



# Northern California Forests and Watersheds

## NFWF CONTACTS

**Jonathan Birdsong**  
 Director,  
 Western Regional Office  
[jonathan.birdsong@nfwf.org](mailto:jonathan.birdsong@nfwf.org)  
 415-778-0999

**Jessica Perla**  
 Coordinator,  
 Regional Programs  
[jessica.perla@nfwf.org](mailto:jessica.perla@nfwf.org)  
 202-595-2422

## FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).

## WESTERN PARTNERSHIP OFFICE

90 New Montgomery Street  
 Suite 1010  
 San Francisco, California 94105  
 415-778-0999

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street NW  
 Suite 1000  
 Washington, DC 20005  
 202-857-0166



Eldorado National Forest

## OVERVIEW

The Northern California Forests and Watershed program was established in 2018 to support forest and watershed restoration efforts in areas impacted by wildfires.

In California, 11 of the state's largest 20 wildfires have occurred within the last 10 years. The threat of unnatural wildfire has increased due to decades of fire suppression activities, recent droughts, insect infestations, and challenges from increased human activities on the forest.

Although the ecosystems of northern California have evolved to be well adapted to fire, the stressors associated with recent increases in frequency and intensity of fires have resulted in long-term losses in habitat, ecosystem transitions, opportunities for invasive species to take hold and spread, and changes in hydrology and associated effects to sediment, nutrient fate and transport. The fund is dedicated to addressing these stressors and restoring these critical ecosystems to promote forest and watershed resilience to future wildfire events.

Since 2018, the Northern California Forests and Watershed program had awarded over \$5.6 million in competitive grants for five key strategies: 1) Watershed restoration and management, 2) Species management, 3) Forest and upland restoration management, 4) Recreational and non-natural features management, and 5) Watershed infrastructure improvements and management. The fund has invested over \$5.6 million in 23 projects, leveraging more than \$2.3 million in conservation resources.

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Lassen National Forest

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to establish the fund and restore and enhance National Forests and watersheds affected by wildfires within Northern California. Additional funding and support is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Land Management.

The goal of the Northern California Forests and Watershed program include:

- Support projects that strategically address the impacts to the watersheds affected by historic fires
- Identify and fund projects that provide strategic sustainable and lasting ecological benefits to forests and watersheds

- Enhance infrastructure on National Forests, such as culverts and other fish barriers, to improve overall watershed health, resilience, and wildlife access to important habitat
- Promote projects that provide additional efficiency and innovation to improve forest health
- Restore and protect cultural and tribal resources where necessary

The fund's investments are targeted primarily in areas affected by the 2000 Storrie Fire on Lassen National Forest and the 2004 Power Fire on Eldorado National Forest. NFWF and USFS developed a Restoration Strategy to provide targeted watershed-scale projects to accomplish high return on conservation outcomes and investments.