

**Yuba IRWMP – BYLT-02**  
**Project Short Form<sup>1</sup>**

Please fill out the following information to the best of your ability/knowledge. Contact Keri Rinne with questions: [keri.rinne@gmail.com](mailto:keri.rinne@gmail.com)

**PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION**

Lead Agency/Organization	Bear Yuba Land Trust
Name of Primary Contact(s)	Kate Gazzo
Mailing Address	PO Box 1004 Grass Valley, CA 95945
Email Address	kate@bylt.org
Phone (###) ###-####	530 272 5994 ext 201
Project Partners/Collaborators	
YWA Liaison	DeDe Cordell

**GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION**

<b>Project Title</b>	Yuba Rim Forest Enhancement Project
<b>Project Total Budget</b> (Attach detailed budget, if available)	\$180,845
<b>Budget Breakdown</b>	Planning/Design Budget: 0 Implementation Budget: \$216,845
<b>Project Funding Match, if any</b>	\$45,000 (CNRA River Parkways grant)
<b>Total Project Funding Need</b>	\$135,845
<b>Project Location</b> (Attach map if available)	Yuba Rim Trail located at 12155 Marysville Rd, Dobbins. Map attached.
<b>Watershed/subwatershed</b>	Yuba River/Foothill Mountain subarea
<b>Groundwater Basin</b> (Select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> North Yuba Subbasin <input type="checkbox"/> South Yuba Subbasin X <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<b>Supports Yuba Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes X <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Measurable Objective(s) Benefit (Answer If 'Yes' above)</b> (check <i>all</i> that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic lowering of groundwater levels <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of groundwater storage <input type="checkbox"/> Degraded water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Land subsidence <input type="checkbox"/> Depletions of interconnected surface waters
<b>Project Priority</b> (Select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> High X <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<b>Project Type</b> (check <i>all</i> that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conceptual <input type="checkbox"/> Feasibility Study <input type="checkbox"/> Study/Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering/Design <input type="checkbox"/> Permitting <input type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Construction

<sup>1</sup> Completed Project Short Forms should be sent via email to Keri Rinne at [keri.rinne@gmail.com](mailto:keri.rinne@gmail.com)

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Best Management Practices <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration/Pilot Project
<b>Legal Authority</b>	

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

<b>CEQA</b> (Select one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt <input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Study <input type="checkbox"/> EIR <input type="checkbox"/> Determination <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown if Required
<b>NEPA</b> (Select one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt <input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> Record of Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown if Required
<b>Permitting</b> (Select one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required <input type="checkbox"/> Not started <input type="checkbox"/> Identified <input type="checkbox"/> Consultations Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Application Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown if Required

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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

Bear Yuba Land Trust’s Yuba Rim Trail Forest Enhancement Project (Project) is located within BYLT’s 2,700-acre Rice’s Crossing Preserve 2,000 feet above the Middle Yuba River just downstream of Bullard’s Bar Dam in Dobbins, CA. The preserve is located in the upper Yuba River watershed and foothill mountain subarea. The Yuba Rim trail is a 2.5-mile trail within Rice’s Crossing preserve frequented by local recreationists and travelers from across California. The forest surrounding the trail within the preserve is heavily overgrown. The primary goals for this Project are hazardous fuel treatment to improve forest health, enhancement of watershed health and wildlife habitat, and reduction of surface fuel loadings and ladder fuels to a level that will allow safe fire suppression in the case of a wildfire.

The Yuba Rim Trail Forest Enhancement Project (Project) began in 2021 with forest thinning along 1 miles of the Yuba Rim trail and removal of target invasive species within a meadow located at the trailhead. BYLT is currently seeking funding to complete forest thinning for the remaining 1.5 mile of the Yuba Rim trail and funding to continue restoration of a degraded meadow located at the trailhead. Forest thinning includes using hand crews to cut overstocked and diseased trees less than 10 inches in diameter within 50 feet on each side of the trail and a wood chipper to chip trees where terrain (slope) allows. Larger, healthy trees to remain in place will be limbed to a height of 10 feet to reduce ladder fuels. Conifer trees are more dense and numerous and will be targeted for removal. In areas where a track chipper cannot access due to steep terrain, vegetation will be piled along the trail and burned in the winter. This Project will generate approximately three hundred vegetation piles that will need to be burned to remove fuel from the area. A two acre meadow is located at the beginning of the trailhead which is dominated by two high-rank invasive species which uptake valuable water needed for wildlife and other native plants and generate a dense dry layer of thatch adding to the fuel load. Meadow restoration will include two seasons of mowing, herbicide, and/or the use of prescribed fire to control yellow starthistle and medusahead grass and one round of reseeding the meadow with native grasses and wildflowers.

**PROJECT RATIONALE/ISSUES STATEMENT**

Briefly describe the need for the project and the desired outcomes/deliverables (Suggest ~ 200 words). Include an explanation of benefits and how they would be evaluated.

### *Issues Statement*

Protection and restoration of lands within upper watershed areas is critical for downstream water supply. A forest management plan was drafted for Rice's Crossing preserve in 2019. No forest management has occurred on Rice's Crossing preserve in 20 years and forest fuel loads are unhealthy. Three fires have occurred on the preserve within the past 15 years including the Rice's fire this year. Improving forest and meadow health and protecting the water quality of the Yuba River from increased sedimentation that would result from a wildfire in this region is one of the main objectives of this Project. Slopes within the preserve are between 10-80%. Potential for high sediment erosion into the river after a wildfire is a large threat.

The potential locations to safely fight fires are limited for firefighters within the Yuba River canyons. Expanding the size of this fuel break and reducing fuels along the Yuba Rim Trail which is easily accessible from Marysville Road provides fire fighters a safe location to access fires along the Middle Yuba Canyon as exemplified by Cal-Fire using the Yuba Rim trail as a fire line in during the Rice's fire in 2022.

A 2-acre meadow is located at the beginning of the Yuba Rim trail which is occupied by numerous wildlife during the rainy season. The meadow also contains two high-rank invasive species: yellow starthistle and medusahead grass which are dominating the meadow. These two species decrease the available water in the meadow for other plants and animals, exclude native plants, and provide additional dense dry material to fuel wildfires. Control of these two priority invasive species is necessary so that seeds are not deposited to additional downstream locations and spread.

### *Outcomes/Deliverables*

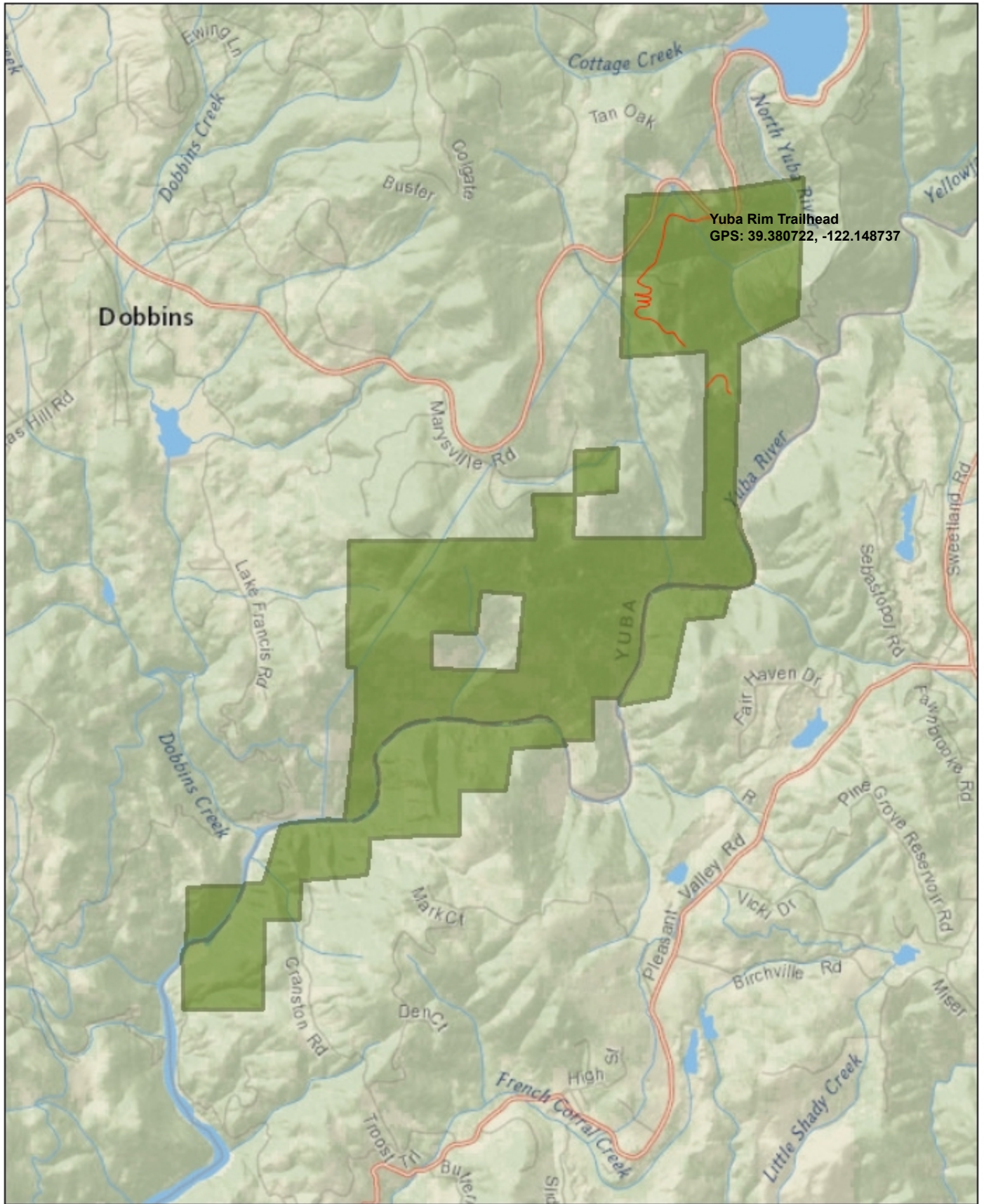
- Thinned 100 ft vegetation fuel break along the entire 2.5 miles (32 acres) of the Yuba Rim trail to the trail terminus/ rock overlook.
- Burning of approximately three hundred vegetation piles resulting in complete removal of potential fuel from the area.
- Fifty to seventy percent increase in native plant cover within the meadow and a fifty percent decrease in the percent cover of yellow starthistle and medusahead grass in the meadow.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Task based budget
- Map of project location

**Yuba Rim Trail Forest Enhancement Budget**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Justification</b>				
<b>Forest thinning</b>						
Thinning contractor	\$60,000	Based on contractor invoice from phase 1 of this Project for thinning work				
Pile burning contractor	\$64,000	Based on multiple contractor estimates				
<b>Meadow Restoration</b>						
Invasive species control	\$2,240	(\$35/ hour rate x 64 hours) 2 staff				
Native seed, plants	\$300	Local nursery cost				
<b>BYLT Project Management</b>	\$8,000	(\$40/hour rate for PM x 200 hours)				
<b>Admin</b>	\$490	(\$35/ hour rate x 14 hours)				
<b>Mileage</b>	\$815	(13 round trips to the Project location from the BYLT office x 0.625 IRS mileage reimbursement)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$135,845</b>					



**Legend**

- Preserve boundary
- Yuba Rim Trail