

Mineral & Stringtown
Hazard Tree Removal
Wildfire Prevention Project



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated July 2023



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Wildfire Prevention Project



The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC) was awarded \$4.2 million of CAL FIRE, California Climate Investments Fire Prevention grant funding in 2021. The RCDTC has partnered with Mineral Firewise USA® volunteers to implement Phase I of the **Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Project**. This project will serve Mineral's Cool-Air, Lassen Alpine Village, and Meadowview subdivisions in addition to Stringtown to treat dead, dying, and diseased trees, and trees that violate Public Resources Code 4291.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why will trees be cut down?

The quantity of trees growing within the Mineral community not only increases the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire but diminishes forest health. The high volume of trees (overstock) near community infrastructure poses severe hazards to Mineral residents and emergency personnel in the event of a wildfire. In overstock conditions, tree health is compromised as they compete for nutrients and resources in a compact area, making them more vulnerable to disease and the effects of ongoing drought, including wildfire.

Removing targeted hazardous trees will reduce the current horizontal and vertical fuel continuity. This will help moderate fire behavior in the event of a wildfire and help safeguard the surrounding forest.



Who will remove the trees?

A private service contractor will be selected to complete Project work.

When will the targeted trees be removed or treated?

Seasonally as conditions allow from summer 2022 through spring 2025.

Do I have to pay for this service?

There is no additional cost to landowners in Mineral & Stringtown for this service. Funding for this project is provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will happen to the trees after they are cut?

Cut trees will be processed according to contractor terms.

Will tree stumps remain?

Yes. Stump removal is not part of this Project. Stumps will be cut to approximately 1 foot. On private property you may wish to have stumps ground down. Private businesses in the area can do this at their expense.

Will materials be addressed other than trees?

Non-tree material such as sheds, fences, waterlines, and septic tanks will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

What should we expect during hazard tree removal?

Temporary alleyway and road closures may limit access to your property. Work will occur intermittently over the course of the grant term as funding allows. Landowners will be notified in advance of project work in their area.

What could cause delay in the hazard tree removal process?

A project of this scope and scale calls for a concerted effort among partners and landowners. Primary components that have the potential to delay project work include: unfavorable weather conditions, red flag warnings, wildlife activity, equipment repair, and staffing.

What about the downed trees?

The existing downed trees from previously completed PG&E treatments will be removed as part of this Project.



Example: downed PG&E trees inventoried for removal



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are you doing to protect the wildlife in the area?

Tree removal will occur in phases due to the scale of the work, property access, and to minimize impacts to local wildlife. Removals will primarily occur from June through November to avoid the early nesting season. Before each Project work phase, a Forester will conduct wildlife surveys in the area. If any nests or plant species of concern are identified, then the finding will be excluded from the Project area. The Project will comply with CEQA guidelines and Forest Practice Rules.

How does the Firewise USA® - Mineral chapter fit in with this Project?

Mineral Firewise® USA played an integral part in bringing this Project to its community. In recognizing the dire need to address hazard trees in the Mineral area, the organization approached the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC) to identify and apply for funding to get this important work done. Fortunately, the RCDTC was able to secure grant funding to provide this Project work.

Mineral Firewise® USA volunteers serve as community liaisons among its residents, landowners, and Project Administrator, the RCDTC. The volunteers play a critical role that not only improves communications but also allows for the bulk of the grant funds to complete on-the-ground work.

Is anything being done for vegetation along county roadways in Mineral & Stringtown?

County roadway trees will be treated up to 35-inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) based on the RCDTC forester's, licensed timber operator's (LTO), and County's treatment plan. Trees along roadways under 10" DBH will be masticated. Mastication began in fall 2022 in Stringtown.

How are the trees inventoried for potential removal or treatment selected?

RCDTC foresters identify hazardous trees greater than 10" DBH that are: dead, dying, or diseased, or violate Public Resources Code 4291. Spacing between vegetation and nearby structures is informed by PRC 4291 (please see page 7).

What is the RCDTC Forester's tree species of preference to keep?

In order from most to least desirable species for this area are: Douglas fir, sugar pine, incense cedar, ponderosa pine, white fir, and lodgepole pine.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do the blue (and sometimes white) markings on the trees mean?

Identified trees within the inventory under consideration for treatment will have a blue paint mark on the trunk at chest height in each of the four cardinal directions as well as at the base of the tree. Some trees may also have a white dot, which was used as an early inventory method. In addition to paint marks, each potential Project tree is inventoried with precise GPS coordinates.

If trees are marked with blue paint on private property, that is because owners submitted an Inquiry Form and have completed a scheduled site visit with RCDTC foresters. Those trees have been identified as hazardous and are recommended for treatment.

If trees are marked with blue paint along roadways, those trees fall within Tehama County roadway easements. Trees falling within a certain distance of the surveyed center line have all been inventoried but are not necessarily marked for removal. That will be determined by a Tehama County standard.

To date, RCDTC foresters have only marked and inventoried hazardous trees throughout Cool-Air and Stringtown.

Please note, trees may also be marked that are not part of this Project and can be identified as those without the Project paint markings as described above.

How many residents have signed up through the Inquiry Form?

As of July 20th, 2023, 138 inquiry forms have been submitted.

How many properties have been site visited to date?

As of July 20th, 2023, over 90 properties have been site visited.

How many hazardous trees have been inventoried from private properties, county roadway easements, and Mineral Community Water District alleyways so far?

As of October 2022, 2,539 trees have been inventoried (2,100 in Stringtown, 439 in Cool-Air).

Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Wildfire Prevention Project



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I submitted an Inquiry Form. What's next?

Please see page 6.

I have been site visited already. What's next?

Please see page 6.

What is the difference between the Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Project, defensible space assistance, and TinderSmart Tehama?

TinderSmart Tehama is the RCDTC's umbrella program for wildfire readiness in Tehama County. *TinderSmart Tehama* encompasses, and is not limited to, the *Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Project* and defensible space assistance. These services are available at no additional cost to Mineral and Stringtown residents. For more information, please see page 7.

What is mastication?

Mastication is a mechanical fuel treatment using equipment to mulch smaller trees and brush, which often act as ladder fuels. Rearranging this fuel helps moderate fire behavior.

What Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) does Mineral & Stringtown fall within?

Mineral & Stringtown fall within CAL FIRE's State Responsibility Area (SRA) in a Very High FHSZ. Learn more here:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/>

What is the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)?

One definition of the WUI by the Community Wildfire Planning Center is:

- "Any developed area where conditions affecting the combustibility of vegetation, and structures or infrastructure (built fuels), allow for the ignition and spread of fire through the combined fuels."

Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Wildfire Prevention Project



HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

1.

For hazard tree removal or treatment on private property in Mineral's subdivisions and Stringtown, please **submit an Inquiry Form**: <https://form.jotform.com/rcdte/mineral-hazard-tree-removal>.

2.

The RCDTC forestry team will contact you to **schedule an in-person site visit**. If you are unable to find a date that works, or are unable to attend in person, you may designate a legal representative to attend on your behalf.

3.

The RCDTC forestry team will conduct **site visits** seasonally, as conditions and grant funds allow. During site visits, foresters will identify hazardous trees, such as dead, dying, and diseased trees, and trees that violate Public Resources Code 4291 (see page 4). These trees will be inventoried and marked for potential removal. It will ultimately be up to a licensed timber operator to decide what marked trees can be safely removed.



RCDTC forester measures the dbh of an incense cedar

4.

Once a project zone becomes operational, residents in that zone who have been site visited and who have provided a temporary entry permit (TEP) will be **contacted prior to work starting**. Any additional comments or concerns can be addressed during the zone walk through before operations begin.

5.

Targeted **hazardous vegetation removal or treatment** as part of Phase I funding will take place seasonally as conditions allow from fall 2022 through spring 2025.

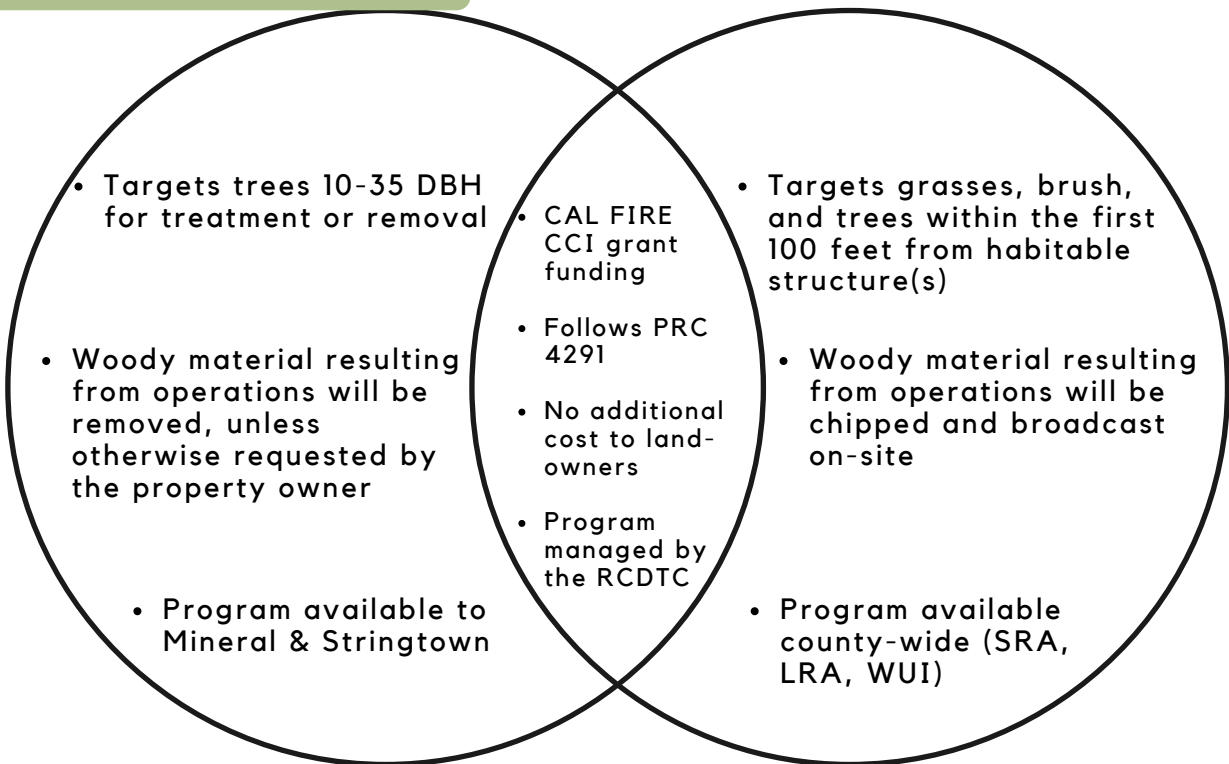
DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSISTANCE

Helping Tehama County residents create **required defensible space*** surrounding their home is a *TinderSmart Tehama* service available at no additional cost. Eligible properties must be located in Tehama County and designated within a State Responsibility Area (SRA), Local Responsibility Area (LRA), or Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone. Mineral and Stringtown residents with habitable permanent structures on their property qualify for *defensible space assistance* and the *Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Project*.

TINDERSMART TEHAMA

MINERAL & STRINGTOWN HAZARD TREE REMOVAL PHASE I

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSISTANCE



APPLY NOW:

For defensible space assistance, **submit an application:** <https://form.jotform.com/rcdte/tindersmart-dsa-application> or contact 530-727-1299 or sdickerson@tehamacountyrcd.org.

*What is Public Resources Code 4291?

PRC 4291 is the law requiring that annual defensible space exists around all structures in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material. *Learn more here:*

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace>
<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Mineral Firewise USA® Volunteers

Mineral Central Business District

Jim Richardson - jim_richardson@nps.gov | (530)-200-1225

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For hazard tree removal or treatment, submit an **Inquiry Form**:
<https://form.jotform.com/rcdte/mineral-hazard-tree-removal>

Learn more about the RCDTC's projects and services here:
<https://www.tehamacountyrcd.org/>



TinderSmart Tehama Phase II Project, is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov