

# National Disaster Resilience Grant Community and Watershed Resilience Program Status Report

**December 31, 2019**





NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE GRANT - COMMUNITY AND WATERSHED RESILIENCE PROGRAM

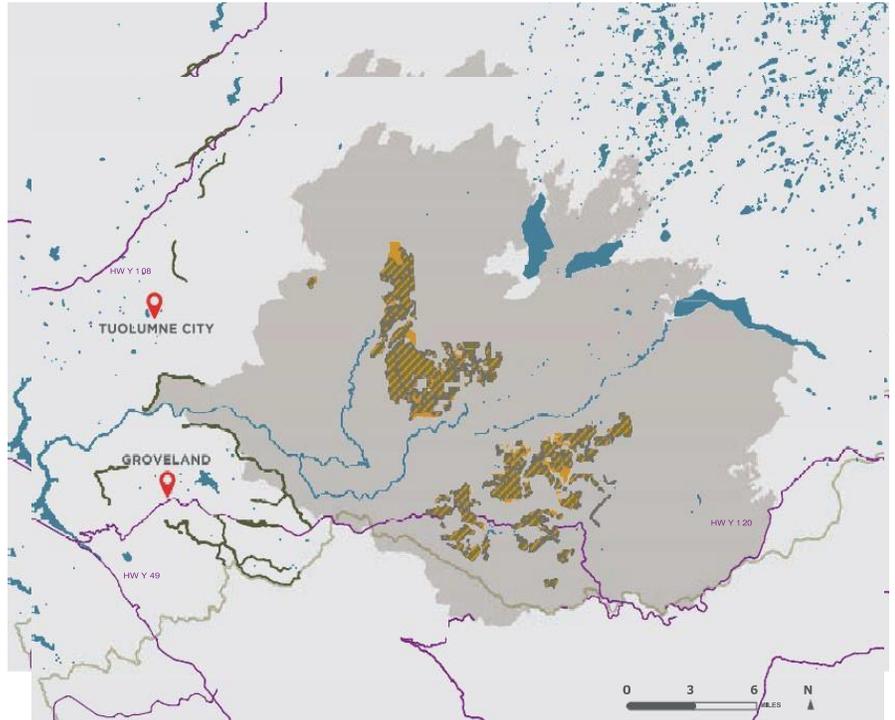
# THE COMMUNITY AND WATERSHED RESILIENCE PROGRAM (CWRP)

## WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY AND WATERSHED RESILIENCE PROGRAM?

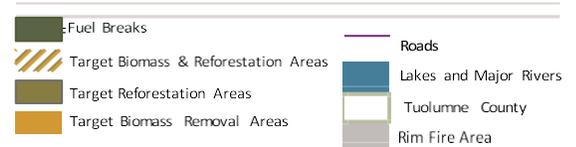
In 2017, \$70 million in Community Development Block Grant-National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) funding was granted for CWRP implementation by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CWRP will restore and mitigate impacts of 2013 Rim Fire federally declared disaster by improving forest watersheds and increasing community resilience. HUD granted California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) CWRP funding and HCD is working with seven Partners made up of local, state, and federal agencies, see logos below, on CWRP projects. All CWRP project activities will be completed by HUD grant expiration, September 30, 2022.

## WHY IS CWRP NEEDED?

The 2013 Rim Fire burned more than 257,000 acres, devastating forest watersheds, local economies as well as threatening access to clean drinking water and damaging air quality. Initial estimates indicate that the Rim Fire released 11 million metric tons of greenhouse gasses (GHGs), or roughly equivalent to the annual GHG emissions from 2.3 million cars. The Rim Fire disaster area needs CWRP to address unmet forest recovery work, increase community protections and resilience. Successes of CWRP will be replicated in other areas of California.



**CWRP PROJECT MAP - December 2017**



## HOW WILL CWRP WORK?

Resilient watersheds and communities are better prepared for the next intense fire. The CWRP will create resilience by implementing three (3) project activities: 1) Community Resilience Centers (CRCs) will provide ongoing community resources and protection during future fires; 2) the Forest and Watershed Health Project (FWHP) will restore forests and watersheds to reduce damage from future fires; 3) Biomass Utilization Facilities (BUFs) will utilize biomass to reduce fuels in the forest and increase the area's forest products industry.



THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





# OVERVIEW OF THREE CWRP PROJECTS

## Forest and Watershed Health Project (FWHP)

HCD is providing CDBG-NDR funding to Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), United States Forest Service (USFS), California Conservation Corps (CCC) and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for implementation of FWHP activities. There are five (5) activities associated with FWHP: 1) Noxious Weed Abatement; 2) Biomass Removal and Fuels Reduction; 3) Rangeland Reconstruction; 4) Fuel Break Expansions; and 5) Reforestation. USFS is the agency responsible for implementation of all these activities. SNC is HCD’s project coordinator for FWHP activities. USFS is being supported by CAL FIRE on the fuel break activity and by CCC for Rangeland activity. Implementing all five FWHP activities will restore and protect the health of vital watersheds in Tuolumne County and provide local communities protections from future wildfires.

## Community Resilience Center (CRC) Project

HCD is providing CDBG-NDR funding to Tuolumne County (County) to conduct feasibility studies on possible CRC projects, one in Tuolumne City and one in Groveland, which were most impacted by the Rim Fire. Based on proven feasibility the county is developing the CRC projects. The CRC projects will increase community cohesion and resilience by providing a public facility for local residents to receive eligible year-round public services and act as a central gathering point. Proposed public services include: 1) adult educational programs; 2) job training; 3) senior meals programs; and others. The CRC facilities will also act as an emergency evacuation center during future disasters. The County will own and operate the CRC facilities, lease space to service providers, ensure the year-round services are provided to local residents and ensure that emergency functions will take place at the CRC during future disasters.

## Biomass Utilization Facility (BUF) Project

HCD is providing CDBG-NDR funding for initial feasibility studies to document BUF project viability. Based on proven viability, HCD will work with a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) on development of a BUF financial assistance program. SNC will be providing program coordination on behalf of HCD. The CDFI will market the BUF project financing to developers wishing to create a new BUF business in Tuolumne County or to expand existing local wood products businesses. To be eligible, the BUF applicant must document the project meets CDBG-NDR economic development underwriting standards, document public benefit via jobs to county residents and provide over half of the jobs to low and moderate residents. Successful businesses will utilize biomass from local forests, thus reducing the fuel loads in the forests which should decrease fire disaster events.

	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3		
<b>Funding Obligations</b>		CRC		FWHP																					
<b>CRC</b>			Feasibility Studies								Complete Two CRCs														
<b>FWHP</b>		Environmentals								Complete Five Activities															
<b>BUF</b>			Feasibility Studies								Program and Development Projects														
<b>Public Meetings*</b>	■				■					■											■				

\*Quarterly Board meetings to provide an update on the overall CWRP Program progress. Individual projects will hold meetings focused on specific activities. Timing on the project meetings varies depending on public development stage.



# FOREST AND WATERSHED HEALTH PROGRAM

**Approximate funding: \$26 million**

## Current Status

The USFS has received release of funds from HCD for four out of five FWHP activities. In 2019, nine million dollars in contract work has begun. Most noxious weed abatement force account work has been completed. Some Reforestation preparation work is completed. The first Rangeland fence project is completed. All biomass removal activities are under contract and in process. Most fuels reduction work is completed. Fuel break work is pending the completion of federal and state environmental reviews spring 2020. Based on the USFS 2020 FWHP work plan, ten million dollars of more work will be under contract. See data below for current status of five activities.



## Budget and Expenditure Chart

Activities	Budgeted	Contracted	Expended
Fuel Reduction/Biomass Removal	\$11,549,026	\$8,515,398	\$5,679,165
Noxious Weed Abatement	\$1,630,450	\$500,902	\$619,414
Rangeland Improvements	\$1,440,773	\$252,641	\$175,793
Reforestation	\$9,171,285	\$466,302	\$630,261
Fuel Break Expansions	\$2,879,893	\$594,093	\$258,379

## Implementation Timeline

	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2																
Fuel Reduction/ Biomass Removal																						
Noxious Weed Abatement																						
Rangeland Improvements																						
Reforestation																						
Fuel Break Expansions																						
Public Meetings																						

\* Quarterly Meetings: SNC & USFS attends County Natural Resources Council and YSS.

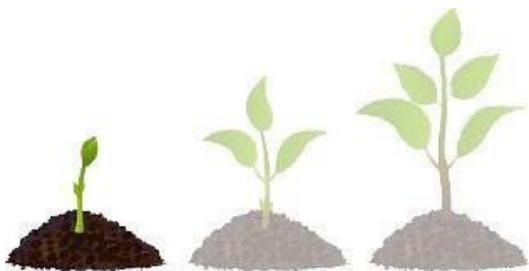




# FOREST AND WATERSHED HEALTH PROJECT



## FWHP Accomplishments



Acres of fuel reduction/biomass removed	3,432
Acres of Noxious Weeds Treated	2,703
Acres Prepared for Reforestation	1,295
Acres of Fuel Break Expanded	0

## Range Infrastructure Completed

Fencing (In Miles)	4.3
Corrals	0
Troughs	0
Cattleguards	3





# BIOMASS UTILIZATION FACILITY

Approximate funding: \$22 million

## Current Status

HCD hired Beck Group Inc. to complete a feed stock study and a biomass business feasibility study. At the completion of these two studies, in February 2019, it was concluded that development of multiple small to medium sized BUF projects was possible. SNC released a Request for Information (RFI) to study the level of interest of local developers in BUF projects and got back a number of project proposals. Based on two positive feasibility studies and interested RFI responses, HCD and SNC began developing a scope of work and budget for a CDFI to use in a CDBG-NDR agreement. HCD will use the agreement with the CDFI to fund developers with eligible BUF projects. In addition, SNC and HCD staff are working on specific CDBG-NDR financial assistance guidelines that will be used for processing BUF project funding applications. See data below for status of BUF activities and accomplishments.



## Budget and Expenditure Chart

Activities	Budgeted	Contracted	Expended
Feasibility Studies	\$172,755	\$172,755	\$172,755
Project Financial Assistance	\$20,016,911	\$0	\$0

## Implementation Timeline

	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Feasibility Studies																							
Partnerships																							
Projects													Program Development				Project Funding						
Public Meetings						1	1			1				1									





# BIOMASS UTILIZATION FACILITY

## BUF Accomplishments



Feasibility Studies Completed	engagement	3
Partnerships Developed		4
Projects Assisted		0
Tons of biomass processed for repurposed to merchantable wood products		0





# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTER

**Approximate funding: \$19 million**

## Current Status

The County of Tuolumne has been working with HCD on determining if the CRC facilities are feasible to develop. The county has hired multiple consultants to conduct studies needed for the feasibility analysis. In 2017 the county completed the CRC programing document which outlined service and uses of the proposed facilities. A solicitation for real property was conducted in 2018 and two possible sites were identified, one in Groveland and one in Tuolumne. In March of 2019, schematic designs and environmental reviews were completed. The county submitted a formal CRC development proposal for review and approval by the Board of Supervisors and CDBG-NDR Partners. Funding gap was identified. HCD is proposing to use HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to fill financing gap for county. See data below for status of CRC activities and accomplishments.



## Budget and Expenditure Chart

Activities	Budgeted	Contracted	Expended
Feasibility Studies	\$757,672	\$757,652	\$383,417
Phase II Land Acquisition and Construction	\$18,007,390	\$0	\$0

## Implementation Timeline

	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
Feasibility Studies			Phase 1																					
CRC Development												Phase 2												
Public Services																								
Public Meetings			3	2					2					2										





# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTER

## Accomplishments



Feasibility Studies Completed	5
Public Facilities Built	0
Public Services Provided	0

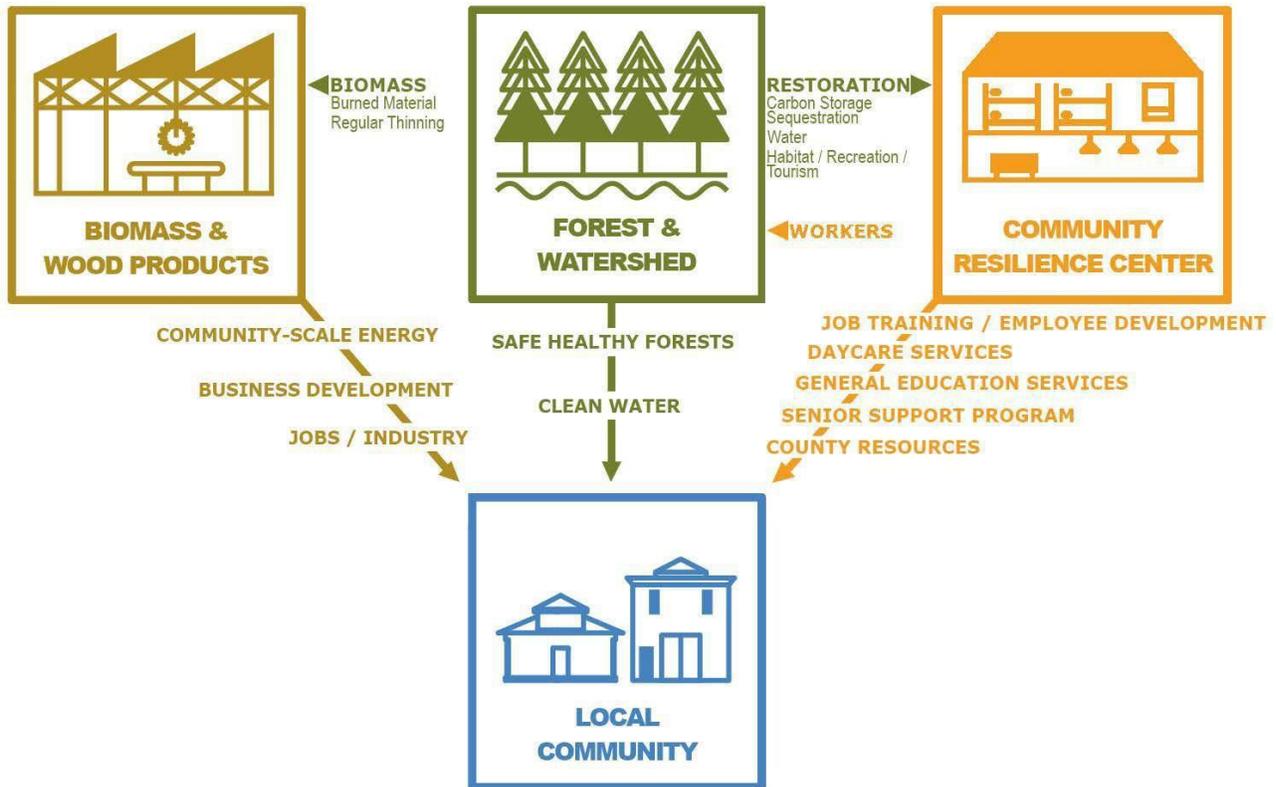




# RESILIENCE AND REPLICABILITY

## CWRP Replicability and Increased Community Resilience

The graphic below describes how the three pillars will support the communities in Tuolumne County in becoming more resilient and provide a template for other communities to use as they recover from disasters and prepare for future ones.



To find out more about the CWRP, visit:  
[www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/disaster-recovery-programs/nrc.shtml](http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/disaster-recovery-programs/nrc.shtml)