

Fire Mitigation Project Profiles 2024 - Fuels Reduction/Vegetation Management

Project Name	County Planning Unit	Lead Agency	Development	Project Start Date	Project Status	Funding Source	Partners	Description
CAL FIRE Vegetation Treatment Program	Colusa County- CalFire Responsible Areas	CalFire			Ongoing	Cost-Share Program	Private Landowners	The CAL FIRE Vegetation Treatment Program is an ongoing cost-sharing initiative between private landowners and CAL FIRE which takes the role of project administrator. The program focuses on the use of prescribed burns along with manual and mechanical fuel reduction in order to reduce the presence of fire prone vegetation on State Responsibility Area lands. Throughout the Napa-Lake Sonoma Unit which includes Colusa County, project work completed under this program has traditionally taken the form of prescribed burns completed in order to achieve gross wildland fuels reduction. The Vegetation Treatment Program allows private landowners to enter into a cost sharing contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire and other means to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals of both the landowner and CAL FIRE.
CAL FIRE Vegetation Treatment Program	Arbuckle	Calfire	2017	2017	Completed-2017	Cost-Share Program	Private Landowner- Wiggins Ranch	Prescribed Burn on 413 acres of rangeland in Arbuckle foothills
I-5 Fuel Break	Cal Trans right-of-way, both sides of Interstate 5, freeway center divide throughout Colusa County	Cal Trans			Ongoing		Calfire/California Department of Corrections Conservation Camp	Annually, vegetation within and along freeway infrastructure is mowed by Cal Trans District 3 personnel or in some circumstances hand cut by CAL FIRE/California Department of Corrections Conservation Camp crews in order to prevent roadside ignitions from spreading onto adjacent grasslands or agricultural operations.
Roadside Fuel Treatments on County Roads Within Colusa County's Local Responsibility Area and State Responsibility Areas	Colusa County's LRA and SRA lands	Colusa County Road Department			Proposed			It is recommended that the Colusa County RCD or a County agency survey County maintained roads within Colusa County's LRA and SRA lands in order to identify those road segments that are currently in need of vegetation treatment. Once these treatments were completed, it is anticipated that roadside ignition and fire spread risk could be significantly decreased, and sight lines improved. The data collected would include road name, the number of road miles in need of vegetation treatment, recommended treatment type and the location of treatment sites. As proposed, such roadside treatments would be completed by the Colusa County Road Department.
Fire Hazard Reduction Coordination with Colusa County Public Works Department	Colusa County Public Works Department's Jurisdiction	Colusa County Public Works Department			Proposed		(proposed) Landowners and Land management agencies	The Colusa County Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining the vegetation within road rights-of-way under its jurisdiction, especially those with increased wildfire risk. Properly maintained roads can act as effective and cost-efficient fuel breaks over large areas and can be used to connect and expand the impact of non-linear vegetation treatments or as hard points from which prescribed fire efforts can be initiated. It is recommended that the road maintenance manager of the CCPWD be advised whenever fire hazard reduction projects are conducted within the vicinity of County maintained road infrastructure.
Coordination of Vegetation Treatments Between Cal Trans, Colusa County Road Department, CAL FIRE, Local Fire Districts and Adjacent Landowners in Connection with Fuel Treatments Conducted Along State Route 20, 16 and 45	State Route 20, 16 and 45 under Colusa County's wildlands	Colusa County RCD			Proposed		(proposed) Caltrans District 3, Colusa RCD, Calfire, local fire districts, landowners	State Route 20 and State Route 16 pass through extensive areas of Colusa County wildlands that are at a high risk of ignition and fire spread. State Route 45 divides wildland areas adjacent to the Sacramento River from farmlands located west of the highway right-of-way. Vegetation maintenance along this route protects both native vegetation and crops from ignition risk and fire spread. Through improved coordination between Caltrans District 3 maintenance personnel, the Colusa County Road Department, CAL FIRE, local fire districts and adjacent landowners, highway infrastructure could be better leveraged in the development of a fuel break network.
Fire Hazard Reduction Coordination with PG&E	PG&E rights-of-way of its primary and secondary power transmission lines	PG&E			Proposed			PG&E is required by law to maintain vegetation clearances along the rights-of-way of its primary and secondary power transmission lines. It is recommended that future fire hazard reduction projects proposed for implementation near powerlines or other power transmission rights-of-way be coordinated with PG&E vegetation management personnel.

Fuel Hazard Reduction Coordination with Utility Providers	Colusa County	CCRCD			Proposed		(proposed) other County entities involved with fire/fuels management	Throughout Colusa County, various utility operators (phone, electric, gas, etc.) maintain underground service cables and pipelines. During installation of these linear features, vegetation is removed, and portions of the utility company right-of-way is maintained clear of vegetation and wildland fuels. If vegetation was managed along the entire length of utility rights-of-ways, these linear features could provide access for firefighters and their equipment as well as the framework for a more extensive fuel break network within a significant portion of the three planning units.
Map of "Fire Protection Existing Benefit Rating Criteria" for Roads within the Grindstone District of the Mendocino National Forest	Mendocino National Forest	Grindstone Ranger District			Proposed			Once the classification of road segments within the Grindstone District have been completed, highly rated roads could be recommended for fuels reduction projects including shaded fuel breaks or other linear treatments. Roads recommended for such actions would have significant physical characteristics that directly benefit the effectiveness of proposed roadside vegetation manipulation. Through the implementation of such liner fuel treatments, future fire control and fuels management projects completed on nearby parcels could be made more effective and cost efficient by leveraging in place Forest Service roadside work. Road mapping would also aid in the development of fuel treatments on private inholdings within the Mendocino National Forest as well as lands adjacent to the National Forest's eastern boundary.
Vegetation Treatments Around Cell Towers Throughout Colusa County	Colusa County	Colusa County RCD's Countywide Base Map			Proposed		(proposed) Calfire	It is recommended that all cell tower locations within Colusa County be located and incorporated into the Colusa County RCD's Countywide Base Map prepared in connection with development of this CWPP document which displays at risk assets. With this information, inspection of these sites can be made by County fire authorities or CAL FIRE (depending upon their location) with necessary follow-up treatments completed.
Fuel Treatments Permit Coordination Program	Western Colusa County	CCRCD			Proposed		(proposed) CEQA	It is recommended that the CCRCD or other entity having an ability to become CEQA Lead Agency develop a fuel treatments permit coordination program and related programmatic CEQA environmental analysis document (Programmatic Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration). The goal of such an effort would be to assess the potential impact of common fuels/vegetation treatments that are often employed by private landowners within a specific assessment area located in Western Colusa County. Through the pre- approval of specific fuel treatment techniques, it is anticipated that development of fire management infrastructure and implementation of fire/fuels and watershed management projects can be completed in a timely and cost-efficient manner thus increasing the pace and scale of such projects' implementation.
Project WCCP-1 Mendocino National Forest Prescribed Burn Program	Mendocino National Forest's eastside area	The Grindstone District of the Mendocino National Forest			Completed-ongoing			The Grindstone District of the Mendocino National Forest conducts an on-going program of fuel treatments on forestlands grasslands and chaparral throughout the Forest's eastside area. At the present time, burns have been completed in a number of locations along the eastern crest of the Coast Range.
Project WCIP-1 BLM Sheep Grazing at Payne Ranch Site	Payne Ranch Site, Route 20, Routh 16	BLM			In progress			At the present time, the BLM is conducting sheep grazing vegetation management operations at the Payne Ranch site south and west of State Route 20 and 16. Up to 4,000 acres of meadows sites will be treated in this manner in order to reduce hazardous fuels and control invasive weeds (Yellow Star Thistle, Barb goat grass and Medusa head.)
Project WCIP-2 Programmatic National Environmental Policy Act Analysis of Prescribed Fire Projects Conducted on Private Lands Located Within the Mendocino National Forest	Mendocino National Forest	US Forest Service			In progress		Private inholders, federal, state and local government regulatory entities	Per the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, US Forest Service personnel are in the process of developing a programmatic environmental analysis document related to the future implementation of prescribed fire projects conducted on private lands located within Mendocino National Forest boundaries.
Project WCCP-1: M5 Roadside Hazard Project/M10 Roadside Hazard Project	Mendocino National Forest	Medocino National Forest			Proposed			The marking guidelines established for this effort address live and dead trees that may impact roads and infrastructure. The goal of these projects is to allow the Mendocino National Forest an ability to continue providing safe ingress/egress of the National Forest's transportation system to the public, local in-holders as well as USFS employees. Implementation of project work include the removal of sawtimber and biomass size classes of trees.

Project WCPP-2: Upper Stony Creek Project	Upper Stony Creek	Medocino National Forest NEPA			Proposed			The Upper Stony Project is currently under Mendocino National Forest NEPA environmental analysis. Project work entails removal of salvage sawtimber and biomass along with site preparation and reforestation efforts within a 4,200 acre project of the Upper Stony Creek watershed. Removing sawtimber and biomass within the project area will provide site preparation for future restoration efforts as the removal of dead overstory trees facilitates the creation of safe working environments.
Project WCPP-3: Processing of Fuels Around Cabins Within the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area	Snow Mountain Wilderness				Proposed			At the present time, large volumes of trees and cut bush have been cut and stacked around cabins located within the Snow Mountain Wilderness. It is recommended that this material be treated or removed as soon as possible by responsible entities.
Project WCPP-7: Development and/or Improvement of Roadside Fuel Breaks	Maxwell-Sites Road, Sites-Lodoga Road, Stonyford-Lodoga Road, East Park Reservoir Road, Indian Springs Road (County Road M-18), Fouts Springs Rd (County Road M-10), Lake View Loop (entire road loop), Goat Mountain Road (County Road 42), Rail Canyon Road (County Road 401), Lodoga-Leesville Road, Bear Valley Road, Brim Road, Wilbur Springs Road, Walker Ridge Road, Leesville Road, King Road, Spring Valley Road/Manzanita Road				Proposed			The following County maintained roads are considered high ignition zones due to adjacent flammable vegetation, traffic volumes and population within the area. At the present time a number of these routes have had no vegetation treatments and those where treatments have occurred are in need of maintenance.
Project WCPP-14: Establishment, Development and Maintenance of a Multi-Parcel Fuel Break Surrounding the Communities of Stonyford and Lodoga	Stonyford, Lodoga	Stonyford and Lodoga Communities			Proposed		(proposed) CCRCD, CalFire, Land-owners. Local fire agencies	it is recommended that the Colusa County RCD, CAL FIRE, local fire agencies, and landowners create a collaborative public/private group to establish routes and boundaries for a series of fuel breaks that protect these developed areas. In creating such a landscape feature, multiple landowners over whose property the fuel break would be developed and continuously maintained would need to be contacted to obtain a signed access agreement allowing initial entry onto treatment parcels
Project WCPP-15: Ridge Top Fuel Break East of East Park Reservoir.	East Park Reservoir				Proposed			Though the improvement and maintenance of a ridge top fuel break located along this ridgeline, private lands east of the ridge would be protected from wildfire that developed within heavily used State Park facilities to the west, along the shore of East Park Reservoir. Similarly, these State managed lands would be protected from fire wildfire that occurred on private range and wildlands east of the ridge.
Project WCPP-18: Ridgeline Fuel Breaks and Large-Scale Prescribed Burns	Mendocino National Forest's eastern boundary west of the Stonyford-Lodoga Road				Proposed		(proposed) CCRCD, Calfire, MNF administrative staff	Significant among these are ridgeline fuel breaks and large prescribed burns such as those sponsored and conducted by CAL FIRE through their Vegetation Treatment Program described above. It is also recommended that CCRCD personnel discuss with MNF administrative staff, development of collaborative ridgeline and prescribed burn projects that entail treatments on public and private lands including inholding parcels and those adjacent to the Mendocino National Forest's eastern boundary west of the Stonyford-Lodoga Road.

Project WCPP-19: Fuels Reduction on Private Lands Adjacent to Mendocino National Forest Boundaries Utilizing Wyden Amendment Legislation	Mendocino National Forest System Lands	USFS			Proposed		(proposed) Federal, Tribal, and State governments, landowners	A recommendation was made by local stakeholders for MNF administration to collaborate with local FSC's, the CCRCD and other County stakeholders in expediting implementation of the authorizations provided by Wyden Amendment legislation in order to direct USFS financial and technical resources related to fuel reduction efforts. Through such action, the goals and objectives for National Forest fire and fuels management efforts would more closely match those of the landowners and communities located adjacent to the National Forest boundary.
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