

Yuba IRWMP – YWPFSC-03

Project Short Form¹

Please fill out the following information to the best of your ability/knowledge. Once the project has been received, and a preliminary review completed, the project team will work with you to develop additional information.

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Lead Agency/Organization	Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council
Name of Primary Contact(s)	Allison Thomson
Mailing Address	PO Box 966, Marysville, CA 95901
Email Address	allison@yubafiresafe.org
Phone (###) ###-####	(530) 913-4058
Project Partners/Collaborators	Yuba Water Agency
YWA Liaison	JoAnna Lessard

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Yuba Foothills WUI Fuels Reduction
Project Total Budget (Attach detailed budget, if available)	\$20,000,000 (estimated long-term budget)
Budget Breakdown	Planning/Design Budget: Implementation Budget:
Project Funding Match , if any	
Total Project Funding Need	\$3,250,000 for current phase
Project Location (Attach map if available)	Yuba Foothills
City/Community	Upper watershed region (multiple communities)
Watershed/subwatershed	Yuba
Groundwater Basin	n/a
Funding Area	SRFA or MC
Project Priority (Select one)	High/Medium/Low
Project Type (highlight in gray <i>all</i> that apply)	Conceptual Feasibility Study Study/Assessment Planning Engineering/Design Permitting CEQA/NEPA Facility Construction Restoration Monitoring Best Management Practices Acquisition Demonstration/Pilot Project

¹ Completed Project Short Forms should be sent via email to Keri Rinne at keri.rinne@gmail.com

Please select the *status* of the CEQA/NEPA/Permitting for this project:

CEQA (Select one)	Exempt - Not Started - Initial Study - EIR – Determination - Unknown if Required -
NEPA (Select one)	Exempt - Not Started - Environmental Assessment - EIS – Record of Decision - Unknown if Required
Permitting (Select one)	Not Required - Not started – Identified – Consultations Complete – Application Submitted – Complete – Unknown if Required

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Write a narrative briefly describing the project components and/or characteristics (maximum of 300 words).

This project is a comprehensive effort to address fuel reduction needs across the foothills region of the upper Yuba watershed. It includes two primary components: 1) roadside fuel reduction and 2) dead tree removal.

The roadside fuel reduction element includes potential fuel treatments along all county, county service area (CSA), and private roads within the five eastern Yuba County Fire Districts. Treatments are not limited to simply the rights-of-way but include buffer areas of up to 150 feet on either side of county roads and 30 feet on either side of CSA and private roads. Treatments may include hand-cut and chip, mastication, pile and burn, and herbicide application. CEQA has been initiated for this portion of the project and is anticipated to be complete in spring 2022. The project team is poised to begin implementation.

The dead tree removal portion of the project will be a phased effort. The first phase will focus on YWA lands in the area surrounding Lake Francis, along with private lands across the Yuba foothills. The project team anticipates that the dead tree removal will be an ongoing need that will be integrated into planning efforts for creating and maintaining shaded fuel breaks in the area. The project team hopes to deliver the woody biomass to Camptonville Community Partnership’s Forest Biomass Business Center to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help to ensure the dead trees provide local benefits.

PROJECT RATIONALE/ISSUES STATEMENT

Briefly describe the need for the project and the desired outcomes/deliverables (maximum of 200 words).

Rural areas of California have been subject to numerous catastrophic fires in recent years, and the densely forested foothills of the upper Yuba watershed foothills are no exception. This project focuses on two critical elements for reducing the severity of catastrophic wildfire and increasing public safety: roadside fuel reduction and dead tree removal.

Roadways are a critical component of the region’s Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zones as escape routes, to allow for access by first responders and equipment, and as a logical anchor for fuel breaks. Roads are also a likely source for ignition starts. Fuel reduction efforts along our roads, both public and private, are necessary to allow for safe evacuations, access for emergency response, provide a network of fuel breaks, and can increase the likelihood of initial attack suppression of roadside starts.

The desired outcomes, or deliverables, for this project include: approximately 1,000 acres of roadside

areas treated in Phase 1 and approximately 13,000 acres treated and maintained in total over the next 10 years, dead trees removed within five fire districts across the Yuba foothills, and fire protection and resiliency improved throughout the upper watershed.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Map of project location