

Critical Evacuation Route and Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program

Board of Supervisor's Meeting
November 12, 2024



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA



FY24 CDS Request USFS Grant

FUNDING DETAILS

- **\$750,000 + \$750,000 In-Kind Match**
- **August 29, 2024 – July 31, 2026**
- **59 x \$20,000 “Mini-Projects” for vegetation removal along evacuation routes.**



Program Details



- **Focus on private roads**
- **Leverage best-practices from Micro-Grant Program and Winter Storm Hazardous Vegetation Removal Project**
- **Meet the community where they are at**
- **Call for Projects**
- **Alignment with Roadmap to Resilience Priorities**

Approximate Program Timeline

Winter 2025: Program Priorities Finalized

Spring 2025: Call for Proposals

Summer 2025: Awards Made

Summer 2025: Qualified Vendors Selected

Fall 2025: Project Implementation Begins

Fall 2026: Project Implementation Ends



Why Evacuation?

CWPP Survey of over 2,200 residents indicates evacuation is the top concern

Getting trapped on the roadway was cited by all communities as a worry

What the Community Said...

“Please improve evacuation routes on the San Juan Ridge.”

“I am particularly concerned about the completion and maintenance of evacuation routes.”

“Seriously. Experts say my road will be a fire tunnel.”

“The acreage up and down our only evacuation route has trees and vegetation that are out of control. It is a disaster waiting to happen.”





Why Hazardous Vegetation?

- **Can be addressed at scale**
- **Priority of USFS (funder)**
- **Opportunity to use existing efforts to satisfy required match**

What the Community Said...

“Please cut tree limbs that hang over the road. These will burn first, drop on the road burning and create a massive traffic jam.”

“We would like to see a cultural shift towards more chipping, composting, and free green waste disposal so that citizens can be working on reducing fuel year-round.”

“Our dirt road of 27 residents has identified our evacuation routes and many homeowners clear the vegetation on their property. Our concern is the owners who don’t clear their land.”



“Reducing fuel loads must be the top priority!”

Building Off Micro-Grants Approach

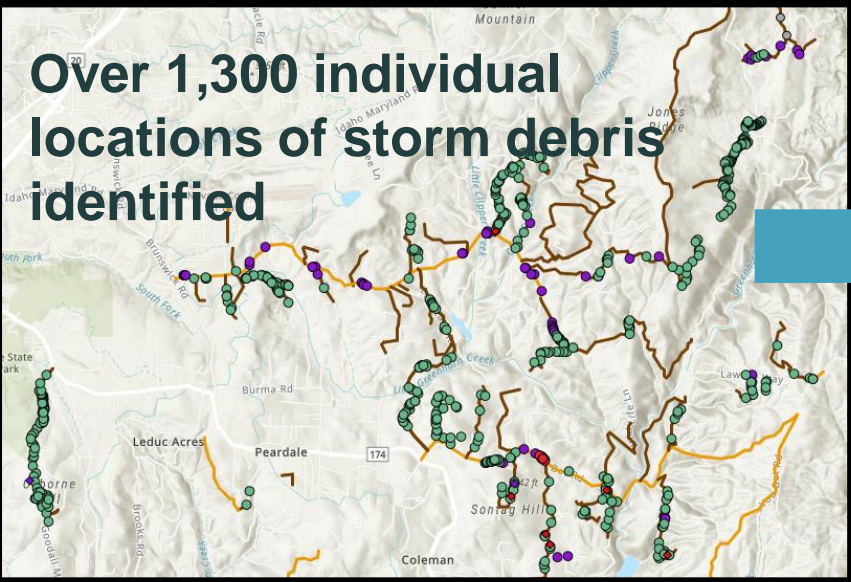
2024 MICRO-GRANTS

- 26 x \$3,600 Awards to Firewise Communities
- Call for projects – communities “self-identify” need
- Vegetation abatement projects were primary request
- Grants used to leverage and extend work already being done



Building Off Winter Storm Hazardous Vegetation Removal Approach

- OES conducted outreach to the most impacted Firewise Communities
- FWC's provided locations and photos of debris
- OES confirmed debris qualified for grant services
- OES coordinated and deployed vendors from Qualified List



Residents were extremely grateful for the services

12450 Cornet Lane
 Sparks, NV 8945
 February 26, 2024

Hello, Mr. Martinez,
 We are so grateful for your support in clearing the forest roadway on Osborne Road. The gentlemen doing the cutting and clearing, were so very friendly and thoughtful as our neighbors and ourselves made multiple trips up and down the road (often stopping their progress). We appreciate helping our roadways be more fire safe. Thank you for your efforts to benefit our neighborhood safety.

Gratefully yours,
 Janda Miller + Pete Dier

Critical Evacuation Route and Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program Approach

- Call for proposals – communities “self-identify” need: *open to Firewise Communities, Road Associations, HOAs, local agencies, schools, and non-profits*
- Leverage and extend work already being done: *1:1 match required*
- Alignment with Roadmap to Resilience priorities: *Evacuation Study, Community Wildfire Protection Plan*
- Shovel Readiness: *applicants secure permissions (Right-of-Entry)*
- OES manages implementation: *confirm project is eligible, refine scope,*

Recommendation

Approve resolution accepting the USDA, United States Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management Grant for the Critical Evacuation Route and Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program in the amount of \$750,000 with \$750,000 of in-kind match during the period August 29, 2024, through July 31, 2026, ratify the execution of the Grant Agreement dated August 29, 2024, and authorize the Director of Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant on behalf of the County of Nevada.

Questions ?



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