



Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project OV-1

Community Information Meeting

August 14th, 2023 9:00 AM

District Administration Building – 305 Olympic Valley Rd.



Team



Licensed Timber Operator

- Cross Check Services, Dave Mercer



Registered Professional Forester

- Feather River Forestry, Danielle Bradfield



District Staff

- Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief
- Chris DeDeo, Fire Captain
- Mike Geary, General Manager
- Jessica Asher, Program Manager

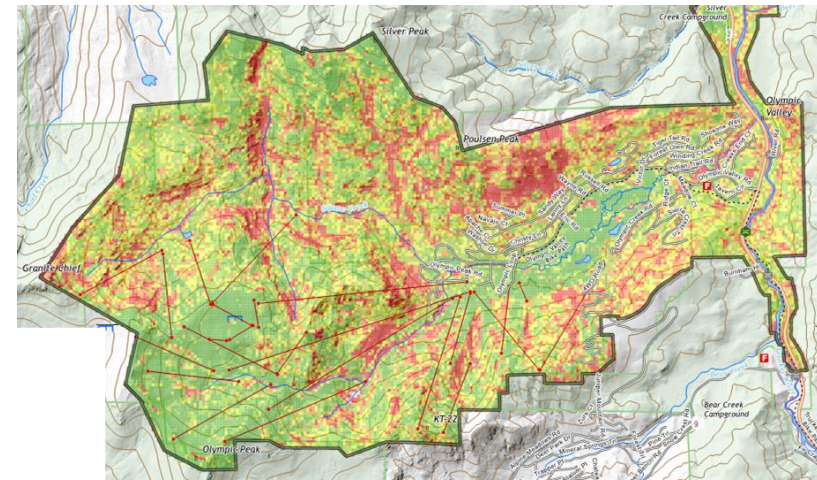
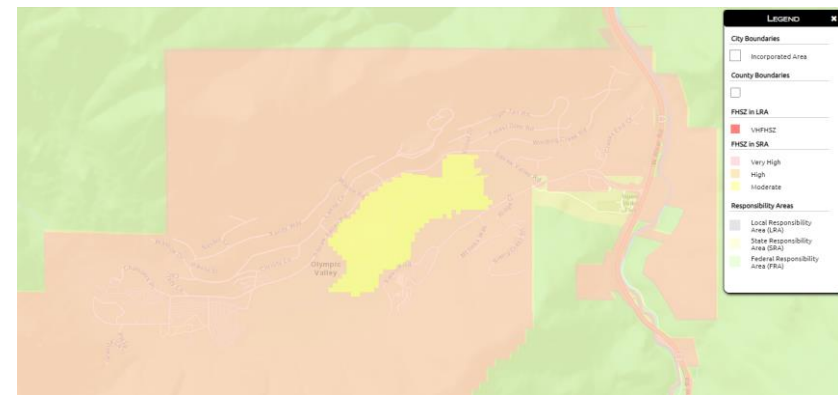




High-Hazard Conditions



- Very High Fire Severity Zone as mapped by CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program
- Much of the community has high ladder fuel hazards as determined by LiDAR mapping and field surveys.
- OV-1 specifically has high fuel loading and steep slopes





Fuels Management Program



- 25 years - Aggressive Defensible Space Inspections
- 2022 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- Three Fuel Reduction Projects In Progress
- Green Waste Programs (1. Second Sunday Green Waste Disposal Days, 2. Dumpster Rebates, 3. Placer County Chipping, 4. Six Cubic-Yards Free)
- Public Education
- Coordination with Firewise Community
- Rigorous Wildland Training
- Mutual-Aid Agreements

| Project | Grantor | Date Awarded | Funding | % Complete |
|---|---|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) | CAL FIRE | Oct. 2021 | \$31,898 | 100% |
| Fuels Reduction OV-1 (120 acres) | CAL FIRE | Nov. 2022 | \$539,888 | 5% |
| Fuels Reduction – O.V. 3 Road Evacuation Corridor (3 acres) | Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) | July 2022 | \$50,000 | 0% |
| | Trout Unlimited / Friends of Squaw Creek | Nov. 2021 | \$19,000 | 100% |
| Design and Permitting OV-4 (100 acres) | TTCF / CAL FIRE | July 2023 | \$45,125 | 0% |



CWPP Priority Projects



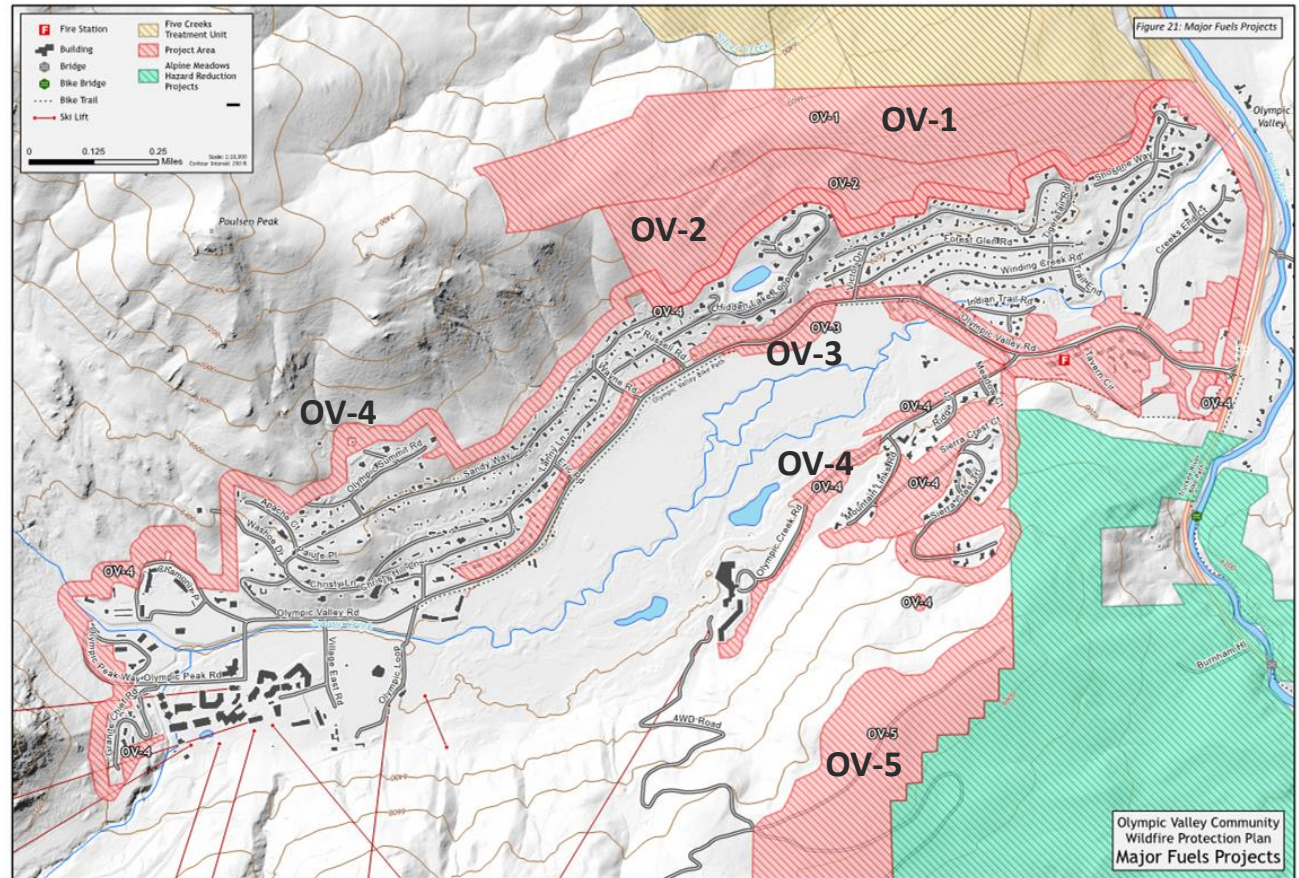
OV-1 North Forest
Thinning - IN PROGRESS

OV-2 North Valley
Prescribed Burns and
Thinning

OV-3 Roadside Wildfire
Safety - IN PROGRESS

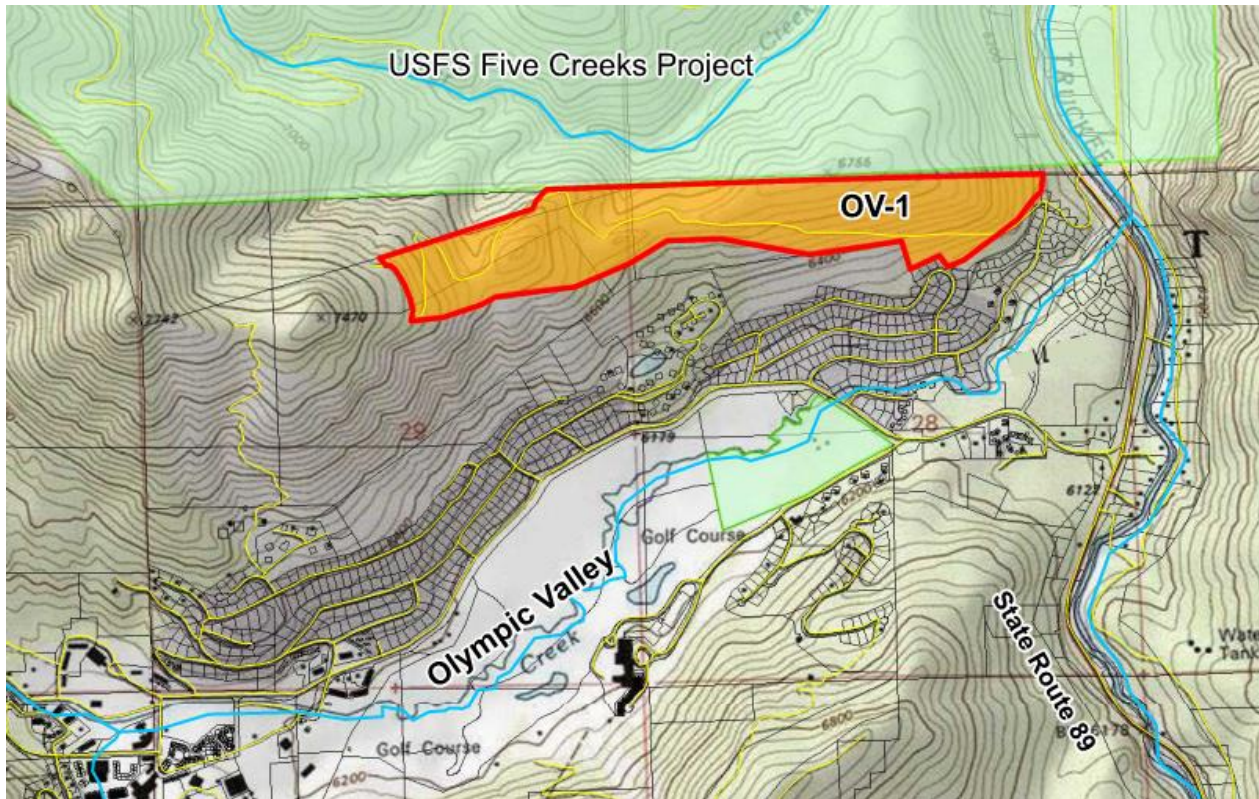
OV-4 Community Wildfire
Buffer - IN PROGRESS

OV-5 South Forest
Thinning





OV-1 Project



- Shaded Fuel Break
- 120-acres
- North ridge of Olympic Valley
- Land owned by Placer County and Poulsen Commercial
- Adjacent to USFS Five Creeks Project (analysis and planning milestones completed)



Project Objectives



- 1) Creation of 120 acres of fuel break north of the community of Olympic Valley and immediately adjacent to the Five Creeks project.
- 2) Reduce wildfire's risk to human health and safety.
- 3) Reduce the risk of adverse wildfire effects and potential fire behavior (flame length, intensity, rate of spread, duration) through reduction of fuel loading and arrangement within the Defense Zone of the Olympic Valley Wildland Urban Interface.



A ponderosa pine forest in the Jemez Mountains, before and after a thinning project. hcn.org



Project Benefits



- Provides protection for the approximately 900 habitable structures
- Enhances safety along the major evacuation routes of Olympic Valley Road and State Route 89.
- Improves access roads leading from the community to the ridgeline north of the community, supporting safe ingress and egress of emergency personnel during a wildfire event
- Preemptively allows for wildfire to be held outside of the community should it enter from that direction
- Reduces potential ember cast by keeping wildfire as far as feasible from the community





Shaded Fuel Break



The break will aid in fire suppression efforts and significantly reduce flame length, intensity, rate of spread and potential duration of wildfire. This reduction in potential fire behavior provides for increased safety of residents and emergency personnel in a wildfire situation.





Existing Condition



- Stand density of 180-220 square feet basal area per acre.
- Cumulative pretreatment quadratic mean diameter is 13 inches DBH.
- 60% White Fir, 30% Jeffrey Pine, 6% Sugar Pine, and 4% Red Fir
- Average of 240 trees per acre over 8 inches DBH.





Existing Condition





Silviculture Prescription Post Treatment Conditions



- Stand density of 75-100 square feet basal area per acre
- Quadratic mean diameter will be increased approximately 5 inches DBH - trees retained will generally be larger, more fire tolerant trees.
- White Fir will be reduced in favor of native pine species. Increase resilience to fire, insects, disease, and drought
- Lower crown bulk density, increase crown base height to reduce fuel continuity and the probability of crown ignition and/or sustaining a running crown fire.
- Surface and ladder fuels will largely be removed

Fire-suppressed Forest



Ecologically managed Forest





Proposed Condition



Brockway Fuel Break



Treatment Methods



Mechanical Thinning

- Heavy equipment with hydraulically driven saws to cut and remove trees generally under 24 inches in diameter.
- Whole tree removal vs. cut-to-length methods

Mastication

- Using machines to grind, rearrange, and compact fire hazards without reducing fuel loads

Hand Thinning and Chipping

- Crew using chainsaws and pole saws.
- Smaller trees, steeper slopes, environmentally sensitive areas



Equipment



- Valmet 941 wheeled timber harvester: 30' reach maximizes distance between harvesting trails
- Valmet 890 or 895 wheeled timber forwarder: carries 18-22 tons of material per trip, lessening trips and associated ground impact
- Valmet 890 wheeled forwarder with rear mounted chipper: pick up, chip and broadcast all non-merchantable material
- 600-gallon water fire safety trailer with state required hand tools and backpack pumps.
- Water truck
- Cat Skidder or dozer used for fire protection
- Trimax 30 fire extinguishers
- Volvo EC220D excavator mulcher Fecon RTM-230 wheeled mulcher
- Wheel Loader for loading chips
- Service vehicles.





Timeline





Long-Term Maintenance



- Informal monitoring phase to assess brush regrowth and conifer regeneration
- Maintenance project in approx. 10 years
- Prescribed fire or re-mastication may be good options for maintenance
- The work to create a shaded fuel break will allow future controlled burns to be accomplished safely, which is not currently the condition.





Funding



- Funding for this project is provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.
- Total Project: \$546,410
 - Licensed Timber Operator: \$480,000 (Bid Proposal \$462,000)
 - Registered Professional Forester: \$23,160
 - Supplies (signage, press release etc.): \$6,885 (\$2,885 PSD Match)
 - District Labor: \$36,364 (\$3,636 PSD Match)





Questions?



Contact the Fire Department at
info@ovpsd.org
530-583-6111