



Tree Removal Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet

Butte County – North Complex Fire Recovery

The following FAQ Sheet provides answers to questions regarding Tree Removal. The FAQ sheet illustrates a realistic timeline of the phases that tree removal for the communities affected by the Bear / North Complex Fire will experience and witness.



- **Q: Will trees be removed around burned structures?**
- *A: No. Trees will not be removed as a normal part of the debris removal program. The exception to this rule is:*

Cal OES/FEMA will remove trees if they pose a danger to crews during Phase 1 of debris removal.	0-1 years
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For more information regarding debris removal please visit <https://buttecountyrecovers.org/>

- **Q: Will dead and dying trees be removed that threaten standing structures?**
- *A: Landowners with structures that survived the fire have the following three options:*

Hire an Arborist or Licensed Timber Operator to remove the trees.	0-1 years
Contact the Butte County Fire Safe Council at 530-877-0984 to see if you qualify for assistance based on limited funding and specific project areas.	0-1 years
Low-income families and seniors can contact USDA Rural Development (530 534-0112 option 4) to see if they qualify for the 504 Home Improvement grant/loan project which may pay to remove hazard trees.	0-2 years

- **Q: I have been contacted by a logger/contractor to have my trees removed, what should I do?**
- *A: The following steps should be taken before having trees removed by a contractor:*

1. Understand the scope of the tree removal to be done on the property.	0-2 years
2. Ensure that a contract is signed for the scope of work agreed upon between all parties involved in the tree removal process.	
3. Any trees to be removed and sold for commercial value are subject to the California Forest Practices Act and permitting process. Please contact a Registered Professional Forester (RPF), or ensure that the logger/contractor removing the trees is a Licensed Timber Operator.	

- Q: Can I sell the salvageable timber to help pay for the cost of removal?

- A: Yes, but the current market for timber is flooded with supply. Logging on private property for profit will not be possible in most situations. The ability for loggers to break even on tree removal projects will be limited. Without subsidy from private landowners or grants, only large diameter trees will be removed. Below are two examples of salvage options available to private landowners. Different amounts of cleanup are negotiable and can be negotiated with an RPF.

Removal of large diameter trees, non-merchantable trees, and brush.

This cleanup process will require a large subsidy from the landowner.



Figure 1 Before Tree Removal



Figure 2 During Tree



Figure 3 Completed Tree Removal with Subsidy from Landowner

Removal of large diameter trees for timber salvage operations.

This process will require little to no subsidy from the landowner and result in little to no cleanup.



Figure 1 Before Tree Removal



Figure 1 During Tree Removal



Figure 3 After Salvage of Sawlogs. Oak, and small diameter trees are left behind.

- **Q: What can be done with all the limbs, tops and other burned tree debris on my land?**
- *A: The following methods have been used in the Camp Fire clean up area and may be useful:*

Chipping	Mastication
Pile Burning	Bio-Char

- **Q: What will be done with the burned trees on the US Forest Service Lands?**
- *A: The trees are being assessed for life safety hazards along Forest Service roads and near facilities. Salvage harvesting will take place within the next three years.*



Figure 2 Example of Slash Prepped for Burning in a Bio-char Kiln

- **Q: How do I prevent soil erosion with the tree limbs and chips?**
- *A: Spreading tree limbs and tops across the landscape can help prevent soil erosion. Spreading chips between 4-12 inches deep can also assist with soil erosion within the footprint of burned structures. Be advised; chips should not be left in piles due to possible spontaneous combustion. For additional information on how to help your land recover from Wildfire, visit <https://buttefiresafe.net/california-native-plant-society-releases-statewide-wildfire-recovery-guide/>*

- **Q: Will PG&E remove trees that threaten power lines?**
- *A: PG&E will be removing trees in the following situations:*

PG&E will remove trees during operations installing power lines underground along portions of Hwy 162 and Bald Rock Road.	0-3 years
PG&E will remove trees that threaten workers and replaced infrastructure while re-installing damaged power lines.	0-2 years

For more information regarding PG&E operations please call 1-800-743-5000

- **Q: Will Butte County be removing trees that threaten roads?**

Butte County will be removing trees hazardous trees rooted in the County Right of Way.	0-3 years
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For more information regarding County Tree Removal operations visit <https://buttecountyrecovers.org/>

- **Q: How can I prevent damages on my property during tree removal?**
- A: *Make sure any important vegetation or infrastructure is flagged or marked to be avoided prior to tree removal operations beginning on your property.*
- **Q: I am interested in replanting on my property, when should I do that?**

Replanting is best done once the safety risk of hazardous trees has been mitigated or trees have been removed. Visit https://www.bccrd.org/ for more information.	1-2 years
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For additional resources on Tree Removal and fire recovery information please visit the links below.

- Post-Fire Treatment Effectiveness for Hillslope Stabilization
https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr240.pdf
- Recovering from Wildfire: A Guide for California’s Forest Landowners
<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8386.pdf>
- A gap-based approach for regenerating pine species and reducing surface fuels in multi-aged mixed conifer stands in the Sierra Nevada, California
<https://academic.oup.com/forestry/article/85/2/203/522631>
- Post-Wildfire recovery Cal Fire
<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/post-wildfire/after-a-wildfire/>
- Burned Area Emergency Response Treatments Catalog
https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/pdf/BAERCAT/lo_res/06251801L.pdf
- Butte County - Health and Safety Precautions for Re-entry
<https://www.buttecounty.net/Portals/0/NorthComplexWest/FinalHSPacketwmentalhealthinfo.pdf?ver=2020-09-15-075702-200>
- North Complex Fire Recovery Information
<https://buttecountyrecovers.org/agencies/north-complex-fire/>
- The Fire is Out... What's Next?
<https://aftertheflames.com/resources/>