

Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council

*Serving the Foothill and Mountain Communities east of the
Friant-Kern Canal and south of the Kings River in Fresno County*

PO Box 762, Squaw Valley, CA 93675

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Brookside Fuel Break

What is it? How will it work? What should you expect?

Description of the Brookside Fuel Break:

- In 2022, Oak to Timberline received a California Climate Investments (CCI) grant from CalFire to create a 81-acre shaded fuel break, known as the Brookside Fuel Break (BFB). This project had been under discussion for several years, requiring cooperation and agreement between CalFire and the National Forest Service, since both private and public lands lie within the project area. Work on this grant must be completed by 2024.
- The BFB will run along Brookside Road, with a 200-foot wide shaded, fuel-thinned break, 100 feet along each side (see attached map).
- A shaded fuel break is exactly that: *shaded*. Removed brush is generally chipped or masticated into the soil to speed decay into mulch, which improves soil, water retention, and general forest health, and trees are left to provide shade.
- Oak to Timberline will contract with Licensed Timber Operators (LTO) to perform the work. On private lands, they will be prepared to thin and remove, masticate, or chip brush; fell small trees, and limb up larger trees to prevent fuel spread into the canopy. On Federal Land, hand crews with chainsaws will thin brush, remove small trees, and pile debris for later burning.
- OTFSC will also contract with a Registered Forest Professional (RPF) who will complete an environmental study to meet the mandated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.
- Landowners are now individually giving their consent to making this project a reality. As work begins, your questions and concerns are vital to the success of the project.

Oak to Timberline's commitment to landowners and our service area:

Oak to Timberline wants to cooperate with landowners in a spirit of mutual respect. The Brookside Fuel Break will be most effective if as many landowners as possible participate. Therefore, OTFSC wants to work with you to achieve the following goals:

- create a zone where wildfire's advance is slowed
- remove brush and dead trees so that homes and properties, and the neighborhood as a whole, are safer
- clear alongside roads so emergency vehicles can get in and out, and evacuations can proceed smoothly
- create a pleasing, park-like environment along the roadsides

How work on the Brookside Fuel Break will proceed:

- ***Please sign and return the enclosed Landowner Agreement and the Request for Landowner Information to Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council, PO Box 762, Squaw Valley, CA 93675. We cannot work where we do not have permission.***
- Although the goal is to create a 200-foot wide break, OTFSC will work with landowners individually, especially when the work is near homes and buildings.
- Oak to Timberline is not allowed to work within the 100-foot clearance zone mandated by CalFire.
- If you wish, you may hire our contractor to work within your 100-foot zone while his equipment is nearby.
- OTFSC's contractor cannot cut trees into firewood size, but logs can be left and bucked into 8' lengths.
- OTFSC contractors cannot work around power lines.

This community and wildfire safety improvement is *free of charge* to all landowners within the project boundary. An OTFSC Project Manager or Contractor will meet with you to discuss your individual concerns; please contact us for a phone consultation or on-site appointment.

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