



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



### Partnership in Practice

Lassen National Forest  
Region 5 US Forest Service

## Hello, Lassen National Forest Partners!

Welcome to the LNF Partnership in Practice Newsletter for November 2023.

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### Forest Supervisor's Message with Deb Bumpus, LNF Forest Supervisor



***Hello everyone –***

*As we head into the holidays, I want to share my appreciation with all of you for your engagement with the Forest and your commitment to assist us as we manage these lands. During my four years on the Lassen National Forest, I have witnessed the positive growth of our partner network. I look forward to expanding our capacities by working with each other on upcoming projects.*

*Thank you also for your participation in the Partnership in Practice Symposium. Your feedback will help us plan for the next one in the near future.*

*Happy Holidays!*

***Deb Bumpus, Forest Supervisor***

## Partner Spotlight- Alliance for Workforce Development

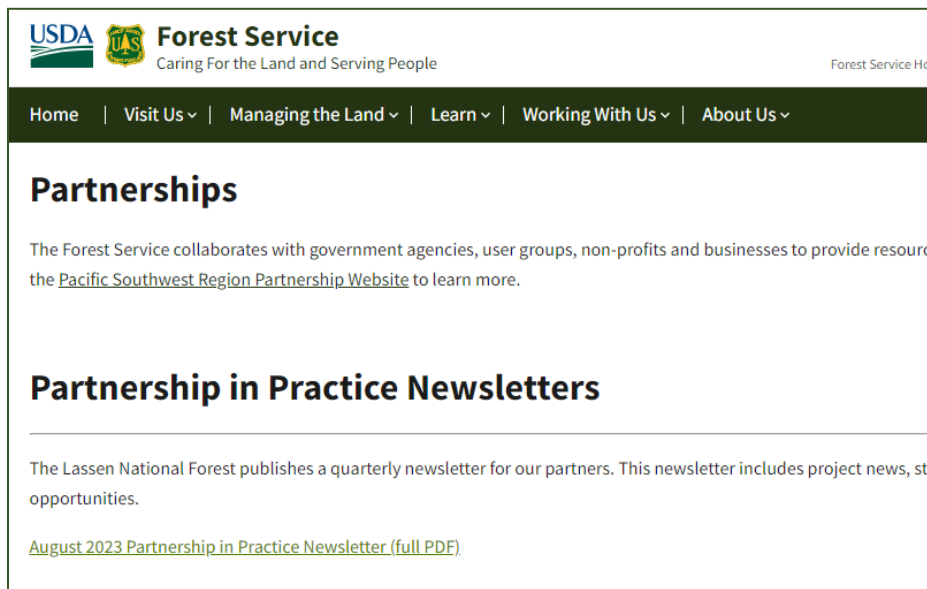
Partner projects can take many forms: from managing the NEPA process to implementing prescriptive timber treatments to community outreach. The LNF also partners with organizations that provide workforce development services to our local communities.

In 2023, the LNF partnered with the Alliance for Workforce Development to place eight Lassen County workers in administrative and recreation maintenance positions on the Almanor and Eagle Lake Districts. These employees have been instrumental in accomplishing work that allows the LNF to meet its disaster recovery and public service goals, and have gained valuable work experience in the process. A crew of seven employees painted smoke damaged facilities; replaced burned picnic tables, fire rings, fencing and parking barriers; and chipped brush and cleaned up burned and down trees at the Locherman Canyon Outdoor Classroom, Almanor North, and Soldier Meadows Campgrounds. Another employee assisted with administrative duties at the Eagle Lake District office. The Lassen National Forest would like to thank the Alliance for Workforce Development staff for their dedication to the partnership and we look forward to what the future holds!



*Figure 1. AFWD crew members chip material as part of a disaster recovery and workforce development project.*

## LNF Partnerships Web Page



The screenshot shows the top portion of a web page. At the top left is the USDA Forest Service logo with the tagline "Caring For the Land and Serving People". To the right of the logo is the text "Forest Service Ho". Below the logo is a dark green navigation bar with white text: "Home | Visit Us v | Managing the Land v | Learn v | Working With Us v | About Us v". The main content area has a white background. It features a section titled "Partnerships" in bold black text. Below this title is a paragraph: "The Forest Service collaborates with government agencies, user groups, non-profits and businesses to provide resource... the [Pacific Southwest Region Partnership Website](#) to learn more." Below this is another section titled "Partnership in Practice Newsletters" in bold black text. Below this title is a paragraph: "The Lassen National Forest publishes a quarterly newsletter for our partners. This newsletter includes project news, sta... opportunities." Below this paragraph is a link: "[August 2023 Partnership in Practice Newsletter \(full PDF\)](#)".

The LNF Partnerships web page is live! It can be accessed on the Lassen National Forest web site by clicking the Working With Us drop down button at the top of the page, then Partnerships, or [by clicking this link](#). This web page will host shared documents such as newsletters and meeting notes, as well as announcements and calendars that are relevant to LNF partners.

The Partnerships web page is still under construction; thank you for reporting any broken links to Stephaney Cox ([stephaney.cox@usda.gov](mailto:stephaney.cox@usda.gov)).

## PiP Symposium Fall 2023 Meeting Materials

"The symposium is a stepping stone in where we want to go;  
a step of progress in maximizing partnership cooperation."

-Anonymous attendee

A big **thank you** goes out from LNF to our partners for attending the Partnership in Practice Symposium in October. Approximately **50 in-person attendees and 20 online attendees** engaged in discussions and structured activities about what it means to partner with the Forest Service, how our individual organizational timelines overlap, and how some of our Forest processes can be more collaborative.



*Figure 1 LNF and Partner attendees get to know one another before the symposium starts.*

Post-meeting materials are attached to this email and can be found on our newly created Lassen Nation Forest Partnership Web Page, including:

1. [Symposium program with agenda](#)
2. [Presentation slide decks](#)
3. [Meeting notes](#)
4. [Roles and responsibilities defined](#)
5. [Collective organizational timelines](#)
6. [POW process recommendation summary](#)

The recording of the symposium will be made available in January. We apologize for the delay; we want to ensure that the recording is Section 508 compliant for accessibility purposes.

Stephaney Cox, LNF Partnership Coordinator, will synthesize the recommendations gathered from partners and present the suggestions to the LNF Forest Leadership team for discussion and approval. We estimate that updates will be provided to partners at the March 2024 Partnership in Practice Symposium. Please contact Stephaney at [Stephaney.cox@usda.gov](mailto:Stephaney.cox@usda.gov) or 530-250-5502 with questions or additional suggestions.

**Thank you to those attendees that filled out the post-event survey.  
We would love to hear from attendees that have not yet filled out the survey.  
[Please share your feedback here.](#)**

A selection of symposium feedback received so far:

- Most significant takeaways
  - “All have shared values- increase pace and scale and integration of partners.”
  - “There is a need for continued education and clarity about the USFS process amongst all parties.”
  - “[LNF] should communicate sooner if [the Forest] makes POW adjustments that impact deadlines/schedules for partners helping with projects.”
  - “[There are] different timelines for Federal, State, RCDs, County, private, grants.”
- What participants liked the most
  - “Being able to be in person. Learning about the nuts and bolts of the USFS constraints.”
  - “Meeting more partners.”
  - “The availability of LNF personnel to [give]/receive direct answers on questions.”
  - “The number of participants with a shared interest in the Forest”

- “The time chart clearly showing periods when LNF is unavailable to add/amend agreements. The well-structured interactive exercises that really gave me the sense they were designed to meaningfully capture information from US, the partners.”
- What was not useful
  - “Not having introductions and the USFS presenting too much”
  - “I would have liked a more thorough presentation on what partnerships are and how to create strong relationships.”
  - “Added process that increases the time it will take for action on the landscape.”
  - “As an outreach person, I wanted to network more with attendees with the intention to create potential collaborative projects”
- Topics attendees would like to see covered in future events
  - “Transparency of USFS priorities (understanding these change with every political wind). Ways USFS is working to (or ways partners can) shore up capacity/staffing/staff movement/etc. and resultant challenges.”
  - “Coordination of submission documents and anticipated complications in the process.”
  - “Timeline for getting projects completed. How the partner funding/grant process works- how is it tracked, accounted for, and what challenges do they face with using it or losing it?”
  - “Implementation POW and super clear description of roles/responsibilities of each LNF position that needs to sign off on implementation (e.g., timber sale forester, marker, etc.)”
  - “Maybe a chance for partners to talk about where they are potentially looking at expanding and the LNF could provide an opportunity to comment if that would be beneficial or something we need.”
  - “More networking.”
- On making the collaborative activities more useful
  - More time for introductions/ networking
  - “More explanation of internal operations.”
  - “Action on the landscape, delegation of priorities with accountability for holding to targets.”
  - “It was honestly great, I especially appreciated that each group got the chance to report out on their own discussion. This is often something that falls away when time pressures loom. I guess the only thing was that the online folks and the in-person folks (I was in-person) didn't seem as integrated as they could be.”

On reviewing the symposium feedback we’ve received so far, the LNF is considering holding separate online and in-person meetings, incorporating better introductions and networking opportunities, and adding opportunities to talk about partnering on specific projects.

## Collective Capacity Data

At the PiP Symposium, we discussed curating a document that describes each partner's interests and capacities. Having this information in one document will make it easier for partners to find other partners with whom they might work, and for LNF staff to identify the most appropriate partners for a given project. Such a document had been initiated at a District partner meeting in May and requires updating. A draft copy of the existing document is attached to this email.

The LNF would like to further develop the Collective Capacity spreadsheet by soliciting the input of all partners and we are currently developing tools to allow for the efficient and effective collection of this information. Please keep an eye out for more information in early 2024.

As this Collective Capacity spreadsheet is developed, it will be shared among partners and LNF staff, as well as on the LNF Partnerships webpage. If your organization is listed on this spreadsheet and you would rather the information were not shared publicly, please contact Stephaney Cox ([Stephaney.cox@usda.gov](mailto:Stephaney.cox@usda.gov)) to have the listing removed.

## LNF Staff Changes

### Supervisor's Office

Bill Overland ([William.Overland@usda.gov](mailto:William.Overland@usda.gov)) has joined the LNF as a permanent Forest Hydrologist.

Travis Stewart ([Travis.Stewart@usda.gov](mailto:Travis.Stewart@usda.gov)) has joined the LNF as the permanent Forest Engineer.

Abraham Avedikian ([Abraham.Avedikian@usda.gov](mailto:Abraham.Avedikian@usda.gov)) has joined the LNF as the permanent Safety Officer.

Laura Hardin ([Laura.Hardin@usda.gov](mailto:Laura.Hardin@usda.gov)) joined the LNF as the Natural Resource Program Manager under a 120-day detail that ends December 31.

Jesse Duff-Woodruff ([Jesse.Duff-Woodruff@usda.gov](mailto:Jesse.Duff-Woodruff@usda.gov)) began a 120-day detail as a Botanist with the LNF on October 8.

### Hat Creek Ranger District

Lejon Hamann ([lejon.hamann@usda.gov](mailto:lejon.hamann@usda.gov)) will serve as the permanent Hat Creek District Ranger beginning on December 4, 2023. Until that time, Jessica McMullen ([Jessica.McMullen@usda.gov](mailto:Jessica.McMullen@usda.gov)) will continue to serve as the Acting District Ranger.

**Eagle Lake Ranger District**

None.

**Almanor Ranger District**

None.

**Funding Opportunities****USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Program Opportunities**

Three grants are open to applications through the USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Program. For more details about these grants, including applications, please [visit the Wood Innovations Program website by clicking here](#).

The **Wood Innovations Grants Program** stimulates, expands, and supports U.S. wood products markets and wood energy markets to support the long-term management of National Forest System and other forest lands. Focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports hazardous fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. **The deadline to apply for financial assistance is 5:00 pm local time on December 15, 2023.**

The **Community Wood Grant Program** provides funding for grants to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. The Forest Service expects renewable wood energy systems installed under this program to use the most stringent control technologies. The program places extra emphasis on assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology. **The deadline to apply for financial assistance is 5:00 pm local time on December 15, 2023.**

The **Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance** provides funding may be used to provide support for facilities that purchase and process byproducts of ecosystem restoration projects. This includes applications to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility in close proximity to federal or Indian lands that need ecosystem restoration and will generate byproducts. The emphasis is on areas of unnaturally severe high fire or insect or disease infestation with high or very high priority for ecological restoration. This program is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. **The deadline to apply for financial assistance is 5:00 pm local time on December 1, 2023.**

## National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program: Connecting People to Forests

The National Forest Foundation's (NFF) **Matching Awards Program: Connecting People to Forests** (MAP), "focuses primarily on in-person community engagement and completion of appropriate stewardship activities. Program goals are to create lasting change that will allow all communities, especially underserved communities, opportunities to benefit from activities on National Forest System lands or adjacent public lands."

December 4, 2023: Informational webinar

**January 16, 2024: Deadline for Round 1 applications**

Spring 2024: Application period opens for Round 2 2024 projects

For more information, including NFF newsletter sign-ups and the MAP grant Request for Proposal, [please visit the NFF website by clicking here](#)

## CAL FIRE Grants

The **CAL FIRE California Climate Investment (CCI) Forest Health Grant** solicitation period opened on November 13, 2023. **Proposals are due at 3:00pm on January 15, 2024.**

The Forest Health Program addresses the risk to California's forests from disturbance events including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and pest mortality. These events are the result of climate change, past land management practices, and an increasing number of people living in the wildland and urban interface. CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program awards funding to landscape-scale land management projects that achieve the following objectives:

- Restore forest health and disaster resilience to California's forests.
- Protect upper watersheds where California's water supply originates.
- Promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils through reforestation and reduction of forest overcrowding and pests.
- Minimize the loss of forest carbon from unnaturally severe disturbance events by lowering and redistributing forest fuel loads.
- Further the goals of the California Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan, California's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan, California's Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire, and AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan.

For more information, visit the [CAL FIRE Forest Health Grantee Resources web page by clicking here](#).

The **CAL FIRE CCI Wildfire Prevention Grant** solicitation period opened on November 1, 2023. **The application period ends on January 10, 2024.**

The Wildfire Prevention Grants “provide funding for wildfire prevention projects and activities in and near fire threatened communities that focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities. Funded activities include Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Wildfire Prevention Planning, and Wildfire Prevention Education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

For more information, visit the [CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants web page by clicking here](#).

## Training Opportunities

### Stewardship for Partners Training

This course is focused on the Stewardship Agreement instrument, with an emphasis on the Partner’s roles and responsibilities. At the end of this course, participants will be able to identify and describe laws, regulations, and policies affecting stewardship contracting; realize the Partner’s role during project development; describe the components that make up a Stewardship Agreement; understand the importance of the technical approach and how it is developed jointly with the Partner; know the importance of the Financial Plan and how it is developed / maintained; and identify the roles and responsibilities of both the Forest Service and Partner in preparing, executing and administering a Stewardship Agreement.

- This one-day training (~6 hours) is held virtually on Zoom on **April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM (PST)**. Email [Greg Schroer \(Gregory.schroer@usda.gov\)](mailto:Gregory.schroer@usda.gov) to request participation **at least 4 weeks prior to training date**, as there is a ceiling for the number of participants.

## LNF Schedule of Proposed Actions and NEPA Program of Work Update

### Schedule of Proposed Actions

Did you know that the LNF publishes a quarterly update of its proposed actions? The Lassen National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) can be viewed on the national US Forest Service website [by clicking here](#). The SOPA contains proposed actions that are undergoing or will soon undergo environmental analysis. The SOPA tracks each project’s progress in regard to NEPA milestones (e.g., Scoping, Comments Period, etc.) and provides links to project documents.

## NEPA Program of Work Update

The NEPA Program of Work is a list of projects whose planning efforts are being undertaken by the Lassen National Forest for the current fiscal year.

Partners and their forest contacts work closely together to define a project that meets national, regional, and forest-level management goals. Then partners, LNF specialists, and line officers work with the LNF Integrated Program of Work (IPOW) Team to move a proposed project through an approval process. The projects on the NEPA POW are vetted for NEPA readiness by our IPOW Team and a quantitative ranking system is applied to determine how projects are prioritized.

The Program of Work is a work flow tool that helps individual LNF resource specialists prioritize their work. It is not a linear tool. In other words, individual specialists may prioritize working on projects higher on the list, but all projects are being worked on in some capacity at all times.

The LNF recently incorporated a quarterly review of the NEPA Program of Work (POW) to adjust project work flow according to the progress of current projects, the addition of new projects, changing staffing or funding levels, and Washington and Regional Office guidance. The most recent NEPA POW was shared at the Partnership in Practice Symposium in October and can be found below. This NEPA POW only includes the projects that are in the planning phase in Fiscal Year 2024. The LNF is working on many other projects that are in the development or implementation phases.

<b>Forest Priority</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Level of NEPA</b>	<b>Program Area</b>
1	Forest	Dixie Fire Community Protection Project	EA	Veg/Fuels
2	ALM	Upper Butte Creek	EA	Veg/Fuels
3	HC	Backbone	EA	Veg/Fuels
4	Forest	LNF MVUM Update (5 Counties OHV)	EA	Roads
5	HC	Green Badger Restoration Project	EA	Veg/Fuels
6	ALM	Colby Mountain Recreation Project	CE	Rec
7	ALM	West Lassen Headwaters Project	EA	Veg/Fuels
8	EL	Harvey Mountain Project	EA	Veg/Fuels
9	Forest	LNF Ongoing PG&E Hazard Tree Reliability Project	CE	Special Uses
10	EL	Pike's Point Boat Launch	CE	Rec
	HC	Onion Project	EA	Veg/Fuels
	HC	Mountain/Valley Project	EA	Veg/Fuels
	ALM	Chester Trail/Airport Expansion Project	CE?	Rec
	EL	Gooch Allotment	CE?	Range
	ALM	Ishi Fire Restoration Project	EA	Fire
	EL	Fredonyer Trail	EA	Rec
	Forest	Forest-Wide Dixie	EA	Veg/Fuels

## USFS Pacific Southwest Region 5 Strategic Priorities and Lassen National Forest Key Focus Areas – FY23

### USFS Pacific Southwest Region 5 Strategic Priorities

1. **Wildfire Crisis Strategy/Shared Stewardship Agreement (Fuels Reduction and Forest Resiliency):** Addressing conditions on the landscape to mitigate the severity of wildfires and protect values at risk.
2. **Post-Fire Recovery and Disaster Relief:** Providing for immediate needs of landscapes and communities in the wake of wildfires, natural disasters, and other emergency incidents.
3. **Visitor Experiences and Public Access:** Ensuring that all those who set foot on National Forest System lands feel welcomed and have broad opportunities to recreate in sustainable ways

### LNF Key Focus Areas

1. Wildfire Resiliency (includes watershed/riparian health, timber, and restoration)
2. Sustainable Recreation
3. Partnerships
4. Employee Health and Wellness

Thank you for joining us for our Nov 2023 PiP Newsletter. Our next PiP Newsletter will be published in January 2023. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the newsletter, please email them to Stephaney Cox at [Stephaney.cox@usda.gov](mailto:Stephaney.cox@usda.gov) or by replying to this email.

We wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and best wishes for the new year ahead!

If you would like to be unsubscribed from this email list, please Reply to this email and let Stephaney know.

If it comes to your attention that someone would like to be on this mailing list, please have them contact Stephaney to be added.