

Update—Chili Bar to Georgetown Project 4-10-2020

The primary focus of the Chili Bar to Georgetown Project is aimed at moving forward with the implementation of the Phase 1—Kelsey Fuels Reduction Project in the area of Shoo Fly Road east of Kelsey at the southern end of the 30-square mile area that encompasses the overall planning vision.

The Kelsey Fuels Reduction Project includes public lands (BLM and Forest Service) and private lands in the area. We have partnership with the CCCs, CAL FIRE, EDCO DOT, and El Dorado and Georgetown RCD with the grant administrator being the Georgetown Fire Safe Council for the State Fire Safe Council grant award.

We have a three-prong approach for this fuels reduction effort: 1. Egress and ingress roadside treatments to get fire engines in and people out during a wildfire event, 2. Followed by a roughly 200' fuel break along Shoo Fly Ridge extending through BLM, Forest Service and private lands where landowner agreements are in place, 3. Restoring the larger landscape. In the meantime, the Georgetown Fire Safe Council and local residents are pursuing options for Firewise Communities, USA certification and working on defensible space in our communities.

Recent progress on the Kelsey Fuels Reduction Project included multiple field meetings with agency officials and residents reviewing the project conditions and clearances needed to proceed with the project. In March, the Mother Lode Field Office of BLM completed their Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for the Kelsey Fuels Reduction work for BLM lands along and adjacent to Shoo Fly Road parcels.

- [BLM Determination of NEPA Adequacy for Kelsey Fuels Reduction](#)
 - Map of [Shoofly Parcels](#)
 - Map of [Chili Bar to Georgetown](#)
 - Map of [Kelsey/Chili Bar Parcels](#)

The CCC partners were planning to start work in April on the BLM ground but that may be on hold due to workforce protections related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the possibility that they are called in to help with community food bank distributions. We may not start up until later in the Fall. It is uncertain right now at this writing.

The RCD/Mark Egbert has engaged contractors for the CEQA work needing to be completed on the private land areas of the project footprint. The Archeology Report for the project area contains 65-70 historic sites (many old mining ditches and “glory holes”) that will need outreach to landowners and flagging for avoidance. Mark is working on ascertaining how many sites are actually within the treatment areas of the project.

There will be no Chili Bar to Georgetown full work group meetings until further notice but the steering group for the Kelsey Fuels Reduction Project continue to stay engaged almost daily.

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