



Middle Fork Project

Fuel Reduction Management Program Funding Guidelines

Program Overview

Through an annual funding agreement between Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and Placer County, funds are to be expended to perform fuel management activities that support a reduction in potential fire in the Middle Fork Project (MFP) area. This area is a critical forested watershed and protection of it is of paramount importance. The MFP is a multi-purpose water supply and hydro-generation project designed to conserve and control waters of the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, and several associated tributary streams. The location is generally located in the Tahoe National Forest and private land well above the community of Foresthill and continues down the American River near the community of Auburn. See attached map of the MFP area.

Beginning in 2014 and for the duration of the federal license for the MFP an annual amount of funds will be made available to organizations that propose projects or have programs that 1) have a direct nexus to the project area and 2) show the potential to reduce fire danger through some form of fuel management projects. There are applications, matching fund requirements, agreements and documentation results that must be met in order to be eligible to receive funding awards.

Staff Contact and Program Manager: Jared Deck, (530) 886-4918 jdeck@placer.ca.gov

Background

Placer County and PCWA formed a Joint Powers Authority for the MFP (Authority) in 2006 to obtain the license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the MFP. The Authority began operations in May of 2013 taking over from Pacific Gas and Electric. As a part of that licensing process studies were accomplished to understand the potential costs to the Authority for an increased number of visitors to the project. Various operational costs were developed and one of those was to dedicate some annual funding for the purpose of ensuring that fuel management activities would take place to support the area known as the MFP. In all of the studies an adherence to a “nexus” or direct relationship to the project area was maintained. In this way the costs can be shown to be fair and have the appropriate proportion to the activity and prepared as operational costs to the project and included into their annual budget. PCWA and Placer County signed an agreement in 2013 to allow Placer County to implement and distribute these funds to assist in protecting the MFP from potential fire damage.



Available Project Area

The attached MFP fuel management map represents the area that has been defined as the MFP area and the adjacent locations that are within a nexus to the project. Annual funds are to be made available to projects and programs within these boundaries. Much of this land is owned by the USFS, BOR (including Ca State parks) and BLM and separate nexus funding to each of those agencies is provided annually. Therefore those lands are NOT available for this program funding and interested groups that have projects on those lands should petition those agencies for funding to support their activities.

Program Details

Goals:

The goals for this program are as follows:

- 1) Accomplish an on-the-ground project or program that can directly be related to a reduction in the potential for fire in the MFP area.
- 2) Prepare a plan for a program that could lead to a greater management of the MFP nexus area fuel management.

Annual Funding:

The annual amount of funding for this Program will be set by March 1 each year and be based on a Calendar year.

Maximum Award Value:

In order to ensure that multiple awards are possible and all required work will be accomplished in the funding year a maximum amount of \$49,500.00 is available per project or program. Organizations are allowed to submit and receive multiple awards each year but only one award per project per year.

Matching Funding Requirements:

Because the MFP does not bear full responsibility for the nexus, a requirement of 60 % matching funds of the total project, which can be a combination of direct and in-direct matching funds, will be required in order to meet the requirements of this program. The attached Appendix A describes the definition of matching funds that will be accepted.



Project/Program Types:

The definition of acceptable fuel management project (original project or maintenance of an original project) or program types will consist of the following:

- 1) Part of an approved plan from an agency located within Placer County (Provided the project area has a nexus to the project).
- 2) Part of an on-going or new program that has been funded in support of an approved plan or project within Placer County (Provided the project area has a nexus to the project).

Funding Process:

Project Assistance Review

The Program Manager or designee will be available to meet with anyone who believes they want to prepare an application. Guidance will be provided and questions will be answered to assist in the preparation of an application.

Application Period

A formal application will need to be completed to be considered for any funding from this program. Two separate application periods will be provided annually. The first period would require all Applications to be submitted in hardcopy or electronically to Jared Deck, 3091 County Center Dr. Auburn, CA 95603 or jdeck@placer.ca.gov (no facsimiles accepted) and are due by 5 PM PST, February 28 of each year. The second period would require applications to be submitted by June 30 of each year.

Award

Funding awards for period 1 will be determined by March 31, period 2 by July 31 of each year and a notification of award letter and agreement will be sent to successful applicants. Projects will be judged primarily on their scope and impact of reducing potential fire in or adjacent to the MFP area.

Agreement

The attached agreement will need to be signed upon acceptance of any funding from this program.

Documentation Requirements

A "Project Completion Report" must be submitted to the Program Manager by January 31st of the following year. If documentation is not completed within this timeline the organization will NOT be eligible for funding during the following year. Extensions may be granted under certain circumstances. Delays caused by weather or abnormally long environmental approval processes are examples of acceptable reasons for extensions.



MIDDLE FORK PROJECT
FINANCE AUTHORITY

Environmental Documents