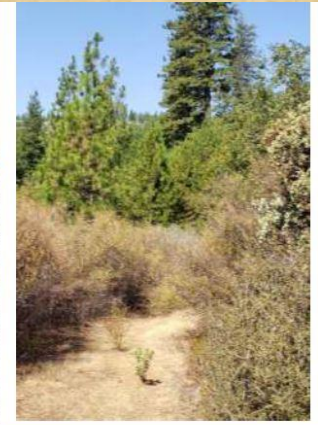


McKays Strategic Fuelbreak

A collaborative project with the Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (RCD), Calaveras Amador Forestry Team (Cal Am Team) and the USFS



McKays Strategic Fuelbreak

Categorical Exclusion - Section 605 of HFRA (16 U.S.C.6591d)

Project Goals

- 1) Increase ecosystems' resilience to current and future large-scale disturbances.
- 2) To extend and connect the multi-jurisdictional cooperative fuelbreak.
- 3) To provide for community, public and firefighter safety by mitigating hazardous trees and reducing fuel loads.

Project Objectives

- 1) Reduce hazard trees, ladder fuels, surface fuels, and maintain and improve the historic strategic fuelbreak.
- 2) Utilize prescribed burning consisting of pile burning, jackpot burning and/or broadcast burning to reduce fuel loads and improve resilience to the landscape.

McKays Strategic Fuelbreak

Categorical Exclusion - Section 605 of HFRA (16 U.S.C.6591d)

Proposed Action - 1,088 acres of hazardous fuels reduction treatments

- 100% treatment acres occur within the WUI
 - 766 acres are in the WUI defense zone of which 494 acres overlap the California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) protected activity center (PACs)
 - 322 acres are in the WUI threat zone of which 123 acres overlap the California spotted owl PACs
 - 154 acres are in the California spotted owl Home Range Core Areas (HRCAs)
 - The remaining 317 acres occur outside the PACs and HRCAs.

- 3 different treatment activities
 - Hazardous Fuels Reduction (Mechanical removal of shrubs and conifer trees (3"-10" dbh and up to 12" dbh for operational access), mastication, and hand thinning)
 - Mechanical Tree Removal and Forest Health Improvements (Removal of dead and dying trees up to 30" dbh)
 - Hazard Tree Mitigation – Following the Hazard Tree Identification and Mitigation (March, 2022)

McKays Strategic Fuelbreak

Categorical Exclusion - Section 605 of HFRA (16 U.S.C.6591d)

Management Requirements

- Consistent with the Forest Plan and minimize potential impacts to the applicable resource.

Extraordinary Circumstances

➤ Aquatics

- No critical habitat for any Threatened and Endangered Species

➤ Heritage

- Project is designed so that no adverse effects will occur.

➤ Sensitive Plants and Terrestrial Wildlife

- Sensitive Plants are present and should be avoided
- Most of the area is in PACs. PACs were surveyed in 2016 – Resurvey for occupancy and determine need for LOPs.

McKays Strategic Fuelbreak

Categorical Exclusion - Section 605 of HFRA (16 U.S.C.6591d)

Decision

Meets the requirements of this categorical exclusion: Section 605 of HFRA (16 U.S.C.6591d)

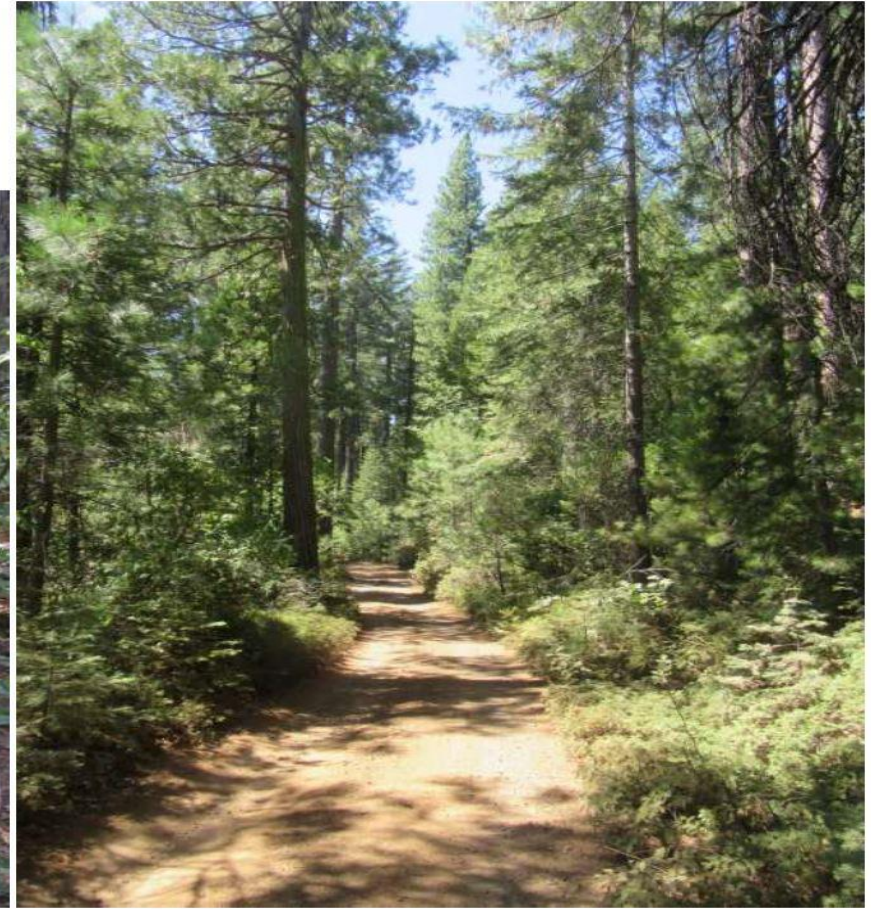
- Is located in the WUI or in CC2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III
- Not located within wilderness or other restricted or prohibited areas
- Meets the collaborative process requirements of HFRA
- Maximizes the retention of old-growth and large trees
- Promote stands that are resilient to insects and disease
- Reduce the risk of wildfires
- Was developed and will be implemented through a collaborative
- Meeting the acreage requirement
- No permanent or temporary roads will be established
- Causes no extraordinary circumstances

McKays Strategic Fuelbreak



McKays Strategic Fuelbreak

Road 5N63 in Unit 71/72 on McKays Point showing overcrowded understory and overstory.



McKays Strategic Fuelbreak

Photos taken on 5N35 near New McKays Dam Road in Unit 25. Lots of standing and downed dead wood.



McKays Strategic Fuelbreak

Unit 51 Tree Mortality.
Dead Ponderosa pine on Love Creek Rd.
Recent mortality on Ben Smith Rd.



Questions?