

I urge you to pass a hazardous vegetation and flammable nuisance ordinance. Many counties and municipalities have ordinances that require landowners to be responsible about dangers to their neighbors by removing their hazardous brush and fuel.

We have multiple homes in the Caspar community in danger of fire devastation when highly flammable uncontrolled gorse catches fire. This will eventually happen. Gorse is an invasive noxious fast growing pest that is loaded with oil. Once alight it burns extremely hot and is proven impossible to extinguish.

Ongoing local efforts have been made to control gorse for years. But some properties are absentee owned and some owners make no effort to clear the brush and fuel load and have broken promises to maintain the land after public funded removal was performed. They disregard the safety of residents living within a few feet of their property borders or of the community in general. This needs to stop.

I am forwarding a photo to you showing a typical home with propane tank just a few feet from absentee owned acres of 6 foot tall gorse. Flammable eucalyptus trees are just beyond. Also pictures of Caspar Road and a nearby private road which will be impassable when the tall uncontrolled gorse on each side burns. Evacuating residents and first responders will not get through. It is possible that uncontrolled gorse on private land adjacent to CA highway 1 could burn and close that artery.

I would urge that your ordinance include enforcement provisions including assessments for brush removal, condemnation, tax liens or other measures.

Thank you for your action on this important issue.

Guil Dye, President, Broadcasting Corporation of Mendocino County, KWNE & KMKX radio.