



NFWF

Pacific Southwest Fuels Partnership 2019 Grant Slate

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Spotted owl

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Pacific Southwest Region, announced a 2019-year round of funding for Pacific Southwest Fuels Management Partnership projects. Four new fuels management grants totaling \$1.1 million were awarded. The four awards announced generated \$1.7 million in match from grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$2.8 million.

Fuels management projects involve removing excess vegetation from unhealthy forest landscapes, and may include prescribed burning to deliberately reintroduce lower-intensity fire to some areas. Fuels management activities can reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and create safer conditions for the return of a historic fire regime, protecting healthy forest conditions that support fish and wildlife, recreation, water quality and carbon sequestration.

A century of widespread fire exclusion and changes in active forest management have resulted in an unnatural buildup of surface fuels, trees and ladder fuels in California's forests. The resulting forest health problems are widespread and increasing, affecting wildlife habitat, water supplies and long-term soil productivity. The buildup of flammable vegetation due to past management, drought conditions, and insect and disease-related tree mortality have made managing fire riskier, more complex, and more costly. As conditions contribute to longer annual fire seasons, agency capacity and resources to protect communities, natural resources and infrastructure are stretched thin.

Properly designed and implemented fuels management treatments can decrease the intensity of future wildland fires within treated areas, increasing the safety of residents, recreationists, and firefighters working to protect human life and natural resources.

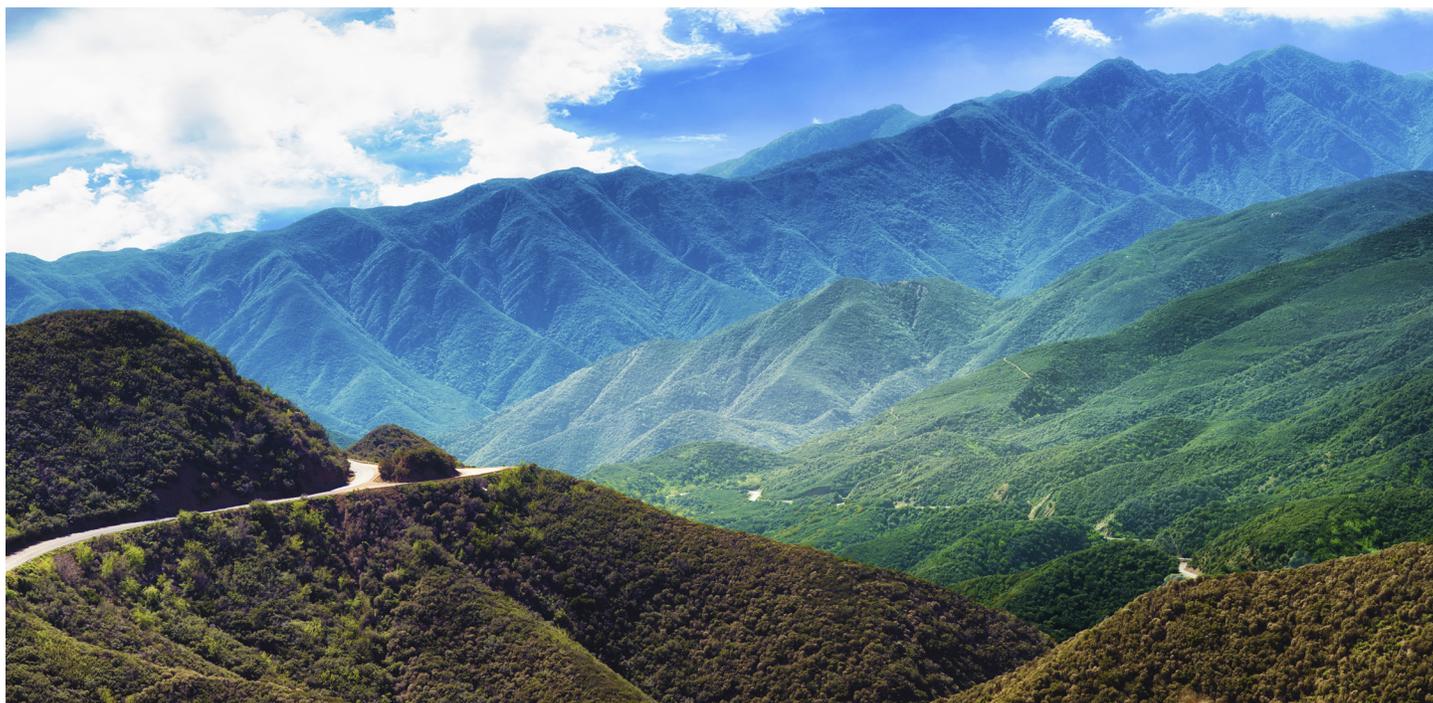
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ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Los Padres National Forest, California

Fuels Reduction Training to Restore Forest Health and Promote Resilience in Crystal Lake (CA)

Grantee: American Conservation Experience
Grant Award:..... \$321,252
Matching Funds: \$169,231
Total Amount:\$490,483

Restore forest health across 203 acres to improve wildlife habitat and reduce the risk of severe wildfires in the Golden Cup plantation area of Crystal Lake within San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The project will provide training to a fuels reduction crew that will implement necessary fuels treatments to promote forest health and resilience.

Strategic Thinning for Large Scale Prescribed Fire Implementation in Six Rivers National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Grant Award:..... \$500,000
Matching Funds: \$500,000
Total Amount:\$1,000,000

Mid Klamath Watershed Council will conduct manual thinning to increase fire safety around the Orleans and Somes Bar communities within the Six Rivers National Forest and implement fuels reduction treatment along strategic fuelbreaks to manage future fires and prepare for large scale prescribed fires. The project will prioritize thinnings to create buffers along private properties and critical routes and oversee strategic fuelbreaks across 430 acres.

Prescribed Burning in Lassen National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.
Grant Award:..... \$73,626
Matching Funds: \$1,000,000
Total Amount:\$1,073,626

Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. will conduct prescribed burns to reduce wildfire risk, contribute to the landscape-level goals of community and habitat protection, and improve overall forest health of the Diamond Mountain project area within the Lassen National Forest. The project will facilitate burning piles across 1,075 acres of hand-thinned, overly dense conifers.

Non-commercial Thinning and Fuels Treatments in Recreation Areas in Frazier Mountain (CA)

Grantee: The Student Conservation Association, Inc.
Grant Award: \$212,273
Matching Funds: \$98,772
Total Amount:\$311,045

The Student Conservation Association, Inc. will reduce wildfire risk by treating vegetation around existing facilities and widely used areas, restore forest diversity and health, and maintain the health of mature conifer stands and conifer plantations on Frazier Mountain in the Los Padres National Forest. The project will support a restoration team that will perform non-commercial thinning on 500 acres and fuels reduction on approximately 250 acres.