

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

The Tribal Forest Restoration and Stewardship project is dedicated to the High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) principles of equity. Between 2021 and 2023, 261 individuals from California Native American tribes served in their communities. The project focuses on transitioning to a climate neutral economy by improving forest health, reducing fuel loads to prevent catastrophic wildfires, restoring forests and meadows to enhance carbon sequestration. Additionally, the project is expanding to include carbon-neutral wood products and nursery work involving trees and native plants.

This expansion project aims to serve new participants through outreach, low barrier training and work experience, while providing existing participants with upskilling, advanced training, and work experience. The project will continue to focus on building tribal capacity to develop and run forest restoration crews. It will provide capacity development and necessary training for diversified job types, including nursery work to provide seedlings to restoration projects, additional equipment operations, seed collection and sorting, advanced firefighting, and cultural fire training.

The project will support multiple levels of crew development, helping both startup and existing Tribes establish processes for crew development and employment. It includes policies to include living wages, transportation reimbursements, and higher standards of crew support in large landscape projects. All incumbent workers will have opportunities for advanced training education and certifications.

TARGET POPULATION

This project will serve the 54 affiliated Tribes and will continue to field numerous inquiries from unaffiliated Tribes both federally, and non-federally recognized.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Develop a tribal restoration and stewardship crew training and employment toolkit.
- Minimum of 30,000 acres treated for fuels reduction, wildfire risk mitigation, forest health/carbon sequestration.
- Minimum of 5,000 acres treated through cultural burning.
- 100 new participants each year for the first two years and 50 new for the third year.
- 100% participants involved increase skills by a measurable unit (e.g. training or cert received, or # hours of work experience obtained).
- 100% program participants are at or above their regions living wage.

KEY PARTNERS

- Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions
 - Berry Creek Rancheria
 - Susanville Indian Rancheria
 - Pit River Tribe
 - United States Forest Service
 - Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship
 - Tribal Eco Restoration Alliance
 - Inter Tribal Council of California
 - Sierra Nevada Conservancy
 - Shasta College
 - SAILForestry
 - Brave Forestry
 - Greenville Indian Rancheria
 - North State Planning and Development Collective at Chico State University
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