

Lower Deer Creek - Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

WHAT



The Lower Deer Creek - Penn Valley Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project is a multi-benefit project designed to protect critical infrastructure, create safe ingress for first responders and egress for evacuating residents, and support watershed protection. The Project will reduce 107 acres of hazardous fuels around sanitation and water facilities, mitigate 726 acres of roadside vegetation, and reduce 178 acres of fuel loading in and around the Deer Creek Canyon. When completed, the Project will have reduced the fire hazard on 1,011 acres.

WHY



The primary vegetation is dense brush, grasses, and timber that under drought conditions became more vulnerable to pests, disease, noxious weeds, and invasive species. The goal of the Project is to reduce the risk of wildfire by removing surface and ladder fuels in the Project area, reducing the risk of wildfire spread. The Project leverages the efforts of 13 Firewise Communities, protects five communities, and will reduce the wildfire risk to 3,235 parcels within a 2-mile radius.

WHERE



The Project is focused on areas adjacent to Lake Wildwood in Penn Valley. Lake Wildwood is identified in the 2024 Evacuation Study as the most evacuation limited community county-wide. The Project includes private parcels and major roadways such as Pleasant Valley Road, Mooney Flat Road, Bitney Springs Road, and Highway 20.

WHEN



The Project is a two-phase project that includes environmental compliance, treatment design, and implementation. Phase One Includes environmental compliance and treatment design. Phase One is expected to take 18 months and begin in Summer 2025. Phase Two is expected to take 18 months and includes treatment implementation. Phase Two will begin after the environmental compliance has been approved by FEMA.

More information available at:

ReadyNevadaCounty.org/LowerDeerCreek



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What to expect

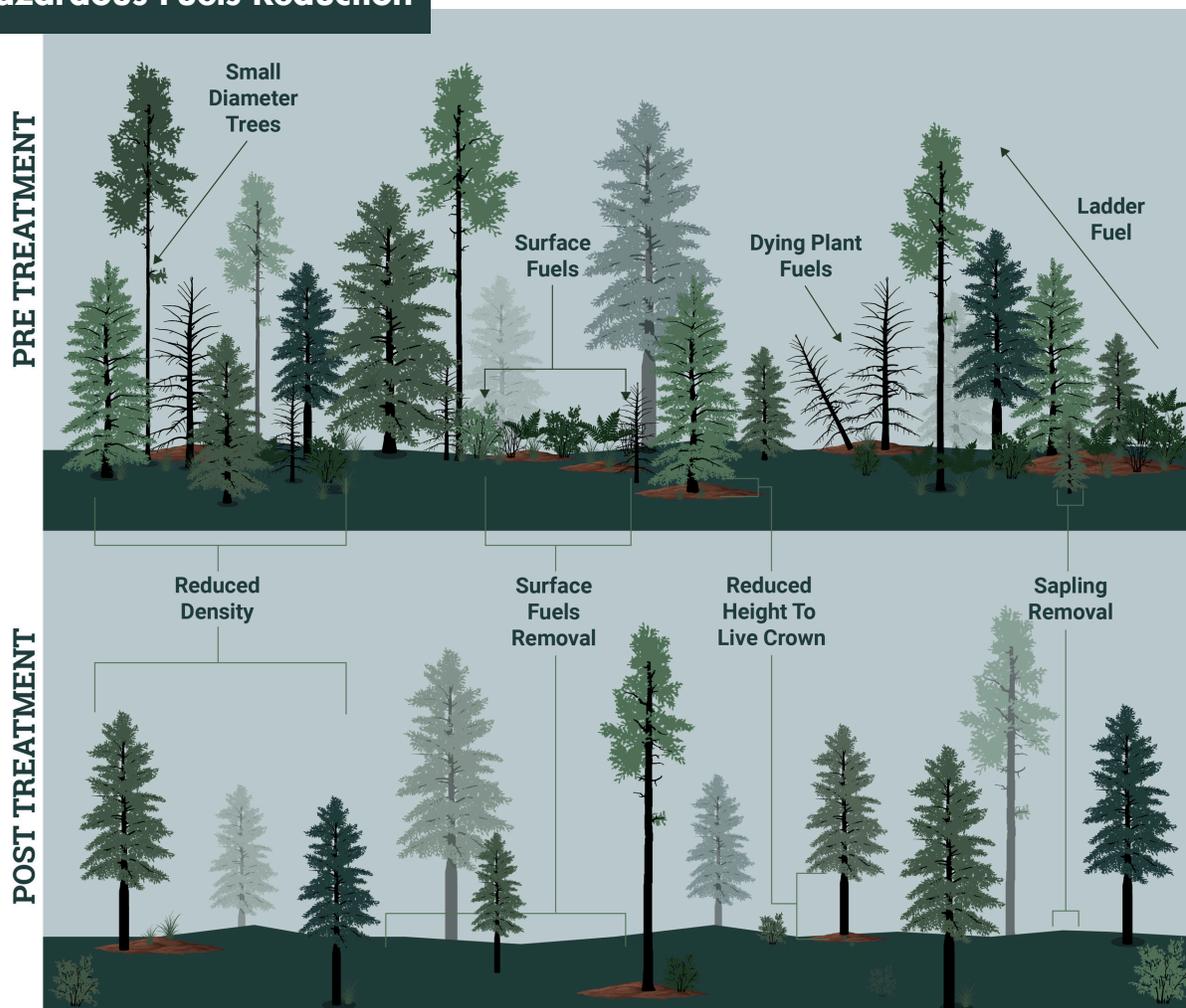
If you are a landowner within the Project treatment area, you can expect to receive an introductory letter and Right-of-Entry (ROE) form in the mail. This ROE will grant permission for the team of environmental consultants who will be leading the botanical, wildlife, and cultural surveys necessary for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance as well as the registered professional forester who will be designing the treatment prescription for hazardous fuel reduction to enter your property and conduct the necessary activities. After the treatment prescription for your property is complete, you will be provided with this information and asked to sign-off and grant permission for vegetation treatment vendors to conduct the on-the-ground work.

Interested parties can search their address in the interactive map available online to see if it falls within the project area: ReadyNevadaCounty.org/LowerDeerCreek

What will this treatment look like?

Hazardous fuels reduction is a treatment where the vegetation is thinned by reducing understory and surface vegetation, thinning out dense tree stands, and raising tree canopies through the removal of lower branches. Hazardous fuels reduction reduces wildfire spread, improves forest health, and creates a landscape that is easier for property owners to manage. This contrasts with a firebreak, which is an opening or strip of land where all vegetation is removed down to bare soil.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction



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