Based on the **Cornerstone CFLR Monitoring Strategy**, the **MAC Forest Resilience Project Notice of Intent**, and the SERAL, North Yuba, and Lake Tahoe West monitoring plans provided, I have condensed and refined the MAC Project monitoring questions to ensure all critical indicators are addressed while keeping the list under 20 questions.

# **MAC Forest Resilience Project – Monitoring Questions**

### Forest and Fire Resilience

- 1. How effectively are vegetation management treatments (e.g., thinning, prescribed fire, and fuel breaks) reducing wildfire risk and improving forest resilience?
- 2. Are fuel treatments aligning current forest structure and composition with desired conditions, including stand density, species diversity, and landscape heterogeneity?
- 3. Are shaded fuel breaks and prescribed fire treatments reducing fire intensity, flame length, and crown fire potential across the landscape?
- 4. Are restoration treatments improving the pace and scale of ecological resilience while ensuring compliance with regulatory and conservation guidelines?
- 5. How are forest thinning and prescribed fire affecting stand health, mortality rates, and resilience to climate stressors such as drought and insect outbreaks?

### Wildlife and Habitat Monitoring

- 6. What are the impacts of restoration treatments on key wildlife habitats, including California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs) and other species-at-risk?
- 7. Are prescribed fire and thinning treatments maintaining or improving late-seral forest conditions and biodiversity across different habitat types?
- 8. How is riparian and meadow vegetation responding to restoration efforts, including conifer encroachment removal and native plant re-establishment?
- 9. Are invasive species control efforts effectively reducing the spread and impact of non-native plants and aquatic organisms?

### Watershed Health and Hydrology

- 10. How are restoration treatments affecting water quality, sedimentation rates, and erosion control within priority watersheds?
- 11. Are stream restoration efforts, including aquatic organism passage improvements and riparian vegetation recovery, enhancing watershed connectivity and function?

12. Are fire and vegetation management activities maintaining or improving watershed resilience to climate change impacts, such as altered hydrology and increased erosion?

## **Social and Economic Impacts**

- 13. How has the MAC Project influenced local job creation, workforce development, and economic benefits in nearby communities?
- 14. Are sales, contracts, and agreements related to restoration activities benefiting local businesses and improving economic stability?
- 15. Has the project supported an increase in sustainable wood product processing and biomass utilization?
- 16. Are community engagement efforts, including outreach and public education, increasing social acceptance of prescribed fire and mechanical thinning?
- 17. How has the project impacted recreational access, tourism, and visitor experiences in forested areas?

#### **Collaboration and Adaptive Management**

- 18. How effectively is the project integrating adaptive management based on monitoring results, stakeholder feedback, and ecological responses?
- 19. Is the collaboration process improving transparency, trust, and participation among stakeholders, including local communities, agencies, and conservation groups?
- 20. Has the MAC Project successfully leveraged external funding and partnerships to enhance restoration efforts and long-term sustainability?