

### ***NRCS Cost Share Program To Fund Dead Tree Removals***

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a federal agency under the department of agriculture, has created a cost-share program to fund dead tree removals within 100-foot defensible space zones around habitable structures. For landowners living in Amador, Calaveras or Tuolumne Counties, the regional forester that will be conducting site visits is Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) executive director Gordon Long. In addition to full tree removals, the program provides funding for pruning, forest thinning of live small trees, tree planting and herbicide application, among other services. The program can pay about \$800 per large dead tree within a 100-foot defensible space zone. If outside that zone, the funding provided is based on acreage. That can run anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000 per acre, depending on slope, proximity to streambeds and other specifics. In order to qualify, private forest landowners must have at least one dead standing conifer (pine, cedar, spruce, etc.) on their property. For more information on the program, call 791-0286.