

RCPP Crisis to Opportunity: Tree Mortality in the Central Sierra

Implementation Overview: What's New

Landowner Intake:

NRCS has provide an intake form to pre-screen interested landowners and collect initial information. The intake form will help both RCD and local NRCS staff keep track of interested individuals, streamline the handoff of information, and keep the process moving forward.

Billable Activities:

A new checklist of billable activities will help determine how to invoice CARCD for work through the RCPP. These activities have been approved by NRCS and invoices tied clearly to these activities will be quicker to process. The definition of 'Technical Assistance' now includes a fuller suite of services related to the EQIP program and implementation.

Deliverables Worksheet:

To track the progress of the grant, and the connection between billable activities and program deliverables, NRCS has provided two deliverable worksheets. The first worksheet outlines the steps taken to complete deliverables when work with the landowner takes place only within the 100 foot zone. The second worksheet outlines the steps taken to complete deliverables when work takes place outside the 100 foot zone.

Plan Template:

For larger plans that include work outside the 100 foot zone around buildings and uses multiple practices, NRCS has provide a plan template. This template is simple to fill out and streamlines input into the NRCS system.

Non-industrial private forest landowners in the 10 county High Hazard Tree Mortality Zone (Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern) with at least one beetle-kill conifer on their property are eligible for RCPP services.



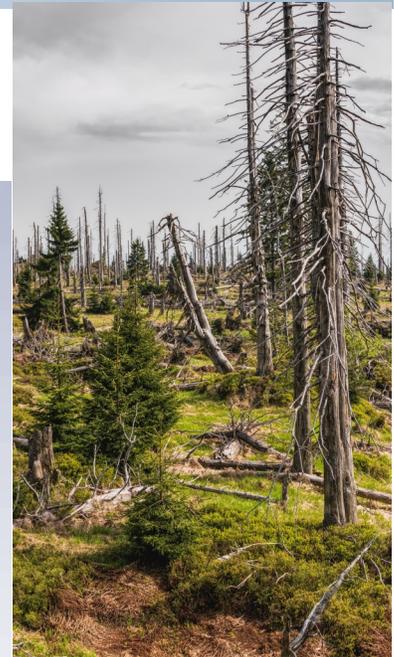
Program Updates

- The RCPP can now be publically announced and promoted.
- It is important to note that in FY2020 their will be a new per-tree practice designed to address the high cost of tree removal near homes. For those plans that include work within the defensible space, it is advisable to not submit plans for contracting through EQIP until batching periods that occur after October 1, 2019

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RCPP RCD Billable Deliverables Summary

- Intake Form
- Tree Mortality Template (or full Forest Management Plan written by RPF)
- Template with Practices Planned & Signed by Client
- Location Map with Highways & Aerial Map with Property Boundaries
- Conservation Notes & Photos
- Maps: Soils, CNDDDB, APE, Cons Plan
- Culture Resources Requests & Surveys
- CPA 52 Environmental Evaluation
- Implementation Requirements
- Input Plan into NRCS Software
- Collecting & Processing EQIP Eligibility Documents for RCPP Applicants
- Protracts/Contracting Work for RCPP Applications & Contracts
- Practice Inspection & Certification for RCPP Contracts
- Contract Management for RCPP Contracts



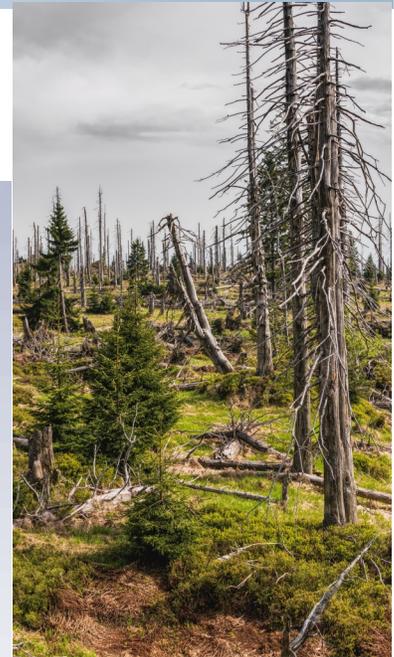
Billable Activities:

Not every RCD will perform all of the eligible billing activities. Not every activity will be performed for every contract. RCD staff should work with their NRCS District Conservationist to assess the progress of each contract and opportunities to collaboratively complete program steps.

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RCPP Invoicing Procedures

- ◆ RCDs have a contract with CARCD to perform work and receive funds under the RCPP.
- ◆ Invoices need to be submitted to CARCD for processing.
- ◆ Invoices can be submitted as frequently as once month.
- ◆ The projected turn around time on invoices is two weeks.
- ◆ The invoice form is designed to tie hours billed to specific billable activities.
- ◆ Any costs associated with administration, overhead, transportation, or lodging need to be built into the billable rate recorded on the invoice.



Invoicing:

Invoices should be submitted to CARCD. These will then be sent on to NRCS for approval and processing.

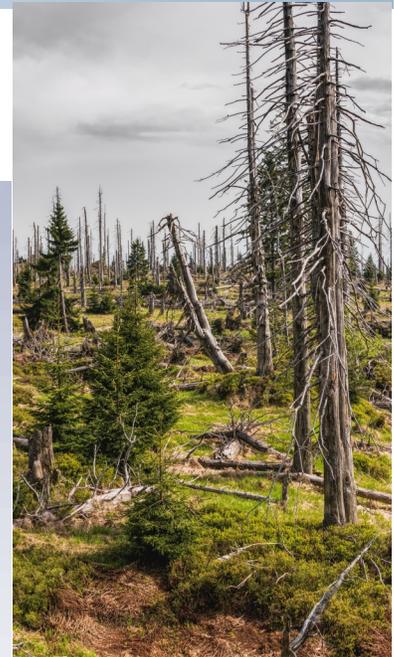
NRCS makes the final authorization on what costs are allowable.

CARCD estimates a turn around time on invoices of two weeks.

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RCPP: Work within the 100 foot zone

- ◆ The RCPP allows for work to be conducted within the 100 foot defensible space zone around structures.
- ◆ Work within the 100 foot zone is new for the EQIP program and practices.
- ◆ In FY 2020 there will be a new per-tree practice designed to address the high cost of tree removal near homes. Historically, tree removal practices were calculated per-acre.
- ◆ For those plans that include work within the defensible space, it is advisable to not submit plans for contracting through EQIP until batching periods that occur after October 1, 2019
- ◆ In addition to developing a per-tree payment, NRCS is working to streamline the cultural resources/ARC review process for those smaller projects where work will be performed exclusively within the 100ft zone around buildings.



100 ft Zone:

Working within the defensible space will help alleviate the substantial financial burden faced by landowners dealing with tree mortality.

While the management or conservation plans will address all relevant resource concerns, landowners can choose which practices to implement and contract through EQIP.

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RCPP: Next Steps

- ◆ Determine if you want to strategically approach individuals or communities to work with on RCPP projects or announce broadly
- ◆ Discuss RCPP goals and strategies with your local NRCS office including
 - ◆ Management plan requirements
 - ◆ Timeline and landowner expectations
 - ◆ Existing interested landowners
 - ◆ If the RCD and NRCS want to wait to contract landowners through EQIP until the new single-tree practice comes online in October 2019
- ◆ Review the billable activities, plan template and checklist, and the invoice and reporting form.
- ◆ Begin technical assistance to landowners, inclusive of all activities on the billable deliverables checklist
- ◆ Develop tree mortality conservation plans or forest management plans

