

Project

The three-year Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Treatment and Healthy Forest Project removed diseased and hazard trees and vegetation on 600 acres around the shores of Scotts Flat Reservoir. The project is part of a cross-canyon fuel break that can be accessed in case of wildfire in the Deer Creek watershed.

This area is integral to the water supply infrastructure that NID manages for local communities.

The District completed fire fuels reduction treatments using mastication and hand crews to remove and chip small diameter understory trees, as well as dead and downed material. In addition, the District implemented a timber harvest plan and removed about 65 Mbf, which is thousand board feet. This project is in the highest rating wildfire hazard risk zone as identified by CAL FIRE.

Benefits

- Reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire risk
- Defend local communities from elevated fire risk
- Improve watershed health
- Protect NID's hydroelectric infrastructure
- Safeguard terrestrial and aquatic habitats

Partnerships

NID has worked with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, California Conservation Corps, a local forester, timber operators, and more to improve the health and safety of nearby communities.

In 2019, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy provided support through a nearly \$1 million grant to implement the Scotts Flat Fuels Reduction Project Phase Four, a project aimed at mitigating the threat of wildfire on NID lands around the reservoir.



This work created a “shaded fuel break” by thinning excess trees and reducing ground fuels. Shaded fuel breaks allow fires to burn cooler, reduce the probability of an upper canopy “crown fire,” and create zones where fires can be more easily contained before reaching nearby communities.

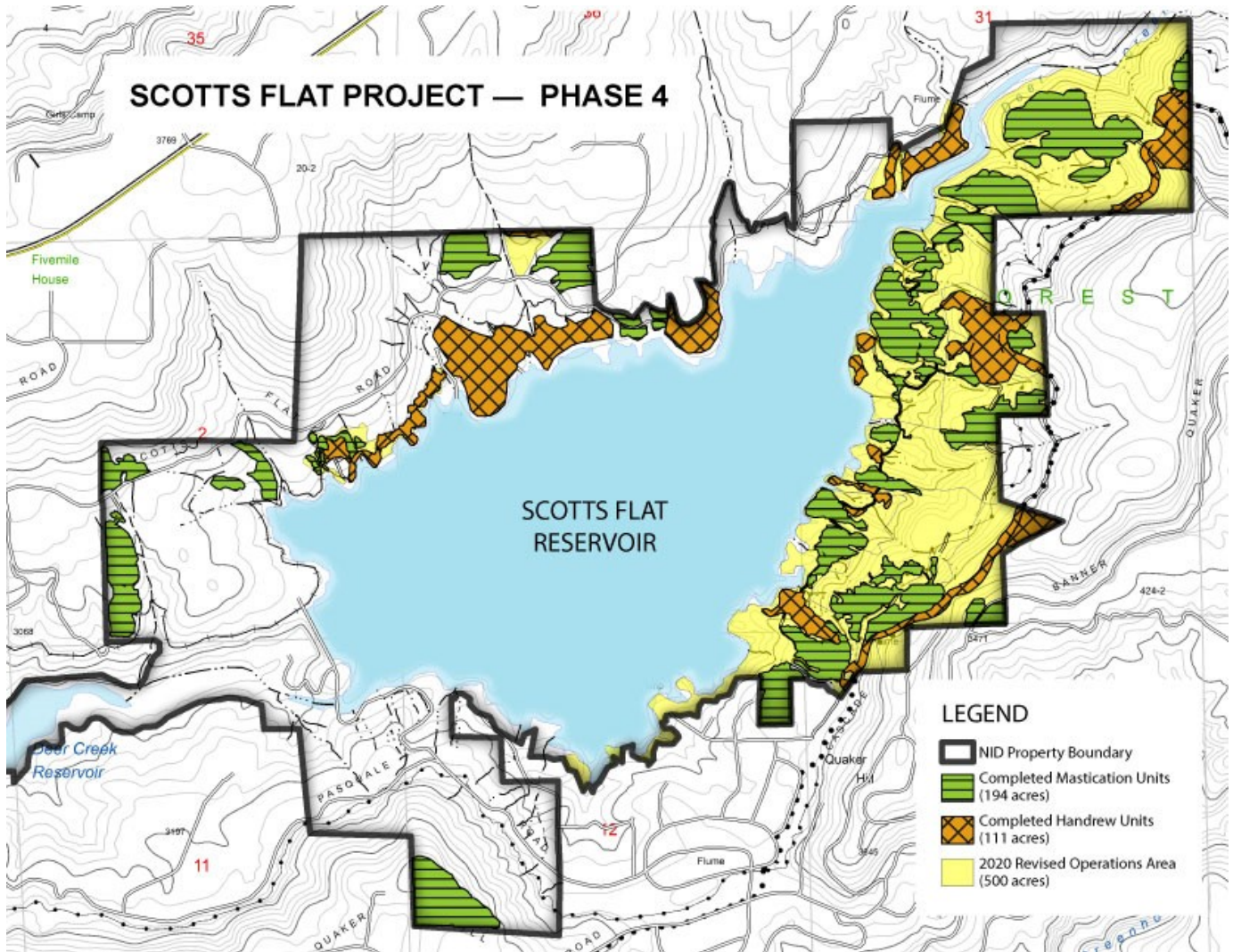
To preserve habitat for wildlife, some medium to large diameter trees, shrubs, standing dead trees, and flowering hardwoods were retained. The forest at this site now reflects a mixed-species composition and a mixed-age distribution with improved functionality compared to pre-treatment conditions.

Phase Four of the project was designed to complete an additional 300 acres of fire fuels treatment adjacent to Scotts Flat Reservoir.



Cost

Costs range: \$1,350-\$10,000 per acre of treatment. Most work is dependent on hand crews with chippers or mastication. The work is largely paid for by grants to leverage NID's investment.



Pre treatment



Post treatment