



Southern California Forests and Watersheds - Wildfires Restoration

2022 RFP APPENDIX

OVERVIEW

Listed below are several potential projects that have been identified by the Angeles National Forest and the Inyo National Forest as ‘High Priority’ for the 2022 RFP funding cycle. The descriptions include a brief summary of the intent and need, along with additional supporting information as available to help detail or define aspects of the project. Project descriptions are organized by the General Programmatic Strategies that they most closely align with. The information presented here is not comprehensive, but rather provides preliminary information for interested applicants to begin to develop their proposal.

The list of projects described here is neither exhaustive nor does it represent the only projects eligible to receive funding through this opportunity. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit proposals that align with the goals of this program, whether they explicitly address the needs listed here or not. However, this list does provide known needs and priorities for the Forest, and as such, well developed proposals that address these needs will be highly competitive.

Questions about the projects below should be directed to Jonathan Birdsong, NFWF Western Regional Director.

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

Watershed Restoration and Management

San Francisquito Creek – Unarmored Threespine Stickleback Habitat Restoration (Copper Fire)

San Francisquito Canyon experienced dramatic riparian habitat alteration resulting from the 2002 Copper Fire and significant post-fire flooding/debris flows; the increasing presence of aquatic invasive species since then has further degraded the habitat, particularly for the federally listed California red-legged frog (CRLF) and unarmored threespine stickleback (UTS). The ANF has identified a priority need to improve and enhance habitat conditions for UTS within a 1.7-mile section of San Francisquito Canyon Creek between LADWP Powerhouse 2 and Saint Francis Dam. The UTS habitat in the target stream reach has the potential to provide instream refugia for this species.

The Forest seeks practical and innovative stewardship proposals that would provide immediate benefits to UTS as well as long-term, sustainable strategies that would address hindrances to the recovery of UTS populations (e.g., effective strategies to manage and control invasive crayfish populations). All activities would need to be in compliance with the [Aquatic Invasive Fauna Removal Decision Memo](#) (May 7, 2015) as well as federal and state laws, regulations, and policies governing instream activities; certain activities may require the grantee to possess a recovery permit issued by USFWS. Grantee may need to complete environmental compliance documentation (i.e., NEPA) if proposed activities are not addressed in existing environmental documentation. Proposed activities would also need to be complementary to, and not in conflict with, other restoration activities in the vicinity of the target reach.

Forest and Upland Restoration and Management

Copper Fire Woodlands Restoration Project – Implementation (Copper Fire)

The ANF requests assistance with restoring and improving approximately 107 priority acres of oak woodlands, oak woodland-conifer plantations and conifer plantations impacted by the Copper Fire and associated insect and disease mortality. Restoration will be done through forest vegetation establishment and forest vegetation improvement. Forest vegetation establishment is a 3-year planting process involving seed collection, growing seedlings, site preparation, planting of native conifers (Gray pine and Coulter pine), and seeding and planting native oaks, survival exams, planting certification and treatment for noxious weeds. Forest vegetation improvement activities will include release for growth and survival. Project-level monitoring will be conducted, with a focus on survival and recruitment. Targeted future condition is 75-100 trees per acre after 5 years of the initial establishment activity. The ANF will provide a silvicultural prescription and maps of the project area and treatment units; treatment activities must be consistent with the prescription as well as project requirements specified in the Decision Memo for this project (pending). The grantee will provide assistance with forest vegetation establishment and forest vegetation improvement during a project timeframe that cannot exceed March 2024. Project activities within the period of performance will include site preparation, weed control, planting, and release. The grantee will flag and treat invasive weed areas within the treatment units prior to beginning planting. Additional information can be [found here](#).

Public Use Engagement and Management

OHV Barrier Installation and Habitat Restoration (Copper Fire)

Vegetation loss after the Copper Fire resulted in accessibility to areas of the landscape that were previously inaccessible to OHV traffic. This lack of vegetation has since allowed users to create unauthorized travel routes, which in turn has led to increased erosion, downslope sedimentation, and a proliferation of invasive plant species. The ANF is requesting assistance in rehabilitating user-created trails and restoring habitat within the Drinkwater Flat OHV Area. Up to approximately 13 miles of user-created routes will be treated. The ANF will determine specific project locations, with priority given to projects having the most influence on watershed health. Rehabilitation and restoration of user-created trails will be limited to those actions considered to be routine maintenance or actions authorized under the [Invasive Plant Treatment Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice – Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District \(USDA 2013\)](#) and the [Plan for Invasive Plants Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice – Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument \(USDA 2015\)](#).

User-created trails will be rehabilitated and restored using barriers, erosion control measures, and invasive plant treatments and associated native planting as allowed under the invasive plant treatment NEPA, cited above. The following restoration activities may be proposed:

- **OHV barrier installation.** Install no-dig barriers and t-post fencing at junctions with designated roads or trails or other sites as specified by the ANF to protect natural resources and prevent unauthorized access. No-dig barriers will be constructed according to ANF specifications. Spread vegetative slash along unauthorized trails so that the trail can no longer be seen from multiple vantage points. Implementation will be aided by a Forest Service employee on-site. Grantee will be responsible for all supplies, equipment, and necessary trainings/certifications.

- ***Erosion control measures.*** Place vegetation, weed-free straw or other mulching along and adjacent to designated user-created trails to prevent erosion, break hydrologic connectivity, and provide sediment buffers for the protection of adjacent resources.
- ***Invasive vegetation treatment.*** Treat invasive plant species in and adjacent to designated user-created trails. Grantee activities would include identifying and inventorying invasive weed treatment areas, and implementing appropriate treatments. Priority invasive species targeted for treatment include, but are not limited to, star thistle, annual grass species, mustards, Spanish broom, and Russian thistle. To maximize effectiveness, ANF recommends treatment activities to occur approximately five times throughout the February-June timeframe, and should occur across multiple years. Spatial data and activity reporting will need to comply with ANF data requirements, including the submission of Pesticide Use Proposal forms for approval by ANF. Use of ArcGIS Collector for recording spatial data is preferred. An up-to-date herbicide applicator license (QAL) will need to be held by at least one on-site project participant during herbicide applications. Demonstrated botanical knowledge of rare, native, and invasive plant species will be necessary.
- ***Reestablish native vegetation.*** Install native plants in invasive plant treatment areas where necessary to ensure that treated areas are not reestablished with invasive plant species. The following restoration activities may be proposed in accordance with the EA and Decision Notice cited above (e.g., seeding using native local seeds, planting of native plants, and/or mulching). Minimal site preparation would be allowed to loosen soils (e.g., use of hand rake or similar tool). Place native plants as islands of vegetation to prevent erosion, break hydrologic connectivity, and provide sediment buffers. The target objective will be greater than 70% vegetation with no target high priority invasive species present.

Other project activities will include sensitive plant, invasive plant, and wildlife surveys; and flagging of avoidance and treatment areas in accordance with the EA and Decision Notice. Grantee personnel must have all appropriate knowledge, skills, qualifications, and certifications necessary to conduct this work. The ANF will conduct cultural surveys and flagging of cultural sites prior to work beginning.

Additional information can be [found here](#).

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Headwaters Protection and Improvements on the Inyo National Forest

NFWF, with Los Angeles Department of Power and Water and the Inyo National Forest, seek to invest in projects to help preserve and protect the Owens River watershed, source water for millions of people in the Los Angeles area. The projects identified below are priority projects for the Inyo National Forest and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and will improve forest health, reduce the incidence of catastrophic fire, protect LADWP infrastructure, and improve forest carbon capture.

Prescribed Fire in Casa Diablo Area

This project will focus on prescribed burning in the Casa Diablo area (northeast of Tom's Place, CA) for the protection of the Owens River and Crowley Lake. Project will restore the Casa Diablo area to its natural range of variation (NRV) and aid to reduce risks from catastrophic fire, protect soils, and improve habitat and watershed function. The Inyo NF is seeking to establish the treatment of up to 1500 acres per year, as part of a 7-to-15-year prescribed fire burn cycle. Project implementors will utilize tree well/jackpot techniques to restore a Jeffrey Pine ecosystem. Additional information for this project can be found [here](#).

Forest-wide Invasive Plant Management

The priority focuses on the removal of invasive vegetation throughout the Inyo National Forest, but with particular preference toward addressing tamarisk, and protection of the Oak Creek, Baxter Creek, and Cottonwood Creek watersheds, as well as the Mono Lake shoreline and associated feeder streams. Tamarisk removal will help provide benefits for both water quality and quantity, and improve in-stream habitat conditions, riparian vegetation, and overall watershed function. Removal techniques would include hand removal, chainsaws, as well as herbicide applications. Additional information for this project can be found [here](#).