



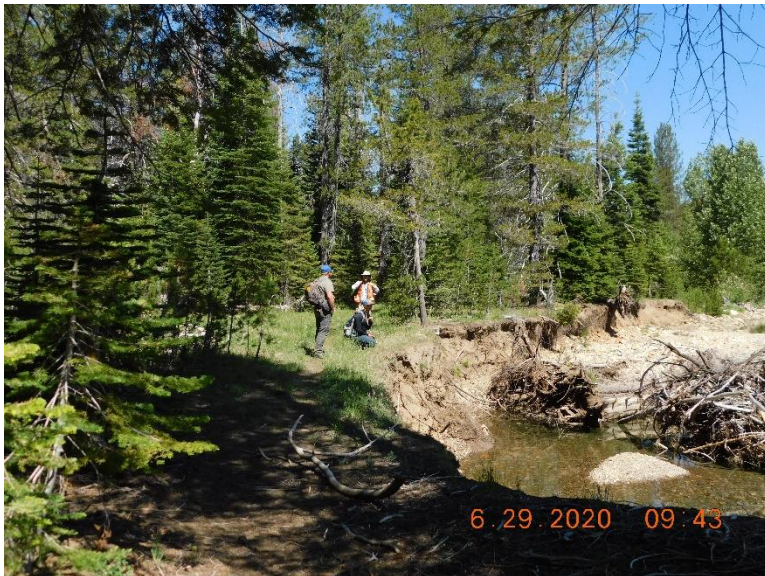
Maintenance & Resources Management Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ACTIVITIES

May 20, 2020 – July 20, 2020

Environmental Resources Overview:

During the last two months, the Environmental Resources activities have included fire fuels treatment to create defensible space; continuation of the Phase 4 Project mastication at Scott's Flat Reservoir with activities extending to District properties adjacent to Cascade Shores; English Meadow field assessment planning and grant writing; CABY regional planning and collaboration; and grant research and application. Cameron Townsend has provided field support for forest health and meadow restoration, including responding to requests from neighbors regarding fuels conditions, PG&E vegetation work associated with line hardening, and Scott's Flat Reservoir project implementation.



English Meadow site visit June 2020

NID's Environmental Resources staff and Leslie Mink (Plumas Corp.) visited English Meadow in June 2020. Site conditions were evaluated to refine the full application submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board requesting \$1.2M for improving forest resilience, completing instream channel modifications (debris jam installation), and tributary repair. During this trip, monitoring equipment to track stream temperature during the summer season were installed. Notification regarding project selection will be received in September 2020, and if successful, project implementation will begin in the Fall of 2021. This is a three-year proposal.

GENERAL WATERSHED AND HEALTHY FORESTS PROGRAM UPDATE

Scotts Flat Reservoir Fire Fuels Reduction & Forestry

Forest thinning continues as grant funding is utilized to masticate dense ladder fuels at Scott's Flat Reservoir. THP activities have resumed to complete the cross-canyon fuel break at Scott's Flat Dam. Working with Kevin Whitlock, our consulting Forester, Frank Dial Logging has selectively thinned the forested area between the dam and spillway to reduce fuels in the case of a wildfire, and to improve forest health. Environmental Resources staff is assisting the Recreation Department with hazard tree removal in the Upper Division, in campgrounds around Jackson Meadows Reservoir, and the Bowman Corridor.

Fire Fuels Treatment and Hazard Tree Removal on District Property

NID is preparing for the 2020 wildfire season by treating dense forest conditions that occur on many of our properties and campgrounds. These photos are of treatment areas near lower Magnolia Rd., adjacent to the Bear River. We have completed fuels treatment and hazard tree removal to ensure that we have a minimum defensible space of 100 ft adjacent to buildings, and that stressed, dead or diseased trees are safely removed. Forest thinning will increase runoff and overall forest health, while reducing risks associated with high-intensity wildfire in this important watershed.



Pre-treatment



Post-treatment

Forest Management Plan for District-Owned Lands

A Forest Management Plan for all of NID's lands and source watersheds is under development, and a draft will be ready for review during fall 2020.

English Meadow

The Forest Management Plan is completed, and a Wildlife Conservation Board Full Application was submitted for \$1.2M to complete instream channel modifications (woody debris jam installation, filling of dewatering ditches, and head-cut repairs on tributaries) 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. This summer will include the 4th season of hydrologic and biological baseline data collection to inform our design for project implementation.

GRANTS UPDATE

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant, Yuba Headwaters/English Meadow Grant

During the last two years, NID staff have collected baseline information and worked with our consulting Forester to develop a long-term forest management strategy to maintain forest health and to protect water resources. This grant for \$50,000 supported the development of our Forest Management Plan and submission of a CAL FIRE Exemption for fuels treatment and forest thinning. Grant reporting will be completed in August 2020.

CAL FIRE CFIP Grant for Rollins Reservoir

Our grant contract with CAL FIRE is anticipated by end of July 2020 for \$145,000 in funding through the California Forest Improvement Program for fire-fuels treatment on 103 acres at Orchard Springs and Long Ravine Campgrounds. Project implementation will begin fall 2020, dense forest areas around NID campgrounds and adjacent to the Rollins Reservoir will be thinned to reduce wildfire risk, and to improve forest health. This work will compliment prior fire-fuels treatment at Peninsula and Orchard Springs Campgrounds, which collectively will provide a buffer area to protect this reservoir and aquatic and terrestrial habitats in the event of a wildfire, and to increase public safety.

SNC Fuels Treatment at Scott's Flat Reservoir Phase 4

Project implementation is underway, and the first 150 acres have been treated, including significant fire-fuels treatment, hazardous tree removal, and forest thinning at the Gate 2 Campground and near Scotts Flat Reservoir prior to opening for the camping season. Public use of the District's trails near Scotts Flat increases each year, and these areas have been a focus of our fire-fuels treatment. This grant agreement is executed with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for \$981,000 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

CABY

The CABY IRWM Plan update is nearing completion, and an Administrative Draft is publicly available at www.cabyregion.org. Comments were received, and Environmental Resources staff are preparing NID projects for inclusion in the plan update.

Education & Outreach

All activities for 2020 are postponed due to the public emergency declaration and protective policies about COVID-19.
