

The background of the entire page is a photograph showing the silhouettes of firefighters in a dark environment, illuminated by the bright orange and yellow glow of a fire. The firefighters are positioned in the foreground, their forms dark against the bright light of the flames.

a Fire Safe community

The community of Shingletown developed a Community Fire Safe Program in 1993 utilizing a multi-solution approach to mitigate wildfire hazards. This program identified education as the most important factor to successful fire management practices.

Case Studies

SHINGLETOWN, CALIFORNIA

As a result, the program established a residential vegetation disposal service to recycle local community vegetation waste (e.g., lawn clippings, shrub trimmings, etc.) at a nearby cogeneration plant.

The project is located within the forested areas surrounding the community of Shingletown in Shasta County, approximately 40 miles east of Redding, California. Historically, the surrounding area has experienced numerous wildfires, most notably the Fountain Fire in 1992, which burned through similar terrain, destroying 636 structures, causing one death, and threatening the nearby community of Burney. Due to the combination of sloping topography, forest density, and proximity of human populations, the

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection-Shasta County Fire Department (CDF) has identified the Shingletown area as one of the highest potentials for wildfire losses within their jurisdiction.

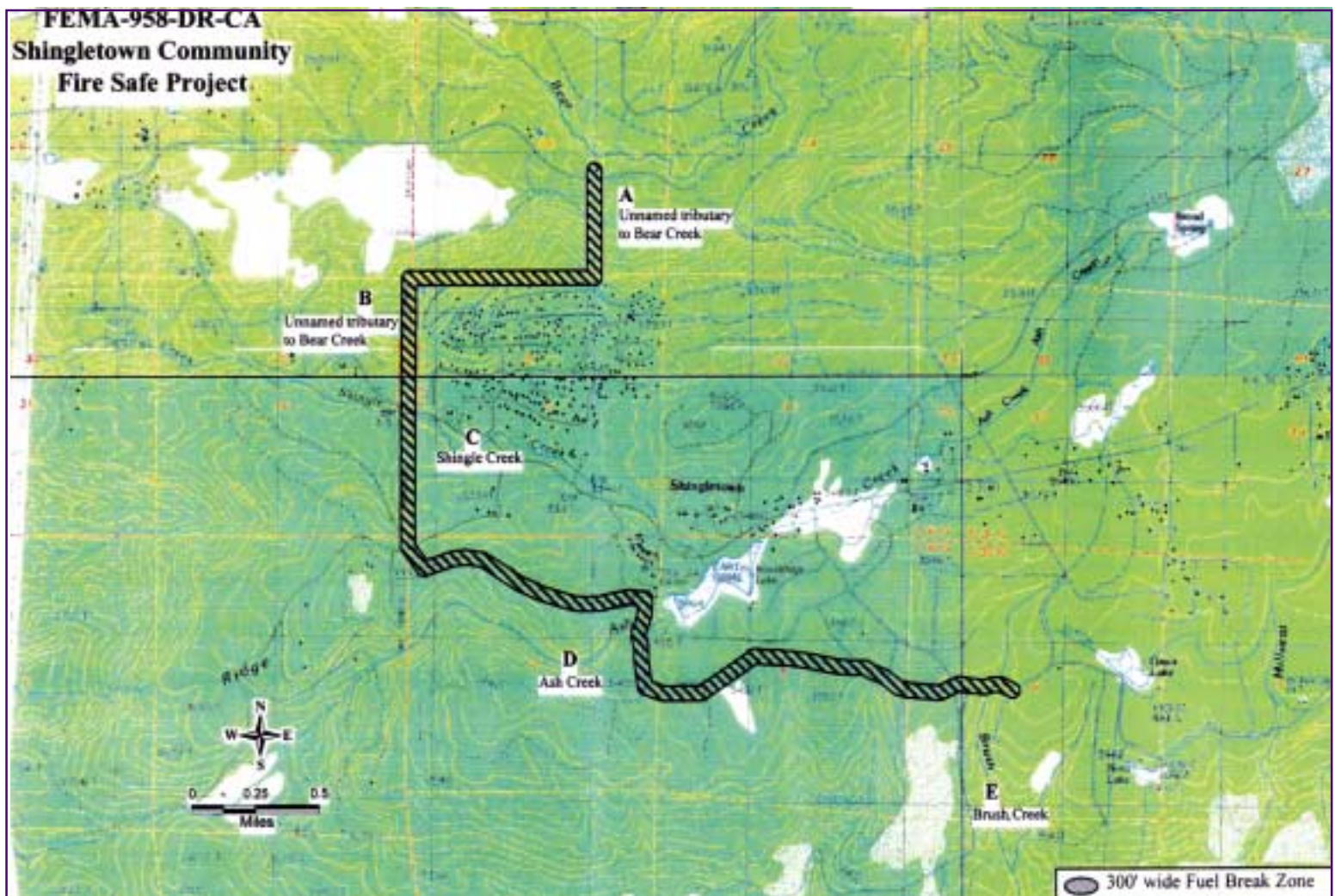
Reducing potential fire damage and associated suppression costs resulting from the spread of uncontrolled wildfires in wildland/urban interface areas by reducing fire fuel loads (vegetation) is the goal of this project. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection-Shasta County Fire Department (CDF) and the local community have implemented the Shingletown Community Fire Safe Program to educate residents about potential wildfire hazards, encourage them to reduce vegetation immediately



The project is located within the forested areas surrounding Shingletown, California.

adjacent to their homes, enforce fire-safe codes for new construction and replacement roofs, and implement a vegetation management program. This project manages wildland vegetation along an interface zone between urban (developed) and forested areas, reduces the potential of uncontrolled wildfires, improves wildfire containment, and reduces the potential risk to human life and safety.

The development of the Shingletown Community Fire Safe Program was a cooperative effort, which involved the coordination of the California Department of Forestry and Fire (CDF), Shasta County Fire Department (SCFD), California Department of Fish & Game, professional resource managers, and local residents to evaluate and prepare a comprehensive plan to



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mitigate wildfire hazards. The participants identified and evaluated various solutions to the communities' fire hazard risk and developed reasonable and feasible alternatives, which could be implemented.

Along with the development and enforcement of new, fire-safe building codes, removal of landscape vegetation adjacent to residential properties, and a disposal and recycling program for the removed vegetation, an



*Photographs of project area **prior** to shaded fuelbreak implementation.
(Note excess ladder fuels present).*

Shingletown, California



integral component in the Program was the development of a wildland fuel (vegetation) reduction program. The Program evaluated various fuel modification alternatives (e.g., fireline, firebreak, fuelbreak, and fuelbreak system) that would provide the optimum combination of effectiveness and minimal environmental impacts. Along with defining the amount of vegetation removed, the



*Photographs of project area **after** to shaded fuelbreak implementation.
(Note reduction in ladder fuels).*

Shingletown, California



Program evaluated the methodologies (e.g., prescribed burns, grazing, chemical application, and heavy equipment) of vegetation removal.

The project created a fuelbreak, which consisted of reducing vegetation (e.g., trees and shrubs) in an area approximately 300 feet wide by four miles long, along an urban/wildland interface. Implementation of the



Photographs of shaded fuelbreak near residential property.

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project was accomplished by removal of vegetation by fire crews with hand tools. All removed material was then transported to an existing chipping site and chipped by mechanical methods. Chipped material was then transported to a local recycling plant for use as an alternate fuel source.



Yellow line in both photographs denotes fuel reduction zone upper limit.

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Project benefits are conservatively estimated to be at least \$620,457 in avoided future damage and fire-fighting costs.



Photographs of mechanical equipment removing excess vegetation.