

## Notice Of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration: “Cohasset Area Reforestation and Oak Restoration Program”

Posted on May 8, 2026

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**LEAD AGENCY:** Butte County Resource Conservation District  
150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste A, Oroville, CA 95965

**CONTACT PERSON:** Wolfgang Rougle, Planning & Watershed Program Manager, (530) 721-0164

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project is located on various private landownerships in Butte County, California. The program area spans 6,372 acres, including all of the following sections: T24N, R02E, sections 13, 23, 24, & 26. It also covers parts of the following sections: T24N, R02E, sections 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35; T23N, R02E, sections 3 and 4; and T24N, R03E, section 18. Elevations in the program area range from 1,675 to 3,550 feet above sea level.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Various partners, notably the Butte County Fire Safe Council, propose to restore burned mixed conifer-hardwood forest stands after the 2024 Park Fire in a 6,372-acre area around Cohasset, California. Activities would only be conducted with landowner permission. The program would consist of:

- 1) Planting seeds and seedlings (with or without site preparation which may include herbicide applied in accordance with a recommendation from a California-licensed Pest Control Advisor) of California native trees, adapted to the local climate as modelled over the coming 50 years;
- 2) Leader-training existing hardwood resprouts, to encourage faster development of woodland structure; and
- 3) Processing of pruned material by either chipping & broadcasting on site, hauling off-site, lopping & scattering, piling and burning, or piling for wildlife without burning.

**Botany** Botanical surveys would be conducted in advance of all work.

**Archaeology** Archaeological surveys would be conducted in advance of all work, except when work consists only of A) leader-training/coppicing where the cut material would be *scattered* (not piled) on-site or hauled off-site and/or B) herbicide application. Both these activities are inherently non-ground disturbing. Parts of the program area that had already received archaeological survey since the Park Fire, would not be resurveyed.

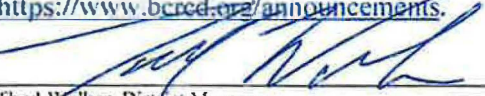
**Wildlife** Nesting bird surveys would be conducted 1-3 days in advance of all work during nesting bird season (Feb 1-Aug 15), including herbicide application. Any nests found would be buffered 30 feet or the distance specified in the California Forest Practice Rules for the bird species, whichever is greater. The program incorporates design features that would minimize its impacts on wolves, fishers, northwestern pond turtles, amphibians and other wildlife.

**Soils** After activities are concluded, soil would retain effective ground cover (live and dead vegetation, slash, stable biochar, needle-cast, etc) of at least 45%, including after pile-burning.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** This draft Negative Declaration (DND) has been prepared by the Butte County Resource Conservation District as lead agency. The DND is in conformance with Section 15070, Subsection (a), of the State of California Guidelines for Implementation of the CEQA. The purpose of the draft ND and the Initial Study Checklist was to determine 1) whether the proposed program would result in any environmental impacts and, 2) if so, whether any of these impacts might be significant, either before or after mitigation.

Butte RCD finds the proposed program, as designed, would have no impacts requiring mitigation.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** A 30-day minimum public review period for the Negative Declaration will commence on May 7, 2026, and end at 5 pm Monday, June 8, 2026, for interested individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Any written comments on the Negative Declaration must be received at the above address within the public review period, or be emailed to the following address: [wolfv@bcred.org](mailto:wolfv@bcred.org). Copies of the Negative Declaration are also available for review at the above address and at <https://www.bcred.org/announcements>.

  
Thad Walker, District Manager  
Butte County Resource Conservation District

Date 5/7/26

