- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentation: Solicitation Process, Application Materials & Project Implementation Sub-agreement Admin
- Questions

CAL FIRE'S REGIONAL LANDSCAPE PILOTS

Three CAL FIRE Regional Pilots occurring across the state
- North Coast Resource Partnership - 12/23; $10 M
- Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership – Great Basin Institute; $7 M
- Southern California Partnership – RCD of Greater San Diego County; $10 M

Goals:
- Align with goals of Task Force & DOC's Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program
- Accelerate the development & implementation of a portfolio of forest health projects across a region
- Accomplish high-priority projects that might not otherwise access funding
- Foster regional capacity building and partnerships

CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM

CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program objectives:

- Restore forest health and disaster resilience to California's forests.

- Protect upper watersheds where California's water supply originates.

- Promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils.

- Minimize the loss of forest carbon from unnaturally severe disturbance events.

- Further the goals of the California Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan, AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan, AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan

CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Categories:

- Forest fuels reduction

- Cultural fire (NCRP added)

- Prescribed fire

- Pest management

- Reforestation & Ecological Restoration

- Biomass utilization

FOREST HEALTH PILOT REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

- Assessment intended to filter and stratify the landscape through the lens of CAL FIRE forest health priorities
- This approach has been peer reviewed by CAL FIRE, CA Department of Conservation, the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force
- Workshops: March and June 12; please register!
- Some Forest Health categories do not have regional data at the scale or resolution appropriate for the regional assessment, including reforestation, prescribed fire and cultural fire.
- Project sponsors will have an opportunity to provide a rationale as to why their project is not located in a priority area
- StoryMap is available: https://arcg.is/CnDnW

ELIGIBLE PROJECT SPONSOR APPLICANTS

- Federally recognized Native American tribes or non-federally recognized California Native American tribes listed on the California Tribal Contact List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission
- Local, state, and federal public agencies
- Universities
- Special districts
- Industrial and nonindustrial private forest landowners
- Non-profit organizations

FUNDING & PROJECT SIZE LIMITS

- Projects must be large, landscape-scale projects with multiple, integrated benefits, but may be smaller than 800 acre required by CAL FIRE Forest Health grant

- Funding limits: $500,000 - $2 million

- The NCRP may choose to fund a portion of the project based on funding availability

- May remove ineligible or ancillary treatments not directly supporting the primary Forest Health goals and activities

- Project applicants will be asked whether their project budget is scalable and how a scaled budget will impact the overall project

PROJECT READINESS

- PROJECT END DATE: December 31, 2028
- Applicants must complete all needed environmental compliance work within 1 year of sub-agreement award
- Project sponsors must demonstrate progress toward completing the work within six months of award
- NCRP may reallocate awarded funds to a different sub-grantee within the project portfolio, in accordance with the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook reallocation protocol

GUIDELINES APPENDIX D

Sub-Award Project Administration

After sub-grantees are selected:

1) Letter of Commitment from project partner
2) Forest Health Project Report Form
3) Spatial Data Shapefiles
4) Environmental Compliance Documents
5) Examples of measures that projects will use to avoid adverse impacts
6) Priority Population Benefit Criteria Table
7) GHG Emissions Workbook
8) CARB-CCI Job Co-Benefit Modeling Tool & Co-Benefit Assessment Methodology Community Engagement Questionnaire

QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORTING & INVOICING

- Project accomplishments
- Challenges and obstacles
- State dollars allocated and matching funds contributed
- Acres of land treated, activities completed, and GIS shapefiles that map those treatments
- Number of trees and acres planted
- Bone dry tons of biomass delivered to a renewable energy facility, tons of biomass delivered to a sawmill, renewable energy produced
- Before and after photographs
- Benefits to disadvantaged communities and other co-benefits

OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Annual reporting: permitting mechanisms, maintenance planning & mitigation activities
- Biannual reporting: employment outcome
- Periodic: CALMAPPER data updates
- Final Report: metrics & narrative summary of outcomes, lessons and photographic documentation
- Long-term monitoring: randomly selected; CAL FIRE staff will collect data for 10 years of project monitoring; subgrantees provide access to property

ADMIN GUIDELINES

- Changes to an Approved Project Agreement and Amendments

- Accounting and Audit Preparedness Requirements

- Project Termination and Loss of Funding, including:

  - Sub-grantee has not satisfied all legal requirements (e.g., CEQA, NEPA, ancillary contracts, agreements, MOUs, etc.) necessary to initiate ground disturbing project work within one year of grant sub-award approval

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Project Costs associated with:

- meeting grant reporting requirements
- managing spatial data
- complying with the CEQA or NEPA

Project elements that do not produce a direct GHG benefit (e.g., education, planning, etc.) must be linked with on the ground activities that do, or they will not be eligible costs.

PERSONNEL

Eligible Cost

- Salary at hourly rate, benefits, taxes, and leave of sub-grantee personnel DIRECTLY engaged in the project
- Limited to actual time on project
- Leave benefits (i.e., sick leave, vacation, etc.) consistent with the sub-grantee's leave benefit policy in proportion to the percentage of time worked on the grant
- Prevailing wages: applicant's responsibility to budget for prevailing wages in their project cost if applicable

Required Documentation

- A payroll summary of all employees' time spent on the project (i.e., who, rate, time worked, brief description of activity)
- Timesheets or similar documentation detailing days and hours worked on the project must be maintained and retained by the sub-grantee for audit purposes

Eligible Cost

- Direct consultant/contractual services
  - Procurement of contractual services documented to ensure selection on a competitive basis
- Project Supplies
- Equipment Lease
- Equipment (> $5,000 & useful life > 1 yr)
- Travel Costs
  - Written travel policy
  - or California Per Diem Rate
  - Mileage no more than IRS rate
- Other costs

Required Documentation

- Invoices from consultant/contractor
  - Documents related to contractor selection kept by the sub-grantee
- Receipts
- Documentation of cost analysis for:
  - Supplies over $500
  - Equipment as described in application
  - Equipment leasing vs purchasing
  - Equipment maintenance plan
  - Retained by the sub-grantee

INDIRECT COSTS

- Costs that are general in nature to the sub-grantee organization

- Costs not identified within grant agreement but are necessary of the general operation of the organization

- Applied on a percentage (%) basis on direct costs except for equipment

- Sub-grantees must provide acceptable supporting documentation if claiming an administrative cost rate higher than 10%

  - Cost allocation plan: this would include direct and indirect expenses of the operating costs of the organization
  - Cost justification: a crosswalk of claimed administrative cost rate to real costs
  - Federally approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)
  - Provisional NICRA
  - Other supporting documentation

INELIGIBLE COSTS

- Costs incurred before or after the Project Performance Period
- Cost of preparing the Project Application or other grant proposals
- Overtime for employees and/or contractors. Overtime hours will be reimbursed at the straight time rate
- Late fees, penalties, and bank fees
- Any activity that would lead to the project not achieving a GHG reduction
- Any practice or activity that, in the NCRP's judgment, is not a best management practice or is harmful to the forested landscape
- Any indirect costs based on percentage of equipment costs

PAYMENT OF GRANT FUNDS

- Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis
- Advance funds may be provided at NCRP's discretion
- No work prior to or after the term of the sub-grantee agreement will be reimbursed
- The sub-grantee will submit an invoice with appropriate documentation
- An invoice template will be provided
- A progress report or final report shall accompany all invoices
- Expect payment to be issued 45 calendar days from the time an acceptable invoice is received
- If an invoice is incomplete or non-reimbursable, it will be returned
- NCRP representatives and, in some cases, CAL FIRE may conduct a site inspection to verify that work invoiced has been satisfactorily completed

NCRP CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT SCHEDULE

- **May:** NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Grant Solicitation is announced
- **May – July:** Informational webinars & weekly office hours
- **August 4:** NCRP CAL FIRE Pilot Forest Health Project applications due
- **August:** Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) project review period
- **August 28 & 29:** TPRC project review & selection meeting to identify project suite recommendation
- **September:** Schedule presentation with CAL FIRE; CAL FIRE review & input
- **Sept – Oct:** staff work with project sponsors to address CAL FIRE input & CAL FIRE approval
- **Oct 18, NCRP Quarterly Meeting:** LC consider/approve TPRC recommended suite of Priority Projects for NCRP CAL FIRE Pilot Forest Health Project Regional Grant
- **Dec 2024:** NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Regional Portfolio of Implementation Projects (and required documentation) provided to CAL FIRE and CAL MAPPER

SOLICITATION INFORMATION & MATERIALS

All materials can be found:
https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/ncrp-forest-health-pilot-implementation/

Applicants should review the following important documents:

- Project Review & Selection Guidelines

- Proposal Instructions

THE PARTNERSHIP   THE REGION   PROJECTS   PLANNING   RESOURCES   DATA

NCRP CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

With funding from the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program, the NCRP is providing solicitation materials and guidelines to support projects that seek to significantly increase fuels management, fire reintroduction, treatment of degraded areas, and conservation of forests: mitigating climate change, protecting communities from fire risk, and strengthening rural economies.

LEARN MORE

PROJECT REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS GUIDELINES

- Approved by Leadership Council in January
- NCRP Guidelines describe and define (Appendix A):
  - NCRP Project Evaluation Roles: Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, & staff
  - Public and project proponent input during the project review process
  - NCRP Conflict of Interest policy
  - Leadership Council directed guidelines for project scoring

NCRP REVIEW CRITERIA

- Eligibility Criteria
- Magnitude of Forest Health benefits & co-benefits
- Project team experience and capacity
- Project Information & long-term maintenance
- Project benefits to disadvantaged communities
- Addresses climate change: mitigation /adaptation
- Project Justification: scientific & technical basis
- Achievability of Project Tasks
- Schedule and readiness
- Reasonable budget & financial need
- Project budget scalability
- Collaboration and local support
- Regional Representation in project selection

COMPLETE PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

1. NCRP Project Tracker Project Proposal
2. NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Project Supplemental Application (MS Word form)
3. NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Project Workbook Excel File: Work Plan, Treatment Activities, Environmental Compliance & Budget
4. Supporting Documents:
    a) Certification of Authority
    b) Organization Statement of Qualifications that briefly describes the organization's key personnel and their qualifications and list/hyperlinks to examples of relevant work that support the proposal
    c) Technical & Reference Supporting Document: copies of letters of support, maps, permits, environmental compliance documentation, studies, plans and designs – these should be bundled into one PDF document that includes a Table of Contents and is limited to approximately 50 pages
    d) NCRP MOMU

https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/ncrp-forest-health-pilot-implementation/

PROJECT PROPOSAL SUPPORT

WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS - Wednesdays at 12:30 pm, June 5 – July 31

- Zoom meeting

- Real-time question/answer sessions

- Schedule peer-to-peer proposal development support meetings

- Tribal only break-out sessions to meet with the Tribal Engagement support team
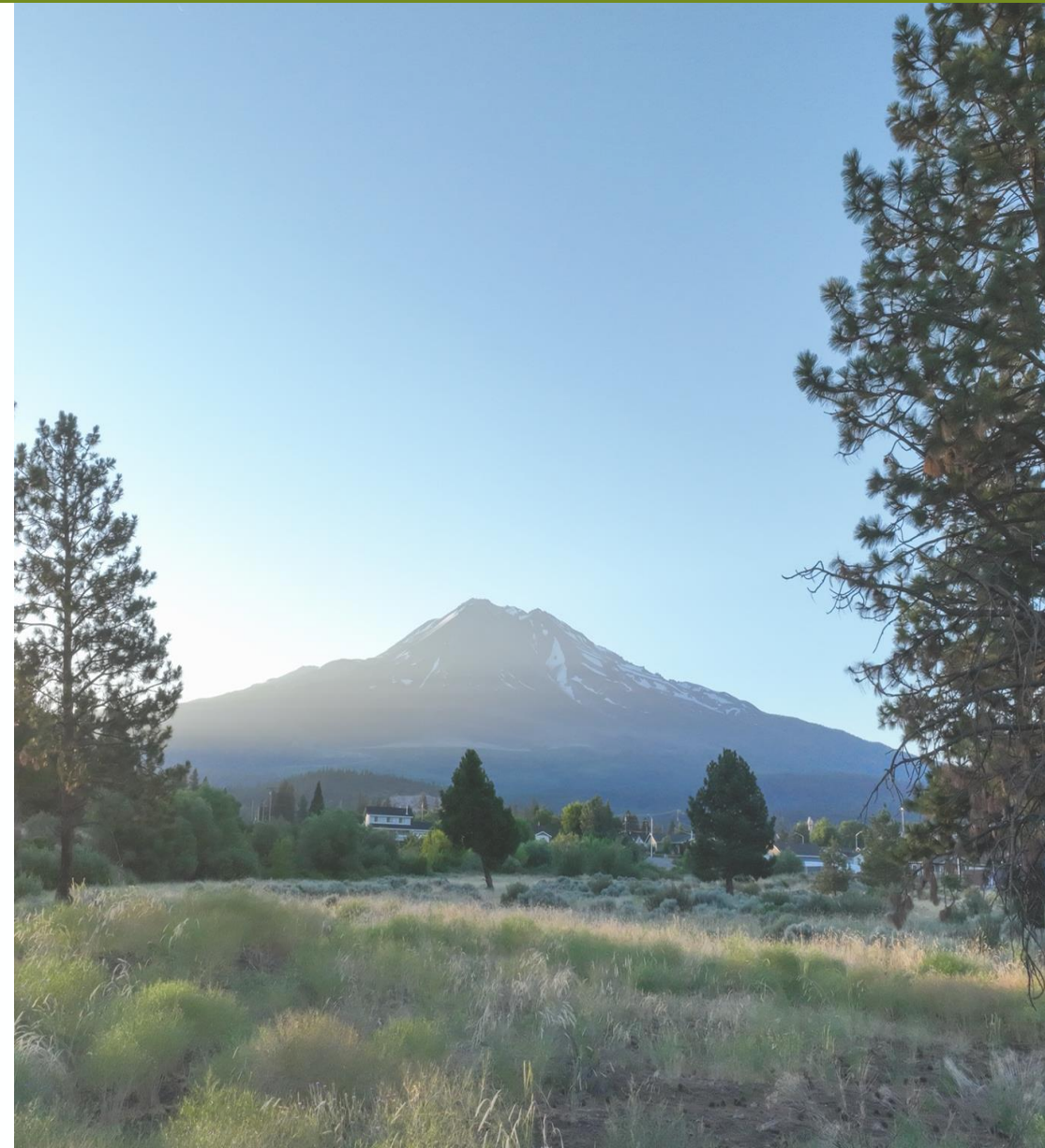
PROJECT PROPOSAL SUPPORT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR NCRP CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Due June 1!
- Apply via Project Tracker
- Direct technical assistance for project development from consultant

SPATIAL DATA TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Help with GIS polygons representing proposed project areas and activities
- General information on available GIS datasets
- Contact Mark Tukman (mark@tukmangeospatial.net)

INQUIRIES, PROPOSAL OR PROJECT TRACKER SUPPORT:

- Rose Roberts at rroberts@northcoastresourcepartnership.org
- Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement at
  - sherri@cieaweb.org
  - 510-848-2043
- Javier Silva, Tribal Technical Assistance Coordinator at
  - jsilva9806@gmail.com

QUESTIONS ?

NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP