



# Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 1450 · 30 Horseshoe Lane · Weaverville, CA 96093-

## **Notice of Intent to Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**Lead Agency:** Trinity County Resource Conservation District  
**Contact:** Bethany Llewellyn, Forest Health Project Coordinator  
**Phone:** (530)623-6004 ext.220 **Email:** [bllewellyn@tcrd.net](mailto:bllewellyn@tcrd.net)

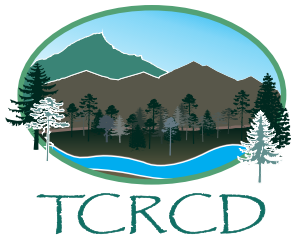
**Project Title:** Trinity County Wildfire Mitigation/ Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

**Project Location:** The project includes hazardous fuel reduction on private property within Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas in Trinity County. The project site includes 3 Project Activity Areas (PAAs): Weaverville, Covington Mill, and North Lake. The Weaverville PAA is located in Township 33N Range 10W section 13 and Township 33N Range 9W Sections: 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, Mount Diablo Meridian. Treatment areas in the Weaverville PAA are located along State Route 299/3 and extend west to include areas along Democrat Gulch and north along Browns Mountain and Little Browns Creek to Musser Hill. The Covington Mill PAA is located in Township 36N Range 8W Sections 23, 25, 26, 34, 35 and Township 35N Range 8W Sections 3, 4, 5, 9, Mount Diablo Meridian. The treatment area includes the roadside along State Route 3 and landscape areas around the Lake Forest Estates, Long Canyon, Grizzly Lane, Guy Covington Drive, and Strope Creek. The North Lake PAA Township 36N Range 8W Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, and Township 36N Range 7W Sections 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 19, 20. Treatment areas are along State Route 3 and to the north and west of Trinity Center.

**Project Description:** The proposed action consists of removing ground and ladder fuels along specified corridors, thinning trees to reduce crown closure, and removing dead and dying trees. Work will focus on improving forest health, including vegetation management, forest undergrowth reduction and biomass utilization. Treatment will focus on reducing vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels; removing competition from small, closely spaced, fire-vulnerable species; and promoting a smaller number of resilient larger trees. Generally, living trees will be spaced to a distance of greater than 30 feet. These fuel reduction treatments will allow roadways to serve as areas where fire intensity decreases which act as strategic locations to deploy firefighting resources, thus hampering fire's ability to jump roadways. Both mechanized and manual techniques will be deployed for the removal of fuels. Areas that would be heavily disturbed by equipment or stacked logs would be reseeded with sterile cover crops or mulched with certified weed-free rice straw or wheat straw. Fuel reduction, biomass disposal, and site restoration activities are described in greater detail below.

The treatment contractor will conduct the hazardous fuel reduction techniques appropriate for each individual parcel. A Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA) will be conducted on each eligible parcel to identify watercourses, special-status species and habitat, cultural resources, or any other obstacles to be avoided. An individual Treatment Prescription (TP) will be developed for each parcel based on the Preliminary Site Assessment.

**Mitigated Negative Declaration:** A copy of the Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review on the District's website at <https://tcrd.net/index.php/news/public-notice> and at the District's office at 30 Horseshoe Lane, Weaverville, CA 96093 during business hours. This NOI will additionally be publicly



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posted per CEQA Guidelines §15072. Comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be received from March 20, 2023 until 5:00pm on April 19, 2023. If submitted prior to the close of public comment, comments are welcome from reviewing agencies or any member of the public on how the proposed project may affect the environment. Written comments must be postmarked or submitted on or prior to the date the public review period will close for TCRCD's consideration. Written comments may also be submitted via email (using the email address that appears below), but comments sent via email must also be received on or prior to the close of the 30-day public comment period.

Written Comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration must be addressed to:

Bethany Llewellyn, Forest Health Project Coordinator  
Trinity County Resource Conservation District  
PO Box 1450  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Comments may also be sent by fax to (530)623-6006 or by email to [bllewellyn@tcrcd.net](mailto:bllewellyn@tcrcd.net).

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, TCRCD will consider those comments and may (1) adopt the mitigated negative declaration and approve the proposed project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon the project.