



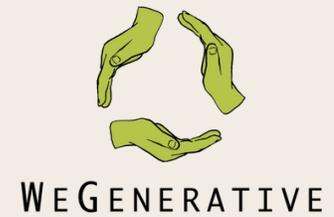
***USFS Greening Fires Initiative***  
**BEAR WILDFIRE**  
**WASTE DIVERSION**  
**REPORT**

PREPARED BY  
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WEGENERATIVE

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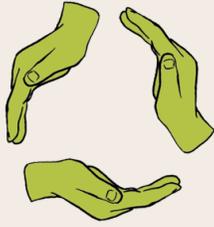
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W E G E N E R A T I V E

WeGenerative LLC  
Sophia Nielsen  
wegenerative@gmail.com  
admin@wegenerative.com  
503.883.1353

# INCIDENT INFORMATION

## **Dates of service**

Mobilized 9/4/24

Arrived 9/5/24

Demobilized 9/12/24

Report Sent 11/20/24

## **Incident General Information**

Bear Fire

Tahoe National Forest

Bear ICP

Location: 360 West Willow St. Sierraville, CA 96126

Northern California GACC

**Native land** of the following tribes: Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Washoe

## **Management**

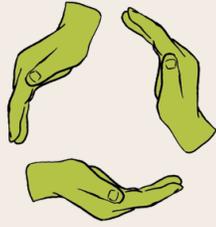
California team 2

## **Personnel**

Maximum: 881; Minimum: 233; Average: 586.5

Headcount data taken from Situation Report

\*According to Native-Land.ca using the Sierraville ICP address



W E G E N E R A T I V E

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WeGenerative is pleased to present the Waste Diversion Report for the Bear Wildfire. During our 8 days on the incident implementing waste reduction operations at the ICP, we achieved a significant 49.6% diversion rate by weight overall.

Our approach prioritized community engagement and collaboration. We successfully partnered with local recyclers, farmers, composters, food banks, and on-site personnel, emphasizing the importance of mutual support and positive relations within our team. WeGenerative firmly believes that our team is our most valuable resource, and our focus on positive team morale is instrumental in the success of our operations.

The detailed waste diversion data illustrates our dedication to accurate measurements and calculations. We meticulously weighed and measured materials, deriving diversion data from verified, weighed loads. Noteworthy is our commitment to food donation, contributing to over 8,986 lbs of food scraps benefiting multiple local pig farmers and 1,553 lbs of edible food to the local food bank. Additionally, we monetized recyclables to donate proceeds to the Emily Jane Wilbanks Memorial Fund, furthering our commitment to community support.

WeGenerative is grateful for the opportunity to contribute positively to the local community, turning would-be waste into valuable resources and promoting environmental stewardship. Our dedication to waste diversion extends beyond statistics; it represents a commitment to a more sustainable and responsible future.

# OUR TEAM

Our team included (listed in order pictured) Sophia Nielsen, Josh “Yoshi” Graveline, Doug Landers, Willow Cheng-McIntire, Josh “Best Day Ever” Chandler, Isadora Allen, Chikara Sakamoto, Raita Sakamoto



# DIVERSION SUMMARY

We diverted  
by weight overall.

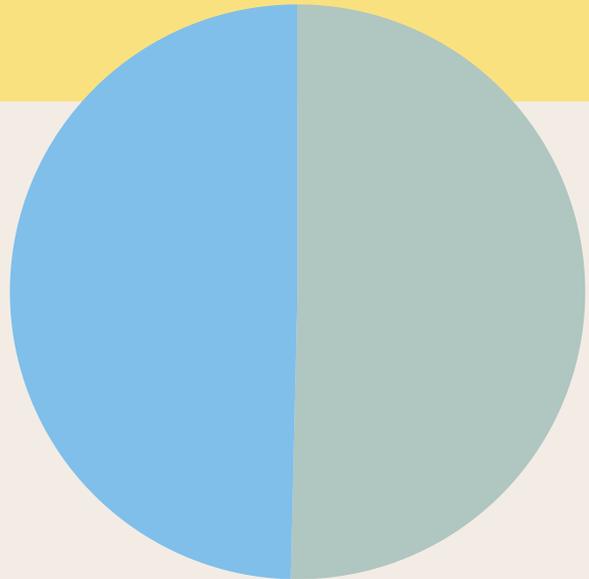
# 49.6%

Landfill  
**17,580 lbs**

Total diversion:  
**17,316.68 lbs**

Diversion  
49.6%

Landfill  
50.4%



The pie chart to the right shows diverted (blue) vs wasted materials, (grey) by percentage of weight.



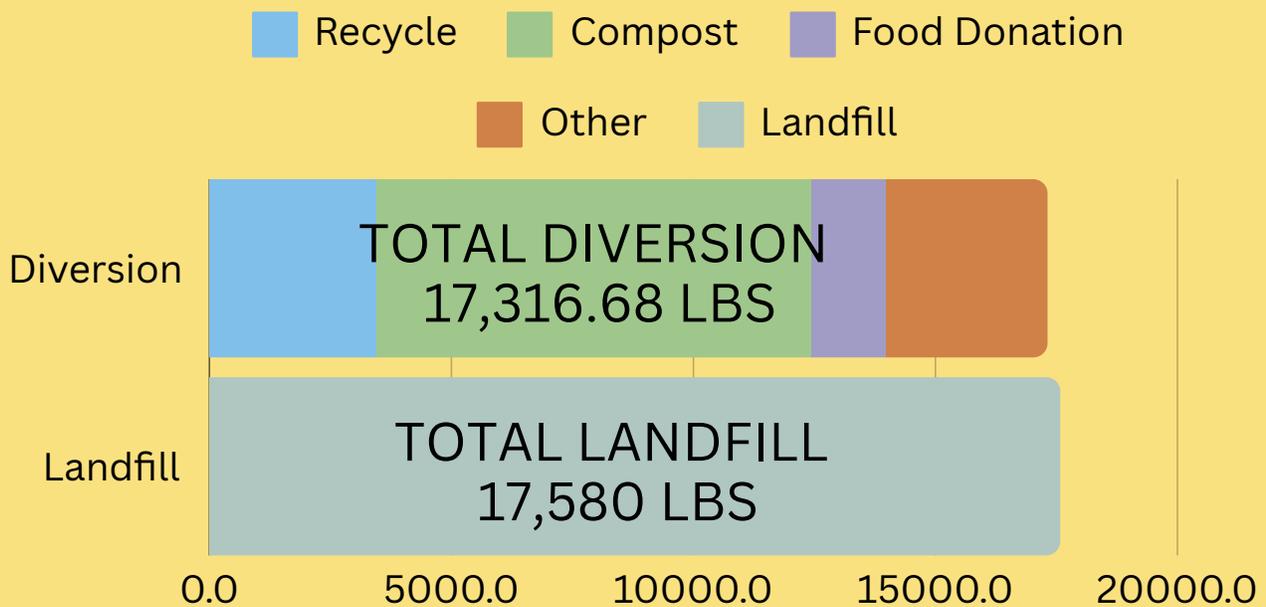
Photo: team photo of Yoshi, Doug, Sophia, Raita, and Chikara. September 2024.

# DIVERSION DATA



The bar chart below shows the diverted materials as compared to the landfilled materials. Both are measured by weight, in pounds. Combined recycled materials made up the greatest weight overall of all diverted materials when considering each diverted stream: recycling, organics, food donation, and special/other materials.

Recycle includes cardboard, paper, plastic bottles, metal cans, scrap metal, and glass.



# PICTURE THE IMPACT

It's difficult to imagine what **17,316.68 lbs** of total diversion looks like. Instead, picture this:

## We saved 15 Grizzly Bears from Landfill

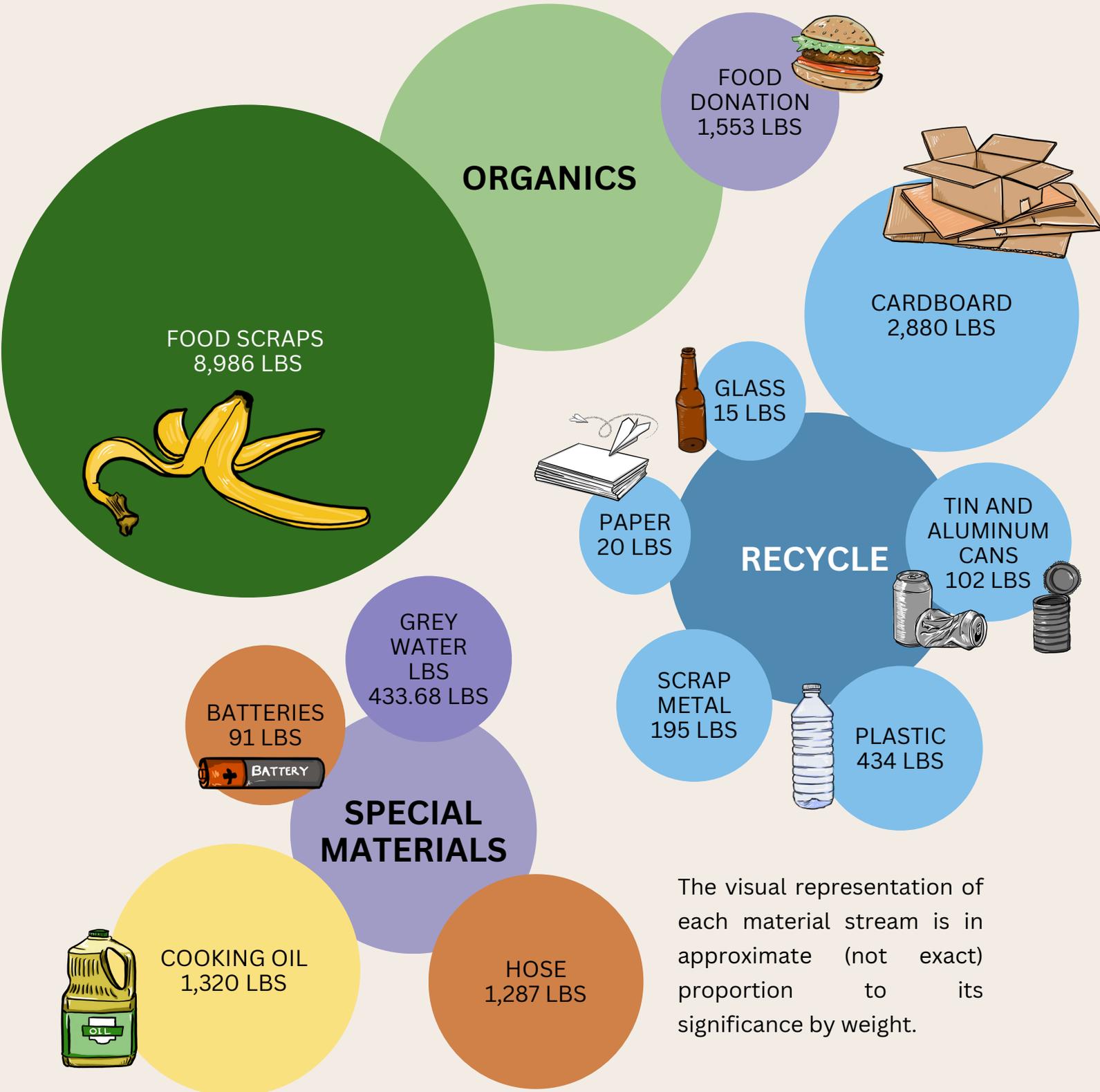


According to the “Measure of Things,” a grizzly bear weighs 1,150 lbs.

Regardless of whether you picture the resources saved as pounds or grizzly bears, our operation saved a significant weight from landfill.

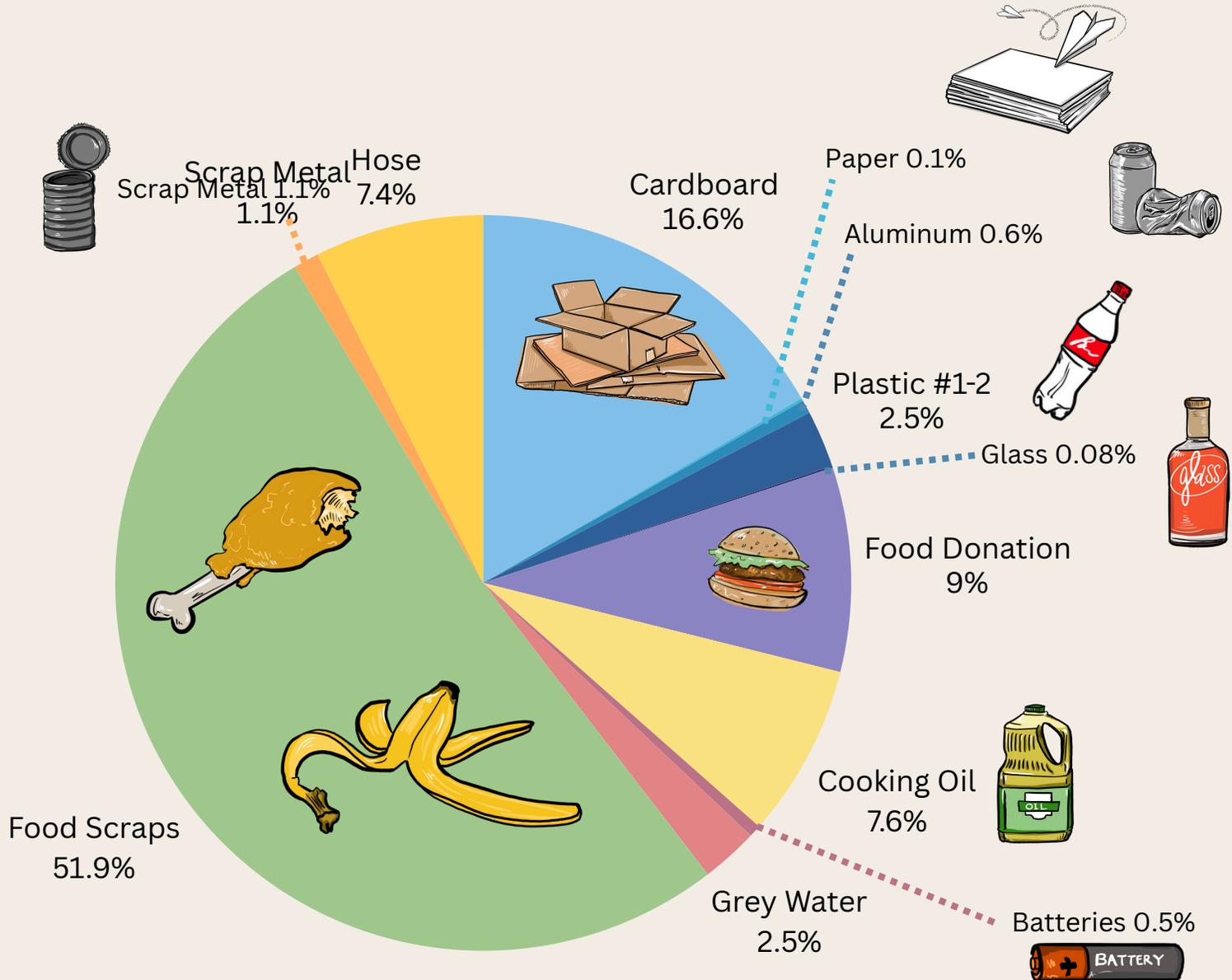
# DIVERTED MATERIALS

The following graphic demonstrates the diverted streams at this wildfire.



The visual representation of each material stream is in approximate (not exact) proportion to its significance by weight.

# DIVERTED MATERIALS



This pie chart shows all diverted materials by percentage of weight. The most significant material diverted (by weight) was food scraps, accounting for 51.9% of diverted material.

# DIVERSION DATA METHODS



We meticulously weighed, measured, and calculated material weights while on incident. All of our data is from verified, weighed loads.

Compost/food scrap were individually weighed by the bucket or bin, as shown left before being donated to local farms.

Photo: Yoshi, Chikara and Raita weighing brutes full od compost using two hand scales. September 2024.

Cardboard weights were derived from weight tickets from Intermountain Disposal hauling company weight receipts. Plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and all other recycled materials were pre-weighed using a hand scale before being taken to a recycle facility.

Food donation weights were weighed by the box by both our team as well as by local food bank.

Batteries were weighed by the bucket, with final weights verified by Battery Recyclers of America upon mass pickup. Other special materials were individually weighed.

# MATERIAL TOTALS

Commodity Type	Amount (pounds)
Cardboard	2,880
Plastic #1	434
Plastic #2	0
Paper	20
Aluminum	102
Glass	15
Scrap Metal	195
Food Scrap	8,986
Food Donation	1,553

Commodity Type	Amount (pounds)
Cooking Oil	1,320
Batteries	91
Grey Water	433.68
Hose	1,287



# RECYCLING LOCATIONS

Name	Commodity Type	Location	Dates
Intermountain Disposal	Cardboard	Portola, CA	9/11/24, 9/13/24
Emily Jane Wilbanks Memorial Scholarship Fund	Plastic bottles and Aluminum Cans (CRV)	Plumas, CA	9/17/2024, 9/11/2024
Yolo County Landfill	Scrap Metal, Paper, Glass, Food Scrap	Woodland, CA	9/17/24
Julia & Mike: Loyalton / Sierraville Food Bank	Food Donation	Sierraville, CA	9/9/24
Sierra County Office of Emergency Services	Food Donation	Sierraville, CA	9/12/24
Tony	Cooking Oil	Redding, CA	9/9/24, 9/12/24
Jon	Fire Hose	Paradise, CA	9/13/24, 9/10/24

# RECYCLING LOCATIONS

Name	Commodity Type	Location	Dates
Mike Harrod's Farm	Food Scrap	Sierraville, CA	9/8/24
Kathy and Rex's Farm	Food Scrap	Loyalton, CA	9/8/24
Tousch	Food Scrap	Sierraville, CA	9/8/24
Jeremy's Farm	Food Scrap	Sierraville, CA	9/9/2024
Cicero's Farm	Food Scrap	Manton, CA	9/10/2024
Ken's Farm	Food Scrap	Durham, CA	9/16/24
Bear Fire Grey Water Contractors	Grey Water	N/A	9/10/24
Battery Recyclers of America	Batteries	National Battery Recycling Company	9/12/24

# WASTE LOCATIONS

Name	Commodity Type	Location	Dates
Intermountain Disposal	Landfill Actual weights used	Portola, CA Sierraville ICP	9/7/24, 9/8/24, 9/11/24, 9/11/24 9/12/24, 9/13/24

# WASTE WEIGHT RECEIPTS

Click this link to access a Google folder with all confirmed weight receipts from Intermountain Disposal for the Bear Fire.

## BEAR 2024 WASTE WEIGHT RECEIPTS:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t-IMvXDt0z37m8E9M\\_MqR9zUz-F-kBmH?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t-IMvXDt0z37m8E9M_MqR9zUz-F-kBmH?usp=sharing)

## Examples

Intermountain Disposal, Inc.  
Truck Scale Reports  
Delleker Scale  
Start  
Solid waste truck # 217  
Day: Tuesday  
Description: Soay  
TNTS Bear Fire  
Sierraville Road  
DATE: 09-11-24  
INBOUND TIME: 00:31:32  
TRUCK ID: 217  
TRANSACTION: 9696  
GROSS: 27500 lb

Which company are you with?  
 IMD (White)  
 WM (Yellow)  
 SC (Green)  
 COP (Orange)

Material Type Hauled (must circle one)  
IMD COP SD

Recycling Material  
Commingled Glass  
Newsprint Cardboard  
Aluminum Plastic

Intermountain Disposal, Inc.  
Truck Scale Reports  
Delleker Scale  
Start  
Solid waste truck # 221  
Day: Sunday  
Description: 40 cu  
TJFS Bear Fire  
Sierraville Road  
DATE: 09-08-24  
INBOUND TIME: 22:19:24  
TRUCK ID: 221  
TRANSACTION: 9696  
GROSS: 34080 lb

Which company are you with?  
 IMD (White)  
 WM (Yellow)  
 SC (Green)  
 COP (Orange)

Material Type Hauled (must circle one)  
IMD COP SD

Recycling Material  
Commingled Glass  
Newsprint Cardboard  
Aluminum Plastic

Intermountain Disposal, Inc.  
Truck Scale Reports  
Delleker Scale  
Start  
Solid waste truck # 217  
Day: Wed  
Description: Soay  
Fire Camp  
Roping Grounds  
Sierraville  
DATE: 09-11-24  
INBOUND TIME: 22:35:49  
TRUCK ID: 217  
TRANSACTION: 9748  
GROSS: 34660 lb

Which company are you with?  
 IMD (White)  
 WM (Yellow)  
 SC (Green)  
 COP (Orange)

Material Type Hauled (must circle one)  
IMD COP SD

Recycling Material  
Commingled Glass  
Newsprint Cardboard  
Aluminum Plastic

# RECYCLING RECEIPTS

Click this link to access a Google folder with daily diversion documentation photos, weights, and receipts for the Bear Fire.

## BEAR 2024 RECYCLING PHOTOS AND RECEIPTS:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WGjZOb3pSefqNxaXwqZZyP66bMYauwOo?usp=sharing>

### Examples



Photos from left to right:

Sorted boxes of non-perishable donated to Mike Harrod and Sierraville Food Bank, alongside list of individual box weights. September 2024.

Fire hose in box truck and text with weight above. September 2024.



# BEAR FIRE ICP: SIERRAVILLE RODEO GROUNDS



Willow riding e-bike next to dumpster. September 2024.

Bear Fire was in Sierraville, California. The ICP was at the Sierraville Rodeogrounds. It was a dual command incident, with both USFS and CalFire represented. The kitchen was managed by CalFire for the entirety of the time we were on incident.

We were familiar with the area from having worked at the Dixie wildfire in 2021. We were happy to reconnect with Sam and Kim Wilbanks, with the Emily Jane Wilbanks Memorial Fund.

We are grateful to continue to serve the local community members that we've met in the course of this work.

# RECYCLE CENTER



From top:

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXX

XXXXXXX

Photo, above:  
Chikara sorting.



Photos below, left to right:  
Yoshi throws trash bag.  
Yoshi teaches Willow to juggle.  
Willow learns to juggle.



# PROGRAM IN ACTION



Photos from top left, clockwise (September 2024):

Chikara riding E-bike to check bins.

Willow heroically picking up a bag of potatoes that had burst all over the team while attempting to load them into a farmer's truck; this after breaking not one, not two, but three bags.

Chikara and Willow working dinner compost station.  
Ken standing in front of worm pile and freshly added compost.

# PROGRAM IN ACTION



Photos from top, counterclockwise (September 2024):

Raita at the Compost Station.

Raita and Willow unload cooking oil, and Raita reacts to getting it spilled on him.

Raita sorts trash at Recycle Center.



# PROGRAM IN ACTION



Photos from top left, clockwise (September 2024):  
Raita and Willow at compost station during breakfast.  
Chikara driving pick up full of brutes.  
Triple bin set labeled landfill, recycle, plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

# PROGRAM BENEFITS

Benefits of implementing waste reduction at this wildfire included:

**Giving back to local farmers and land.** We donated edible food and food scraps on a daily basis. On average, we donated 1,123.25 lbs food a day to local farmers and compost facilities.

**Food Sorted, Saved, and Donated to Food Banks.** We donated over 1,553 lbs of edible food to Sierra County Office of Emergency Services, as well as Julia & Mike with the Loyalton / Sierraville Food Bank.

**Recycling Proceeds Donated to NonProfits.** Our sorted recyclables were monetized for donation to charity. Charity options were presented to logistics teams based on our engagement with the community and selected by the Logistics Chief. We donated \$744.24 worth of recycling to the Emily Jane Wilbanks Memorial Fund.

**Reducing liquid trapped in landfill.** It is estimated that 1% of the world's fresh water supply is trapped in water bottles with their caps on, sealed in landfills. We always empty the liquid out of water bottles and other containers while we sort waste. We partnered with a grey water contractor on site to recycle 433.68 lbs of grey water.

**Turning would-be waste into resources.** On the Bear fire we partnered with local cooking oil recycler Tony to recycle 1,320 lbs of used cooking oil into Biofuel. We also collected 91 lbs of batteries which were responsibly recycled by Battery Recyclers of America.



# SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS

We are grateful to have worked with a total of 5 farmers: Jeremy, Kathy and Rex, Mike, and Touschulong. Touschulong is a local Loyalton teacher, teaching agriculture and vermiculture to kids. The compost we gave him will help kids become more educated about worms and compost. We worked with each farmer to ensure that the food scraps we brought them adhered to the unique needs of their animals. Over the course of our time on incident, we donated an average of

**1,123.45 LBS OF FOOD TO FARMERS A DAY**



**Jeremy and son**



**Kathy, Rex, and their dog**



**Mike Harrod**



**Touschulong Vang**

# FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We focus on food donation as the most valuable resource to save from waste and contribute positively to the local community. We partnered daily with the caterers and the Reefer team at each ICP, and sorted through individual leftovers and lunches to achieve large volumes of daily food donation. We donated food to Sierra County Office of Emergency Services, as well as Julia & Mike's Loyalton / Sierraville Food Bank.

## 1,553 LBS OF FOOD DONATED



We donated food in partnership with LeTina from the Sierra County Office of Emergency Services. Together, we donated food to the Old Sierraville School Community Center and the Loyalton High School Grizzlies Football Team.

## 194.13 LBS FOOD DONATED A DAY

Photo above: high schoolers on the Loyalton Grizzlies Football team enjoy donated snacks. November 2024.

# RECYCLING FOR CHARITY

On the Bear fire, we worked with the Emily Jane Wilbanks Memorial Fund. we sorted, transported, and donated California CRV recycling, plastic bottles and aluminum cans. In total we donated

**434 lbs of plastic bottles and 102 lbs of aluminum cans**

Based on the California CRV\* values of \$1.32 per pound for plastic and \$1.68 for aluminum, the total estimated donation value on the Bear fire is

**\$744.24 DONATED**

**The Emily Jane Wilbanks Memorial Fund** is a scholarship fund for students in Plumas County. The fund was established by Plumas County firefighters Kim and Sam Wilbanks in honor of their daughter, Emily, after they lost her in a car accident in 2000.

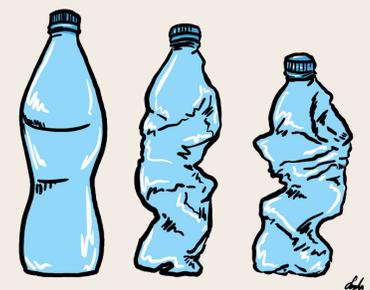


Photo: Sam and Kim Wilbanks on their truck Rusty, full of CRV in 2021, when WeGenerative met them on the Dixie Fire.

\*California CRV values were taken from [calrecycle.ca.gov](http://calrecycle.ca.gov). Due to the fires in the area, the local CRV center has been closed. Kim and Sam are storing the bags to be recycled as the center slowly reopens.

# SPECIAL MATERIALS

Special materials require special considerations, processes, and outlets. They include pallets, batteries, cooking oil, scrap metal, and fire hose.



Photos from top left, clockwise (September 2024):  
Local landscaper Jon with reused fire hose; grey water contractors picking up 5 gallon buckets of grey water.  
Yoshi standing next to Tundra pick up truck watching a VR move a forkful of fire hose to load onto the truck.  
5 gallon buckets full of batteries from admin row.



# GREENHOUSE GAS EQUIVALENCES:

## The Impact of Saving Food From the Landfill

On the Bear fire we saved 10,539 lbs of food from the landfill, this includes both the edible food we donated to local food banks and food scraps we donated to farmers. It's hard to picture what it looks like to save 10,539 lbs of food from being landfilled, let alone the 40,048.2 lbs of methane emissions\* consequently prevented from entering the atmosphere and negatively contributing to the greenhouse gas effect.

Instead, picture this:

## From the food waste we saved alone...

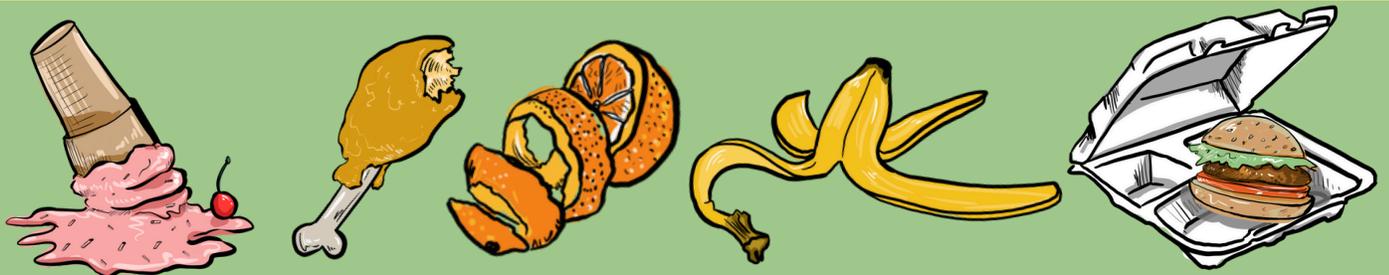
(not including any of the emissions saved from recycling efforts of other materials)

We sequestered the same amount of carbon as:

# 594 acres of US forests in a year

We saved the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent of

# 121 cars NOT driven for a year



\*a single pound of food waste that is not landfilled is estimated to save 3.8 lbs of methane emissions according to the Food and Agriculture Organization. Emissions equivalencies above are calculated using the EPA Emissions Equivalence Calculator.

# LESSONS LEARNED

The following are our team's lessons learned.

## Challenges

- CalFire Kitchen had to become familiar with the process of food scrap front and back of house, having not worked with a recycler before on incident.
- Navigating the proper procedure for recycling with inmate labor in CalFire kitchens was an adjustment for all parties involved.
- There was not a road established through the camp until later on in the incident, so the pathways were a bit DIY and made traffic flow for recycling and waste drop off difficult to predict.

## Successful Strategies

- Establishing protocol with government kitchen representatives to be followed through on by inmate labor was a huge success, and we were grateful for the cooperation that we achieved together.
- The CCC's crew were very helpful in contributing to the systems we established.

## Safety Best Practices

- Inmate crews brought kitchen leftovers to the front of house station to us directly after the close of every meal, during which we would drive the box truck dedicated to food scraps to the front of house compost station, such that we did not have to go to the back of house inmate zone for pickup. They were even so kind as to palletize leftovers in bins and lift the pallets with forklifts.



Photo: team photo of Yoshi, Doug, Sophia, Raita, and Chikara. September 2024.

# Thank You

# SPECIAL THANKS TO

Chad Carroll, our Point of Contact

CalFire

Inmate Kitchen Crews

Jeremy's Family Farm

Kathy, Rex, their dog, and farm animals

Mike Harrod's Farm

Local teacher Touschulong Vang with the Ag Program

LeTina with the Sierra County Office of Emergency Services

Sam and Kim Wilbanks and the Emily Jane Wilbanks Memorial Fund

Ken and his worms

Cicero and his farm

Jon the local fire hose guy

Tony our cooking oil friend

Richard and Intermountain Disposal

Yolo County Landfill

# ATTACHMENTS NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED

Attachments in the following pages are those that do not appear elsewhere in this proposal.

They include:

- Daily Diversion Log
- Performance evaluations





# PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

## Standard Contractor Performance Report

Highlighted blocks are required to be completed.

<b>Evaluation Type: Interim</b> <b>Final</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (check one)			
<b>Evaluating Organization (Fire Name):</b> Bear Fire		<b>Reporting Period: From</b> 9/5/24 <b>to</b> 9/12/24	
<b>Contracting Office:</b> USFS		<b>Contract Number:</b> 1202SB22T0025	<b>Order Number (Resource Order/Incident #):</b> S-50
<b>Contractor Name:</b> Wegenerative		<b>Contractor Address:</b> 3631 Truxel Rd. 1087 Sacramento, CA 95834	
<b>DUNS:</b>		<b>City:</b> Sacramento	<b>State:</b> CA
<b>Additional or Alternate Contractor Name:</b>		<b>Zip/Postal Code:</b> 95834	<b>Country:</b> USA
<b>TIN:</b>	<b>Industrial Code (NAICS):</b>	<b>Commodity Code:</b>	<b>Contract Type:</b>
<b>Contract Award Date:</b>		<b>Contract Expiration Date:</b>	<b>Contract Value:</b>
<b>Requirement Description (Equipment Type):</b> On-Site Recycling Services			

### Ratings

Summarize contractor performance and check the number which corresponds to the rating for each rating category (See attached Rating Guidelines).

<b>Quality of Product or Service (How did the Contractor perform, document any noncompliance or performance issues)</b>					
0=Unsatisfactory	1=Poor	2=Fair	3=Good	4=Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5=Outstanding

**Government Comments for Quality of Product or Service (2000 characters maximum):**

Vendor was entergetic in getting Trash/Recycling reciprocals Placed through at Camp, Vendors Crews worked well with CCC Crew to gather trash and Sorted in their Camp Location.

<b>Timeliness of Performance (Did the Contractor arrive when expected, demob timely, and perform the work in a timely manner)</b>					
0=Unsatisfactory	1=Poor	2=Fair	3=Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4=Excellent	5=Outstanding

**Government Comments for Timeliness of Performance (2000 characters maximum):**

Vendor Collected a large amount of trash to sort. through out the week the collection got larger and larger. If they had been kept longer on the fire they could have processed more. ultimately they had to trash the unsorted waste when Demob time came. More staffing or time is needed.

<b>Business Relations (Did the Contractor perform in a business-like manner, complete administrative requirements timely)</b>					
0=Unsatisfactory	1=Poor	2=Fair	3=Good	4=Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5=Outstanding

**Government Comments for Business Relations (2000 characters maximum):**

Very easy to work with and Responsive to our needs.

# PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

## Additional Info

### Contractor Key Personnel

Contractor Manager/Principal Investigator (Owner's Name): Sophia Nielsen  
Government Comment on Contractor Manager/Principal Investigator (2000 characters maximum): *{If applicable, describe working relationship with government representatives for this assignment}*

No problems and Quick to respond. Great Experience.

Contractor Key Person (Equipment Operator's Name): Same.  
Government Comment on Contractor Key Person (2000 characters maximum): *(Describe working relationship with government representatives for this assignment)*

### Customer Satisfaction

Is/was the contractor committed to customer satisfaction?  Yes  No (Check one)

Would you recommend the selection of this firm again?  Yes  No (Check one)

Government Comments on Customer Satisfaction (2000 characters maximum): *If no to either of above, explain below*

## Admin Info

Project Officer/COTR (Individual completing the evaluation)

Name: Chad Carroll BCMG  
Phone: 805-701-2721  
Fax:  
E-mail Address: Chad.Carroll@oxnard.org

Contractor Representative

Name:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
E-mail Address:

Alternate Contractor Representative

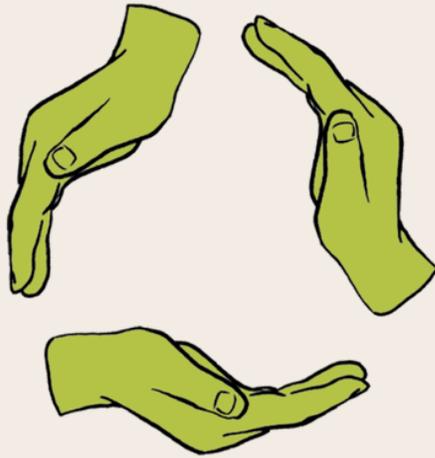
Name:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
E-mail Address:

Contracting Officer:

Name:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
E-Mail Address:

OMB CLEARANCE NO. 9000-0142  
SOURCE SELECTION INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL

3



# W E G E N E R A T I V E

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