



El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee **JANUARY 2020 PROJECT STATUS REPORT** *for Funding Years 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018*

Summary: In 2016, 27 proposals were received for consideration of Title II funding provided by the FY2014 and FY2015 Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments program to El Dorado County; Of the 27, 13 projects were funded and 3 additional projects were provisionally approved, if funding became available. ELD-1622 was later cancelled and a provisional project ELD-1620 was scaled down to utilize the available funding.

In 2018 and 2019, RAC member appointments had expired and new members were recruited and submitted to the Washington Office for selection and approval. Approval was delayed until Congress passed Public Law 116-94 on December 20, 2019, which reauthorized the Secure Rural Schools program for two more years.

By spring 2020, the FY2017 and FY2018 funds were received and in lieu of having an active RAC to initiate a new call for proposals, the forest received guidance that these funds could be allocated to projects that were recommended by the El Dorado County RAC prior to the expiration of the previous committee appointments. The remaining two provisional projects were funded, ELD-1616 and ELD-1619, and additional funding was allocated to many of the other projects to complete additional related work.

As of Fall 2020, a new RAC has been established, holding their first meeting in December. The new RAC will be reviewing proposals and approving projects for the SRSII funding for FY19 (payment year FY20) and for FY20 (payment year FY21).

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EL DORADO COUNTY RAC PROJECTS BY FUNDING AND STATUS

Project Number	Project Name	2016 Funded \$	2020 Funded \$	Status
		(PY2014/15 Funds)	(PY2017/18 Funds)	
ELD-1601	Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead	\$31,000	\$14,750	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1602	Forest Trash Cleanup Efforts	\$4,500	\$4,400	Clean-up projects continue.
ELD-1604	Meeks Creek Trail Maintenance	\$18,000	\$9,800	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1605	Twin Peaks OHV System Maintenance	\$35,000	\$24,500	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1608	Volunteer Chainsaw Certification	\$7,140	\$7,000	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1611	Georgetown RD Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance	\$55,699	\$29,450	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1613	King Fire Invasive Plant Control	\$29,081	\$17,500	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1616	Middle Fork Cosumnes River Campground Improvement	provisionally approved	\$46,730	FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1617	King Fire Archaeological Site Restoration	\$41,500		Mostly completed.
ELD-1618	Bayview Trail Maintenance/Rehab	\$32,640	\$29,450	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1619	Icehouse Forest Health-Fuel Reduction	provisionally approved	\$25,000	FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1620	King Fire Stream Restoration	\$4,925		FY16 Completed. A smaller version of project was scaled to funds.
ELD-1622	Leoni Meadows Camp / El Dorado Forestry Challenge Fuel Reduction	\$4,925		Project cancelled. Funds re-directed to ELD-1620.
ELD-1623	Fontanillis Lake Backcountry Trail Maintenance	\$14,850	\$14,500	Completed for both funding years.
ELD-1625	Tahoe Basin Forest Stewardship Day Volunteer Restoration Event Series	\$14,885	\$14,500	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
ELD-1626	Van Vleck Meadow Restoration - Phase 1	\$10,000	\$9,800	FY16 Completed. FY20 - project postponed to FY21 due to COVID.
Totals		\$299,220	\$247,380	

Project Highlights

ELD-1602 Forest Trash Cleanup Efforts

Please Leave It NRA Klean (PLINK), a long time volunteer group, has been cleaning up the forest utilizing the RAC trash clean-up grant to cover supplies and dump fees. They have completed at least 3 projects this year as well as demolishing and cleaning up a large abandoned trailer.



Abandoned trailer removed from North/South Road and Cat Creek Road.



Trash clean-up on Bonetti Road
October 17, 2020.

ELD-1613 King Fire Invasive Plant Control

Due to Covid 19 the Eldorado NF was unable to hire a dedicated invasive plant crew for the 2020 field season. With the reduced staffing we were able to complete 1.1 acres of invasive plant treatments across 7 infestations. We also monitored 17 infestations in 2020. We are planning on fully staffing the Botany crew in FY21 and will use the remaining funding to continue treating priority invasive plant infestations in the King Fire footprint.

Project Highlights

ELD-1617 King Fire Archaeological Site Restoration

2018 Highlights

- ◆ An additional \$6,097 was placed into the American Conservation Experience (ACE) Agreement for a total of approximately \$24,000 in the Agreement.
- ◆ The ACE crew worked two eight-day rotations performing targeted fuels removal and erosion control within eight archaeological sites, followed by native plant establishment within specified areas at two of the sites. Members of the United Auburn Indian Community participated in planting activities. The sites treated by ACE included the Johnson Cutoff Wagon Trail on the Pacific District and several Native American sites that are considered to be Priority Heritage Assets on the Pacific and Georgetown Districts.



Matthew Moore (United Auburn Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Officer) kneels beside a cottonwood tree he planted in 2018 as part of the King Fire Archeological Site Restoration Project. Members of several other tribes monitor a nearby bedrock mortar and discuss plans to continue re-vegetating the site with culturally significant native plants. Photo by Nik Rother, Georgetown Ranger District, August 2019

2019 Highlights

- ◆ A field trip was hosted for consulting Tribes to monitor project work and to discuss next steps. FS archaeologists and Tribal members discussed plans to continue propagating culturally significant plants to continue restoration efforts at one of the archaeological sites in order to develop a Native Plant Collection Area.
- ◆ \$2,000 was transferred to the FS Placerville Nursery to support propagation of ~1,100 culturally significant plants for this project.

2020 Highlights

- ◆ A list of culturally significant plants to be propagated at the FS Placerville Nursery was developed in collaboration with the ENF Botanist.

2021 Plans

In the Spring, we intend to plant seeds of the ~1,100 culturally significant plants into containers at the FS Placerville Nursery in collaboration with ENF Botany program and consulting Tribes. In the Fall, both groups will transplant seedlings from containers to Native Plant Collection Area. We also will complete the analysis of approximately 100 artifacts temporarily collected from the surface of archaeological sites in the King Fire area, followed by the reburial of the artifacts at their respective sites in consultation with Tribes.

Remaining Funds: \$4,979

Of the remaining funds, approximately \$3,979 would be used for a contract and about \$1000 would be used for supplies.

Project Highlights

ELD-1626 Van Vleck Meadow Restoration: Phase 1 and Phase 2

- ◇ **Van Vleck Phase 1** – Additional trail work on the Highland Trail was completed in 2019 and the funds awarded in 2016 have been used.
- ◇ **Van Vleck Phase 2** – Additional trail work and some road decommissioning is planned for this summer, and none of these funds, awarded in 2017, have been used.

ELD-1623 Fontanillis Lake Backcountry Trail Maintenance

Despite serious challenges posed by the global pandemic, extreme fire risk, and dense smoke from a record fire season, 2020 was a successful year for the Desolation Trail Reconstruction project. The TRTA put two volunteer crews in the field for four days each to work on the trail between Middle Velma Lake and Fontanillis Lake. These crews were capped at a total of 10 participants (down from the usual 12) due to coronavirus restrictions.

American Conservation Experience (ACE) crews were scheduled for three hitches of 8 days each, but due to the forest closure in the face of extreme fire risk were only able to work for two of those hitches. The 7-person crews concentrated on the trail south of Phipps Creek.

Overall the project saw more than 1000 hours of work this season, which produced 48 stone steps, 2 check dams, 63 linear feet of retaining wall, 5 stone drains, and 2 water bars.

