Southern California Forests and Watersheds 2019 grants

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OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), announced a 2019-year round of funding for Southern California Forests and Watersheds projects. Twenty-three new or continuing land and watershed recovery grants totaling $7.1 million were awarded. The 23 awards announced generated $4.6 million in match from grantees, providing a total conservation impact of $11.7 million.

The Southern California Forests and Watersheds program invests in projects on the Angeles National Forest and the Los Padres National Forest that aim to restore watersheds affected by historic fire events. Investments will improve the U.S. Forest Service's capacity to effectively identify and address resource management issues caused from these fires, aid ecological recovery and repair fire-damaged critical infrastructure such as trails, roads and fuel breaks to support the goals of ecological restoration, while building partnerships that encourage shared-stewardship of public lands.

Expanding Collaborative Restoration in the Angeles National Forest (CA) - Phase II
Grantee: Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Conduct non-native invasive vegetation management and install off-highway vehicle barriers to protect restoration areas from disturbance in the Copper Fire Scar in the Angeles National Forest. Project will build on the success of a previous grant to improve 15 miles of roads and to bring 20 acres under improved management.

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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**

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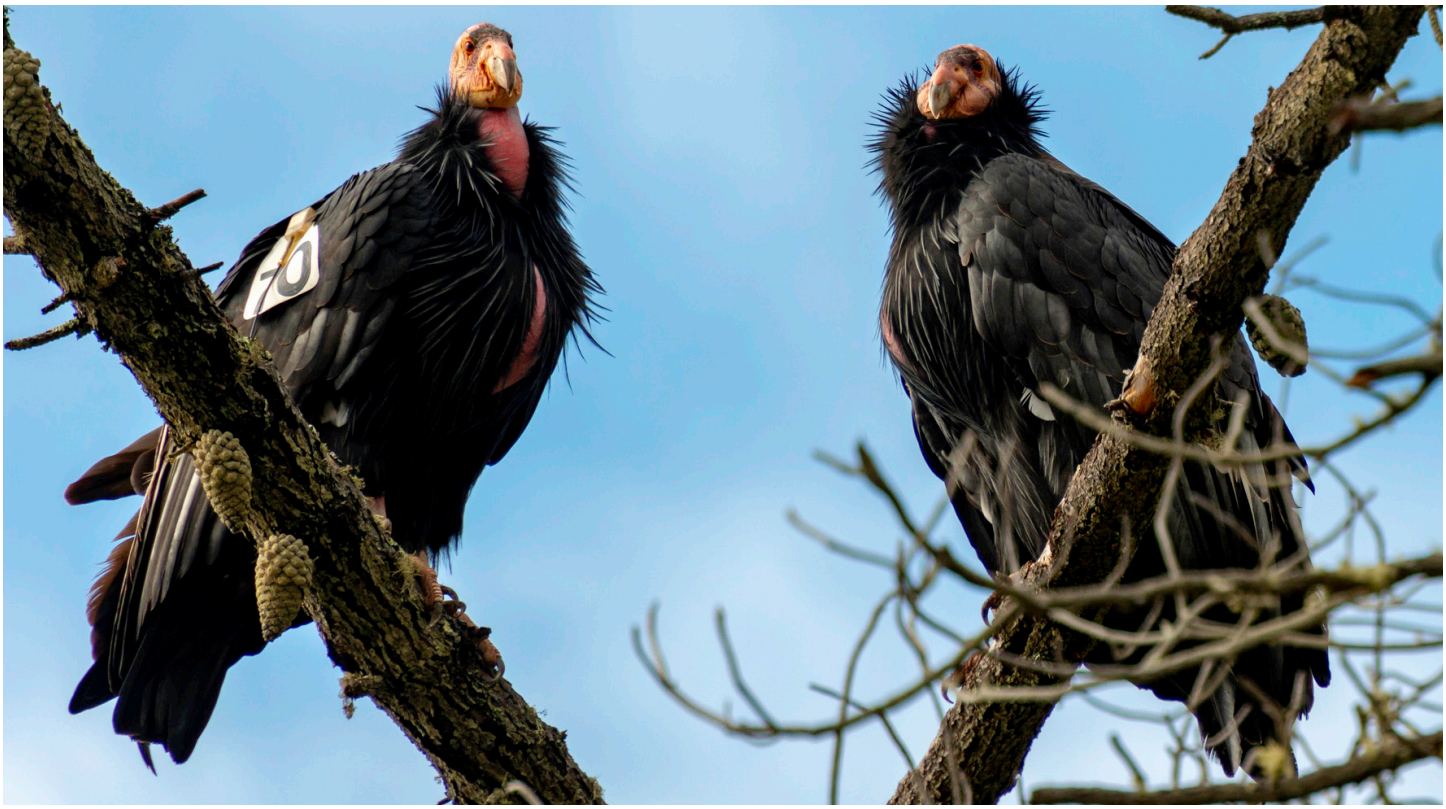

California condors in Los Padres National Forest

Developing Precision-Restoration for Post-Fire Restoration in Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Cal Poly Pomona Foundation
Develop precision restoration prescriptions for more efficient and effective post-fire restoration. Project will use remote sensing data combined with field studies in chaparral and coastal sage scrub shrublands in the Copper Fire Scar of Angeles National Forest. Project will assess 15,000 acres to determine restoration success and efficiency.

Aquatic Organism Passage Restoration Design at Powerhouse 2 Site in Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Resource Institute
Restore aquatic organism passage and sediment transport by developing engineering plans for a natural channel design at the "Powerhouse 2" reach in San Francisquito Canyon Creek in the Angeles National Forest. Project will provide an engineer plan set, construction specifications, a cost estimate and all associated NEPA and permitting documentation to the U.S. Forest Service for decision-making and potential future implementation.

Aquatic Organism Passage Restoration Design at St. Francis Dam Site in Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Resource Institute
Examine aquatic organism passage and sediment transport options by developing engineering plans for a natural channel design at the Saint Francis Dam reach in San Francisquito Canyon Creek in the Angeles National Forest. Project will provide an engineer plan set, construction specifications, a cost estimate and all associated NEPA and permitting documentation to the U.S. Forest Service for decision-making and potential future implementation.

Preventing and Managing Phytophthora Pathogens Post-Fire Disturbance in Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: U.S. Forest Service
Evaluate the incidence and impacts of Phytophthora plant pathogens in disturbed and undisturbed sites in a variety of ecosystems in the Copper and Sayre fire scars in the Angeles National Forest, California. Project will complete a second year of comprehensive analysis on Phytophthora population distribution and risk of invasion in response to a fire disturbance.

Forest Aid on the Copper and Sayre Fire Scars in Angeles National Forest (CA) - Phase (II)
Grantee: TreePeople
Expand on current restoration efforts in the Copper Fire Scar in Angeles National Forest, California, bringing site preparation, invasive weed control, native plant installation, watering and monitoring to a new site in San Francisquito

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Canyon. Project will propagate 3,000 native plants, maintain and restore up to a total of 19 acres, and engage 2,200 volunteers.

Barrier Installation and Resource Damage Reduction in Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: The Student Conservation Association
Install approximately 70 "no-dig" barriers at designated sites within the Drinkwater Flat off-highway vehicle area according to U.S. Forest Service specifications within the Copper Fires Scar of the Angeles National Forest. Project will bring 350 acres under improved management and prevent off highway vehicles from crossing into unauthorized forest areas to protect forest recovery.

Restoring Plant Diversity in Fire-Affected Watersheds on the Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Improve watershed conditions in the Copper and Powerhouse fire scars of Angeles National Forest through on-the-ground restoration, research and education to improve the U.S. Forest Service's resource management capacity and approach and promote ecological resilience for future fires. Project will collect 50 high priority seeds, propagate 15,000 high priority restoration species, monitor existing restoration sites and conduct community outreach to advance nursery Best Management Practices.

Nursery Accreditation To Reduce Phytophthora Introduction in Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: U.S. Forest Service
Conduct an accreditation to improve restoration and native plant nursery stock cleanliness through a voluntary pilot program in Angeles National Forest. Project will evaluate eight nurseries producing stock for restoration in the Copper, Sayre and Powerhouse fire scars and will conduct Phytophthora testing to prevent pathogen development.

Community-Driven Microtrash Cleanup along Bear and Santa Clara Divides, Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs
Conduct a series of community-driven microtrash cleanup projects to benefit the recovering wild California condor population along Bear Divide and Santa Clara Divide roads in the Sayer Fire Scar in the Angeles National Forest. Project will recruit and train volunteers from nearby communities to hand collect microtrash and assist with its disposal on 4 acres of heavily contaminated chaparral habitat.

Assess Deforestation in the Copper Fire Scar in Angeles National Forest to Inform Restoration (CA)
Grantee: TreePeople
Determine precise deforestation coverage in the Copper Fire Scar of Angeles National Forest and assess the environmental impacts associated with implementing silvicultural prescriptions in these areas. Project will compile NEPA documentation, specialist reports, a Biological Evaluation and Decision Memo for the U.S. Forest Service to use in determining forest woodland restoration actions.

Upgrading Wildlife Guzzlers Destroyed in the Powerhouse Fire in Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: San Gabriel Valley Quail Forever
Replace two old concrete wildlife guzzlers damaged in the Powerhouse Fire with Nevada-style guzzlers, which are less susceptible to fire damage and are more efficient in collecting rainwater. Project will upgrade two guzzlers, add a stainless steel big game drinker and repair the fencing around the guzzler to maintain water access for birds and wildlife.

Identifying and Surveying Aquatic Organism Passage Barriers in the Angeles National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps
Inventory and identify barriers to aquatic organism passage to inform future restoration of natural stream and aquatic ecosystem processes on perennial and intermittent streams impacted by the Powerhouse Fire in the Angeles National Forest. Project will develop final summary report to support the management of forest resources by providing information necessary for improving fish passage and habitat accessibility for aquatic species.

Community-based Restoration and Environmental Education Program, Angelese National Forest (CA) - Phase II
Grantee: TreePeople
Promote awareness of the role, impact and history of fire through shared stewardship in a restoration site within the Sayre Fire Scar of Angeles National Forest. Project will maintain and water a small parcel (0.25 acre) of restored chaparral environment and install multi-lingual interpretive signage at the site that convey lessons regarding watershed health and the impact of fire. Project will also engage local youth and families through curriculum designed to introduce awareness of watershed health and fire ecology.

Researching the Effect of the Long-Term Fire Regime on Mammals in Los Padres National Forest (CA)
Grantee: LifeScape International
Research the impact of long-term fire regimes on wildlife to provide pre- and post-fire management recommendations for the ecology, protected species and general biodiversity of Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). Project will provide baseline species information to determine the effect of fire on the general medium-large mammal community and the

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ecological processes critical to the functioning of LPNF ecosystems.

Improving Fish Passage by Removing Three Road Crossing Barriers in Los Padres National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Earth Island Institute
Remove three road crossings that present aquatic passage barriers for southern steelhead trout within federally designated critical habitat in the Manzana Creek watershed, within the Zaca Fire Scar of Los Padres National Forest. Project will replace two crossings with clear span vehicular bridges to improve safe access for public use and the third barrier will be restored to a naturalized creek channel. Combined, these improvements will open provide access to more than three miles of stream to previously inaccessible habitat and spawning grounds for southern steelhead.

Restoration of Bigcone Douglas-fir Post-2007 Zaca Fire - Phase III, Los Padres National Forest (CA)
Grantee: University of California - Santa Barbara
Restore bigcone Douglas-fire sites affected by the Zaca Fire in Los Padres National Forest. Project will identify high-priority conservation areas and targeted areas for bigcone Douglas-fir restoration and develop successful methods for seedling preparation and survival.

Construction of Cold Spring Trail (26W10) Reroute in Los Padres National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Los Padres Forest Association
Reconstruct a portion of the Cold Spring recreational trail, locally known as the Mono Jungle, in the Zaca Fire Scar of Los Padres National Forest. Project will improve 1.5 miles of trails and bring 50 acres under improved management.

Restoring Trails Damaged by the Zaca Fire in Los Padres National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Los Padres Forest Association
Design, organize and complete trail restoration work along sites impacted by the Zaca Fire in Los Padres National Forest. Project will restore 37 miles across seven trails, building off previously successful trail maintenance work.

Restoration of Degraded Chaparral Within the Piru Fire, Los Padres National Forest (CA) - Phase III
Grantee: University of California - Santa Barbara
Evaluate methods currently used to restore chaparral woody species in sites that have been degraded to annual savanna grassland by recurrent fire within the Piru Fire Scar of Los Padres National Forest. Project will determine dynamics of vegetation in response to multiple fires and environmental stressors, identify methods for native seed collection and germination, and experiment with native shrub restoration techniques while reducing invasive grasses.

Waterfall in the Angeles National Forest

Researching Restoration Plans for Conifer Recovery on Big Pine Mt., Los Padres National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Develop a restoration plan for Big Pine Mountain to promote the recovery of conifer forests impacted by the Zaca Fire in Los Padres National Forest. Project will identify and map degraded areas and develop of report of recommended restoration strategies for future implementation.

Instilling Conservation Stewardship with Interpretive Signage in Los Padres National Forest (CA)
Grantee: Los Padres Forest Association
Design and install interpretive signs at trailheads and campsites that lead into areas impacted by the Zaca Fire. Project will install signage at 10 locations to educate the public about fire ecology, the impact of wildfires on forest ecosystems and endangered species, and ways to reduce human impact on forest lands.

Designing Fluvial and Riparian Restoration in Rose Valley Lakes, Los Padres National Forest (CA)
Grantee: California Trout
Develop engineering drawings, specifications and cost-estimates for potential fluvial and riparian restoration in Rose Valley Lakes complex in the Los Padres National Forest. Project will prepare permitting and compliance documentation and provide all necessary materials for project review and decision-making by the U.S. Forest Service.