



# Monthly Newsletter December 2019

The Tulare County RCD Board meetings are open to the public and typically held on the second Wednesday of each month at noon in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conference Room inside the USDA building: 3530 W Orchard Ct, Visalia, CA.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 8th, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

[Visit our Website](#)

## RCPP Tree Mortality Crisis

### **Technical Assistance for Forest Health and EQIP Funding**

The RCD is currently providing technical assistance to private non-industrial forest landowners in the form of site visits, creation of forest management plans, and promoting participation in the NRCS EQIP funding through the RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program).

Call (559) 754-3155 for more information regarding the program.

## RCPP CRISIS TO OPPORTUNITY: SIERRA NEVADA TREE MORTALITY



*Working  
together for  
you...*



*Financial assistance is available for dead tree removal and other forest health practices through NRCS.*

*RCPP program allows for EQIP funds to be used within the 100 foot defensible space zone and has no acreage minimum for applicants.*

Tulare County Resource Conservation District  
3530 W. Orchard Ct.  
Visalia, CA 93277  
Direct Line for RCPP: (559) 754-3155  
Email: [info@tularecountyrcd.com](mailto:info@tularecountyrcd.com)  
Website: [www.tularecountyrcd.com](http://www.tularecountyrcd.com)

## Forest Health & Fire Prevention

### **Masticator Purchase**

*The Tulare County RCD was awarded nine projects by Cal-Fire for various types of fuel management. The "Masticator Purchase" is one of those nine...*



Through a grant from Cal Fire Tulare County RCD was able to acquire and utilize a cutting-edge masticator, the Green Climber LV600, which is a new tool in the Sierra. This masticator requires up to 90% less fuel to operate and transport compared with traditional larger machines. It is controlled remotely providing an unparalleled degree of operator safety, and has been demonstrated to be effective on slopes up to 60 degrees.



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## Local Event

**5th Annual Latino Farmer Conference**



The Latino farming community, agriculture industry, advocates for sustainability and agribusinesses are all brought together for a day of workshops, networking, and learning from fellow farmers. The conference was held at the Tulare Ag Center with 300 people in attendance and it is presented by The National Center for Appropriate Technology "NCAT" and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service "NRCS".



[Click here to go to their website](#)

## Projects From the Past: 2003

**Tulare County Biomass Feasibility Study  
United States Forest**



In 2003 the Tulare County RCD received a grant from the United States Forest Service Economic Action Program for the hiring of a consultant to study entering various woody biomass markets. The primary objective of this feasibility study was to evaluate the potential opportunities to develop value added markets for traditionally underutilized biomass material that is generated as a result of fuels treatment activities. By seeking out and possibly developing value added uses for biomass, the Tulare County RCD hopes to offset some of the costs associated with the implementation of fuels treatment projects, improve/ expand sustainable employment opportunities for county residents and help to preserve existing forest products manufacturing infrastructure.

## Community Garden

### The People's Garden



Our community garden program is another example of the endless ways we partner with our local NRCS office. From the beginning their soil conservationists and ag engineers assisted in assessing the soil, irrigation planning, and assisting with work days when we chip up each year's pile of plant materials into compost / mulch. Two of the most interesting ways they've assisted is in establishing a pollinating hedgerow and bringing in a Hmong-speaking soil conservationist to teach the gardeners about water use.

Below is a picture of a butterfly bush that looks more like a tree and still beautiful in the winter-time. The hedgerow attracts many different kinds of bees to the garden.

We didn't know at first, but the neighborhood where Goathead garden resides has a large population of Hmong families living in apartments. There are now 40 families with rows in the garden and they are amazing in their knowledge of how to grow year-round in our climate. They are used to the rain forest, though, and used to soil being wet all the time. When it became clear there were cultural and language issues with teaching about water use in drought conditions, NRCS brought in a Hmong-speaking soil conservationist who met with the gardeners and did some training, and then found a local person who could serve as a garden manager. This is working out really well and the garden continues to showcase especially how well winter gardens are full of lots of different vegetables and

continue to feed the neighborhood.

