

NDRC Project Information Sheet

Submission Deadline: July 10, 2015, 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:

SouthWest Interface Team (SWIFT)

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

Allen Johnson, swift_coordinator@gotsky.com, 209

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:

SWIFT, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management CALFIRE Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit, Tuolumne Co. Fire Dept., Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council, Pine Mt. Lake Association, Groveland Community Services District, City & County of San Francisco (Hetch Hetchy Water &

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

Construct a fuelbreak on the Tuolumne Co. side of Wagner ridge to provide protection to the communities of Groveland, Big Oak Flat, Pine Mt. Lake, Hells Hollow, and other residences and structures in the Southern Tuolumne County area. This strategic fuelbreak played would play pivotal roll in protecting communities, structures and resources from fires such as the Rim fire. Such a fuelbreak would increase the chance for firefighters to provide protection and defense of structures as well as provide for firefighter safety.

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

The communities of Southern Tuolumne Co. have and extensive history of being threatened by large and damaging wildfire. Past fires have resulted in extensive loss of natural resources, structures and the loss of firefighters lives. By having such a fuelbreak in place, it will provide a much improved opportunity for firefighters to protect the local communities and natural resources from future wildfires, while increasing firefighter safety.

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

The target area of this project are the communities of Groveland, Big Oak Flat, Pine Mt. Lake and other small groups or individual isolated residential structures located in Southern Tuolumne Co. The beneficiaries of this project would be the citizens of these communities that would greatly benefit from the ability of firefighters being able to safely and aggressively defend the the communities and natural resources of the area as a result of this fuelbreak.

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

Much of the project area has had either CEQA or NEPA reviews conducted on other projects within the past 5 to 7 years, or is currently scheduled for environmental review. If any of the area needs environmental review, it will most likely be eligible for a categorical exemption, which would expedite the review process and minimize costs.

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

\$240,000

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

SWIFT members have been working collaboratively since 1999 to provide a strategic fire defense system to protect the communities and natural resources in Southern Tuolumne Co. Should this project be selected, the agencies involved in this collaboration would make it a high priority to implement this project.

11. How will this project be sustainable after implementation?

Once the fuelbreak is established, it will only require maintenance every 5 to 7 years. This maintenance should be able to be accomplished through the respective agency funding, grants and community support.

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



SouthWest InterFace Team

SWIFT

A collaborative partnership since 1999

**United States
Forest Service,
Stanislaus National
Forest**

National Disaster Resiliency Competition, Scope of proposed project:

**Bureau of Land
Management,
Mother Lode Field
Office**

The scope of the Wagner Ridge fuelbreak is to create a fuelbreak designed for community and resource protection. This fuel break would run along the Tuolumne/Mariposa county line, we are proposing the width of the fuelbreak be approximately 200'. With the extreme fire behavior that was exhibited by the Rim Fire, it was recognized by the local fire and resource agencies, as well as the local communities, that strategic fuelbreaks need to be created in the south county, in order to protect the communities and resources at risk. The SWIFT collaborative supports this recommendation, to provide the necessary protection for the local communities, resources and for firefighter safety.

**National Park
Service, Yosemite
National Park**

**CALFIRE,
Tuolumne/
Calaveras Unit &
Madera/Mariposa/
Merced Unit**

**Mariposa County
Fire Department**

The goal of the project is to enhance the protection for the Communities and Natural Resources of Southern Tuolumne County.

**Tuolumne County
Fire Department**

The Objective is to provide a Safe and Strategic fire defense system that is designed to reduce the threat of loss to life, property and resources.

**Hetch Hetchy
Water & Power**

**Groveland
Community
Services District
Fire Department**

The timeline for this project would be to start implementation within 1 year of project acceptance, with completion within 3 years of project acceptance.

**Pine Mtn. Lake
Association**

Tasks include; possible NEPA/CEQA (categorical exclusion) , project layout, land owner permission, contract solicitation. The two primary methods for fuel removal would be either mechanical mastication (grinding of brush or other vegetation) or Hand removal, which entails cutting, stacking and burning of vegetation. The mechanical mastication has high potential for providing employment in the local communities. The hand removal has the potential to develop community based crews that could be trained to accomplish the work and provide a future workforce pool to resource agencies.

**Yosemite Foothills
Fire Safe Council**

**Mariposa County
Fire Safe Council**

**Tuolumne and
Mariposa County
Resource
Conservation
Districts**

Wagner Ridge Fuelbreak Budget Request:

The Wagner ridge fuelbreak would be constructed by using a combination of mechanical clearing of vegetation (mastication) and hand clearing in areas where it is too steep for equipment to work.

The current rate for contracts of mechanical (mastication) and/or hand clearing of vegetation run at approximately \$1,200 per acre. The project area is approximately 8.5 miles in length, and we are proposing that the fuelbreak be constructed to a width of 200'. This calculates out to approximately 200 acres. Cost for the construction of the fuelbreak would be \$240,000. Any costs associated with NEPA/CEQA if required would be contributed by the agencies. An additional cost of \$10,000 is being requested for use by the Yosemite Foothills Fire safe council for miscellaneous expenses and contract administration of the mastication and hand clearing contracts, which brings the total request to \$250,000.