South Fork American River (SOFAR)

Cohesive Strategy Fuels Reduction 2016 Projects

Eldorado National Forest Projects

Wrights Lake Recreation Area Fuels Reduction Project

This project is located in a popular recreation and permit cabin area and is being coordinated with Wrights Lake permittee holders and the Forest Service to create defensible space, increase access, and egress. This will occur with road brushing, and removal of heavy fuel load reduction using fuel wood gathering and prescribed fire.

Cleveland-Ice House Forest Health Project

Cleveland and Ice House Plantations were established following the 1992 Cleveland Fire and 1959 Ice House Fire. A forest health protection review in 2015 validated the concern in the 2014 Farm Bill that the current stand conditions placed these areas at high risk of bark beetle infestation. The project reduces stand density, competing vegetation and fuels with a combination of mechanical thinning, chipping, and masticating, along with hand treatments of brush cutting, hand thinning and pruning plantations identified as overstocked and at risk of loss from insect and disease. Additional environmental analyses will increase the project area.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project

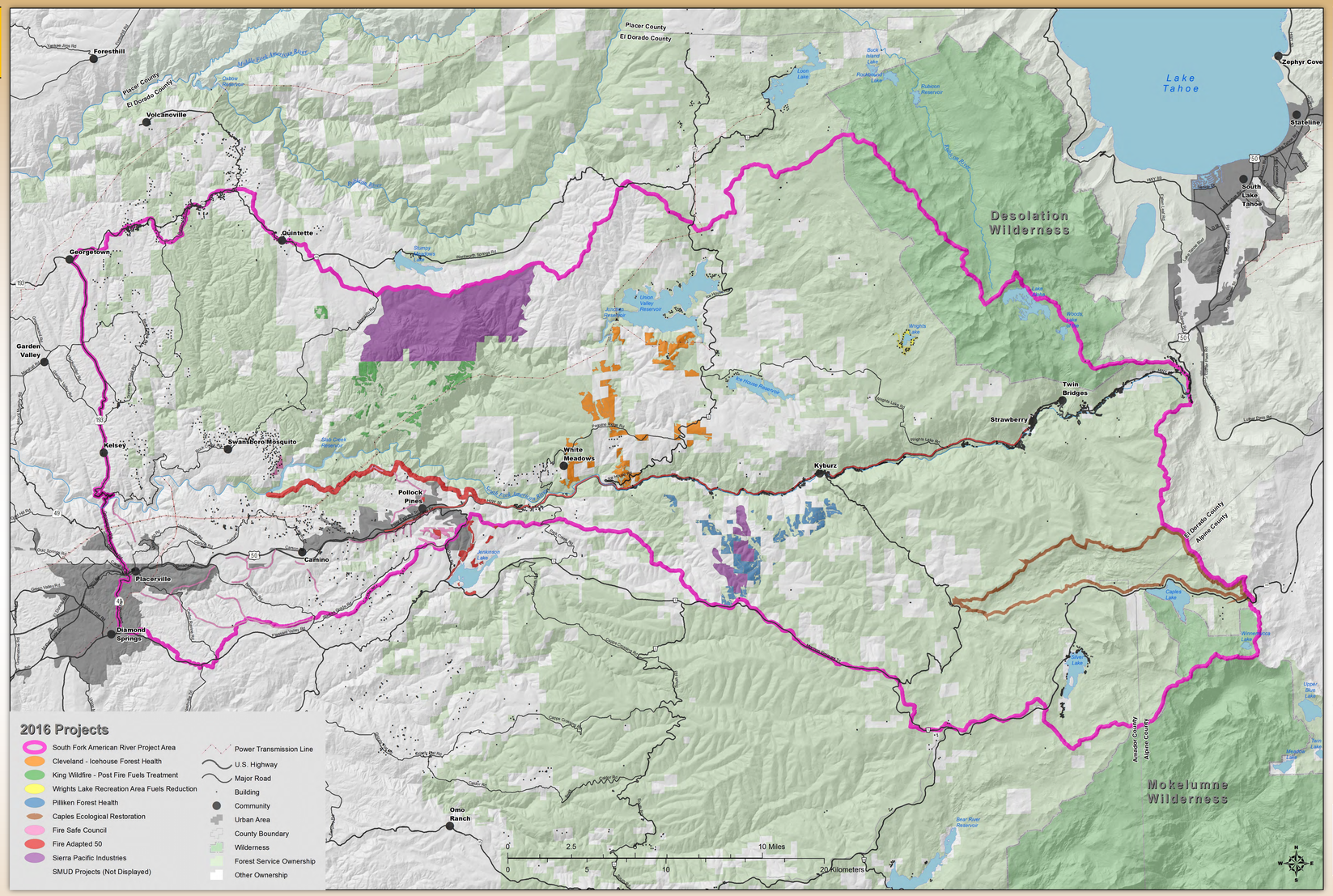
A century of fire exclusion from Caples Creek drainage has resulted in increased fuel loading and tree density, amplifying the risk of high intensity wildfires with potential for significant negative impacts to water quality and other valued resources. Conifer encroachment has compromised the condition of meadows, streamside corridors, and Aspen stand regeneration. This project is currently funded to complete 12.5 miles of hand line, including cutting and piling (75 acres). These prescribed fire containment lines will be used to implement 11,500 acres of understory burning.

King Wildfire—Post Fire Fuels Treatment Project

The removal of dead trees in strategic fire management areas is presently needed to reduce the future volumes of heavy large surface fuels, which limit the ability of firefighters to safely and effectively control wildfires and to manage prescribed fires. 1,634 acres will be treated within the 2014 King Fire. The areas identified in this project will not include commercial salvage operations.

Pillikin Forest Health Project

A Forest Health Protection review of the Pilliken area in 2013 categorized these areas as at high risk of bark beetle infestation, and noting scattered dead trees in the area likely due to beetle activity. Commercial and non-commercial thinning, pruning residual trees will increase the height to live crown, post-harvest treatment of activity fuels, reduction of understory fuels by hand means or via mechanical treatment, and prescribed burning of piles and understory following treatments. Additional environmental analysis will increase the project area.



In August of 2014, in response to congressional direction of the Federal Land Assistance, Management and enhancement (FLAME) Act, the USFS selected Eldorado National Forest to begin implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The ENF is tasked to address fire management challenges on a larger scale by working collaboratively among stakeholders and across all landscapes, using best available science. Existing Forest fuels reduction projects are already being implemented with new funds to kick off the fuels collaboration.

Fire Adapted 50

Fire Adapted 50 is landscape-level project that requires jurisdictional cooperation for fuel modification in high fire hazard areas. Cooperators include the El Dorado Fire Safe Council, Sierra Pacific Industries, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, CALFIRE, Resource Conservation District, El Dorado Irrigation District, and the Eldorado National Forest. This project is divided into 3 phases.

Camino/Pollock Pines Fuel Break Phase

Work in this area will be from Slab Creek Dam to Pony Express Trail along the rim of the canyon. This improves and reinforces existing fuel breaks developed during the King Fire, and will tie into the existing Iowa Hill and Independence Fuel Breaks.

Highway 50 Fuels Reduction Phase

The Highway 50 corridor has experienced four large fires since the 1970's. The potential for wildfire starts is high due to the proximity to Highway 50, residential development, high recreational use, and lightning. This is a collaborative project with the Eldorado National Forest and CAL FIRE to reduce hazardous fuels by hand cutting, piling and pile burning approximately 1,100 acres within the wildland-urban interface around Silver Fork, Kyburz, and Strawberry and roadside fuel reduction for 300 feet north (uphill) side of Highway 50 from Pollock Pines to Strawberry.

Sly Park Phase

Work in this area has been going on for 27 years with CAL FIRE taking the lead. The project will expand the established shaded fuel break to connect to Highway 50 and Forest Service land along Sly Park Road.

Sierra Pacific Industries Projects

The Hoot Timber Harvest

This is a commercially thinned project that reduces fuel loading, opens up tree canopy densities, and raises canopy base heights.

King Fire Treatments

Treatments include salvage harvest, clearing of slash and residual materials from the King Fire, and replanting.

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council Projects

The Fire Safe Council coordinates multiple community fuel reduction projects including ridge top fuel breaks, roadside shaded fuel breaks, neighborhood clean up chipping programs, etc. throughout the county. Projects also include educational and outreach programs regarding fire-adapted communities, prevention/mitigation programs, and Firewise literature.

Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, & Safe & Effective Wildland Fire Response