

LATEST HEADLINES

Butte County to receive over \$4 million in Cal Fire grants

By [KIMBERLY MORALES](#) | Chico Enterprise-Record

June 2, 2022 at 4:00 a.m.

OROVILLE — Five projects in Butte County will be receiving a summation of millions of funding directed by Cal Fire.

Butte County, the Butte County Fire Safe Council and the Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council will be receiving an estimated total of \$4,014,044 from the Cal Fire grant program that is financed by the California Climate Investments program through cap-and-trade proceeds.

The funding is the result of a strategy to prepare communities against the impacts of wildfires, said Cal Fire in a [press release](#) on Wednesday morning. The five projects in Butte County are expected to be completed by March 15, 2025.

“Drought conditions have once again taken ahold of California and are already contributing to another year of early fire activity,” said Cal Fire Director and Fire Chief Joe Tyler, in the press release. “This funding is a critical part of our overall wildfire strategy.”

[The Wildland Urban Interface Green Waste Disposal Program](#), is estimated to receive \$463,811. The program, which serves 12 communities in high fire risk such as Magalia, Paradise, Cohasset and Forest Ranch, plans to allocate the funding into an air curtain burner, an ash rake and two sign boards that will execute free residential waste disposal, said Division of Waste Management



Last year, the disposal program put together the project for 10 days and now intends to triple the schedule, said Cissel. The project estimates that it will safely and economically dispose of approximately 2,000 tons of green waste, according to its project description in the grant report.

The Butte County Roadside Fuel Reduction Project is estimated to receive \$459,652 to prevent vegetative growth on portions of 58 county evacuation roads, according to its project description in the grant report. The project will fund the purchase of a vehicle, spraying equipment and parking shelter to protect the equipment.

The [Butte County Fire Safe Council](#), which will receive the highest grant out of the five projects in the county, is estimated to receive \$1,499,949 for its Hazardous Fuels Reduction for Camp and North Complex fires project. The fuel reduction project will aim to work within the footprint of the 2018 Camp Fire and the 2020 North Complex fires by removing hundreds of dead and dying trees and remove other hazardous fuels on hundreds of acres, according to its project description in the grant report.

The Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council received funding for both the Staging Areas – Maintenance and Enhancements project and the Crain Ridge Fuel Break, Maintenance and Enhancements project. The staging areas project is estimated to receive \$862,931 to reduce hundreds of acres of hazardous fuels and assist ten homes with defensible space within the low-income communities of Concow, Yankee Hill, and Cherokee while the Crain Ridge Fuel Break project is expected to receive \$727,701 to reduce 150 acres of hazardous fuels in the Concow and Yankee Hill communities. The project estimates to work with a community with an estimated population of 1,080 and 540 structures, according to its project description in the grant report.

Across the rest of the state, Cal Fire is also directing nearly \$118 million for 144 local wildfire prevention projects across California, according to the press release.

“These 144 local wildfire prevention projects, along with the 105 projects we just funded in September 2021, will significantly increase California communities’ preparedness towards wildfires,” said Cal Fire Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Chief Daniel Berlant in the press release.

