



My Sierra Woods Project Overview

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is working with partners in northern California to protect critical forested watersheds and the carbon they sequester through a project called My Sierra Woods (MSW). The goal of the project is to engage over 10,000 family forest landowners and empower them to take action to safeguard from the inevitable fire the carbon and water values their lands hold.

Taking a unique approach to the cost challenges of forest restoration, MSW will leverage the surrounding wood products infrastructure (mills and biomass plants) to help landowners overcome the high cost of fuels reduction by providing them with support to act on their land at little or no cost to them. In addition, MSW partners will work with nearby National Forests to capitalize on cross-boundary opportunities to ensure fire resiliency is restored to the entire landscape – both public and private land.

Over the next four years, MSW has an audacious goal- to catalyze more than 720 projects across more than 42,000 acres, using wood-products markets to offset project costs, in part, by providing landowners with reimbursements for fuels-reduction activities, and facilitating reforestation on properties in need of it. Funded by a California Climate Investments grant, totaling 9M USD, the MSW project will run from August 1, 2018 to March 31, 2022.

THE LOCATION

The MSW project area encompasses 9 counties in Northern California: Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Yuba, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, and Placer. In these counties, 45% percent of the land is forested—and of those forested acres, 42% are privately owned. Across this program area, there are 118 sub watersheds which are critical for downstream municipal and agricultural water use (according to EPA and USFS) and 10's of millions of acres of stored carbon. Yet these acres are also prone to burn unnaturally large and severe absent dedicated cross-boundary efforts to restore forests' resiliency to the inevitable fire.



THE PARTNERS

There is need for federal and state agencies, and national and local nonprofit organizations to invest in partnerships to engage private and family landowners to complement the forest resilience work of their neighbors—whether public or private. Coordination and collaboration across jurisdictions has never been as important, and the scale of the challenge in California demands nothing less. Thus, the partner list for the MSW project is extensive, including: conservation groups, registered professional foresters, forest market leaders, and state and federal agencies.

Questions?

Contact Natalie Omundson, Western Conservation Manager at American Forest Foundation (email: nomundson@forestfoundation.org, phone: 202.765.3454)

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