

FOREST HEALTH TASK FORCE

RSF REVIEW ARTICLE

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The mission of the Forest Health Task Force (FHTF) is to provide information and educational resources to members of the community regarding the red gum eucalyptus infestation. The task force was originally created in 2000, when the first signs of this infestation appeared. The work of FHTF, and many others from U.C. Berkeley and U.C. Davis Extension at that time, brought a wasp to the area that was, and continues to be, a natural predator to the red gum lerp psyllid.

But other factors have intervened and once again our signature tree is struggling. Drought, fire and time are taking their toll on the trees, and the Task Force has been reconvened. Once again, this task force is being led by representatives from the RSF Association and RSF Foundation and RSF Fire District, U.C. Davis Extension, RSF Community Services District, several certified arborists and concerned community volunteers.

In support of the mission of the FHTF, the committee is a non-partisan, non-political group who is concerned about the health of our forest. We are committed to working with the residents of the Covenant, as well as the residents of other communities in the 92067 zipcode and other communities throughout the state that are experiencing this same problem. What is good for us is good for all.

The website is available for those seeking answers to their specific tree problems. We are in the process of making as much information available as possible – please go to www.rsfforesthealth.org. This information has been compiled by scientists, arborists, tree care specialists, fire district personnel and representatives of the Santa Fe Irrigation District. The website is user friendly, with a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) that have been compiled as a result of the questions that have come in to the Association and Fire District from you and your neighbors.

There is no one easy answer to the problem, and the solution will take years to accomplish – from identifying dead, diseased and dying trees today, to removing them and finally to re-foresting our communities. The goal of the FHTF is to provide a forum for residents and concerned citizens to find and create solutions to this infestation.

We urge you to join us and to become part of the solution