

Fire Mitigation Project Profiles 2024- Infrastructure Improvements

Project Name	County Planning Unit	Lead Agency	Development Date	Project Start Date	Project Status	Funding Source	Partners	Description
CAL FIRE/Colusa County Fire Defensible Space Inspections	Colusa County's SRA lands				Ongoing			Changes to Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 expand the defensible space clearance requirement maintained around buildings and structures within SRAs from 30' to 100'. CAL FIRE personnel conduct random fire inspections on residences located within Colusa County's SRA lands in order to determine whether defensible space has been established and maintained around structures in accordance with these regulations.
Development of Formal Evacuation Routes, Pre-Designated Candidate Fire Safety Zone Sites and Related Maps for the Communities within CCCWPP Planning units	Colusa County	Calfire			Proposed			In the event of a large, fast moving wildfire in the vicinity of rural communities or other populated portions of Colusa County, various escape routes may become blocked, preventing egress to safe areas in other parts of the County or to neighboring counties. In such an event, the creation of formal emergency evacuation routes along with safety zones defined as areas where people and equipment can take refuge without fear of death, injury, or damage/destruction would be invaluable. Recommended safety routes would need to include fairly well-developed roads that could accommodate low clearance vehicles. They would also need to be established with the concurrence of law enforcement agencies who would act as enforcement officials given that these entities are tasked with issuing and managing evacuation operations and road closures.
Installation of Water Tanks with High Volume Fill Spout Fittings	Colusa County rural communities	CCCWPP			Proposed		(proposed) CCRCD, Calfire, Colusa County Planning Department	Consequently, an important recommendation by CCCWPP stakeholders is for the development of supplemental water sources for use in firefighting efforts. Fifty thousand (50,000) gallon water tanks are recommended for installation in communities that have a single urban core where most homes and other structures are located in a central location. Ten thousand (10,000) gallon tanks are recommended along State highways and secondary roads as well as disbursed communities covering large areas such as the community of Leesville.
Mapping of Secondary Ranch Roads	Colusa County Ranch Roads	CCCWPP			Proposed			A number of ranch roads and other wildland routes are located throughout the Colusa County CWPP project planning area that could be used for both access to remote areas by firefighting personnel as well as for egress by area traffic during a significant wildfire event. Gates across these routes would require the installation of combination locks or those that could be keyed in a manner that would give firefighting personnel, land managers, and local rural residents the ability to open them rapidly in the event of a fire or other emergency.
Review of Colusa County Building, Land Development, and Zoning Codes	Colusa County	Colusa County			Proposed			In order to reduce structural ignitability, the Colusa County building and land development codes should be reviewed in order to determine if all current building and land development standards incorporate fire safe standards.
Incorporate Fire Safe Principles in County Land Use and Zoning Ordinances	Colusa County	Colusa County Planning Department			Proposed			The Colusa County Planning Department should consider reviewing its land use and zoning ordinances in order to assure that these codes adequately, efficiently, and effectively promote fire safety and structure survival in the event of catastrophic wildfire.
Elimination of Wood Shake Roofs within the Portions of Colusa County Classified as a High Fire Threat	Colusa County	Colusa County Building Department			Proposed		(proposed) TGFSC, local FSC, CCRCD	Efforts should be made to eliminate wood shake roofs within the areas of Colusa County classified as having a high fire threat. Research shows that homes with noncombustible roofs and clearance of at least 30' to 60' have a 95% chance of survival in a wildfire. In order to promote this effort, the TGFSC or local FSC if developed along with the CCRCD should work with the Colusa County Building Department to educate residents about the importance of replacing shake roofs.
County Incentives for Fire Safe Landscaping	Colusa County	Colusa County Building Department			Proposed		(proposed) homeowners, rural property owners	In addition to constructing homes and other structures that are capable of surviving catastrophic wildfire events, the Colusa County Building Department should review building and development codes in order to assure that all landscaping requirements are fire safe.
County Advocacy of Emergency Power Sources to Cell Towers	Colusa County Cell Towers	Colusa County Board of Supervisors			Proposed			A recommendation was made for the Colusa County Board of Supervisors or other County entity to advocate among communications utility providers for the provision of emergency power to cell towers. It was noted that during large wildfires, cell phone towers can become inoperable due to a loss of power resulting in residents unable to contact or be contacted by emergency response personnel.
Project WCCP-2 Fuels Management Component of the Colusa Wind Energy (aka Walker Ridge) Project	Colusa County	Bureau of Land Management			Completed		PG&E	The Colusa Wind Energy Project entails the development of a wind turbine energy farm with up to 42 wind turbines to be located on approximately 2,270 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management along Walker Ridge in Lake and Colusa counties.
Project WCCP-2: Upper Stony Creek Project	Colusa County				Ongoing			The Upper Stony Project is currently under Mendocino National Forest NEPA environmental analysis. Project work entails removal of salvage saw timber and biomass along with site preparation and reforestation efforts within a 4,200 acre project of the Upper Stony Creek watershed. Removing saw timber 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. Logging operations will facilitate soil overstory trees facilitates the creation of safe working environments. Logging operations will facilitate soil scarification, slash removal and micro-siting that are critical for the survival of seedlings that will be planted. In addition, project work will result in reforestation within roadside areas that are a part of the MNF's current road maintenance program.

Project WCPP-6: Investment by Local Water Provider to Install Improved Fire Water Delivery System Within and Around the Stonyford Area	StonyFord Community	Stonyford Residents			Proposed	(proposed) Colusa County Department of Public Works, Colusa County Board of Supervisors	At the present time insufficient fire water delivery systems in and around the Stonyford Community result local residents having an inadequate water supply during wildfire events. Recommended improvements to the current delivery system are described below: Stonyford's water provider seek loans or other sources of funding to replace these undersized and poorly operating delivery lines thus improving water delivery during wildfire events.
Project WCPP-8: Creation of Green Road as An Auxiliary Road/Emergency	Green Road	Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation				(proposed) CalFire	A recommendation was made for CAL FIRE, the Colusa County Road Department or other appropriate entity to develop an emergency use agreement for ingress/egress by members of the Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation. Such an agreement would require road repair and maintenance in order for low clearance and non-four-wheel vehicles to pass.
Project WCPP-10: Upgrading of Emergency Water Infrastructure Within Land Under Control of the Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation	Land under Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation	Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation			Proposed		A recommendation was made for improvements and upgrades to be made on the fire/emergency water system within lands under control of the Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation in order to increase member protection during wildlife events.
Project WCPP-5 CCRCD, CalFire, CC Fire Districts develop FireWise Communities Within Western Colusa County	Western Colusa County	CCRCD, CalFire			Proposed		In addition to local education and outreach efforts, a recommendation was made for the Colusa County RCD, CAL FIRE and other County fire entities to pursue development of numerous Firewise Communities through a formal process established by the National Fire Protection association's Firewise USA program.
Project WCPP-7 Development and/or Improvment of Roadside Fuel Breaks	Western Colusa County	CCRCD, CalFire			Proposed		Some Colusa 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-12: Improved Enforcement of State Defensible Space Requirements Through Increased CalFire/Colusa County Fire Department Inspections	Western Colusa County	CCRCD, CalFire			Proposed		Adjacent to a number of County maintained roads and State highways withinthe three CCWPP planning units are properties- some under absentee ownership, that are in need of fuel treatments. CalFire Units currently have inspection and enforcement personnel assigned to enforce State defensible space regulations within SRA lands. These inpspections assure that all property owners are either in compliance or are remediating conditions.
Project WCPP-13: Defensible Space Assistance and Community Chipping Program for Elderly, Disabled and Low-Income Property Owners.	Western Colusa County	CCRCD, CalFire			Proposed		Based upon input at community meetings conducted in connection with the Colusa County CWPP fire planning effort, it was noted that numerous elderly, disabled and low income persons live within rural communities and outlying areas of Colusa County such as the Lake View Loop area and the Century Ranch development near Stonyford. A recommendation was made for the CCRCD or another local entity to develop a work program and seek funding for wildfire eduction efforts and fuels management assistance.
Project WCPP-16: Watershed Assessments	USFS				Proposed		Watershed analysis is required prior to the implementation of watershed treatments within National Forest riparian reserves and other watershed lands. The recommendation was made that such analysis be completed of unassessed watersheds within that portion of the Mendocino National Forest located in Colusa County. Assessments could be completed by USFS personnel or other appropriate entity's staff according to U.S. Forest Service Region 5 protocols and format. With such analysis completed, Mendocino National Forest resource personnel would be able to develop and implement project work that improves current conditions once specific work scopes and NEPA environmental analysis had been completed. This analysis could be used by the Mendocino National Forest. CCRCD and other implementing entities when developing project proposals to federally funded duels work outside but adjacent to MNF lands. Such analysis could also be used to identify issues and implement successful watershed protection/implementation efforts using State or private foundation dollars.
Project WCPP-18: Ridge-top Fuel Breaks and Large-Sale Prescribed Burns	USFS				Proposed		In addition to roadside fuel breaks, other fire/fuels management techniques are available with which to control wildfire and wildland fuels, as well as their impacts on communities and landscapes. Significant among these are ridge-top 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 ridge-top 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. Similar discussion should also be had with BLM personnel located at the agency's Ukiah office.
Project WCPP-20: Community Preparedness Rehearsals, Information and Evacuation Plans	Western Colusa County	CCRCD, CalFire			Proposed		Recommendations by community members included trainings and rehearsals of emergency procedures in the event of wildfire. Other recommendations included the creation of a comprehensive list of fire prevention and firefighting resources that should be maintained around the home or ranch such as fire swatters and other tools to be used in the event of ignitions and fire spread. It was also recommended that a list of items be included in personal fire preparedness kits and be distributed to residents.
Project SRC-1: Brushing of Roberts Road within the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area	Sac River Corridor	City of Colusa			Completed		Project SRC-1 Brushing of Roberts Road within the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area Roadside brushing has been completed by the City of Colusa in order to open Roberts Road located on the westside of the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area. These treatments not only improve passage along the road, but they also create a fuel break between undeveloped park lands and adjacent developed sites/agricultural operations. Possible Annual Work.
Project DCBSIP-1 USFWS Roadside Mowing Along National Wildlife Refuge Boundaries	Colusa National Wildlife Area	U.S Fish and Wildlife Service			In Progress		On a yearly basis, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service personnel complete roadside mowing along public road edges adjacent to Delevan, Colusa, and Butte Sink Wildlife Area managed lands. These treatments are conducted in order to reduce the risk of roadside ignitions spreading onto these federally managed parcels. They also create a temporary fuel break in the event wildfire occurs on either side of public roadways.

Project DCBSPP-1 Prescribed Burns Within Wildlife Lands Adjacent to State Route 20 and Maxwell Road (USFWS Project name Colusa T4)	Wildlife Lands Adjacent to Hwy 20/Maxwell Road				Proposed			Proposed project work entails burning 69 acres of upland grass along Highway 20 and Maxwell Road to promote native grasses and reduce hazardous fuels.
Project DCBSPP-2 Prescribed Burns Within Wildlife Area Lands Adjacent to Abel Road (USFWS Project Name T27:1)	Colusa National Wildlife Area				In Progress			Colusa National Wildlife Area Lands along Abel Road are burned on a rotational basis in order to promote tricolor black bird nesting sites and to reduce hazardous fuels on these USFWS lands in eastern Colusa County
Project DCBSPP-3 Prescribed Burns of Round Stem Tules Within Wildlife Area Lands Adjacent to Abel road (USFWS Project Name Colusa T27.2)	Colusa National Wildlife Area				In Progress			As proposed, 54 acres of round stem tule will be burned thus adding to 44 acres of similar vegetation treatments on Colusa Wildlife Area to the north several years ago.
Project DCBSPP-4 Prescribed Burns of Upland Grass Within Delevan Wildlife Area Lands Adjacent to 4 Mile Road (USFWS Project Name Delevan T1:1)	Colusa National Wildlife Area				In Progress			40 acres of upland grass along 4 Mile Road adjacent to the Delevan Wildlife Refuge will be burned in order to promote native grasses. These vegetation treatments will also act as a fuel break in the event of future fire starts.
Project DCBSPP-5 Sacramento NWR Fire Break	Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge				Proposed			This fire break would extend along the length of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge from north to south with treatment areas located a short distance from highway 99W to nearby railroad tracks. Only a small section of the project area's south end would be in Colusa County.
CalFire LNU Unit Strategic Fire Plan					Completed			The Cal Fire Napa-Lake-Sonoma unit Strategic Fire Plan is a cooperative effort between State and local stakeholders focused on fire and fuels management within Napa, Lake, Sonoma, Solano, Yolo and Colusa Counties. The N-L-S unit's Pre-Fire Engineer is responsible for updating the multi-county fire plan through the incorporation of current fire policies at the State level and identification of new and in-progress project work that will impact fire hazards thus advancing the fire and fuels management agenda of the unit. Local stakeholders to that planning process included fire personnel, other public agency staff and members of the public who provided input related to local conditions.
Project WCPP-15: Ridge Top Fuel Break East of East Park Reservoir								Several Miles east of the East Park Reservoir between the Sites-Lodoga Rd and the reservoir is a north/south trending ridge located within a large Bureau of Land Management parcel. High traffic from lake-goers could cause roadside or human started ignitions.
Project WCPP-14: Establishment, Development and Maintenance of a Multi-Parcel Fuel Break Surrounding the communities of Stonyford and Lodoga								In order to better protect the Stonyford and Lodoga communities along with surrounding developed and wildland areas from fire, 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. An agreement that would allow future access by project personnel or commitment by landowners to personally maintain vegetation would be needed to sustain the viability of these vegetation treatments. Local or other sources of funding would need to be secured to initially develop the fuel break and continuously retreat the project area on those parcels in which landowners didn't provide maintenance treatments.
Project SRPP-1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sacramento River-Boggs Bend Unit Prescribed Burn	USFWS				In Progress			2 acres of piled flood debris will be burned in the Sacramento River-Boggs Bend Unit to remove heavy dead and down fuels from riparian and oak woodland stands reducing fire risk and severity in the event fire moved through these sites.
Project SRIP-1 Reclamation District 108 Yearly Levee Maintenance	RD108				In Progress			On a yearly basis, Reclamation District 108 personnel complete burning of grassy vegetation established along levees under its jurisdiction adjacent to the Sacramento River. In addition, a 10' wide disked area is created at the levee toe on the riverside in order to prevent fire that could occur on the levee from spreading into dense riverside vegetation.
Project SRIP-2 River Partners Riparian Grassland Maintenance	River Partners				In Progress			At Willow Bend along the Sacramento River, River Partners owns several parcels in which native riparian habitat is being developed. In order to maintain grassland health and to reduce the risk of ignition and fire spread, these lands are mowed once or twice per year.
Project SRIP-3 California Department of Water Resources Habitat and Maintenance Unit Vegetation Treatments Within the Colusa Bypass Area	DWR				In Progress			Vegetation in the Colusa bypass area is managed by the California Department of Water Resources Habitat and Maintenance unit located in Sutter County. On a yearly basis, DWR personnel mow vegetation to allow for adequate flood flows. These treatments also reduce fire ignition risk and spread within the river's riparian zone.
Project SRIP-4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Vegetation Mowing on Agency Managed Parcels Adjacent to the Sacramento River	USFWS				In Progress			The USFWS manages a number of parcels adjacent to the Sacramento River including those in Colusa County. In order to improve habitat conditions and reduce fire ignition and spread risk, annual mowing of vegetation within these areas is completed.

CalFire Vegetation Treatment Program	CalFire				In Progress		Ongoing cost-sharing initiative between private landowners and CAL FIRE which takes the role of project administrator. The program focuses on other use of prescribed burns along with manual and mechanical fuel reduction to reduce the presence of fire prone vegetation on the State Responsibility Area (SRA) 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 wild land 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
Project WCIP-1 BLM Sheep Grazing at Payne Ranch Site	BLM				In Progress		At the present time, 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.) These grazing operations are follow-up treatments to a smaller prescribed burn project that was completed in the area a number of year ago.
Project WCPP-1: M5 Roadside Hazard Project/M10 Roadside Hazard Project					In Progress		The M5 (650 acres of timber harvest and 1,300 fuel treatment acres) and M10 (1,900 acres of timber harvesting and 3,800 fuel treatment acres) Roadside Hazard Projects address fire-killed and fire-injured trees along roadways. 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.