

## Free Help to Protect Your Property

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has awarded more than \$180,000 from its 2016-2017 State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) Grant Program for the **Yosemite West Removal of Dead or Dying Tree Project**. YWPHI is collaborating with its fiscal sponsor, the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council in North Fork, to address the risk and potential impacts of wildfire to habitable structures in Yosemite West by mitigating the high tree mortality caused by the current drought-related bark beetle infestations plaguing the Sierra Nevada.

### Current Status of Tree Mortality in Yosemite West

As we are all painfully aware, bark beetles are killing millions of California's trees, which are becoming fuel for wildfire. Standing dead trees are not only a fire hazard, but they will eventually fall – maybe on your house, your neighbor's house, or on a person. In Yosemite West, tree mortality surveys show an alarming and continuing increase. This grant helps property owners to address tree mortality. The project will fell dead and dying trees, limb felled trees, and chip / disburse chips on site. Logs will be sectioned and left flat on the ground on site.

A September 2016 street-view survey of dead or dying trees in Yosemite West estimated a total number of 1,028 standing dead or dying trees. The survey included pine and fir trees, excluding cedar and oak trees, and counted any tree more than 14" dbh that is greater than 25% dead (i.e., showing brown and/or downward-pointing needles).

The survey then excluded any dead or dying pine and fir trees (estimated to be 44) that require surgical removal (i.e., climbing and "piecing" to fell); property owners will incur this responsibility and expense. The survey did not evaluate solid green trees that have the reddish powder from the pitch tubes, which will likely be the next to die. The survey also excluded trees *not* posing an imminent threat to public health and safety.

Based on the above criteria, the project targets a net total of 728 dead or dying trees that are accessible by equipment or machinery (as needed), within 300 feet of permanent structures that serve as a residence and pose a structural threat, and/or within 300 feet of serviceable roadways and pose a threat to those roadways, and/or pose an imminent threat to public or private infrastructure, health and safety.

The total number of standing dead or dying trees will be mitigated through the following grant funding:

600 trees = 2016-2017 CAL FIRE SRAFPF grant funding

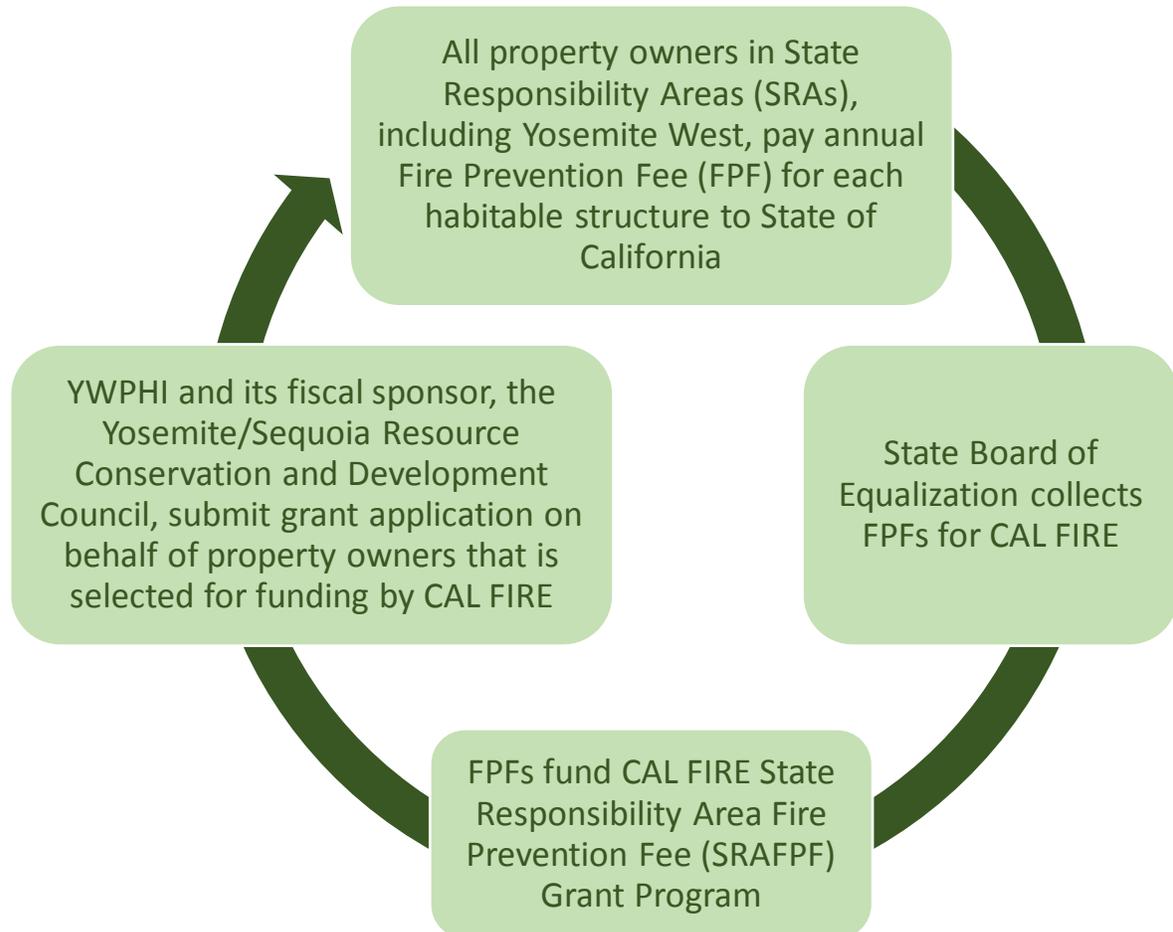
128 trees = 2016-2017 CAL FIRE SRAFPF grant match (from property owners)

**728 trees = Total number of trees as part of 2016-17 CAL FIRE SRAFPF project**

300 trees = 2015-2016 CAL FIRE SRAFPF "Yosemite West Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project" (which exceeds the grant's goal of felling 200 trees by 100 trees; for more information visit <http://www.yosemitewest.org/grant8-2016.htm>)

## Your Cost, \$0

The project is free to all property owners in Yosemite West – that’s right, no cost, zero, zilch, nada. Here’s how the grant program is funded:



## In-Kind Contributions

While there is no cost to participate in the project, the project will ask for community participation called in-kind contributions. These in-kind contributions include attendance at project-related community meetings (held in conjunction with YWPHI’s annual Memorial Day weekend picnic and annual meeting on Labor Day weekend), outreach to fellow property owners, hauling and piling limbs for chipping, and payment for surgical removal of dead trees near habitable structures. The project estimates the value of in-kind match to be \$37,815. We will ask for community support in documenting individual in-kind contributions (download at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/u/5gs16118-ikc.pdf>).

## What are the project’s benefits?

The expected outcomes are to:

- reduce the risk of crown fires, wildfire intensity and rate of spread, stem density, the risk and potential impacts of wildfire to public safety and habitable structures in the SRA;

- increase defensible space and compliance of all habitable structures with PRC§4291;
- improve forest health and resilience to better withstand wildfire and resist beetle infestation and pest attacks;
- provide safer ingress and egress of roads for evacuating residents and responding emergency personnel by mitigating hazards along roadway since Yosemite West has only one road for ingress and egress;
- mitigate tree mortality near emergency evacuation staging areas and around fire hydrants; and
- protect the community water tanks and infrastructure, pump stations and the water control system necessary for fire protection.

### **How and when do we sign up?**

Complete and submit the *Letter of Commitment* by May 1, 2017 (download at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/u/5gs16118-loc.pdf>).

### **If we already signed up for the 2015-2016 SRAFPF grant, do we have to sign up again?**

Yes, we have two active grants and we need your permission for each grant. These permissions provide flexibility to decide which trees will be cut using funds from which source of grant funding.

### **Who will do the work and when will it start?**

The project has contracted with a Registered Professional Forester and professional sawyers and crews, all of whom have liability insurance. The project will start on-the-ground work in Spring 2017 as soon as weather conditions permit, i.e., the snow melts and work conditions are safe.

### **We're planning to build on our vacant lot soon, so should we wait until site prep and construction starts to do fuel reduction?**

No, trees are continuing to die and standing dead / dying trees on your property may continue to spread beetle infestation and pose a threat to other structures and/or people. It's important to create 100 feet of defensible space for new construction, but inexplicably there are living and dead trees physically touching houses under construction right now.

### **Where can we get additional information?**

Read the FAQs at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/grants.htm#grant-srafpf-faq.htm>.

YWPHI posts periodic project updates at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/grants.htm#grant9-2017.htm>.

Feel free to email us at [grants@yosemitewest.org](mailto:grants@yosemitewest.org) with any questions you may have.

## **Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc.**

