

CAL FIRE Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grant Awards, 2023 Solicitation

Applicant	Project Name	County	Award Amount	Project Description
Cahuilla Band of Indians	Cahuilla Band of Indians Wildfire Resiliency Project	Riverside	\$2,029,755.60	The Cahuilla Band of Indians Wildfire Resiliency Project will include Wildfire Education Defensible Space with community engagement. Concurrently, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be shared with Tribal Members and neighboring communities, particularly at the Wildland Urban Interface, and training will be scheduled quarterly concurrently with annual updating of the Cahuilla Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Fuel Reduction activities will be ongoing for three years throughout the Reservation, particularly near people and structures and on the Reservation's perimeter. This will include recruitment of a Tribal Youth Conservation Corp. that will become fire resilient and experience workforce development. Traditional cultural and prescribed burns will be included in the training by the Cultural Department with the Education Center. This will include inter-Tribal involvement with a focus on traditional fire uses and burns for regrowth. Native plants will be re-established in cleared areas.
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria	Kashia Community Wildfire Resiliency Project	Sonoma	\$1,200,000.00	<i>Pending Project Narrative approval</i>

Pauma Band of Mission Indians	Pauma Pyrodiversity Project: Reviving Tribal Wildfire Resiliency	San Diego	\$734,040.00	This project will support the work of Pauma Forestry Crew in prescribed fire, access to cultural resources, forest health improvement, wildfire resiliency, and workforce development. The areas proposed to burn contain known traditional sources of sustenance (e.g. oaks and grasses). After burning, the land will be prepared for reforestation with native trees and shrubs. Shaded fuel breaks will be retreated to provide safer ingress and egress and, during a wildfire, will serve as the sole fuel break for northern Palomar Mountain. Pauma has been in communication with environmental consultants; work will begin immediately upon approval. Pauma's Burn Plan was completed for the existing CALFIRE Forest Health project, Saving San Diego's Last Mixed Conifer Forest and will serve as a guide for the Tribal Wildfire Resiliency Project that will expand the footprint of existing projects.
Round Valley Indian Tribes	Round Valley Indian Tribes Wildland Fire Project	Mendocino	\$428,292.77	This grant will support fire planning to reduce the threat to Tribal lives and Tribal land in Round Valley. The grant will also support progress toward the long-term goal of returning prescribed and cultural burning to the Round Valley Indian Tribes. This grant seeks to address the common problem that landscape-scale and strategic fire resilience projects are often unattainable because of a lack of funding for pre-project analysis and a lack of internal implementation capacity. Specific deliverables include a feasibility analysis and prioritization of fire resilience projects, a Fuels Management and Prescribed Fire Plan, a Fire Atlas that supports decision-making during fire suppression, a categorical exclusion for fuels reduction, and PPE and fire training for the Round Valley Indian Tribes' Department of Natural Resources staff.

Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians	EcoCultural Stewardship of Highland Springs	Lake	\$1,666,176.01	The EcoCultural Stewardship of Ye-Ma-Bax builds off of an existing collaboration between Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians (SVBPI), Lake County Water Resources Department (LCWRD) and the nonprofit Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (TERA) to bring health and resilience to land within SVBPI's ancestral territory through Indigenous-led stewardship. The project will treat 120 acres with a variety of treatments including prescribed and cultural fire, hand thinning, native plantings, and riparian restoration. There will be six training workshops offered in conjunction with implementation of stewardship work. These activities will increase wildfire resilience, improve access to and quality of traditional food and basketry materials, and create opportunities for Lake County Tribal members as they engage in implementation. Building off of successful partnerships, the project will result in significant fuels reduction, improve wildfire resilience, and bring traditional ecological knowledge to the center of a collaborative landscape scale project.
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The Tule River Indian Tribe of California	Tule River Reservation Wildfire Resilience and Recovery Planning Project	Tulare	\$1,045,735.60	<p>The Tule River Indian Reservation is located at the intersection of the foothills and western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range in Tulare County, California. It's 55,000 acres span grasslands, blue oak woodlands, mixed-conifer forests, wet meadows and numerous riparian corridors. Like elsewhere in the region, forests on the Reservation have been severely impacted by the combined impacts of drought, wildfire, bark beetle infestation, and hazardous fuels accumulations. The CAL FIRE Tribal Wildfire Resilience Planning Grant will be administered through the Tribe's Natural Resources Department and will contribute to goals of building workforce capacity, completing NEPA compliance for future restoration work, updating the Tribe's Forest Management Plan, and integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Cultural Burning into forest management practices. Capacity building will include training in chainsaw and forestry equipment operation, drone-based mapping and inventory work, red-carding, and cultural burning. The grant will also be used to conduct a post-fire inventory of giant sequoia groves, forest inventory planning, restoration planning, as well as biological and archeological surveys. Planning activities will complement ongoing efforts by the Tribe to restore land burned by the 2021 Windy Fire, create multi-benefit and fire-adapted forests, and co-stewardship work with neighboring Giant Sequoia National Monument.</p>
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Wiyot Tribe	Re-Igniting Cultural Burning Capacity (Wiyot Tribe)	Humboldt	\$700,000.00	In collaboration with community-based organizations, the Wiyot Tribe proposes the re-introduction of prescribed fire with cultural objectives to the Table Bluff Reservation (TBR). This project has two phases which include partnerships with cultural fire organizations to provide oversight and training to the Wiyot Tribe culminating in the first prescribed fire with cultural objectives on TBR. This project utilizes both Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Western Ecological Knowledge (WEK) to achieve the objectives of building capacity, promoting native plant species, and improving ecological and community wildfire resilience on Native American trust land.
Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of CA	Berry Creek Restoration Program	Butte	\$1,500,000.00	<i>Pending Project Narrative approval</i>

Esselen Tribe of Monterey County	Esselen Tribe of Monterey County Wildfire Resilience, Forest Health, Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Cultural Resource Revitalization Project	Monterey	\$3,500,000.00	<p>With support from Cal Fire's Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grant program, the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County plans to improve forest health and wildfire resilience on Esselen-owned and co-managed Tribal Lands, along access roads leading to Tribal Lands, and improve Esselen ancestral hunting and gathering areas currently overgrown with ladder fuels and invasive exotic species.</p> <p>The project will create paid positions for members of the Tribe and local community to become active stewards of the ancestral Esselen territory.</p> <p>The proposed project is implementation-ready and includes a combination of "fire mimicry" activities, use of cultural burning, biochar generation (and carbon sequestration), "heritage" tree treatments (with biochar and naturally derived organic soil amendments), non-native plant removal, community outreach, education, and cultural resource revitalization.</p>
lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel	INSY Forest Management		\$2,000,000.00	<p>The lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel will preserve the ancestral homelands through traditional practices. This funding will provide jobs for (8) person Fuel Reduction Crew, Volcan Mountain Brush Crew, a Propagation Specialist and the Director of Emergency Services.</p> <p>Our tribe has stewarded these lands for generations, and this funding will enable us to continue these practices, including removing ladder fuels, thinning the forest canopy, and masticating to improve forest health and promote traditional acorn harvesting. Following removal of the ladder fuels and dead, dying and downed trees, our Propagation Specialist will implement an indigenous reforestation project promoting sustainable traditional practices including but not limited to the following: oaks, choke cherries, sumac, yucca, and deer grass.</p>

				<p>These efforts are crucial as over 15,000 acres of dense brush and chaparral, with limited fire breaks, pose an imminent threat to our community. With these lands untouched by fire for 65 years, dry brush and dead/dying/diseased trees now endanger our developed areas. Fuels reduction will also combat invasive species like GSOBB and prevent devastating fires.</p>
<p>Karuk Tribe</p>	<p>Karuk Fire Restoration in Katimiin Trust Lands</p>	<p>Humboldt</p>	<p>\$1,000,000.00</p>	<p>Karuk Aboriginal Territory comprises of high-density fuel load areas and overforested Douglas Fir stands which crowd out other beneficial and culturally significant species our People have tended since time immemorial. The Karuk Fire Program performs fuels work in primarily the spring and fall seasons, with personnel aiding in wildland response during the summer months. The Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam Land Trust Act, signed into law in January 2023, placed 1,013 acres of forest lands into Karuk Tribal Trust. This work will engage Tribal staff in our Karuk Tribal Forest Plan Update to help return fire to an area that has not felt Good Fire for generations. Our project consists of multiple stages of planning development to set the stage for ongoing prescribed fire and fuels reduction work to prepare the Land for cultural fire. Forest management will be informed by Karuk cultural understandings and technical expertise utilizing local species and local fire behavior to promote and heal our Aboriginal plant and</p>

				<p>animal relatives within the Klamath river corridor and its landscapes. These treatments will be planned specifically to allow Tribal folks better access to the KASL area and will benefit the larger cultural and ceremonial use of these sacred and sovereign lands.</p>
<p>La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians</p>	<p>Journey to Balanced Forest Health through Cultural Fire on the La Jolla Indian Reservation</p>	<p>San Diego</p>	<p>\$2,500,000.00</p>	<p>Tribal wildfire resilience in the urban-wildland interface focusing on goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) tree mortality mitigation, cultural burning, insecticide treatments, and fuel breaks. Dead and dying trees will be removed, and salvaged wood will be used for firewood or milling. Fuel breaks surrounding forests and residential areas will be restored. Crews will also help conduct GSOB research and assist with experiments. Cultural burns will be implemented in forest restoration, and prescribed burns will be conducted on fuel breaks. Cultural Burning Practitioners and staff will train in wildland fire and complete skills testing. Traditional ecological knowledge on forestry and lessons learned will be shared via outreach events and conferences. Staff will analyze cultural burn impacts and success. A media contractor will develop videos for social media and tribal news outlets. Equipment, tools, and job supplies will be purchased to support and increase annual acres treated by the forestry fuels crew.</p>