

1. Project Title
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Habitat Restoration and Defense Project

2. Organization Name
Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS)

3. Organization Type
Nonprofit

4. Contact Person
Regine Miller

5. Contact Person
(209)293-2333; (530)277-3843

6. Contact person
regine.CHIPS@gmail.com

7. Project Type
Implementation

8. Landowner Type
Federal government

9. Landowner Name
USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District

10. Acquisition Type
NA

11. Parcel APN

024020002000, 025010002000, 025020013000, 025030007000, 025040008000, 025040014000, 025050012000, 025050013000, 025060003000, 025070002000, 026060005000, 026090003000, and 028010004000.

12. Describe any protections or restrictions affecting the project (e.g. carbon offset projects, conservation easements, etc.)

There are no known protections or restrictions affecting the project. Prior to submission of the full application, CHIPS and the Eldorado NF will prepare a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) documenting the Eldorado NF has full authority to implement the project as proposed and gives permission to CHIPS to serve as grant applicant and administrator for the project. All project

partners will follow protection measures identified in the NEPA documents, including but not limited to, protection of natural and cultural resources.

13. Project Summary (4000 character limit including spaces)

The upper Mokelumne River watershed has experienced catastrophic wildfire over the past two decades, damaging tens of thousands of acres of critical wildlife habitat. This project will restore wildfire damage and reduce risk of future fires in an effort to protect remaining critical habitat. The project advances Proposition 68 and WCB's program objectives through reforestation and post-fire habitat recovery, restoration and protection of aspen stands, and reduction of hazardous fuels. Work will benefit the California spotted owl (CASPO), northern goshawk (NOGO), aquatic resources and species within including the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF) and foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF), and among others, and will improve forest and watershed health and climate resilience.

The Mokelumne River watershed is a major drainage of the western Sierra Nevada which contains extensive forestlands supplying water to 1.4MM users, recreation, hydropower generation, tourism, agriculture, and species of significance. Within the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed, steep topography, dense vegetation and a Mediterranean climate create conditions capable of producing high intensity wildfires as evidenced by CAL FIRE's Very High Fire Hazard Severity designation. Fuels are dense, and would readily support crown torching significantly impacting important wildlife habitat and aquatic resources. This project will mitigate the vegetation risk factor through reforestation, thinning, and fuels reduction.

The Eldorado NF developed this project with the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG), an all lands community-based forest collaborative comprised of diverse stakeholders that work to create fire-safe communities, healthy forests and watersheds, and sustainable local economies. ACCG has Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act (CFLRA) status and is partner in two Master Stewardship Agreements. Within the ACCG planning area, many projects have been implemented using State and Federal grants on private, federal, and industrial forestlands creating a landscape scale restoration approach in the area surrounding the proposed project. The proposed project complements ACCG projects and supports restoration beyond CFLRA funding to continue to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration.

The proposed scope of work includes: 1)Post fire reforestation of 300 acres through tree planting and inter-planting in groups and individually, utilizing local microsite conditions to increase heterogeneity; 2)Thinning of 900 acres of post fire natural stands and young mixed conifer plantings in line with PSW GTR 220 and 237, to speed post fire recovery by decreasing competition and increasing growth rates; 3)Reduction and maintenance of hazardous fuels along 207 miles of strategic roads totaling 1,250 acres, and; 4)Temporary aspen stand fencing of 8-12 acres to prevent damage to young aspen sprouts from browsing animals, support sapling vigor and age class diversification, and creating valuable wildlife habitat.

Project activities will protect existing and contribute to development of new wildlife habitat including Protected Activity Centers (PACs) for CASPO and NOGO, and other wildlife species, which require moderate to dense forest canopy for nesting and foraging. The project will reduce the extent and severity of wildfires, and allow faster suppression access thereby minimizing fire

damage and reducing the potential number of PACs and acres of suitable habitat impacted. The project will protect aquatic resources and existing SNYLF and FYLF habitat by reducing potential watershed and water quality degradation. Decreased wildfire risk will facilitate safe egress; reduce sediment transport, habitat loss and air emissions; protect water quality, supply, reliability, and infrastructure. The project aligns with the Mokelumne Avoided Cost Analysis, and will benefit DACs affected by timber industry collapse via creation of local restoration and stewardship jobs.

14. Habitat Type

Young Sierra mixed conifer habitat type reforestation plantings in the Power Fire burn scar comprise most of the project area. The remaining project area is natural Sierra mixed conifer habitat type comprised of Ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, white fir, black oak, and Douglas fir as well as a small area of quaking aspen habitat type.

15. Habitat Acreage

2,462

16. Total project cost (to the nearest \$1,000)

\$3,473,850.00

17. Amount requested from WCB (to the nearest \$1,000)

\$3,257,100.00

18. Amount of non-WCB funds secured (to the nearest \$1,000)

\$216,750.00

19. Start date

1/1/2020

20. End Date

12/31/2023

21. Briefly describe project location.

The project is located in an unincorporated area of Amador County in the upper watershed of the North Fork Mokelumne River roughly 28 road miles east of the community of Pioneer, California. The project area is largely bordered by Highway 88 to the north, includes both upper and lower Bear Reservoirs, and is within and adjacent to the 2004 Power Fire area comprising 17,005 acres. The project area is federally owned and managed by the USDA Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest who meets multiple land use objectives.

22. Latitude for approximate center of project area
38.506535

23. Longitude for approximate center of project area.
-120.255898

24. Status of project environmental review per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
Negative Declaration

25. Specify the environmental review document, lead agency and clearinghouse number or anticipated filing date.

NEPA documents for the proposed activities are complete and available upon request.

CEQA will be completed for the reforestation component of the project prior to grant award based upon the Power Fire Reforestation Project Environmental Impact Statement NEPA document. All other project activities (thinning, roadside hazardous fuels reduction and temporary fencing) are exempt from CEQA under SB901 (2018) Minor Alteration 18.36.070 because the activities will occur on federal land and are covered under NEPA.

A Negative Declaration is the anticipated environmental review document for reforestation activities. It is anticipated that the fiscal agent for the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group's Master Stewardship Agreement, the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA), will serve as lead agency as they have in the past, pending Board approval. The planned filing date is November 20, 2019.

26. County overlapping project area
Amador County

27. Do you plan to upload any optional documents?

- Mokelumne Avoided Costs Analysis
- USDA Pacific Southwest Research Station General Technical Report PSW-GTR-220: An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierra Mixed Conifer Forests.
- USDA Pacific Southwest Research Station General Technical Report PSW-GTR-237: Managing Sierra Nevada Forests.
- Participating Agreement Supplemental Project Agreement to Master Stewardship Agreement #17-PA 11050300-018 between Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions and the USDA, Forest Service Eldorado National Forest.