**Goal Statement - Forest Projects Plan**

The goal of the Forest Projects Plan is to provide landscape level fire resilience and forest health to the National Forest lands located in the Mokelumne River watershed. The plan aims to complete environmental documentation and planning of forest health projects within the Amador and Calaveras Ranger Districts that, once implemented, will reduce the risks of significant effects of wildfire within this portion of the upper Mokelumne River watershed and improve the safety and efficacy of fire suppression efforts to benefit adjacent communities.  A two-phased effort is envisioned.  Phase 1 will focus on straight-forward, relatively inexpensive, stewardship-type ladder fuels treatments and forest management actions that are widely supported and considered mutually agreeable by the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG).  Coverage for Phase 1 will be as large as possible but at least 10,000 acres. Phase 1 seeks to connect treatment areas to previously-treated areas to the extent possible, to promote widespread fuels treatment activities across he watershed, protect and enhance wildlife habitat, protect aspen stands from encroaching conifers up to 30 inches dbh (non-commercial restoration efforts) and prepare the landscape for prescribed fire. All required NEPA and CEQA actions will be completed as soon as possible to ensure that projects can be implemented as soon as state, federal or other funding opportunities arise. Phase 2 will incorporate approximately 120,000 acres and include thinning of trees larger than 12 inches dbh and other forest treatment activities that are not included in Phase 1 because they require significant field surveys, additional collaboration with the ACCG, and will take more time and resources to complete the NEPA and CEQA analyses.

**Approach and Strategy – Forest Projects Plan**

The strategy of this phased approach to NEPA/CEQA clears the way for Phase 1 near-term implementation, for maximum protection of the watershed, to the largest extent possible of the types of fuels treatments that are independent of commercial timber value. This strategy allows for on-the-ground treatments to occur in the short-term, while we simultaneously address more complex but also much-needed “revenue producing treatments” as part of a longer NEPA process in Phase 2.