



Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project OV-4

Community Information Meeting

September 28th, 2023 3:00 PM

District Administration Building – 305 Olympic Valley Rd.



Team



District Staff

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



Registered Professional Forester

- Feather River Forestry, Danielle Bradfield

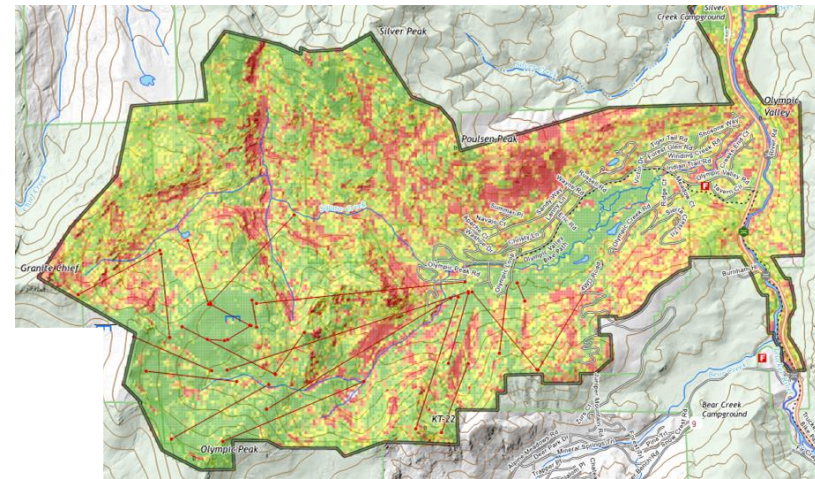
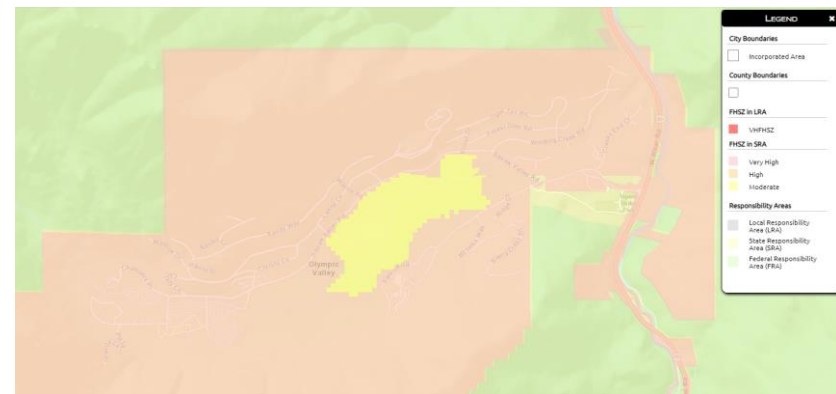




High-Hazard Conditions



- Identified by Cal Fire as Very High Fire Severity Zone
- Much of the community has high ladder fuel hazards as determined by LiDAR mapping and field surveys.
- OV-4 has a variety of aspects, grades, fuel types and fuel densities.





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 Fire Training
- Local, State and Federal 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



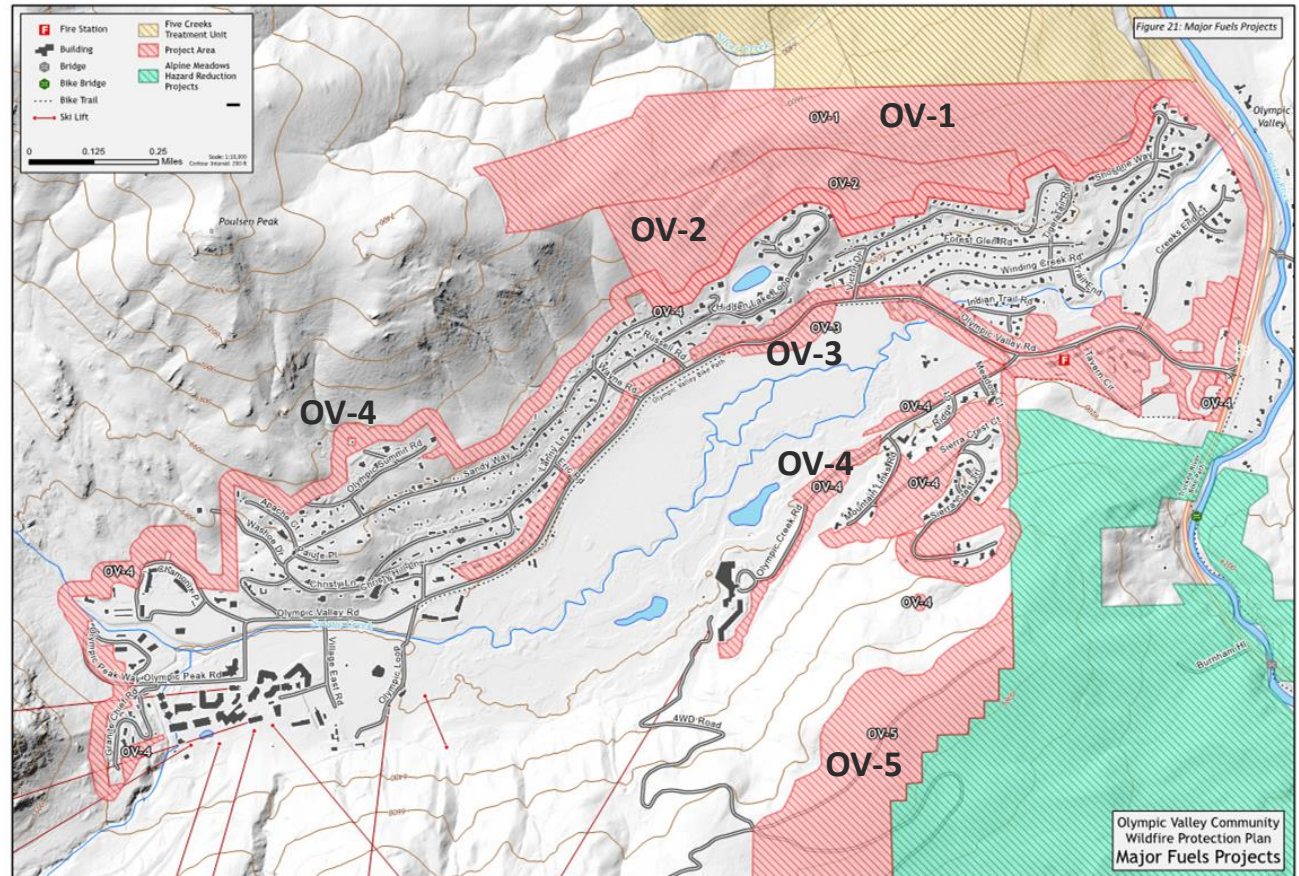
OV-1 North Forest
Thinning - IN PROGRESS

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-4 Project



- A fuels reduction project surrounding the perimeter of homes, buildings, and other structures in the valley
- Reduce fuel continuity through hand cut piling and burning, chipping and mechanical thinning
- Will compliment other projects identified in CWPP



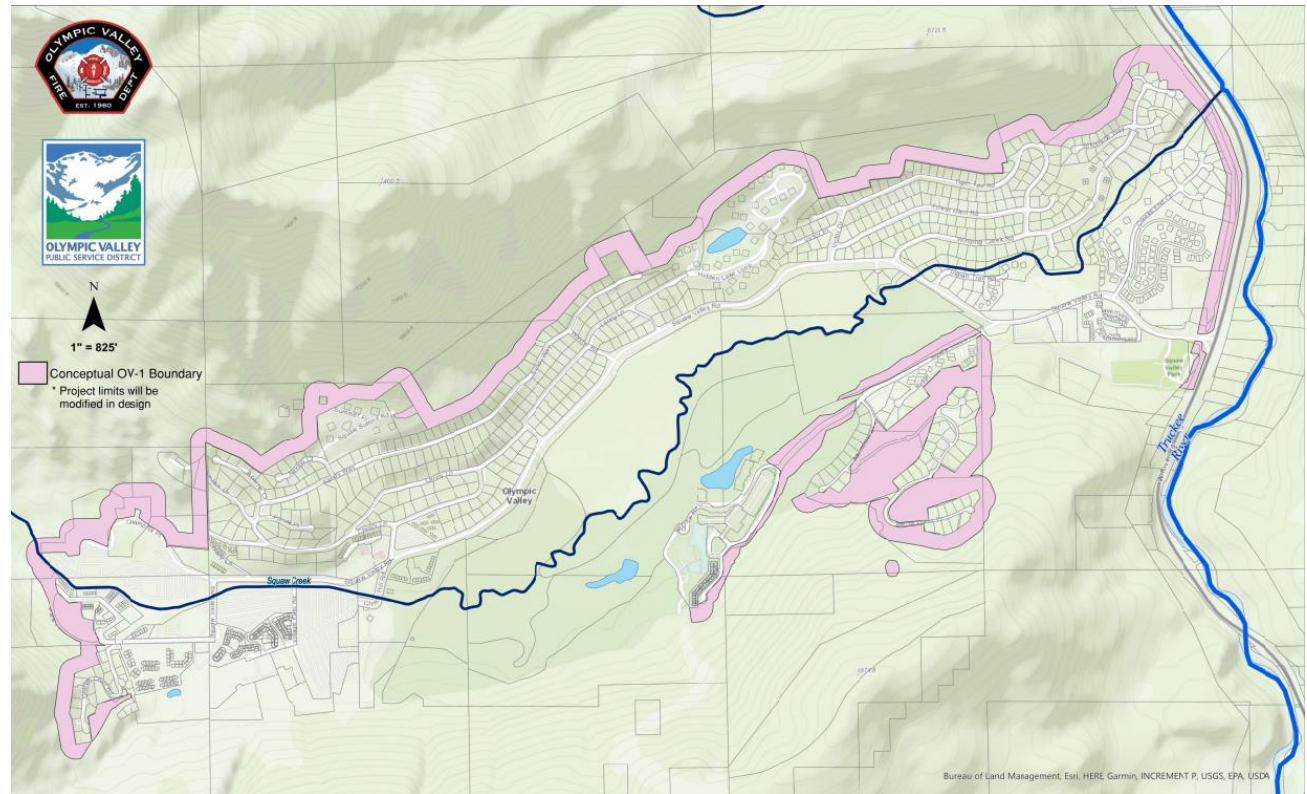
A ponderosa pine forest in the Jemez Mountains, before and after a thinning project. hcn.org



OV-4 Project Boundaries



- 150' Shaded Fuel Break
- Approx. 130-acres
- Boundary shown is conceptual only.
- Design phase to determine how to protect the community in a way supported by the affected property owners and community.





Design & Permitting Funding



- Funding provided by Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Wildfire Resilience Program
- The Truckee North Tahoe Forest Management Program (TNTFMP) was funded through a \$1.9M CAL FIRE Block Grant Program.
- All staff time provided by the Olympic Valley Public Service District and Fire Department.
- Eligible properties are PRIVATE properties > 3 acres.
- 12 qualifying landowners, benefiting over 900 structures
- Approx. 80% of OV-4 is on qualifying land. The District is working with owners of non qualifying land (Placer County and the Washoe Tribe) to design and permit projects on their property as well.





Project Objectives



- 1) Creation of a 150-foot-deep, 130 acre shaded fuel break around the perimeter of the residential area
- 2) Reduce the impact of wildfires on human health and safety
- 3) Reduce the threat of wildfire intensity through reduction of fuel continuity
- 4) Create a buffer that fortifies the WUI and compliments the Defensible Space Zone constructed by residents
- 5) Create a zone that compliments other CWPP projects



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
- Compliments Defensible Space efforts
- Reduces exposure threat to emergency personnel during a wildfire event
- Allows for wildfire to be held outside of the residential settings
- Reduces potential ember cast and radiant heat by lowering fire intensity
- Improves resilience to fire, insects, disease and drought.

Fire-suppressed Forest



Ecologically managed Forest





Existing Condition



- Stand density exceeding 200 square feet basal area per acre.
- Quadratic mean diameter of 14" DBH; Heavily weighted 5" – 18" DBH
- Dead/down woody debris and native shrub understory
- High degree of horizontal and vertical fuel continuity, potentially supporting extreme fire behavior and ember cast production.





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.





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



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



OV-4 Proposed Timeline



- 11/2022: CWPP Adopted
- 07/2023: TTCF Forest Futures grant awarded for planning and permitting
- 09/2023: Qualifying property owners notified
- 09/2023: OV-4 Community Meeting
- 10/2023: On the ground interaction, reconnaissance, archeological surveying
- Winter 2023 – Spring 2024: Planning and permitting
- Spring 2024: CAL FIRE and CEQA compliance
- Spring / Summer 2024: Present a shovel ready project for grant considerations
- ???: Implementation to Completion



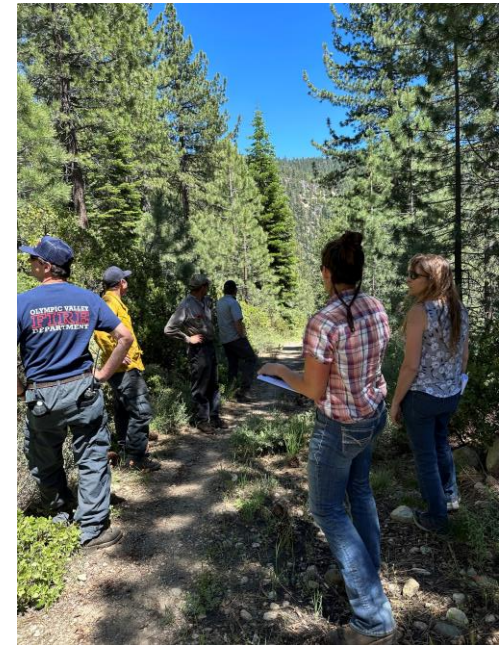
Questions?



“The 150-foot fuels reduction project surrounding our homes is critical to our survival.

Two friends from South Lake Tahoe explained that a similar perimeter allowed the fire department to save their homes during the Caldor Fire.

The fire intensity was reduced in the perimeter as it neared the house, allowing firefighters to stop the fire just outside their backyard.”



Bob Barnett
Olympic Valley Resident

For more information please contact the Fire Department at
info@ovpsd.org | 530-583-6111