

Mineral & Stringtown
Hazard Tree Removal
Wildfire Prevention Project



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



MINERAL & STRINGTOWN HAZARD TREE REMOVAL

PHASE I

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 the Mineral Firewise USA® Council to implement Phase I of the Mineral & Stringtown Hazard Tree Removal Project. This project will ultimately serve Mineral's Cool-Air, Lassen Alpine Village, and Meadowview subdivisions in addition to Stringtown at no additional cost to residents to treat dead, dying, and diseased trees, and trees that violate Public Resources Code 4291 (see page 4). This report includes a summary of year one activities, how you can get involved, and the RCDTC's TinderSmart Tehama Defensible Space Program.

PHASE I OBJECTIVES

1. Remove roughly 1800 hazardous trees (10 to 25 DBH*)
 - a. Remove downed PG&E trees
2. Remove roughly 752 hazardous trees (25.1 to 35 DBH)
 - a. Remove downed PG&E trees
3. Approximately 40 acres of mastication**

TIMELINE

Past

- Hazard tree inventory: spring-fall 2022, targeting Stringtown
- Roadside mastication: fall 2022 along White Fir, Brokeoff Trail Lane, and Aspen Lane in Stringtown

Present

- Year-end wrap up, reflections for year one (see page 2)
- Operational planning

Future

- Apply for Phase II funding by March 2023
- Operations begin
- Continue inventory
- Apply for future phases as necessary

*DBH is diameter at breast height (4.5 feet up from the base a tree's trunk on the uphill side) in inches. See page 3 for an example of how foresters measure the diameter of a tree.

**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.



Example: downed PG&E trees inventoried for removal



Example: excessive ground fuel

2022 SUMMARY

STRINGTOWN

- **2,100** hazard trees inventoried
 - Trees 10-25 DBH = 1488
 - Trees 25.1-35 DBH = 430
 - Trees > 35.1 DBH = 182
- **15** acres of mastication completed along White Fir, Brokeoff Trail Ln, and Aspen Ln
- **61** of 112 lots with completed and partially completed site visits
- **74** of 112 lots submitted an inquiry form

2022 TOTALS

- **81** completed site visits
- **11** partially completed site visits
- **10** postponed site visits
- **27** properties in the queue
- **2,539** total hazard trees inventoried by foresters in 2022

COOL-AIR

- **439** hazard trees inventoried
 - Trees 10-25 DBH = 349
 - Trees 25.1-35 DBH = 73
 - Trees > 35.1 DBH = 17
- **31** lots inventoried



Example: dense ladder fuels along the roadside connect ground fuels to tree canopies. Canopies are also touching, or are continuous.

WHAT WE FOUND...

- **Hazardous number of trees per acre** (too many trees also stress water and nutrient availability)
- Significant **crown continuity**, **ladder fuels** and **ground fuels** that could enable extreme fire behavior if left untreated
- Tree health impacted by **insects** (e.g. bark beetle) and **diseases** (e.g. mistletoe)
- **Drought** (declining snowpack) negatively affecting white fir
- **Trees and vegetation within five feet of structures** (violates Public Resources Code 4291)

CHALLENGES...

- **Powerlines**, especially powerlines attached to trees
- **Cost per tree** to remove (depends on diameter, height, and complexity)
- **Large volume of material** to remove from the community requires numerous strategies
- How do we take Mineral from a **Very High Hazard Fuel Zone** to a **Low Hazard Fuel Zone**?
- Complying with the California Environmental Quality Act, **CEQA**, **limits work windows**

MINERAL & STRINGTOWN HAZARD TREE REMOVAL

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/rcdtc/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. The next round of site visits will not occur until spring 2023.



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 2026.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSISTANCE

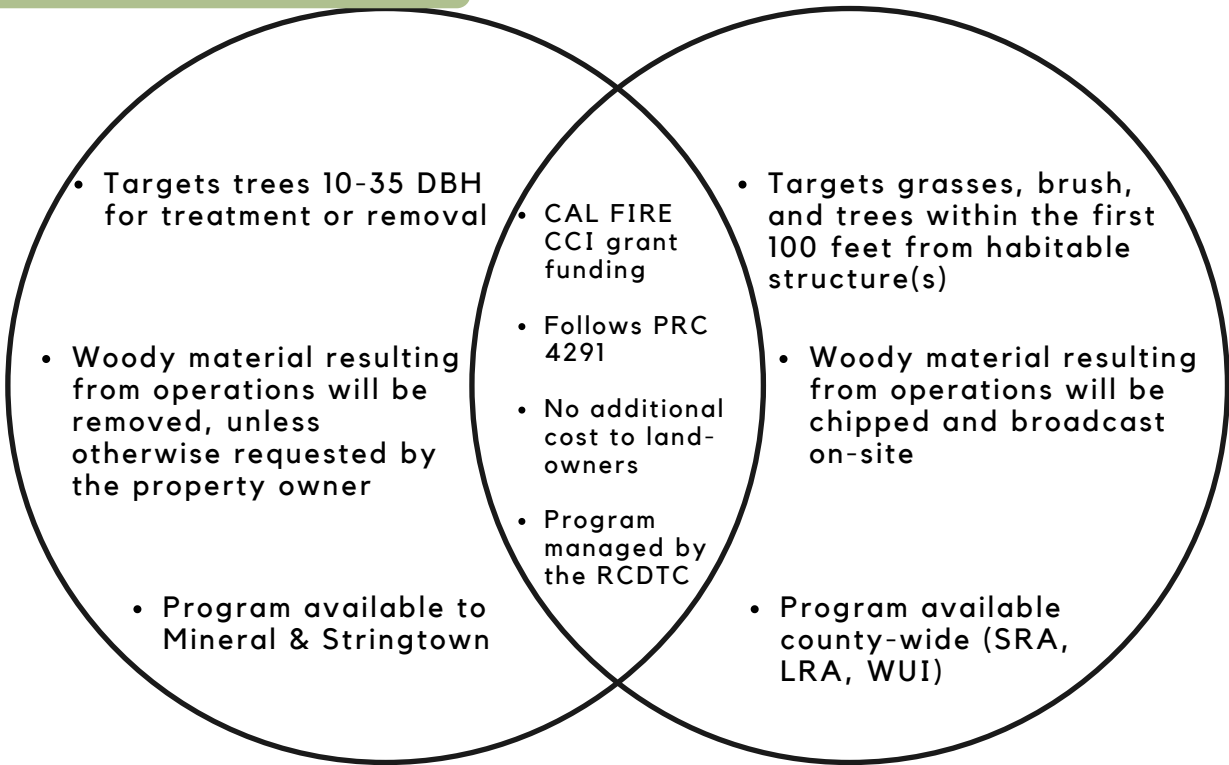


Helping Tehama County residents create **required defensible space*** surrounding their home is a *TinderSmart Tehama* service available at no additional cost. Eligible properties must be located in Tehama County and designated within a State Responsibility Area (SRA), Local Responsibility Area (LRA), 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/rcdctc/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/programs/communications/defensible-space-prc-4291/> and <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/>

MINERAL & STRINGTOWN HAZARD TREE REMOVAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



FIREWISE USA®

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Mineral Firewise Contacts

Mineral Central Business District

Jim Richardson - jim_richardson@nps.gov

RB Waddlington - brucewadlington@yahoo.com

Stringtown/Mineral HOA

Larry Rinehart - lerinehart@att.net

Susan Griffith - suegriff1010@gmail.com



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

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