

# Community-Based Projects in the Wildland-Urban Interface



*The National Park Service preserves special places to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.*

*FIREsafe MARIN is dedicated to reducing wildland fire hazards and improving fire safety in Marin County, California.*

- National Park Service** - [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)
- FIREsafe MARIN** - [www.firesafemarin.org](http://www.firesafemarin.org)
- FireSafe Council** - [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)
- FireWise Program** - [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

**T**HE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE Initiative authorized by Congress in conjunction with the National Fire Plan, was legislated to reduce hazardous fuels on federal lands and assist communities with wildland fire protection.

Partnerships, community involvement, and interagency cooperation are critical to reduce wildfire risk in places where residential areas border large expanses of vegetation. Point Reyes and Golden Gate are part of a complex mosaic of wildlands composed of national parks, state parks, county open space, water district lands, and private nature preserves. These lands are adjacent to many communities, sharing with them both the benefits and the wildfire risk inherent in large, natural areas.

Meeting with local fire districts was the first step to identifying community protection projects. Within the Point Reyes-Golden Gate wildland-urban interface, \$769,000

was allocated to community-based projects in Fiscal Year 2001 and \$653,000 in Fiscal Year 2002.

Community fire-hazard assessments are conducted to identify needs for defensible space, shaded fuel breaks, fire hydrants, escape routes, and road improvements.

The community-based projects focus on hazardous fuels reduction through vegetation management around homes and roads, and along park or neighborhood boundaries. The projects are based in the communities of Inverness, Inverness Park, Olema, Bolinas, Muir Beach, Marin City, Marinview, Sausalito, Homestead Valley, Nicasio, Point Reyes Station, and Mill Valley. All of these communities are located in Marin County, California.

A cooperative agreement with FIREsafe MARIN, a fire safe council founded in 1992, has allowed 40 project task agreements

to be administered efficiently. FIREsafe MARIN is a non-profit corporation whose members include representatives of fire agencies, utilities, vegetation management professionals, county governments, land management agencies, insurance companies, neighborhood organizations, and others who share common interests in reducing wildfire hazards.

**Fire-Hazard Assessment:** A defensible space survey was conducted for a neighborhood near Inverness Park. Each property received a color-coded hazard rating, ranging from safe to extreme hazard, based on the condition of vegetation around homes.

**Chipping:** Chipping programs, like this one in Muir Beach, provide residents with a means to dispose of vegetation removed from around homes to create defensible space.

**Composting:** In addition to chipping, the Resource Recovery Project in Bolinas composts vegetation debris.

**Mapping Fuels:** A county-wide map of trees affected by Sudden Oak Death is being developed to help manage the fire hazard posed by dead trees.

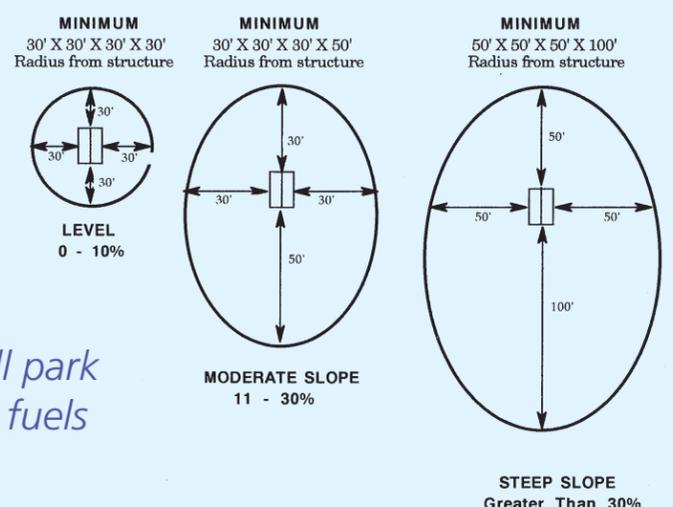
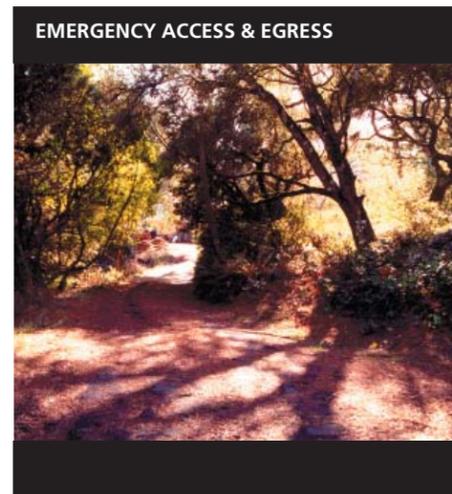
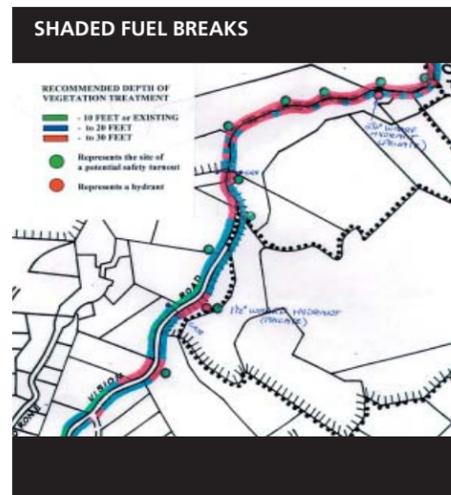
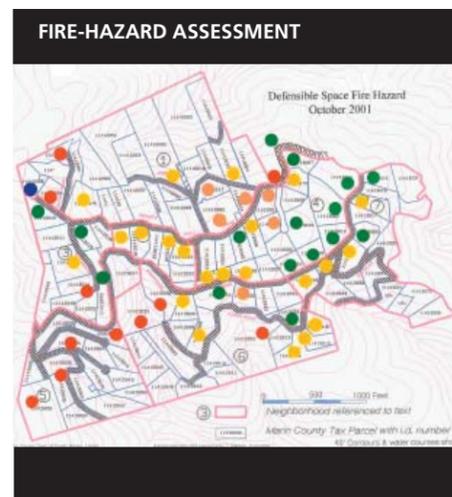
## Marin County Projects

*"These projects are part of a comprehensive plan to treat interface lands from Sausalito to Inverness."* Ken Massucco, Chief, Marin County Fire Department

- Bolinas**
- Resource Recovery Project, \$52,500
- Wish Creek Watershed Fuel Reduction, \$46,000
- Bolinas Mesa Defensible Space Survey, \$20,000
- Homestead Valley**
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction, \$60,000
- Inverness**
- Keith Way Fuel Break, \$15,000
- Seahaven Fire Management Plan and Implementation, \$172,000
- Vision Road Fuel Buffer, \$46,000
- Inverness Defensible Space Program, \$12,000
- Inverness Public Utility District Chipper, \$20,000
- Shell Beach Wildfire Protection, \$47,700
- Inverness Park**
- Paradise Ranch Estates Fire Management Plan and Implementation, \$167,500
- Emergency Access & Fuel Reduction, \$90,000
- Marin City**
- Headlands I & II Fire Protection, \$132,000
- Alta Fire Road Fuel Reduction, \$25,000
- Pacheco Fire Road Fuel Reduction, \$15,000
- Marin County**
- Sudden Oak Death Map, \$25,000
- Mill Valley**
- Camino Del Canyon Fuel Reduction, \$60,000
- Remote Automated Weather Station, \$16,400
- Muir Beach**
- Muir Beach Chipping Program, \$68,500
- Defensible Space Program Equipment, \$16,400
- Muir Woods**
- Panoramic Highway Fuel Reduction, \$30,000
- Nicasio**
- Volunteer FD Firehouse Renovation, \$25,000
- Olema**
- Water Pump System Upgrade, \$61,000
- Point Reyes Station**
- Chipping Program, \$20,000
- Sausalito**
- Sausalito-GGNRA Shaded Fuel Break, \$60,000
- Alexander Ave. Fuel Reduction, \$18,000

**Shaded Fuel Breaks:** Understory vegetation is removed or thinned to reduce potential fire intensity. Roads also act as fuel breaks which can slow and sometimes stop a fire. This capacity is enhanced by roadside vegetation clearing.

**Emergency Access & Egress:** Road conditions affect response time of firefighters and the ability of residents to evacuate. California fire code calls for 10' of vegetation clearance on each side of roads, and 14' vertically. Turnouts are also important for safe transit, especially during an emergency.



*Maintaining defensible space around all park structures is the first job the hazardous fuels crew tackles each summer.*