



The Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project is a 1,080-acre project that will reduce fuel loading and promote forest health on the Tahoe National Forest surrounding the communities of Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley. This is part of a larger effort the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is conducting to improve forest health and mitigate the risks of high-intensity fires along the State Route 89 corridor, which includes the 6,000-acre Five Creeks Project.

The USFS is partnering with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to raise money as well as coordinate the environmental planning and implementation of this project. USFS and NFF successfully partner on numerous projects locally, regionally and nationally, including the recently completed 2,000-acre Big Jack East project located between the neighborhoods of Sierra Meadows and Martis Camp in Truckee. This project was aimed at reducing fire risk for the town of Truckee and improving forest health. NFF secured funding for the implementation through a CAL FIRE grant.

The Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project will improve forest health, by making it more resilient to fire, insects, disease, and drought. It will reduce fuels on forest lands adjacent to critical evacuation routes along Alpine Meadows Road and State Route 89. It will also treat forest lands immediately adjacent to the Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project along the south ridgeline between Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows, providing increased protection for both communities. The project will be conducted in two sequential phases: 1) environmental planning; and 2) implementation.

Phase 1: Environmental Planning

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and decision memo are required for federally managed lands before any on-the-ground work commences. The **cost is \$448,000** for the environmental consultant to conduct the surveys and analysis needed by the USFS to create the decision memo.

The Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) awarded the NFF \$263,000 for environmental planning through its Forest Futures Initiative. NFF needs to raise the **remaining \$185,000** in order to proceed with the NEPA work as planned and is asking the Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley communities to help fill the gap.

Contributions to NFF, a 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law (please seek advice from a tax professional)

Phase 2: Implementation

With a completed NEPA analysis, NFF will have a "shovel-ready" project and be able to seek funding for the implementation phase of this project. A combination of fuels reduction treatments will address extensive tree mortality and improve forest health and habitat on these public lands. The NFF anticipates securing 100% of the cost to conduct the work through state and federal grants from entities like the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, California Wildlife Conservation Board, and CAL FIRE. Community Fire Protection is a top priority for these funding sources.

Estimated cost: Approximately \$2.4 million. This includes funding for a professional forester (\$200,000), project management (\$80,000) and the treatment of the land (\$2.16 million or \$2,000 per acre).

The NFF will leverage the NEPA project funding and signed decision memo to apply for roughly \$2.4 million to treat the forest around Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley.

Timeline

Phase 1

- ◇ NEPA surveys and analysis will start in 2022 run through the summer of 2023.
- ◇ Official Forest Service Decision Memo issued in winter 2024.

Phase 2

- ◇ On-the-ground work could start as early as 2024 and run through 2026.

Summary

We are asking the communities of Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley to help us fill the \$185,000 funding gap by January 2023. This will allow the environmental analysis to be conducted as planned. With a completed NEPA analysis, NFF will work to raise more than \$2.4 million to treat roughly 1,080 acres in Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley and improve the health of the Tahoe National Forest adjacent to these communities.

The National Forest Foundation

The NFF, chartered by Congress, engages Americans in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 193-million-acre National Forest System, and administers private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of the National Forests.

Q & A

Q: What happens if we don't raise \$185,000?

A: Due to the types of analysis that needs to be conducted (e.g., cultural resources, disturbance to wildlife, botanical species, water quality impacts), we can reduce the cost of the project by either shrinking the area to be treated and/or who is responsible for writing the environmental analysis. Below are examples of what can be done with additional funding:

- ◇ **\$0** additional funds raised: 254 acres will be dropped from the project so only 826 acres will be surveyed. The project implementation will be delayed by 1-2 years while the analysis write-ups are completed by the USFS rather than the environmental consultant.
- ◇ **\$65,000** additional funds raised: All 1,080 acres will be surveyed. The project will be delayed by 1-2 years while the analysis write-ups are completed by the USFS rather than the environmental consultant.
- ◇ **\$185,000** additional funds raised: All 1,080 acres will be surveyed. Analysis completed by an environmental consultant in 2023. Implementation work could begin in 2024.

Q: What is the deadline for closing the budget gap?

A: To help the NEPA consultant plan for their second field season in 2023, funds should be committed as soon as possible. **Funds must be secured no later than February 1, 2023.**

Q: If the project is reduced by 254 acres, where would those acres be?

A: See the purple area identified on the map. Unless the funding gap can be closed, these acres would not be surveyed, analyzed, or treated.

Q: How long is the NEPA analysis valid?

A: The USFS expects to be able to use the NEPA decision for the next 10 years and possibly longer. This will allow the USFS to conduct follow-up fuel reduction treatments within the NEPA footprint without additional environmental planning and associated costs.

Q: How much has been raised to date towards the \$185,000?

A: The Olympic Valley Firewise Committee and the Alpine Meadows Fire Safe Council have committed a combined total of \$11,500 towards the project. The Alpine Meadows Estates has pledged \$5,000 to support the project bringing our current commitments to \$16,500.

Reaching the \$185,000 goal will close the NEPA funding gap, allowing NFF to raise roughly \$2.4 million to treat the Tahoe National Forest in Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley.

Q: How do I make a gift to help fund the Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project?

A: Please reach out directly to Dan Alvey (dalvey@nationalforests.org or 530.247.5443) at the NFF to make a financial commitment to this project. Once we've reached \$65,000, NFF will create a fund and accept the pledged donations.

Q: How do I make a gift to help fund the Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project?

A: Donations can be made by check, ACH or credit card.

- For Check: Mail a check to National Forest Foundation Bldg. 27, Suite 3, Fort Missoula Road Missoula, MT 59804. On the check's memo line write "Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project".
- For Credit Card or ACH: Navigate to this project's online donation page at <https://support.nationalforests.org/alpineproject>

If you have any questions about donating, please reach out directly to Dan Alvey, California Program Manager – Tahoe Area, at dalvey@nationalforests.org or 530.247.5443

Q: What portion of my donation will go directly to this project?

A: The NFF uses 15% of all donations and grants to cover administrative funds including financial accounting, recordkeeping, and reporting and other managerial expenses. These administrative funds support the organization, allowing it to sustain its capacity and ensure our National Forests stay healthy and vibrant for generations. Because this project is a priority for the NFF, no project management salary funding will be applied to these donations. The remaining **85% of all donations will go directly to the Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Protection Project**. All funding benchmarks listed above include NFF's indirect costs. We encourage you to check out [Charity Navigator's](#) in-depth review of the NFF for more details on our effective deployment of donations.