

# Assisting California Forest & Woodland Owners



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Concerned with:

**Too many trees and shrubs causing a wildfire hazard? Numerous dead and dying trees around your property? Damage to your property from bark beetles or wildfire? The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service can help!**

## Healthy Forests, Wildfire & Pest Hazard Reduction

Healthy forests have vigorous trees and shrubs and are resilient to drought, wildfire, and bark beetle impacts.

Unfortunately, many of California's forest have excessive amounts of vegetation that fuel large wildfires and bark beetle attacks. This can result in destruction of forests, loss of human property, poor air quality from smoke, accelerated erosion, and degradation to other environmental and social values.

To restore forest health and improve fire safety to your lands, the key is to reduce the number of trees and shrubs, remove excess woody debris left by wildfire and bark beetle damage, and replant trees in deforested areas. NRCS can help you plan actions to improve forest health and wildfire safety on your property and provide financial assistance to get the work done.



*A managed forest has vegetation that has been modified to reduce the risk of the spread of fire.*

## GETTING STARTED...

### Go to the Office

We have 54 offices across the state. NRCS will work with you to develop a conservation plan tailored to help you improve forest conditions on your property. This voluntary plan will be based on your priorities and solid science. The plan may also be the basis to apply for financial assistance.

### Financial Assistance

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that has been widely used by private forest landowners in California. EQIP shares with landowners the cost of conservation practices (see sidebar on back) to improve forest health and mitigate associated conservation

concerns.

### Apply

Any time during the year. Eligible projects will be evaluated, prioritized and selected for funding as budget allocations permit.



## **Special Funding Programs for Forestry**

- Sierra Nevada 10-County Bark Beetle Wildfire Tree Mortality Recovery (CARCD RCPP) includes financial assistance to remove dead and dying trees within 100 feet of homes.
- Joint Chiefs' Landscape Partnership for Forest Health and Wildfire Hazard Reduction in Yreka and Trinity County.



Without effective management, opportunistic understory plants compete with trees for water, nutrients and light (top). Unmanaged forest are susceptible to pest and wildfire damage (bottom).

## **About NRCS, FSA and RMA**

In more than 80 years of helping farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners, NRCS has assembled technical standards (like those in the sidebar at right) to address natural resource concerns. The USDA's Farm Services Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) provide other critical resources such as farm loans, crop insurance and disaster assistance.

For more information  
on NRCS Farm Bill conservation programs visit  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/)

# **Typical NRCS Conservation Forestry Activities**



### **FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

A site-specific plan that is developed based on the landowner's management objectives and the professional expertise of a skilled forester to achieve long-term forest management goals.



### **FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT**

Treating areas made to improve the composition, structure, condition, health, and growth of even- or uneven-aged stands. Smaller trees in an immature stand may be removed to provide adequate growing space, accelerate diameter growth, and improve the form of the remaining trees.



### **SLASH DISPOSAL**

Treating woody plant residues created during forestry activities to reduce hazardous fuels, the risk of harmful insects and disease while maintaining air quality, improving access to forage for grazing and browsing animals, and improving soil organic matter.



### **SITE PREPARATION**

Treating areas to improve the site conditions for the successful establishment of trees.



### **TREE PLANTING**

Establishing trees by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.



### **CONTROL COMPETING VEGETATION**

Reducing the number of shrubs in the understory to an acceptable level to reduce the competition between trees and shrubs. As competition increases, soil moisture decreases; plants slow in growth, become weakened, and can prematurely die.



### **EROSION CONTROL FOR ROADS AND TRAILS**

Treating legacy erosion problems with long term erosion control features to reduce soil loss and sediment into creeks.