Project: Stewardship Agreement – BLM

Lead: Calaveras County RCD

Summary: Planning for project prioritization on Butte Fire footprint and BLM lands

Dates: September 2024 – September 2027

Key feature of Stewardship is that it authorizes the value of treatment byproducts (e.g. sawtimber, biomass, fuelwood, forage) to offset the service costs within that project. (See BLM Manual 5920-1 for a list of the land management goals as well as a list of the authorities unique to Stewardship)

The policy of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is to implement Stewardship projects that achieve one or more of the seven land management goals set forth in the Agricultural Act and that meet local and rural community needs, as the Act requires. This policy section summarizes the specific requirements of Stewardship authority.

The land management goals consist of:

A. Road and trail maintenance or obliteration to restore or maintain water quality.

* Fuels reduction thinning and timber sales would have maintenance including culvert, water bars and temporary road and some skid trail obliteration activities.

B. Soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resource values.

* Prescriptions and treatment methods would improve soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, Improve Forest Health,

C. Setting of prescribed fires to improve the composition, structure, condition, and health of stands or to improve wildlife habitat.

* This would need to be run through the fire and fuels shop at BLM.

D. Removing vegetation or other activities to promote healthy forest stands, reduce fire hazards, or achieve other land management objectives.

* There is an initial timber sale in Buckhorn and Bummerville. There is potential for preparing additional vegetation removal and other activities.

E. Watershed restoration and maintenance.

* Butte fire restoration activities such as site preparation, natural regeneration thinning and maintenance needs at regular intervals in reestablishing vegetation while keeping fuel loading down.

F. Restoration and maintenance of wildlife and fish.

* Treatments would promote establishment, growth and maintenance of healthy and improved habitat conditions.

G. Control of noxious and exotic weeds and reestablishing native plant species.

* All treatment areas would include the control of noxious and exotic weeds with multiple methods.

**Fiscal Management:** CCRCD is the project lead and fiscal sponsor for this program. CCRCD has a cooperative agreement with BLM and will manage subcontracts ARCD through this partnership agreement. Reporting and Invoicing requirements are detailed below.

Contracted funds available to ARCD in the amount of $54,600 to cover work between September 2024 - September 2027.

Support will be available for project development through grant funds for an Archeologist, Registered Professional Forester and a Resource Conservation Technician.

Matching funds of $86.645 are required from state or local sources. CCRCD intends to use funds from SNC RFFCP to support project development and prioritization, and funding development. ARCD is not obligated to provide matching funds but can assist in the project development and prioritization using matching funds if available.

**Project Management:** CCRCD will provide project over site, including project records and reporting, management of staffing, and accounting.

**Invoicing**

CCRCD will be responsible for invoicing BLM for reimbursement. The CCRCD will prepare invoices and project reporting.

ARCD will provide a quarterly summary of work and invoice to CCRCD.

**Documents to be submitted:**

* Invoice
* Quarterly Summary of Activities

Any amendments to the grant agreement or scope of work will be agreed upon in writing by the two districts and incorporated into this agreement.