



Northern California Forests' 2019 Grant Slate

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FUNDING PARTNERS

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

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 4,500 organizations and generated a conservation impact of more than \$4.8 billion. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Soap plant

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) U.S. Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest and Lassen National Forest, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), have dedicated more than \$6 million for planning and restoration projects that advance fire recovery efforts for watersheds in northern California affected by the Power Fire and Storrie Fire. The Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region has also contributed more than \$1 million for projects that target fish passage barrier and will strengthen watershed infrastructure resilience and associated transportation infrastructure throughout the Pacific Southwest Region.

The Northern California Forests and Watersheds program's 2019 grant slate awarded over \$3.8 million across 14 projects including over \$3.5 million funded in partnership with USDA Forest Service and over \$290,000 funded in partnership with Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 2004 Power Fire on Eldorado National Forest burned 14,000 acres in the Mokelumne River watershed. The 2000 Storrie Fire on Lassen National Forest burned 27,000 acres in the North Fork Feather River and Butte Creek watersheds, along with 25,000 acres on Plumas National Forest. Combined, these two fires burned more than 65,000 acres of national forest lands and left a significant impact on the landscapes, watersheds and ecosystems of the region.

The program funds projects that address five key watershed and forest restoration strategies:

- Watershed restoration and management
- Species management
- Forest and upland restoration and management
- Management of recreational and non-natural features, and
- Watershed infrastructure improvements and management

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Prescribed burn | Credit: Steven L. Shepard, Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

Based on proposals received, grants in 2019 were awarded to 14 projects across four key strategies: (1) watershed restoration and management, (2) species management, (3) forest and upland restoration and management, and (4) watershed infrastructure improvements and management.

WATERSHED RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

The following projects seek to improve watershed quality and habitat. Projects can improve hydrologic connectivity and aquatic organism passage; remove invasive species threatening aquatic habitat or sensitive species; restore and/or enhance instream flow; or create, maintain, and/or improve existing watersheds, meadows, fens, riparian corridors and instream habitats.

Improving Stream Habitat for Salmon in Klamath National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Grant Award:\$263,846

Improve habitat complexity by creating deeper pools, diverse microhabitats and more spawning gravel, and increase resilience to excessive sedimentation from recent wildfires in Horse Creek in Klamath National Forest. Project will place logs in Horse Creek at strategic sites in a low gradient reach on public lands.

Restoring Meadows in the Bear River and Cole Creek Watersheds in Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Amador Resource Conservation District

Grant Award:\$415,439

Restore Tyler, Upper Onion Valley and High Onion meadows by repairing incised channels, improving grazing management, and reducing erosion in Eldorado National Forest. Project will restore 13 acres of meadows in the Bear River and Cole Creek watersheds and benefit the endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

Restoring Watersheds Impacted by Illegal Marijuana in Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Integral Ecology Research Center

Grant Award:\$132,655

Remove and mitigate hazardous and non-hazardous materials from illegal marijuana grow sites that are threatening sensitive headwater watersheds on the Eldorado National Forest within the Power Fire burn scar. Project will document environmental impacts, identify and mitigate hazardous chemicals, remove all nonhazardous refuse and infrastructure, thereby improving water quality and availability for downstream public uses and aquatic habitats.



Improving Drainage by Upgrading Culverts in the Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Grant Award: \$1,286,610

Replace or reconstruct culverts and water control structures (e.g. water bars, graded dips, berms) on nearly 60 miles of roads in the Panther Creek and Bear River sub-watersheds, which are in the Power Fire scar in Eldorado National Forest. Project will identify and reconstruct or replace 40 culverts and up to 200 water control structures that will improve aquatic organism passage, instream flow and watershed health.

Prosser Creek Meadows Restoration Planning in Tahoe National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Truckee River Watershed Council

Grant Award: \$162,912

Complete a watershed assessment and restoration opportunities report for a 20,000 acre watershed, home to multiple large meadow ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada on private lands and within Tahoe National Forest. Project will conduct a viability analysis for re-introduction of Lahontan cutthroat trout and continue monitoring of a nesting population of willow flycatchers.

Meadow Restoration and Assessments Benefiting Yosemite Toad on Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (CA)

Grantee: American Rivers

Grant Award: \$130,054

Build on previous meadow assessment, prioritization and planning efforts in the Desert Terminal Lakes watersheds to implement shovel-ready, on-the-ground restoration at Upper Sardine meadow on Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Project will improve hydrology on seven acres to benefit the threatened Yosemite Toad and develop conceptual designs for 400 meadow acres in Dog Valley meadow.

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

The following projects seek to benefit threatened and endangered species or species of special concern, and/or conduct restoration activities that can benefit a suite of species, community or habitat. Projects can evaluate, restore or improve habitat specific to a species or suite of species of interest; perform research that improves understanding of species/population needs; or inform and educate the public about issues concerning these species and actions that can be taken to protect them.

Surveying Aquatic Species of Concern and Invasives in Lassen National Forest (CA)

Grantee: USDA Forest Service PSW

Grant Award: \$141,974

Use visual encounter surveys and eDNA sampling to

determine the presence and distribution of aquatic species such as the endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the invasive American bullfrog, chytrid fungus, and brook trout within Lassen National Forest. Project will increase understanding of how the Storrie Fire influenced the distribution and habitat of species of concern and invasive species.

Improving Fuels Management to benefit California Spotted Owl in Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: California Deer Association

Grant Award: \$47,896

Conduct fuels reduction to enhance California spotted owl habitat, as well as rare and sensitive plant species populations in the Power Fire nexus of Eldorado National Forest. Project will bring 32 acres under improved management, 10 of which will directly benefit the California spotted owl.

Surveying Aquatic Species of Concern and Invasives in the Power Fire on Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: USDA Forest Service PSW

Grant Award: \$81,590

Use visual encounter surveys and eDNA sampling to determine the presence and distribution of aquatic species, specifically the endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, in the Power Fire nexus on Eldorado National Forest. Project will increase understanding of how fire influences the distribution and habitat of species of concern and invasive species in the fire nexus.

Improving Fen and Endangered Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Habitat in Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: California Deer Association

Grant Award: \$37,158

Restore Bear River's meadow hydrology and modify fencing to protect critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog in the Eldorado National Forest. Project will construct new wildlife-friendly fencing to protect sensitive riparian area for a fen and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

FOREST AND UPLAND RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

The following projects seek to locate and/or remove invasive species; harvest native seed and/or propagate native plants in order to revegetate landscapes to restore natural population and species distribution; restore age class structure and reduce fuels to minimize risks from unnatural wildlife; and revegetate native plants in fire affected watersheds.

Strategic Analysis of Fuels Management in the Power Fire Scar of Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

Grant Award: \$179,021

Create a large spatial scale fire fuels reduction analysis

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Cookhouse Meadow, Tahoe Basin | Credit: jcookfisher

and strategic plan to identify innovative, efficient and cost effective fuels reduction and biomass management plans for fuels reduction projects within the Panther Creek, Bear River and Cole Creek watersheds of Eldorado National Forest. Project will recommend fuel reduction and biomass management strategies that will produce improved ecological benefits to the forest and watersheds.

Improving Management of Native American Plants in Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: American Conservation Experience

Grant Award: \$337,946

Develop a Native American plant guide for culturally significant priority plants, a geospatial analysis to prioritize potential native plant restoration and gathering areas and develop associated conceptual designs in Eldorado National Forest. Project will improve management on Eldorado National Forest and increase public awareness for the sensitivity and importance of Native American plants.

WATERSHED INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT

The following projects seek to manage watershed infrastructure such as roads, bridges, culverts, and drainage features, and must be able to illustrate a benefit to watershed restoration and recovery or ecosystem improvement. Projects can maintain, replace, and/or improve roads, bridges, culverts, or drainage features; install or improve drainage

features such as culverts, drainage dips, and other associated drainage infrastructure; decommission transportation infrastructure that has a deleterious impact on watershed health and/or human health and safety; implement strategic restoration projects in response to, and in anticipation of, extreme weather and storm events; or maintain existing motorized transportation infrastructure to increase accessibility to fuels reduction and native vegetation projects.

Improving Watershed Infrastructure in Six Rivers National Forest (CA)

Grantee: County of Del Norte

Grant Award:..... \$330,526

Implement watershed infrastructure improvements for nearly 30 miles of stream in the Smith River National Recreation Area in Six Rivers National Forest. Project will benefit fish, wildlife, sensitive plants and associated wildlife habitat health through improved road and trail conditions, and enhanced water quality.

Storm-proofing Roads to benefit Watershed Health in Shasta-Trinity National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Grant Award: \$305,627

Plan, design and implement improvements to drainage structures on 67 culverts at stream crossings post fire on Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Project will conduct road improvements and stormproofing on 44 miles.