

Pilot Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (EFRTs):

Per the Private Landowner Assistance Work Group's Implementation Strategy, EFRTs provide rapid assessments and technical and financial assistance to restore private forest lands and help prevent further damage to life, property, and natural resources. One goal of the Implementation Strategy is to facilitate the creation of EFRT's throughout the state. Below is an update on EFRT's funded in part by CAL FIRE and USFS.

Alpine EFRT

Alpine County is forming an EFRT to help landowners address the restoration efforts associated with the Tamarack Fire. This fire affected thousands of private acres in Alpine County, a significant portion of the available private land. As a result, landowners have been engaged in a variety of activities to help restore the landscape. Partners have largely completed the removal of hazardous trees and immediate cleanup while formulating longer restoration visions. In June Alpine County hosted a public meeting to share updates on recovery projects from various partners with residents and gather input on the effects of restoration activities. Alpine County is heading the EFRT bolstered by \$1.8 million in State and Private Forestry assistance from USFS. The Tamarack EFRT is organizing its membership, gathering information from landowners and restoration operators, and researching funding options.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) of Nevada has also contributed to the Alpine EFRT objectives. FSA's Emergency Forest Restoration Program has secured 17 active applications for their cost-share program. Funding approved for these projects is just under \$4 million to provide restoration on over 3,110 acres.

The flash flood event in mid-August has highlighted the need to look at restoration activities that will help revegetate the soil while we look at long-term reforestation strategies. The Tamarack EFRT aims to be fully operational by the end of the 2022 calendar year.

Emerging EFRTs

In addition to supporting the three pilot EFRT efforts (Tamarack Fire with Alpine County as lead partner, Caldor Fire with El Dorado County RCD as lead partner, and Dixie Fire with Feather River RCD as lead partner) USFS funded a number of partners to take steps toward creating and functioning in the capacity of an EFRT. USFS directly supported Honey Lake RCD, American Forest Foundation, Yoche Dehe, and Tule River tribe to perform a variety of treatments to help recover forests from wildfire including hazard tree removal, site preparation, planting, and invasive species treatments. [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts \(CARCD\)](https://carcd.org/) also received pass-through funding from USFS to support EFRT creation in targeted areas throughout the state. So far, 6 RCDs have received funding under the CARCD pass-through grant; [Butte County RCD](#), [Napa County RCD](#), [Shasta Valley RCD](#), [Solano RCD](#), [Sierra RCD](#), and [Western Shasta RCD](#). All these RCDs are using the funds to shape and support programs that resemble, or are building towards establishing an EFRT. The work under this pass-through

Update by
Clint Celio
Alpine County

Update by
Sophia Lemmo
CA Association of
Resource
Conservation
Districts
Resource
<https://carcd.org/>

&
Dana Walsh
CA Landowner
Assistance,
United States Forest
Service, Region 5
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/>

grant includes: recovery work on Karuk Tribal land burned in the Slater Fire; vegetation management in stream corridors burned in the LNU Fire in Solano County; recovery and outreach to private landowners whose property was burned in the Creek Fire in Sierra County; wildfire rehabilitation on private properties in Shasta County; hiring a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to assist with Farm Service Agency’s Emergency Forest Restoration Program in Napa County; and developing a Small Forest Landowners Assistance Program, for restoration treatments in Butte County.

The Private Forest Landowner Work Group continues to assess the performance of the pilot EFRTs and is developing recommendations to the Task Force for future EFRT operations. A summary of the current and emerging EFRTs is shown below:

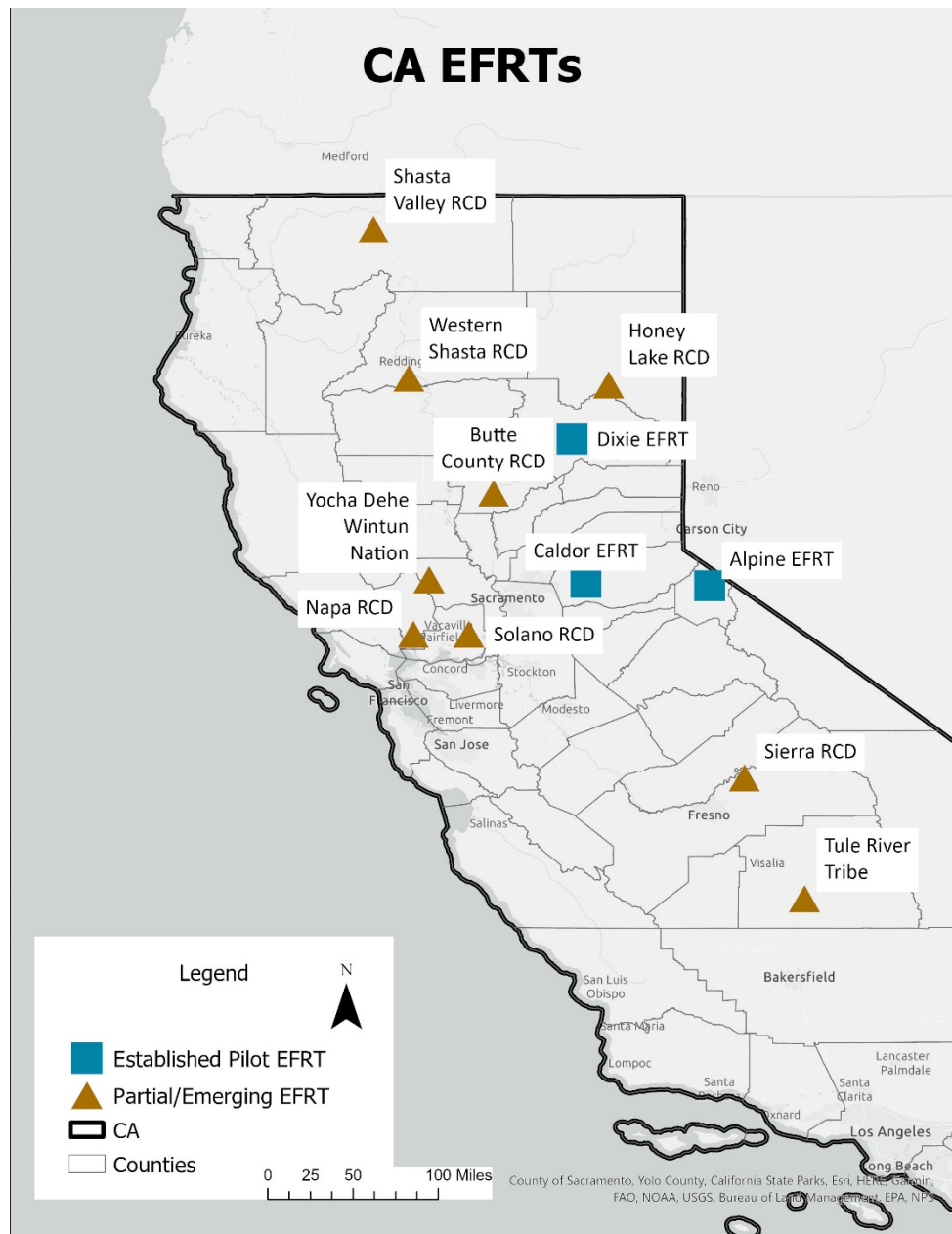


Figure 1. Current pilot Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (EFRTs) and partial/emerging EFRTs.

NRCS-CA new forestry technical and financial assistance agreements with partners

Per the Private Landowner Assistance Work Group's Implementation Strategy, Key Action 1.13, partners will be utilized to provide technical and financial support for initial vegetation treatment work and follow-up maintenance work.

Update by
Chris Zimny
State Staff
Forester,
Natural Resource
Conservation
Service

New NRCS-CA and National Fish and Wildfire Foundation Forest Resilience Grant

NRCS-CA and the National Fish and Wildfire Foundation are partnering to jointly fund wildfire resilience projects in the Russian River Basin in Sonoma County. The \$1 million grant will provide local partners funds for technical forestry assistance to private forestlands owners and for vegetation treatment projects that contribute to wildfire resilience. The selection of local partners is likely to be completed in 2022.

Extension of forestry technical assistance agreements with CARCD/local RCDs

NRCS-CA has extended and added funding to its existing forestry technical assistance agreement with CARCD. The agreement passes funding to local RCDs to provide forestry technical assistance services to NRCS-CA Field Offices. The time extension and funding will support continuing forestry operations by Butte County RCD, Lake County RCD, Mendocino County RCD, RCD of Monterey County. These agreements are critical for preparing landowners to enter into NRCS's EQIP financial assistance program where clients use funds to implement various wildfire resilience projects.

New NRCS-CA forestry staff to support Joint Chiefs Landscape Partnerships and Dixie Fire EFRT

New forestry staff positions have been approved and solicitations are in progress for two part-time workers as part of NRCS Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program. The new positions will support a new Joint Chief Landscape Partnership project in Del Norte County which was awarded in 2022. The new staff positions will also service the NRCS-CA Quincy Field Office, which is participating in the Dixie Fire EFRT.

UC Extension Stewardship Workshop

Since 2019, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) hosts a series of Forest Stewardship Workshops to help landowners develop forest management plans to increase the resilience of their forestlands. The workshops address management objectives and planning, forest restoration, fuels reduction, project development, permitting, and cost-share opportunities

Update by
Kim Ingram
UC ANR Forest
Stewardship
Coordinator
[https://ucanr.edu/
sites/forestry/Fore
st_Stewardship/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/Forest_Stewardship/)

In 2021, UCCE analyzed pre-workshop survey data from over 200 California forest landowners who participated in the Forest Stewardship Education Initiative Workshop Series, as well as conducted interviews of fourteen participant volunteers, to better understand the goals held, management actions taken, and barriers faced by the motivated landowner participants. The survey and interview data show that most forest landowners who have participated in the workshops own their property for recreation, conservation, and spiritual values. Many have ecological conservation, restoration, and resilience goals driven by concerns about wildfire, climate change, drought, and tree mortality. Commercial or utilitarian objectives for ownership were lower in priority or were considered solely as a means to meet ecological goals. Workshop participants tend to be DIYers, paying out-of-pocket for activities such as thinning, burning, and/or chipping of largely non-commercial material to improve defensible space. They identified cost, time, and lack of resource professionals or contractors as major barriers to reaching their management goals. Workshop participants cited the need for more outreach and education not only for themselves but for all small, private forest landowners. UCCE recognizes this need and request. With funding from CAL FIRE through June 30, 2024, additional workshops and field days are being held and planned for across the state.