



California Forests and Watersheds Headwater Resilience

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PARTNERS

- U.S. Forest Service
- Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- Arbor Day Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

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Inyo National Forest, California

OVERVIEW

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Arbor Day Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the 2021 round of funding for California Forest Headwaters Resilience projects through its Northern California Forests and Watersheds program.

Twelve conservation grants totaling nearly \$4.2 million were awarded. The 12 awards announced generated about \$5.5 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of nearly \$9.7 million.

The Northern California Forests and Watersheds program seeks to primarily conduct or inform the improvement, protection, or rehabilitation of ecosystems and watersheds within the National Forest System lands impacted by fire scars, and secondarily fund meadow restoration throughout the Sierra Nevada.

The California Forest Headwaters Resilience projects focus on enhancing watershed health and resilience throughout California through the following five strategies: 1) Large-scale reforestation for wildlife recovery; 2) Headwaters protection and improvements in the Inyo National Forest; 3) Transportation infrastructure and aquatic organism passage improvements; 4) Sierra Nevada Meadow restoration for the benefit of Desert Terminal Lakes; and 5) Fuels management, project monitoring and species response.

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Expanding Nursery Capacity in Eldorado National Forest (CA)

Grantee: USDA Forest Service Region 5

Grant Amount:..... \$1,200,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$3,000,000
 Total Project Amount: \$4,200,000

Increase container capacity of the Placerville Nursery in Eldorado National Forest, California to protect existing stock and meet current and future reforestation needs within the state. Project will expand pad, shade structure, and greenhouse space for growing seedlings to increase overall nursery container capacity by 1.2 million.

Fuels Reduction in Bishop and Pine Creek Watersheds of Inyo National Forest (CA)

Grantee: The Student Conservation Association

Grant Amount:..... \$194,300
 Matching Funds:..... \$121,100
 Total Project Amount: \$315,400

Conduct fuels management within the Bishop Creek and Pine Creek watersheds of the Inyo National Forest. Project will support a five-person crew to implement fuels reduction treatments across 250 acres to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk on forestlands and recreational areas.

Fuels Reduction on June Mountain in Inyo National Forest (CA)

Grantee: California Trout

Grant Amount:..... \$285,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$185,000
 Total Project Amount: \$470,500

Remove cut biomass stored in slash piles and log decks resulting from multi-phased fuels reduction actions targeting pine beetle-killed lodgepole and whitebark pine on June Mountain in Inyo National Forest. Project will develop a plan to assess fuels reduction benefits to Clark's nutcracker and white pine populations, implement restoration monitoring protocols, and estimate greenhouse gas benefits from fuels reduction efforts.

Improving Transportation Infrastructure at Elk Creek in Klamath National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

Grant Amount:..... \$258,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$130,000
 Total Project Amount: \$388,400

Complete engineering design and road work to construct rolling dips and install culverts within the Elk Creek tributary to the Klamath River in the Klamath National Forest in California. Project will reduce sediment sources to support the improvement of stream health and salmonid habitat in a high priority watershed, which provides coho rearing habitat and supplies water for the town of Happy Camp.

Improving Transportation Infrastructure for Meadow and Watershed Restoration at Wilson Ranch (CA)

Grantee: American Rivers

Grant Amount:..... \$449,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$960,400
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,409,500

Improve transportation infrastructure for aquatic and wet meadow ecosystem restoration and watershed improvement in the South Fork American watershed of Eldorado National Forest in California. Project will replace one road crossing, improve 0.24 miles of road, and restore 18 acres of wet meadow at Wilson Ranch meadow to enhance the ecological function and resilience of South Fork American watershed.

Infrastructure and Recreation Planning in the Buttermilk Region of Inyo National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)

Grant Amount:..... \$247,300
 Matching Funds:..... \$221,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$468,300

Improve infrastructure in the Buttermilk Bouldering Area and develop long-term recreation planning in the in the Buttermilk subregion of the Inyo National Forest. Project will address immediate infrastructure needs by replacing and/or installing toilets and enhance the resilience of the Owens watershed to the effects of human activity by organizing a collaborative planning effort with partners to implement sustainable outdoor recreation programs and infrastructure.

Large-Scale Restoration Planning for Pickel Meadow on West Walker River (CA)

Grantee: American Rivers

Grant Amount:..... \$332,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$172,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$504,100

Complete restoration planning for 450 acres at Pickel Meadow on the West Walker River in California to advance meadow restoration in the Desert Terminal Lakes region. Project will develop large-scale meadow restoration plan ready for implementation to increase groundwater storage and attenuated flood flows, reduce downstream sedimentation, increase resilience, and improve habitat for meadow dependent species such as the willow flycatcher and yellow warbler.

Monitoring Avian Bioacoustics for Enhanced Fuels Management in the Sierra Nevada (CA)

Grantee: University of Wisconsin - Madison

Grant Amount:..... \$269,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$135,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$404,100

Design and implement a regional-scale bioacoustics monitoring program for assessing the effects of fuels treatment on Sierra Nevada wildlife in California. Project will marry fuels metrics and California spotted owl habitat metrics to enhance the design of fuel treatments by leveraging long term demographic and regional-scale GPS tagging data.

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Los Padres National Forest, California

Monitoring Impacts of Tamarack Fire for Meadow Recovery in the Upper Carson River Watershed (CA)

Grantee: Alpine Watershed Group
 Grant Amount:..... \$80,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$54,300
 Total Project Amount: \$134,800
 Employ water quality, vegetation, bird, and photo monitoring to assess impacts to meadows in the Upper Carson River watershed in Alpine County, California from the 2021 Tamarack Fire. Project will assess and identify invasive species removal, erosion and sediment control, and revegetation projects in the affected area and apply traditional ecological knowledge for meadows to help the local ecosystem and provide downstream benefits.

Reforestation Big Pine Mountain in Los Padres National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
 Grant Amount:..... \$271,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$111,800
 Total Project Amount: \$383,200
 Reforest 300 acres burned by the Zaca Fire on Big Pine Mountain in the Los Padres National Forest through targeted planting of 30,000 conifer seedlings. Project will also develop a reforestation plan, conduct cone collection and propagation of native conifers such as Jeffrey pines in targeted areas of Big Pine Mountain, and monitor sites to evaluate survival and inform future replanting activities.

Restoring Headwater Meadows for Truckee River in Hoke Valley (CA)

Grantee: Truckee River Watershed Council
 Grant Amount:..... \$459,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$276,000
 Total Project Amount: \$735,700
 Restore a 25-acre degraded headwater meadow in the Truckee River system and improve overall ecological resilience in the Hoke Valley of the Tahoe National Forest in California. Project will expand on existing and planned meadow restoration activities and is designed to benefit the willow flycatcher.

Restoration Planning and Design for Nanny and Lost Creek Crossings in Lassen National Forest (CA)

Grantee: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
 Grant Amount:..... \$146,100
 Matching Funds:..... \$100,000
 Total Project Amount: \$246,100
 Create design plans for two high priority road crossings affecting aquatic organism passage and channel function in the Battle and Deer Creek watersheds in Lassen National Forest to benefit wild salmon and steelhead populations. Project will develop plans to restore hydrologic function, improve resident fish passage, reduce road sedimentation, and create infrastructure resilience.