



Maintenance & Resources Management Committee WATERSHED & GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

February 19, 2020 – May 18, 2020



Pre-treatment



Post-treatment

Scotts Flat Phase 4- Fires Fuels Treatment and Hazard Tree Removal

In partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, NID is treating dense forest conditions that surround many of our campgrounds and critical water storage reservoirs. These photos are of the Scotts Flat area, where we have completed nearly 150 acres of fire fuels treatment with mastication, hazard tree removal, and cleanup of storm damage after the last season snow in 2020. Forest thinning will increase runoff and overall forest health, while reducing risks associated with high-intensity wildfire in this important watershed.

Watershed Division Overview:

During the last three months, Watershed activities have included continuation of the Phase 4 Project mastication at Scotts Flat Reservoir, CABY regional planning and collaboration, and grant research and application. Cameron Townsend continues to bring critical capacity to NID's Watershed Program and assisted with site visits in response to requests from neighbors regarding fuels conditions, PG&E vegetation work associated with line hardening, and Scotts Flat Reservoir project implementation. He is also assisting with CMMS development for NID's watershed lands, including system development, asset definition, and data collection.

GENERAL WATERSHED AND HEALTHY FORESTS PROGRAM UPDATE:

- **Fire Fuels Reduction & Forestry-** Forest thinning continues as grant funding is utilized to masticate dense ladder fuels at Scotts Flat Reservoir. THP activities are to resume in order to complete the cross-canyon fuel break at the Scotts Flat Dam
- **Forest Management Plan for District-owned lands-** under development
- **English Meadow-** The Forest Management Plan is nearly completed, and a Wildlife Conservation Board Pre-application was submitted for \$1M to complete instream channel modifications (woody debris jam installation) and forest treatment to improve meadow floodplain functionality, to reduce accumulated fire fuels, and to thin the adjacent forested watershed of the Middle Yuba River headwaters

GRANTS UPDATE:

- **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant, Yuba Headwaters/English Meadow Grant-** the Forest Management Plan is under development and will be finalized in Q2 2020, and the grant will be completed
- **CAL FIRE CFIP Grant for Rollins and Scotts-** 10 acres were completed by Don Prairie at Orchard Springs Campground earlier this year, and CAL FIRE has indicated that they will provide \$145,000 in funding through the California Forest Improvement Program for fire fuels treatment on an additional 103 acres at Orchard Springs and Long Ravine Campgrounds. Funding anticipated in July 2020
- **SNC Fuels Treatment at Scotts Flat Phase 4-** Project implementation is underway, and the first 150 acres have been treated. This grant agreement is executed with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for \$981,000 at Scotts Flat Reservoir to masticate fire fuels and improve forest health by creating a multi-species, multi-aged, properly spaced community. This project will improve watershed health while protecting water system infrastructure, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and communities from elevated fire risk. In total, we will treat 300 acres by Jan. 1, 2022

OUTREACH, COLLABORATION, & EDUCATION:

- **Education & Outreach –** The English Meadow Enhancement Project was recently featured by a local journalist, Trina Kleist, on the Hitchcock Project’s website, which is a product of the University of Nevada, Reno’s Master’s Journalism Program. Trina has worked with NID staff over the last 5 years to bring information about our environmental stewardship efforts to the public. Please see the two articles at:
 - <https://hitchcockproject.org/meadow-sponges/>
 - <https://hitchcockproject.org/mountain-wildflowers/>
- **CABY-** The CABY IRWM Plan update is underway, and an Administrative Draft is publicly available at www.cabyregion.org Comments are due by May 29, 2020, and Watershed staff are preparing NID projects for inclusion in this plan update
