this is one of only two schools back in session after the fire. This Action Day brought together students, families, and supportive volunteers (including members of Stanford Alumni who came to volunteer) to work side-by-side learning new skills, but more importantly, focus on the

solutions of moving forward as a community after the fire. The school will be an ongoing site to demonstrate eco-friendly fire recovery methods and offer the children a way to be part of the resilience building. See article below for photos and more details.

MEDIA

[Restoring Paradise: Permaculture Meets Disaster Response](#)

[California's first ecosystem restoration camp rejuvenates school in the Camp Fire area.](#)

[Press page on website with other articles](#)