NDRC Project Information Sheet

Submission Deadline; July 10, 2014, Project Information can be submitted on line at CA-NDRC@hcd.ca.gov or mailed to Tuolumne County Administrator's Office (2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370)

1. Agency/Organization Project Sponsor:

USDA Forest Service Stanislaus NF

2. Project Contact (Name, Email, Phone #):

Dave Horak, dhorak@fs.fed.us, (209) 532-3671

3. Scope of Proposed Project- Include Project Goals and Objectives, Timeline and Tasks (Please submit as an attachment, **1 page max)**

4. List all Agency/Organizations involved in Project and their Role:

Stanislaus NF - Land Manager and Contracting Agency
County of Tuolumne
Pacific Ultra-Power Chinese Station - Fuel Buyer
American Wood Fibers/California Wood Shavings - Fuel Buyer
Sierra Pacific Industries - Land Manager/Fuel Supplier
State of California - Cal Fire

5. List Measure(s) of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes:

Remove biomass material from approximately 8,000 acres of forest land within the Rim Fire Area. The removal of this material will reduce fuel loading and assist in the reforestation of the Rim Fire by clearing fuels from the planting sites. Removal of the material to a biomass facility will also avoid the open burning of this material thus reducing carbon emissions.

6. How does this Project meet the resilient recovery objectives outlined in the NDRC grant application?:

The program aims to support economic development in rural communities through restoration and stewardship of our natural forest systems and watershed. The project is design to integrate activities that support forest and watershed health, job-training opportunities in forest management, for example: marking trees, forest thinning, planting, transportation of materials, and the development of appropriately scaled biomass and wood product markets. This project will help to support a sustainable biomass infrastructure (local biomass contractors and buyers) which in turn will assist the National Forest in keeping fuel reduction within the Rim Fire to acceptable levels.

7. What is the target area for the project (i.e., where is it located, who are beneficiaries, etc)?:

Rim Fire reforestation and fuels reduction units. Beneficiaries are the residents and businesses of Tuolumne County. This project will allow a more sustainable forest condition, and reduce carbon emissions from wood smoke, should the material have to be piled and burned.

8. Has this project undergone environmental review? If yes, what stage is it in?

Yes, the Rim Fire Hazard Tree Environmental Assessment and the Rim Fire Recovery EIS are both complete and in the implementation phase.

9. NDRC Application Budget Request (please attach a detailed project budget):

$15,485,000

10. What guarantees are in place to insure the success of implementing this project?

The Stanislaus National Forest has been a leader in biomass removal since 1986. Pacific Ultra-Power and American Wood Fibers were located in this area because of the commitment of the Stanislaus NF to biomass removal. Although there are never guarantees regarding the health of local biomass companies, the Forest has a 30 year track record successfully completing biomass removal projects.

11. How will this project be sustainable after implementation?

The local biomass companies rely on US Forest Service biomass removal projects. This project will allow local companies to invest in the capital necessary to continue biomass operations into the future. The Stanislaus Ntioanl Forest is committed to reducing the risk of catastrophic fire and actions that mitigate impacts of climate change.

NDRC Committee Use Only:

EVALUATION CRITERIA: □ Meets National Objective □ Eligible Activity □ Meets Overall Benefit Requirement
□ Within Target Area □ Ties Back to Disaster □ Incorporates Resilience
□ Meets Cost Benefit Analysis Objectives

WORKING GROUP: □ Forest □ Infrastructure □ Public Facilities/Public Services

Scope of Work

The Forest Service is proposing to implement a forest project designed to reduce fuel loading, assist with reforestation, provide local jobs, and provide biomass material to local companies, meeting local and rural community needs:

We seek funding to cut and remove biomass material from areas within the Rim Fire. Biomass, as described here includes live and dead vegetation that impedes reforestation activities or creates a landscape with excessive fuel loading. The work will be accomplished by cutting skidding and hauling the material to local biomass facilities. This is an important step in reforestation and restoration of the landscape burned . Excess fuels from the Hazard Tree and Salvage logging operations and other areas needing dead vegetation removed are scattered throughout the fire area. The Forest Service proposes to haul this material to local biomass plants. The only current alternative method of disposal of forest biomass is open burning. We propose to use local contractors to avoid open-burning the piles by processing and transporting the biomass to local biomass plants to produce renewable electricity and other products. The project is easily scaled to meet available funding.

The Rim Fire Biomass Project area is within 15 miles of two biomass processing facilities. Pacific Ultra-Power in Jamestown California is a electricity producing wood fired plant that requires approximately 20 chip van loads per day to operate. California Wood Shavings is a biomass facility that produces animal bedding from biomass material. They require approximately 20 loads per day to maintain full operations. These companies have reinvested in equipment and personnel, and continue to seek opportunities to work on Forest Service related projects adjacent to their communities. This work will take place within areas designated for fuel reduction or reforestation.

Project Objectives and Benefits

- Preparation of 8,000 acres of burned land for reforestation and restoration by removal of an estimated 160,000 tons of biomass generated by hazard tree removal, salvage, and fuel reduction treatments.
- Utilize the biomass to generate renewable biomass electricity, offsetting production of more than 37,000 metric tons of CO_2 emissions from further pile decay and fossil fuel-fired power plants and avoid emissions of an estimated 185,000 metric tons of other criteria pollutants.
- Support of local biomass energy plants by providing chipped and processed materials rather than having them go up "in smoke".
- Removal of downed trees that prevent wildlife from accessing winter feeding grounds, inhibit freedom of movement and disrupt connectivity of habitat.
- Lower hazardous woody fuels in Strategically Placed Landscape Area Treatments to better control future large wildfires and provide areas where fire can be slowed or stopped and back burns can be utilized for suppression. This will minimize the potential wildfire losses of carbon stocks in the reestablished forest.
- Provide reforestation areas that are best suited to support a mature forest and be more resilient when the next fire occurs.
- Improve infrastructure to enhance hydrologic function and provide protection of watersheds and soils.
- Perform pre and post project evaluations of site conditions and project success relative to reforestation, forest health, carbon flux, and wildfire hazard reduction goal accomplishments.

Standard heavy equipment used for cutting, skidding loading and hauling biomass will be utilized. The expected processing equipment configuration is as follows - Morbark 60/36 chippers, rubber tired log skidders, Timberjack feller bunchers, chainsaws and chip vans.

Detailed Project Budget Rim Fire Biomass Removal

NDRC Application Phase II

Contracting Cost (Payment per acre to Biomass Contractor):	$15,200,000
Includes cutting, skidding, chipping and hauling Biomass, offset by value of product	
Forest Service personnel costs:	$265,000
Includes project layout, contract preparation, administration and monitoring	
Forest Service vehicles and supplies:	$20,000
Total Project Cost	**$15,485,000**