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Post-Fire Disaster Recovery Grant

Responding to the statewide unprecedented wildfire events, California's resource conservation districts work with communities to complete critical post-fire disaster recovery work.

SACRAMENTO, CA, July 26, 2022– The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) announced the recent award of grants to six resource conservation districts (RCDs) located throughout California to fund forest post-fire recovery work within the footprints of 2019-2021 wildfires.

As the size and intensity of California wildfires grow, the challenges of post-fire restoration grow as well. From 2019-2021, over 7 million acres of California burned, many of which include high severity landscape-altering burn acres. Post-fire recovery presents a narrow opportunity to manage the landscape to restore forest resilience, and prevent a semi-permanent to permanent deforestation event. In May 2022, the USDA United States Forest Service (USFS) awarded CARCD a 3 million Post-Fire Disaster Recovery Agreement to provide sub-grants to RCDs, primarily located within a 13-county region, through a competitive process. The focal 13 counties are Siskiyou, Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Los Angeles, Napa, Shasta, Sierra, Solano, Tehama, Trinity, Fresno, and Tulare counties. RCDs will use the grants to work with non-industrial private landowners and tribes to complete post-fire disaster recovery work. Many of the projects include taking steps toward establishing Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (EFRTs) by enhancing partnerships and leveraging existing financial programs.

The funded projects include: recovery work on Karuk Tribal land burned in the Slater fire; vegetation management in stream corridors burned in the LNU fire in Solano County; recovery and outreach to private landowners whose property was burned in the Creek Fire in Sierra County; wildfire rehabilitation on private properties in Shasta County; hiring a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to assist with Farm Service Agency's Emergency Forest Restoration Program in Napa County; and developing a cost-share program, Small Forest Landowners Assistance Program, for restoration treatments in Butte County.

"Wildfire has dramatically altered many landscapes, and supporting tribes and non-industrial private landowners to recover their lands is crucial," said Karen Buhr of CARCD. "RCDs are unique in their ability to help local communities with restoration and conservation, and we are excited to see more funding flow to them to promote a healthy, and forested state."

The first-round RCD recipients of the grant are the **Butte County RCD, Napa County RCD, Shasta Valley RCD, Solano RCD, Sierra RCD, and Western Shasta RCD**. Awards ranged from \$50,000 - \$575,000 and totaled approximately 1.3 million dollars. Another round of applicants will be solicited later this summer, with proposals due in November. Eligible RCDs will be emailed. If your RCD is within the 13-county region, you are welcome to reach out for more information.

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is a 501c3 non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to serving as a strong advocate, technical resource, and partner to the state's 95 Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs). RCDs make conservation happen on-the-ground by partnering with local communities on a voluntary basis to care for California's land, water, soil, and other natural resources.

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