



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-1
10 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: August 29, 2023

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief; Mike Geary, General Manager; and Jessica Asher, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Fuels Management Program – Update

BACKGROUND: The Board of Directors directed staff to provide progress reports regarding Fuels Management at its monthly meetings for items not otherwise addressed within the Board agenda. Information about the program can be found on the Department's Prevention website under the Wildfire Preparedness and Wildfire Prevention tabs. <https://www.ovpsd.org/ovfd/prevention>

DISCUSSION: Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project (OV-1)
Cross Check Services has executed the contract for the OV-1 Project. The Forest Fire Prevention Exemption Permit has been reviewed by the Timberland Owners of Record, Poulsen Commercial and Placer County. County review is currently underway. Once the permit is signed, it will be submitted to CAL FIRE and their approval is anticipated within 7-10 business days later. Timber operations can commence after permit issuance. Cross Check Services anticipates an early September start date.

A public meeting was held in-person and via Zoom with staff, the contractor, and the Registered Professional Forester on August 14th; eight members of the public attended. A recording of the meeting and accompanying slideshow is available online and attached to this report.

Temporary signage has been made and will be posted at the gate at the start of the fire road to the project. It will also be provided to Painted Rock Estates for their potential use at the main entrance to the HOA and may be installed on the bike path. Paper versions of the sign have also been posted at the District office, Post Office, and Fire Department bulletin boards. Staff are currently designing permanent signage with the current thinking that an interpretative sign on the

bike trail near the S-Turns project where one can view the north ridge would be most appropriate.

Olympic Valley Community Buffer (OV-4) Design and Permitting Project:

Staff have been working with Feather River Forestry to schedule the first public meeting related to OV-4. A flyer announcing the meeting will be posted at the post office, sent out via email, and provided to the Firewise Community for distribution. Letters will also be mailed to each landowner who owns property that is eligible for grant funding.

Chief Chisholm, Mr. Geary and Ms. Asher met with representatives from Placer County to discuss fuels management on three parcels of County-owned land, two parcels above Sandy Way and one parcel surrounding and including Olympic Valley Park. An objective of the meeting was to determine if those parcels, funded through Placer County rather than the TTCF grant, can be designed and permitted along with the current OV-4 project such that the District can apply for implementation funds for a continuous project in the future. The County was supportive of the Project and agreed that it would be efficient to consider the County's parcels concurrent with the privately held land, though the specific strategy for contracting is not yet known.

Staff also reached out to the Washoe tribe, who own 2.8 acres near the Park, to coordinate fuels reduction work similar to Placer County.

O.V. Evacuation Corridor – S-Turns Fuels Reduction

The meadow is beginning to have conditions favorable for a resumption of fuels reduction work. The District hopes the project will be dry enough to advertise the project soon and have work completed this fall.

Green Waste Disposal Days

The District is hosting five Green Waste Days in 2023, all scheduled for the second Sunday of each month, June – October. The Friends of Olympic Valley (FoOV) and OV Firewise Community have committed to staffing the site with volunteers on the Green Waste Days and Palisades Tahoe has agreed to staging the event on Olympic Valley Road, across from the Fire Station. District staff works with the FoOV/Firewise Community to publicize the events and provides the labor and equipment necessary to clean-up and load the green waste into dumpsters on the Monday following each event.

EVENT	GREEN WASTE COLLECTED (CU. YD)	
	2023	2022
1. May	0 – Canceled, Snow	150
2. June	210	150
3. July	150	60
4. August	120	90
5. September		120
6. October		60
TOTAL	480	660

Green Waste-Only Dumpster Rebate Program

In July 2021, following the termination of curbside green-waste collection by TTSD, the PSD Board approved a rebate program to fully reimburse the expense to rent a six-cubic-yard green-waste-only dumpster. This program has been continued through FY '24. The program is first-come, first-served and has a cap of \$10,000 for FY '24. One rebate per garbage customer per year is allowed. The funds are primarily from the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund (FARF). For non-garbage customers, the source of funds is property tax revenue.

		July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024
Rate		\$128.93	\$136.67	\$146.03
Number of rebates		18	29	3
Reimbursed Expense	Valley	\$1,524	\$3,007	\$438
	River Rd.	\$523	\$950	\$0
	Total	\$2,046	\$3,957	\$438

Since the rebate was introduced in 2021, **50 rebates** have been provided for a total expense of **\$6441.40**.

Placer County Chipper Days

The first of six residential chipping service days were scheduled with Placer County for July 25th, July 26th, August 29th, and August 30th. As of the date of this report, no property owners have reserved the service. While this might initially be viewed as a disappointment, it is believed these numbers are low only due to the success of the Green Waste Days. The final dates for the chipper program will be September 26th and 27th.

Defensible Space Inspections / Fire Aside:

OVFD has completed the first inspections for all residential inspections in Olympic Valley, showing a 59% pass rate. For commercial inspections, 76% have been completed with a pass rate of 0%, primarily due to the implementation of Zone Zero requirements. Crews will begin inspections in the Truckee River corridor on or around August 28th. Staff and the public are getting used to the new Fire Aside software, but are generally pleased thus far.

ALTERNATIVES: This report is informational only; no action is requested from the Board.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District has been awarded \$685,911 in grant funding dedicated to planning and implementation of fuels management projects as summarized below.

Project	Grantor	Date Awarded	Funding	% Complete
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	CAL FIRE	Oct. 2021	\$31,898	100%
Fuels Reduction - OV-1 (120 acres)	CAL FIRE	Nov. 2022	\$539,888	10%
Fuels Reduction – Evacuation Corridor- O.V. Road (3 acres)	Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)	July 2022	\$50,000	0%
	Trout Unlimited / Friends of Squaw Creek	Nov. 2021	\$19,000	100%
Design and Permitting OV-4 (100 acres)	TTCF / CAL FIRE	July 2023	\$45,125	0%



The District has an on-call contract with Danielle Bradfield (Registered Professional Forester and founder of Feather River Forestry) for grant writing and consulting services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 annually. Staff spend a significant amount of time developing our Fuels Management Program and administering grant contracts.

Expenses related to the Green Waste Days are paid from rates and the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund, the current balance of the Garbage FARF is \$148,842. The costs estimated for this program include TTSD’s delivery, pick-up, and disposal of three (3) 30-cubic yard containers per GWD, administration, and labor and expected to be approximately \$3,300/event if FoSV and the Firewise Community can provide volunteers on the five District-sponsored GWDs.

RECOMMENDATION: This report is informational only; no action is requested from the Board.

ATTACHMENTS: August 14th Community Meeting Slideshow, OV-1 Temporary Signage



DATE PREPARED: August 22, 2023

Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project OV-1

Community Information Meeting
August 14th, 2023 9:00 AM
District Administration Building – 305 Olympic Valley Rd.

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Team

Licensed Timber Operator




- Cross Check Services, Dave Mercer

Registered Professional Forester

- Feather River Forestry, Danielle Bradfield



District Staff

- Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief
- Chris DeDeo, Fire Captain
- Mike Geary, General Manager
- Jessica Asher, Program Manager



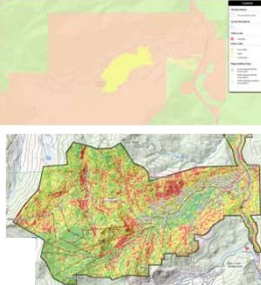
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High-Hazard Conditions

- Very High Fire Severity Zone as mapped by CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program
- Much of the community has high ladder fuel hazards as determined by LIDAR mapping and field surveys.
- OV-1 specifically has high fuel loading and steep slopes

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Fuels Management Program

- 25 years - Aggressive Defensible Space Inspections
- 2022 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
- Three Fuel Reduction Projects in Progress
- Green Waste Programs (1. Second Sunday Green Waste Disposal Days, 2. Dumpster Rebates, 3. Placer County Chipping, 4. Six Cubic-Yards Free)
- Public Education
- Coordination with Firewise Community
- Rigorous Wildland Training
- Mutual-Aid Agreements

Project	Grantor	Date Awarded	Funding	% Complete
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	CAL FIRE	Oct. 2021	\$31,898	100%
Fuels Reduction OV-1 (120 acres)	CAL FIRE	Nov. 2022	\$539,888	5%
Fuels Reduction - O.V. 3 Road Evacuation Corridor (3 acres)	Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)	July 2022	\$50,000	0%
Design and Permitting OV-4 (100 acres)	Trout Unlimited / Friends of Squaw Creek	Nov. 2021	\$19,000	100%
	TTCF / CAL FIRE	July 2023	\$45,125	0%

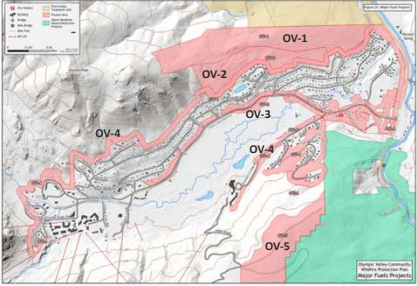
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CWPP Priority Projects

- OV-1** North Forest Thinning - IN PROGRESS
- OV-2** North Valley Prescribed Burns and Thinning
- OV-3** Roadside Wildfire Safety - IN PROGRESS
- OV-4** Community Wildfire Buffer - IN PROGRESS
- OV-5** South Forest Thinning

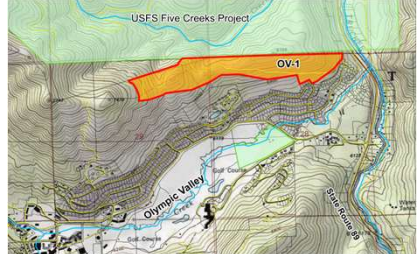


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OV-1 Project




- Shaded Fuel Break
- 120-acres
- North ridge of Olympic Valley
- Land owned by Placer County and Poulsen Commercial
- Adjacent to USFS Five Creeks Project (analysis and planning milestones completed)

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Project Objectives

- 1) Creation of 120 acres of fuel break north of the community of Olympic Valley and immediately adjacent to the Five Creeks project.
- 2) Reduce wildfire's risk to human health and safety.
- 3) Reduce the risk of adverse wildfire effects and potential fire behavior (flame length, intensity, rate of spread, duration) through reduction of fuel loading and arrangement within the Defense Zone of the Olympic Valley Wildland Urban Interface.



A ponderosa pine forest in the Jones Mountains, before and after a thinning project. Ken Lang

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Project Benefits

- Provides protection for the approximately 900 habitable structures
- Enhances safety along the major evacuation routes of Olympic Valley Road and State Route 89.
- Improves access roads leading from the community to the ridgeline north of the community, supporting safe ingress and egress of emergency personnel during a wildfire event
- Preemptively allows for wildfire to be held outside of the community should it enter from that direction
- Reduces potential ember cast by keeping wildfire as far as feasible from the community



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Shaded Fuel Break

The break will aid in fire suppression efforts and significantly reduce flame length, intensity, rate of spread and potential duration of wildfire. This reduction in potential fire behavior provides for increased safety of residents and emergency personnel in a wildfire situation.




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Existing Condition

- Stand density of 180-220 square feet basal area per acre.
- Cumulative pretreatment quadratic mean diameter is 13 inches DBH.
- 60% White Fir, 30% Jeffrey Pine, 6% Sugar Pine, and 4% Red Fir
- Average of 240 trees per acre over 8 inches DBH.



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Existing Condition

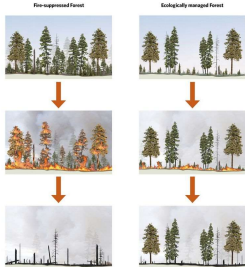


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Silviculture Prescription Post Treatment Conditions

- Stand density of 75-100 square feet basal area per acre
- Quadratic mean diameter will be increased approximately 5 inches DBH - trees retained will generally be larger, more fire tolerant trees.
- White Fir will be reduced in favor of native pine species. Increase resilience to fire, insects, disease, and drought
- Lower crown bulk density, increase crown base height to reduce fuel continuity and the probability of crown ignition and/or sustaining a running crown fire.
- Surface and ladder fuels will largely be removed



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Proposed Condition




Brockway Fuel Break




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Treatment Methods








Mechanical Thinning

- Heavy equipment with hydraulically driven saws to cut and remove trees generally under 24 inches in diameter.
- Whole tree removal vs. cut-to-length methods

Mastication

- Using machines to grind, rearrange, and compact fire hazards without reducing fuel loads

Hand Thinning and Chipping

- Crew using chainsaws and pole saws.
- Smaller trees, steeper slopes, environmentally sensitive areas

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Equipment




- Valmet 941 wheeled timber harvester: 30' reach maximizes distance between harvesting trails
- Valmet 890 or 895 wheeled timber forwarder: carries 18-22 tons of material per trip, lessening trips and associated ground impact
- Valmet 890 wheeled forwarder with rear mounted chipper: pick up, chip and broadcast all non-merchantable material
- 600-gallon water fire safety trailer with state required hand tools and backpack pumps.
- Water truck
- Cat Skidder or dozer used for fire protection
- Trimax 30 fire extinguishers
- Volvo EC220D excavator mulcher Fecon RTM-230 wheeled mulcher
- Wheel Loader for loading chips
- Service vehicles.




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Timeline








AUGUST 2023 **SEPTEMBER** **OCTOBER**


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Long-Term Maintenance


- Informal monitoring phase to assess brush regrowth and conifer regeneration
- Maintenance project in approx. 10 years
- Prescribed fire or re-mastication may be good options for maintenance
- The work to create a shaded fuel break will allow future controlled burns to be accomplished safely, which is not currently the condition.






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Funding







- Funding for this project is provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.
- Total Project: \$546,410
 - Licensed Timber Operator: \$480,000 (Bid Proposal \$462,000)
 - Registered Professional Forester: \$23,160
 - Supplies (signage, press release etc.): \$6,885 (\$2,885 PSD Match)
 - District Labor: \$36,364 (\$3,636 PSD Match)

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 **Questions?** 



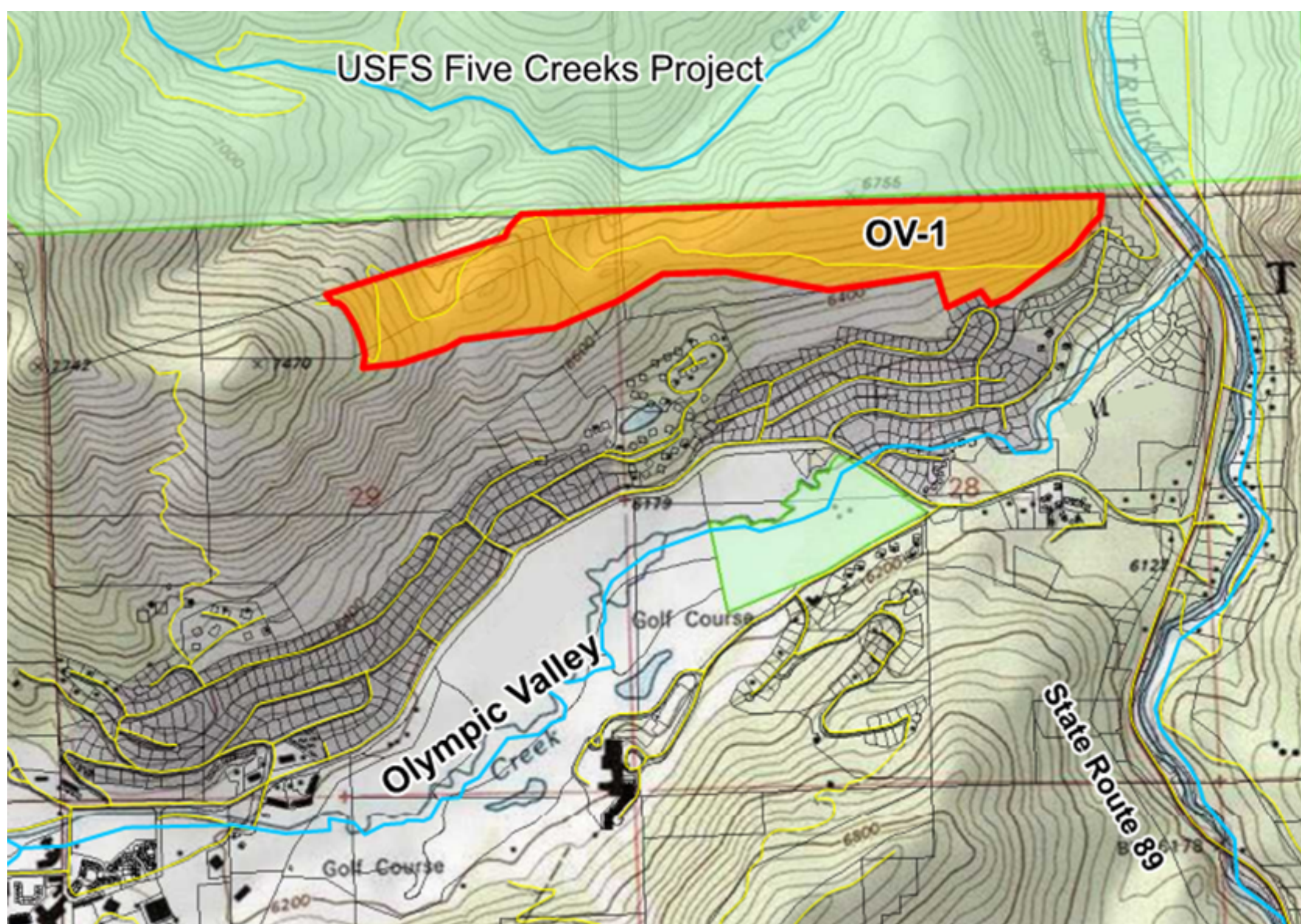
Contact the Fire Department at
info@ovpsd.org
530-583-6111

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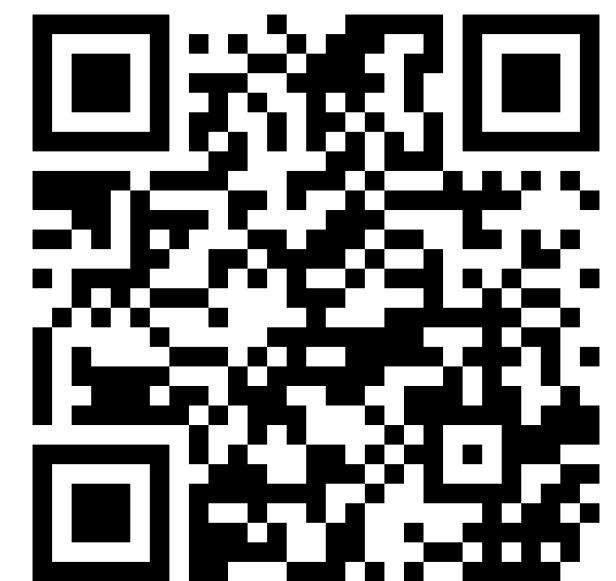
Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project (OV-1)

Working to Make Our Community Fire Safe!

- OV-1 is a 120-acre hazardous fuel reduction project located on the north ridge of Olympic Valley.
- Timber operations are expected from August through October, 2023.
- The goal of the OV-1 project is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire within the wildland urban interface.
- This goal will be achieved by reducing the horizontal and vertical continuity of forest fuels, which will aid fire suppression activities, and offer increased protection to life, property and the natural environment.



Scan the QR code to learn more about this project



or visit
www.ovpsd.org/ovfd/fuel-reduction-projects

Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

Contracting and Forester Services Provided by:



Please contact the Fire Department with any questions
info@ovpsd.org, 530-583-6111