

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Wildfire Prevention Project

Updated June 1, 2022



Why are trees being 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. Like all organisms under sub-optimal conditions, trees are more vulnerable to disease and the effects of ongoing drought including wildfire.

Removing targeted hazardous trees will reduce the amount of ignitable vegetation as ground-to-crown ladder fuels and crown-to-crown spread to lessen the community's wildfire severity impact should such an event occur. It also safeguards the surrounding forest.

Which trees will be removed?

Targeted trees identified as a hazard by a Forester will be removed. These trees threaten community infrastructure as well as private structures. Project work includes creating an inventory of hazard trees on land under the jurisdiction of the Mineral Community Water District and county road easements. Identified trees within the inventory under consideration for removal will have a paint mark on the trunk at chest height in each of the four cardinal directions as well as at the base of the tree. In addition to paint marks, each potential Project tree will be recorded with precise GPS coordinates. 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.

Who will remove the trees?

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

What will happen to the trees after they are cut?

Cut trees will be processed according to contractor terms.



Ladder fuels: A ground fire advances or climbs up the vegetation ladder to burn in the crown or tree top.



Crown-to-crown fire: A fire in the canopy or tops of trees advances quickly jumping from crown-to-crown.

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 other 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.

When will the targeted trees be removed?

Seasonally as conditions allow on weekdays from summer 2022 through spring 2026.

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 at 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 days
- Wildlife activity
- Equipment repair
- Staffing

What about the dead trees in Stringtown?

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

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. An environmental impact analysis has been approved to complete Project work.

How do I sign-up for free hazard tree removal to help protect my property and community from wildfire?

Contact your Mineral Firewise USA® volunteer as noted below:

Mineral Central Business District

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

or

RB Wadlington - (530) 595-3330 brucewadlington@yahoo.com

Stringtown/Mineral HOA

Susan Griffith – (530) 300-1094 suegriff1010@gmail.com

or

Larry Rinehart – (530) 521-1985 lerinehart@att.net

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 this free?

Correct. There is no cost to the landowner 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. These grant funds allow the RCDTC and its Project partners to provide this service free of charge to landowners in Mineral and Stringtown.



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