

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

This project will form the Community Revitalization and Ecosystem Workforce (CREW) training partnership between the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (SI), Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS), and others to create the job training infrastructure and network to meet the demand for ecosystem restoration and land management in the Sierra Nevada region, increasing the capacity of Tribal crews in the region to utilize Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and to secure government contracts to perform forest restoration work on their native ancestral lands.

The CREW project will train workers to perform a variety of tasks in forest health and ecology, wildfire management and risk reduction, carbon sequestration, and other land management areas. These types of work are critical to California's ability to adapt to climate change and protect both ecological and human health and wellbeing, through wildfire risk reduction, mitigating wildfire impacts, and sequestering carbon in health forests. Project partners will recruit participants from their networks, targeting tribal members and rural disadvantaged and low-income communities. In addition to these direct economic benefits, healthy forests that are well managed will reduce the risk and impacts of catastrophic wildfires, thus sequestering carbon and providing air quality benefits to priority populations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- As sovereign nations, tribes have an advantage in being able to obtain federal contracts for forest restoration work, but many have limited staffing capacity to obtain and implement projects. This project will provide training with certifications and other supports to expand tribal capacity in this industry.
- This project is focused on training and building the capacity of Native American tribal members to become self-sufficient thereby providing direct economic benefits to participants and their families and communities.
- SI is a nonprofit organization focused on rural development and natural resource management. SI will serve as the core convener of the partnership. CHIPS is a main project partner and is also a nonprofit focused on forest restoration. These two organizations have a long standing relationship of working with each other and with various Native American tribes in the region to perform forest restoration, firefighting, and related work and to train crews to do this work. Big Sandy Rancheria is a small tribal rancheria with a commitment to workforce development.

KEY PARTNERS

- Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS)
- Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (SI)
- Big Sandy Rancheria
- Shasta College

