



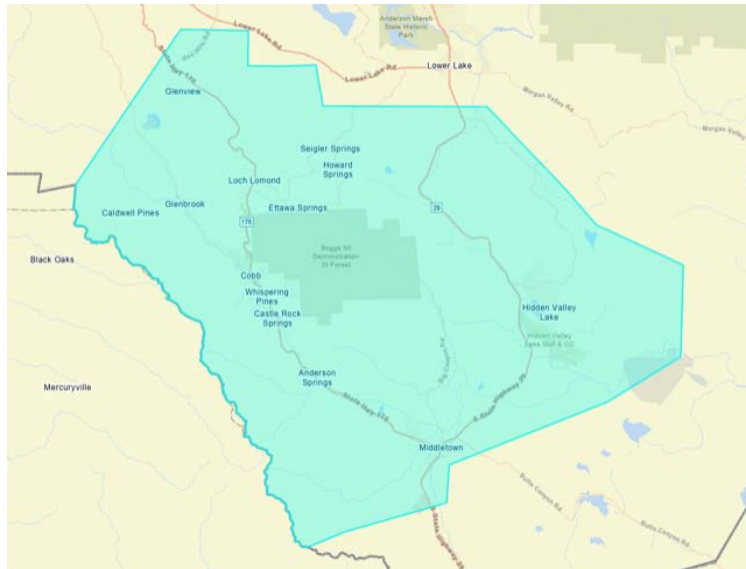
Lake County's Tree Mortality Emergency

Urgent Needs:

- \$7.5M to Bridge CDAА Funding Gap for Immediate Dead and Dying Tree Remediation
- Technical Assistance to Support County Efforts to Remove and Dispose of 4,000 Conifers
- Support in Holding PG&E, State and Federal Agencies Accountable for Vegetation Removal

Background: Repeated wildfire events, drought and persistent historically high temperatures have had compounding effects in Lake County. **Since 2015, two-thirds of our landmass has burned, and greater than 2,000 homes, more than 5.5% of Lake County's total housing supply.**

Recent flyover data from **CAL FIRE** demonstrated **thousands of conifers are dead and dying in Lake**



County's woodlands, and Tree Mortality is expected to grow increasingly prevalent in the near-term. The map on the reverse was created by augmenting CAL FIRE's findings with satellite data, and demonstrates profound vegetation loss throughout Lake County from 2020-2022. Many affected areas are outside footprints of recent wildfire events; the threat to public safety is severe.

Dr. Michael Jones, the University of California Cooperative Extension's Forest Advisor for Lake County and a trained entomologist, indicates **removal of dead and dying trees is critical to mitigating multi-species bark beetle**

infestation. There are at least **10,000** such trees within 200-foot buffer zones around County roadways and evacuation routes in the above-depicted area, alone and **22,000 along roadways countywide.** The magnitude and urgency of this problem continues to grow; **initial costs are expected to exceed \$30M.**

On **May 3, 2022**, Lake County's Board of Supervisors Proclaimed the existence of a **Local Emergency due to "Pervasive Tree Mortality."** This is a regional crisis; neighboring Napa and Mendocino Counties have likewise declared or initiated the process to declare States of Emergency. Related threats are complex. While it is too soon to fully evaluate the effects of January 2023's Atmospheric River Event, it reinforced the vulnerability of County roadways and other public rights of way to obstruction from downed trees.

The California Disaster Assistance Act provides for a 75%/25% cost share for Tree Mortality emergency response activities. CDAА funding is essential, but insufficient to address Lake County's Tree Mortality emergency. Lake is an impoverished rural County, with a median household income \$49,254, just 63% of the statewide median of \$78,672. 15.9% of the population lives at or below the federal poverty level (11.5% statewide). **Managing \$7.5M or more in immediate costs,** in addition to loss of revenue due to staffing impacts is **not sustainable based on local contributions, alone.**