

NDRC Project Information Sheet

Submission Deadline; July 10, 2015, Project Information can be submitted on line at CA-NDRC@hed.ca.gov or mailed to Tuolumne County Administrator's Office (2 South Green Street, Sonoma, CA 95370)

1. Agency/Organization Project Sponsor:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

2. Project Contact (Name, Email, Phone #):

Adam Frese; Adam.Frese@fire.ca.gov; (209) 754-2706

3. Scope of Proposed Project- Include Project Goals and Objectives, Timeline and Tasks (Please submit as an attachment, 1 page max)

4. List all Agency/Organizations involved in Project and their Role:

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE): Project proposal, planning, preparation of appropriate CEQA or NEPA documents, project implementation.

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI): Landowner for the majority of the project area. SPI may conduct a timber harvest to thin trees within the fuel break, before, during, or after the project. SPI may conduct periodic maintenance after the project is complete. SPI can provide information that will aid in the preparation of appropriate CEQA or NEPA documents.

5. List Measure(s) of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes:

An approximate 123 acre fuel break stretching approximately 3.5 miles will be constructed on the north side of Highway 108. This fuel break will be an important link in a series of fuel breaks that will extend from the community of Columbia to Sierra Village. The fuel break will protect residences in the Highway 108 corridor from catastrophic fires, such as the Rim Fire. Expected outcomes will be safer communities and healthy, fire resistant forests.

6. How does this Project meet the resilient recovery objectives outlined in the NDRC grant application?:

This fuel break will meet resilient recovery objectives by making our forests and communities more resistant to large, damaging fires such as the Rim Fire. This new fuel break will compliment other fuel reduction work in the area and will be the final link in a series of strategic fuel breaks stretching from Columbia to Sierra Village along the South Fork Stanislaus Canyon. Keeping our forests healthy and resistant to catastrophic, stand replacing fires ensures a healthy timber and tourist industry.

7. What is the target area for the project (i.e., where is it located, who are beneficiaries, etc)?:

The target area stretches approximately 3.5 miles from Middle Camp Road, near Twain Harte, east to the Lyons Lake Road. The fuel break parallels Highway 108 on the north side of the highway. Direct beneficiaries are the residents of Confidence, Sugar Pine, Mi-Wuk Village, and Sierra Village, whose residences will be protected by the fuel break. The fuel break will also protect critical infrastructure such as the Tuolumne Ditch and the Donnell-Curtis Transmission Line. Productive timber land on Sierra Pacific Industries and Forest Service property will also be protected from fires originating in the communities and spreading to the wild land.

8. Has this project undergone environmental review? If yes, what stage is it in?

This project has not undergone environmental review yet. The project would consist of mastication and hand crew work. The Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit of CAL FIRE has prepared Categorical Exemptions for similar projects.

9. NDRC Application Budget Request (please attach a detailed project budget):

See attached

10. What guarantees are in place to insure the success of implementing this project?

CAL FIRE has a proven track record of planning, implementing, and maintaining strategic fuel breaks in Tuolumne County.

11. How will this project be sustainable after implementation?

This project will be added to the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Fire Plan and will be maintained as part of a strategic fuel break system in the Unit. CAL FIRE works with a variety of cooperators, such as the Highway 108 Fire Safe Council, to obtain funds and implement fuel reduction projects.

NDRC Committee Use Only:

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Meets National Objective Eligible Activity Meets Overall Benefit Requirement
 Within Target Area Ties Back to Disaster Incorporates Resilience
 Meets Cost Benefit Analysis Objectives

WORKING GROUP: Forest Infrastructure Public Facilities/Public Services

Highway 108 North Scope of Work:

The proposed Highway 108 North Fuel Break is located on the north side of Highway 108 adjacent to the communities of Confidence, Sugar Pine, Mi-Wuk, and Sierra Village. This fuel break will be the last link in a series of fuel breaks that stretch from Columbia to Sierra Village. The proposed fuel break will protect communities along the Highway 108 corridor from large, damaging wild fires coming out of the South Fork Stanislaus Canyon.

The proposed fuel break is primarily situated on property owned by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). Vegetation would best be described as Sierra Mixed Conifer. Private contractors operating masticators, and CAL FIRE hand crews, will create an approximate 123 acre shaded fuel break by masticating, or cutting, piling, and burning, surface and ladder fuels in the understory. Generally, trees less than 10-inches in diameter at breast height, and brush would be removed to create a shaded fuel break condition. Residual trees will be spaced to break up the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels.

Sierra Pacific Industries may conduct a timber harvest in the area either before or after operations to further break up the continuity of the overstory canopy. The harvest will not be part of the proposed project.

Due to the gentle terrain, masticators are expected to be able to operate on at least 100 acres of the project. Hand crews will be used on areas unable to be treated with a masticator due to isolated steep slopes, rock outcrops, proximity to watercourses or other areas where equipment use may not be appropriate.

The timeline to complete the required environmental documentation is approximately one year which would allow for any surveys to be completed during appropriate times. This environmental work will be conducted by CAL FIRE foresters with input from staff from SPI. Fuel reduction work can be completed in one season. A total of three years for the project would allow work to be conducted at appropriate times, and provide for contractor availability.

The result of the project will be a shaded fuel break, approximately 3.5 miles long and 300 feet wide. The fuel break will consist of an open, park like forest that will help fire fighters to defend communities along the Highway 108 corridor in Tuolumne County.

Highway 108 North Fuel Break Budget

Fuel Reduction Activities:

123 acres treated at \$1,200.00 per acre: **\$147,600.00**

Approximately 100 acres to be treated with a masticator

Approximately 23 acres to be treated with a hand crew

Project Planning/Environmental Documents:

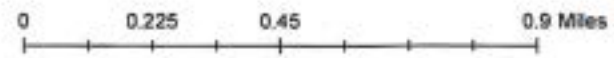
Archaeological Records Check: **\$300.00**

Environmental Documentation Filing Fee: **\$2,400.00**

Total Project Cost: \$150,300.00



Proposed HWY 108 North Project



*Hwy 108 North Project
Tuolumne - Calaveras Unit
Battalion 5*