National Forest Foundation

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Request for Proposals

Sunland Fuels Reduction

Angeles National Forest, California

NFF Background:

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is a congressionally chartered nonprofit organization with the simple mission of bringing people together to restore and enhance National Forests and Grasslands. The NFF is the leading organization inspiring personal and meaningful connections to our National Forests, the centerpiece of America's public lands. Working on behalf of the American public, the NFF leads forest conservation efforts and promotes responsible recreation. We believe these lands, and all they provide, are an American treasure and are vital to the health of our communities.

Project Background:

The city of Sunland is located approximately 26 miles from Los Angeles and sits at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains north of the 210 freeway. There is an existing road (2N86) that runs adjacent to the Angeles National Forest and City of Sunland boundary line in a Northwest/Southeast direction. The road is mid-slope for most of the length of the project with shrub vegetation consistent with a Chaparral fuel model. In 2009, during the Station Fire, firefighters from multiple agencies were able to use the ridgeline to the north of the 2N86 Rd. to contain the spread of fire by utilizing a dozer and firing out from the road. Since then, the shrubs have grown back and both the Angeles National Forest and City of Sunland are at risk to wildfire spread due to the close proximity of mature shrubs that exhibit high flammability characteristics. The existing vegetation is overgrown and poses a direct risk to the Wildland Urban Interface. In the front country of the Angeles National Forest, normal daytime winds come from the southeast in an offshore flow. An ignition during these winds would be aligned with topography causing a rapid uphill spread. Additionally, an ignition during a Santa Ana wind event, when winds shift to northwest, fire would be driven downslope into the foothill communities of Sunland.

This project will reduce the buildup of hazardous fuels adjacent to the foothill communities of Sunland and Tujunga thereby providing increased defensible space within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, firefighter safety, and reduced flame height and radiant heat in the event of a wildfire. Fuel Reduction in this area will further improve first responder access and provide greater protection to the City of Sunland and the Angeles National Forest. Tactical response would be improved by treating the flammable vegetation along the length of the 2N86 three hundred feet primarily upslope towards the ridgeline and to the forest boundary to the south/southwest. Once treatments occur, aerial support /retardant drops along

the ridgeline would be more effective in slowing the fire's progression, giving firefighters better access to perform suppression activities.

Statement of Work:

The project is approximately 146 acres and entails performing 300 feet of hazardous fuel reduction adjacent to the 2N86 Rd beginning at the forest boundary east of Camp Louis Roth and continuing east approximately three miles to the forest boundary at 2N76 Rd/Haines Debris Basin. There are two areas that will exceed 300 feet in order to meet the forest boundary to the south/southeast of the 2N86 road (Graveyard Trucktrail).

Competitive Price Range:

The expected competitive range for bids to this solicitation is $412,250 to $485,000.

Timeline:

This Request for Proposals will close and all proposals will be due on October 29, 2026 at 4:00 pm. The NFF anticipates being able to enter a contract with any selected bidder(s) by November 30, 2026, with a projected contract start date of November 15, 2026. Changes in the closing date for this Request for Proposals will be updated on the NFF website at https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp under the link for this project's Request for Proposals. All contract related dates are estimates and subject to change at the NFF's sole discretion.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

A. General Specifications

1. Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for fuel reduction services related to the Sunland Fuelbreak Maintenance project, located on the Angeles National Forest. Work on this project will include hand and mechanical fuel reduction through mastication, cutting, brushing, thinning, and chipping. Hand treatment will include the use of chainsaws, weed whips, and various hand tools. Mechanical treatment will be accomplished through mastication and chipping. The selected contractor(s) will be responsible for performing the following deliverables:

    a. Treatment of Project Area 0-50 feet from Road Center

        i. Reduce brush type vegetation to 4 inches or less in height. All trees within the zone will be limbed to 10' or one half of the live crown.

        ii. Treat the cut fuels through physical removal, chipping, or mastication.

        iii. Chipped material will be blown back onto the slope where feasible to enhance soil coverage. Masticated material will be left on site. No prescribed burning of material will occur.

    b. Treatment of Project Area 50-150 feet from the Road Center

        i. Reduce brush type vegetation to no more than 25% standing vegetation above 4 inches. All trees within this zone will be limbed to 10' or one half the live crown.

        ii. An open stand, mosaic characteristic is desired.

        iii. Treat the cut fuels through physical removal, chipping, or mastication.

        iv. Chipped material will be blown back onto the slope where feasible to enhance soil coverage. Masticated material will be left on site. No prescribed burning of material will occur.

    c. Treatment of Project Area 150-300 feet from the Road Center

        i. Reduce brush type vegetation to no more than 50% standing vegetation above 4 inches. All trees within this zone will be limbed to 10' or one half the live crown.

        ii. The larger standing brush will be pruned to a single trunk and half of the existing height.

        iii. Treat the cut fuels through physical removal, chipping, or mastication.

iv. Chipped material will be blown back onto the slope where feasible to enhance soil coverage. Masticated material will be left on site. No prescribed burning of material will occur.

v. An open stand, mosaic characteristic is desired.

2. Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

   a. Operational Restrictions

      i. No mechanical equipment use on slopes greater than 30% with the following exception:

         1. Mastication can occur on slopes greater than 30% where the equipment is operating on slopes less than 30% and accessing steeper slopes with a (10') boom arm.

      ii. No mechanized equipment in areas that have an Erosion Hazard rating of high.

      iii. Riparian Conservation Area buffers will be applied as per Appendix B: Design Criteria for Southern California National Forests when vegetation treatments occur within or are adjacent to the riparian zones unless approved under Appendix B. Appendix B will permit hand thinning and brush removal with hand tools including chainsaws within the Riparian areas (98 ft. on each side of the stream measured from the bank full edge of the stream)

   b. Federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plant species:

      i. All locations where sensitive plant species are found will be flagged and avoided. If the density of species makes a voiding unfeasible, the area will be excluded from the treatment. Flagging and avoiding these plants will prevent damage from foot and vehicle traffic.

   c. Noxious Weeds

      i. To limit the spread and establishment of invasive plant species (noxious weeds) into the project area, all off-road heavy equipment used during project implementation will be free of noxious weeds and seeds or invasive exotic weeds and seeds before entering the project area. If any equipment enters an area where weeds occur in the project area, it will be washed, especially the undercarriage, to remove weed propagules prior to leaving the project area and into other areas on the forest. Special interest on pioneering invasive weeds, e.g., one Tree-of-Heaven in the floodplain will be removed.

      ii. All equipment staging areas will be located away from areas with noxious weed occurrence and/or the weeds will be removed from the area before it is utilized for stagging.

iii. Project activities will be designed to minimize soil disturbance to the extent practical, consistent with project objectives.

d. Avoidance Measures

i. Wildlife measures will be to flag and avoid nesting birds.

ii. Archaeological study will be completed on the proposed project.

iii. Any scenic integrity measures will be implemented.

iv. Any other recommended protection measures for resources of concern will be implemented.

Bidders shall identify in their proposals what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work as described. Proposals shall be sufficient to guarantee that the selected contractor shall be able to perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner and in accordance with all industry standards.

3. Project Location – The project is approximately 146 acres and entails performing 300 feet of hazardous fuel reduction adjacent to the 2N86 Rd beginning at the forest boundary east of Camp Louis Roth and continuing east approximately three miles to the forest boundary at 2N76 Rd/Haines Debris Basin. There are two areas that will exceed 300 feet in order to meet the forest boundary to the south/southeast of the 2N86 road (Graveyard Trucktrail). See Appendix A: Project Map.

4. Work Schedule – Approximate duration of the project based on a production rate of 3 acres per day and a 5-day work week is 21 working days.

5. Utilities/Work Site Conditions – In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. Bidders shall consider all relevant factors when submitting proposals for this work. Proposals should account for the need of the selected contractor to make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if required. The work location and conditions for this project are as follows:

   Access to the project site will be through the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) gate off of Big Tujunga Canyon Rd. Contractor will need a set of Forest Service keys.

6. Other Requirements

Minimum Insurance. In accordance with the terms of the Services Agreement, prior to the start of any work, the successful Bidder (the “Contractor”) will be required to maintain, and ensure that its subcontractors performing work described in the

proposal (Subcontractors) maintain, the minimum coverages and comply with the insurance requirements indicated below.

a. Coverage Requirements

   i. Commercial General Liability Insurance ("CGL"). Commercial general liability insurance, including bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, advertising injury, products and completed operations and contractual liability in the amount no less than:

      - $1,000,000 each occurrence;
      - $1,000,000 products/completed operations limit;
      - $1,000,000 advertising injury and personal injury limit; and
      - $2,000,000 general aggregate.

   ii. Business Automobile Liability Insurance. If using motor vehicles (owned, hired, or borrowed) to deliver or perform the work described in the proposal, business automobile liability insurance with a minimum limit of $1,000,000 combined single limit each accident for bodily injury and property damage for all owned, rented leased or hired vehicles used in conjunction with the performance of the services.

   iii. Workers' Compensation Insurance. Statutory workers' compensation insurance in accordance with all state and local requirements of the state(s) in which services will be performed.

b. Waiver of Subrogation. All insurance policies shall include a waiver of any and all rights of subrogation or recovery of the insurers thereunder against, inter alia, the NFF, and its assigns, successors, undertakings and their subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, insurers and underwriters, and of any right of the insurers to any set-off or counterclaim or any other deduction, whether by attachment or otherwise, in respect of any liability of any such person insured under any such policy or in any way connected with any loss, liability or obligation covered by such policies of insurance.

c. Primary and non-contributory. With the exception of Workers' Compensation and Professional Liability insurance (if applicable), all insurance required to be maintained by Contractor shall be primary with respect to all claims arising out of Contractor's performance and/or activities under this Agreement, and any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the NFF shall be excess only and not be required to contribute with it.

d. "Claims Made" Coverage. Any liability insurance purchased on a "claims made" basis must be continuously maintained for a period equal to the applicable statute of repose, but in any case, not less than 3 years, following final performance or termination of Services, either through the continued purchase of insurance or the purchase of an extended reporting period. The retroactive date applicable to such "claims made" insurance, if any, must precede the first date on which Services are to be performed.

e. Verification of Coverage. Contractor will have furnished to the NFF original certificates of insurance and amendatory endorsements or copies of the applicable policy language effecting coverage required herein prior to or at the time of execution of the Agreement, and shall further provide evidence that the foregoing is in place and will not be cancelled or reduced during the term of the agreement. Contractor's and any Subcontractors' certificates of insurance will list "The National Forest Foundation" as an Additional Insured on its or their commercial general liability policy and business automobile liability policy (as applicable). Contractor will submit updated certificates of insurance upon expiration of the required policies.

2. Additional Insurance Requirements. In addition to the minimum insurances set-forth above, the NFF reserves the right to request additional coverage as reasonably necessary based on the scope, nature, and risks associated with the services to be performed, including, but not limited to:

a. Commercial/Contractor's Pollution Liability Insurance covering clean-up costs, legal fees, and third-party damages from environmental contamination.

b. Loggers Broad Form Endorsement restoring liability protection for specific property damage and operational risk inherent to forestry operations to Contractor's CGL policy.

c. Umbrella/Excess Liability Insurance raising the limit on existing primary policies if the primary insurance limits are reasonably considered insufficient.

3. Payment/Performance Security. If selected, Bidder(s) shall be required to provide security in the form of cash, a letter of credit, bond, or other financial security that is easily convertible into cash in a form acceptable to the NFF, in its sole determination. The security will be used to ensure completion of the work required under any subsequent agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons. All persons shall include, but not be limited to, those supplying or furnishing to the Bidder or Bidder's Subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. Bidders may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses. Payment or Performance Security will be required in the following amounts, as applicable:

a. For work that is classified as construction in accordance with the Miller Act or Little Miller Act or if required per conditions of the funding source, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the Agreement. For the purposes of this Request for Proposal, construction is defined as "any contract greater than $100,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work where the federal government is the owner."

b. If Contractor is subcontracting 15% or more of the total contract value, or if the cost of materials is in excess of the larger of $100,000 or 50% of the contract total, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the Agreement.

c. If the value of the agreement is in excess of $250,000, Contractor will be required to post financial security in a form acceptable to the NFF in the amount of 5% of the total agreement value up to $250,000 in total financial security.

The NFF will not provide blanket waivers of payment/performance security requirements, though reserves the right to negotiate payment and performance security terms and conditions with a selected Bidder based upon legal requirements and organizational needs and policies.

4. Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment. If selected, Bidder(s) are responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

5. Flowdown Provisions. NFF funding for projects may vary but will frequently include public funds. As such, any Agreement associated with this RFP may be subject to flowdown requirements under associated federal or state funding agreements, which are included and made part of by this reference. Flowdown requirements are not negotiable and will not be removed or edited. While flowdown provisions may change depending on funding, the NFF has identified the following flowdown provisions as currently being required for any Work performed under this RFP and any resulting contract:

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

A. Technical Proposal.

1. Minimum Requirements. Bidders shall submit a technical proposal for the work described in this RFP. Bidders shall consider all relevant factors when submitting proposals for this work. Bidders shall identify in their proposals what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work as described. Proposals should account for the need of the selected contractor to make its own arrangements for temporary utilities and facilities, if required. Proposals shall be sufficient to guarantee that the selected contractor shall be able to perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner and in accordance with all industry standards. At a minimum, each proposal must include the following:

    a. An overview and description of the services, materials, supplies, labor, equipment, utilities, and facilities provided by the Bidder that align with the requests in this RFP.

    b. A description of the project management or administration approach that will be followed by the Bidder to ensure that the identified work is completed on time and within budget.

    c. A project work plan and schedule that lists in detail the stages of work expected to be completed in this project, all identifiable deliverables, and the dates on which the Bidder would anticipate being able to complete delivery of the work.

    d. Any change or risk management approaches utilized by the Bidder when completing projects of the type described in this RFP.

    e. A project personnel overview identifying key personnel to be utilized if selected to perform the work described in this RFP and any relevant or required credentials or certifications held by the key personnel.

B. **Bidder Qualifications**. Bidders shall submit a statement of their qualifications for the work described in this RFP. The statement should include the following items in narrative format:

1. Experience –

    a. Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies, noting specifically any work performed on National Forests or Grasslands.

    b. Please provide a listing of relevant projects of similar size, scope, and total value performed by the Bidder within the past 5 years.

2. References –

a. Please provide three professional references, identifying as applicable any government or conservation nonprofit references.

b. Provide the name, email address, and telephone number for each reference, as well as the dates of the projects during which the Bidder worked with each reference.

C. Failed Projects or Legal Actions

Bidders shall identify any past failed projects and the reasoning behind the failure or incompletion. Bidders shall also identify any and all current or pending legal matters in which the Bidder or any of its principals is involved.

D. **Pricing Schedule.** Bidders shall price work according to the schedule below. If Bidders believe that an alternative method of pricing is more applicable, they may also provide an alternative pricing schedule in addition to the format requested below.

The NFF, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to utilize any alternative pricing schedule proposed by any Bidders.

All quantities and measurements identified in this RFP are based upon the best knowledge available to the NFF and are subject to change.

Due to the dynamic and changing nature of NFF funding, the NFF reserves the right to negotiate an increased cost with the selected Bidder in the event that prevailing wages become required for the work described in this RFP.

If the opportunity to add additional funding to the work described in this RFP arises, the NFF may increase the quantities of work to be performed as part of this project, as agreed upon by the NFF and the selected Bidder.

	Task/Item	**Units**	**Unit Cost**	**Extended Cost**
(a)	Fuels Reduction	146 Acres		

E. Payment Schedule. Bidders shall submit a proposed payment schedule consistent with their proposed pricing structure. Lump sum proposals should identify invoicing milestones tied to deliverables or project phases, while time-and-materials proposals should identify the anticipated invoicing frequency, cost of materials/supplies, and the applicable rates for invoicing. Proposed payment schedules are for evaluation purposes only. The final payment structure and

invoicing terms will be negotiated with the selected Bidder and incorporated into the executed agreement.

Invoice Number	**Milestone/Deliverable**	**Corresponding Cost**
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
	Agreement Total	

F. Insurance Information. Bidders must identify the insurance coverage currently in place. If available, please attach sample certificates of insurance.

III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS

A. Bidder Selection Process:

1. Bid Submission. Bidders shall submit proposals containing all of the required information described above via email at the address specified below by the stated deadline:

   Submission Address: mdaneri@nationalforests.org

   Submission Deadline: 4:00 pm on October 29, 2026.

   Proposals submitted after this RFP closes will not be considered unless approved by the NFF. The NFF will review all proposals determined to be responsive using the evaluation factors listed below. Proposals may be deemed non-responsive for failure to submit any required information or for failure to comply with any terms of this RFP. Non-responsive proposals may be disqualified from evaluation in the sole discretion of the NFF.

b. Notification

   If a proposal is selected by the NFF to advance to the contracting stage, the NFF will notify the successful Bidder via email by November 30. Once the selected Bidder has been notified, the NFF project representative will coordinate the drafting and negotiation of an NFF agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the work to be performed.

   Unsuccessful Bidders will be notified via email as soon as possible after the closing date of this RFP. Please Note: The NFF **will not** share any information about the organizations submitting proposals nor any information regarding the proposals submitted by other organizations. If a Bidder has questions about its proposal, the Bidder may ask the NFF Point of Contact identified below. If an answer can be provided, the NFF will respond via email as soon as it is able to do so.

c. Request for Proposals Only

   This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished do not bind the NFF in any way. Selection of a bid will result in the opportunity to contract with the NFF but will not guarantee a resulting contract or any amount of work. The NFF reserves the right to disqualify any incomplete or improper proposal submitted as non-responsive. The NFF may also decide not to select any proposals submitted to this RFP for advancement to contract negotiations. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposal or to contract for supplies or services.

B. Evaluation Factors and Scoring

The following factors will be used to evaluate any responsive submitted proposals. The factors, as listed, are ordered from highest priority (Level 3) to lowest priority (Level 1). Each factor can receive a score from 1 point to 3 points.

The number of points awarded will be multiplied by the priority level to determine the total score for each factor. (Example: If Price/Cost (level 3) is awarded 2 points, the total score for price would be 6 points.)

Level 3 Criteria

- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines

Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community

C. Pre-Bid Site Visit

The NFF and the Forest Service will host an optional pre-bid site visit on October 15, 2026. Please meet at turnout at Big Tujunga Canyon Rd and the Graveyard Truck Trail area at 10:30 a.m. The address is located on Big Tujunga Canyon RD, Tujunga, CA 91042. The group will travel together to the project site from there.

Please notify the NFF (Point of Contact listed below) if you plan to attend the site visit.

D. Point of Contact

Any questions about this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing to the NFF contact identified below. Questions determined to be of importance to all potential Bidders will be posted as an attachment to an updated version of this RFP at https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp.

Michelle Daneri
National Forest Foundation Southern California Program Coordinator
mdaneri@nationalforests.org

E. Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to mdaneri@nationalforests.org by October 29, 2026.

F. Equal Opportunity Provider

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

Appendix A Project Map

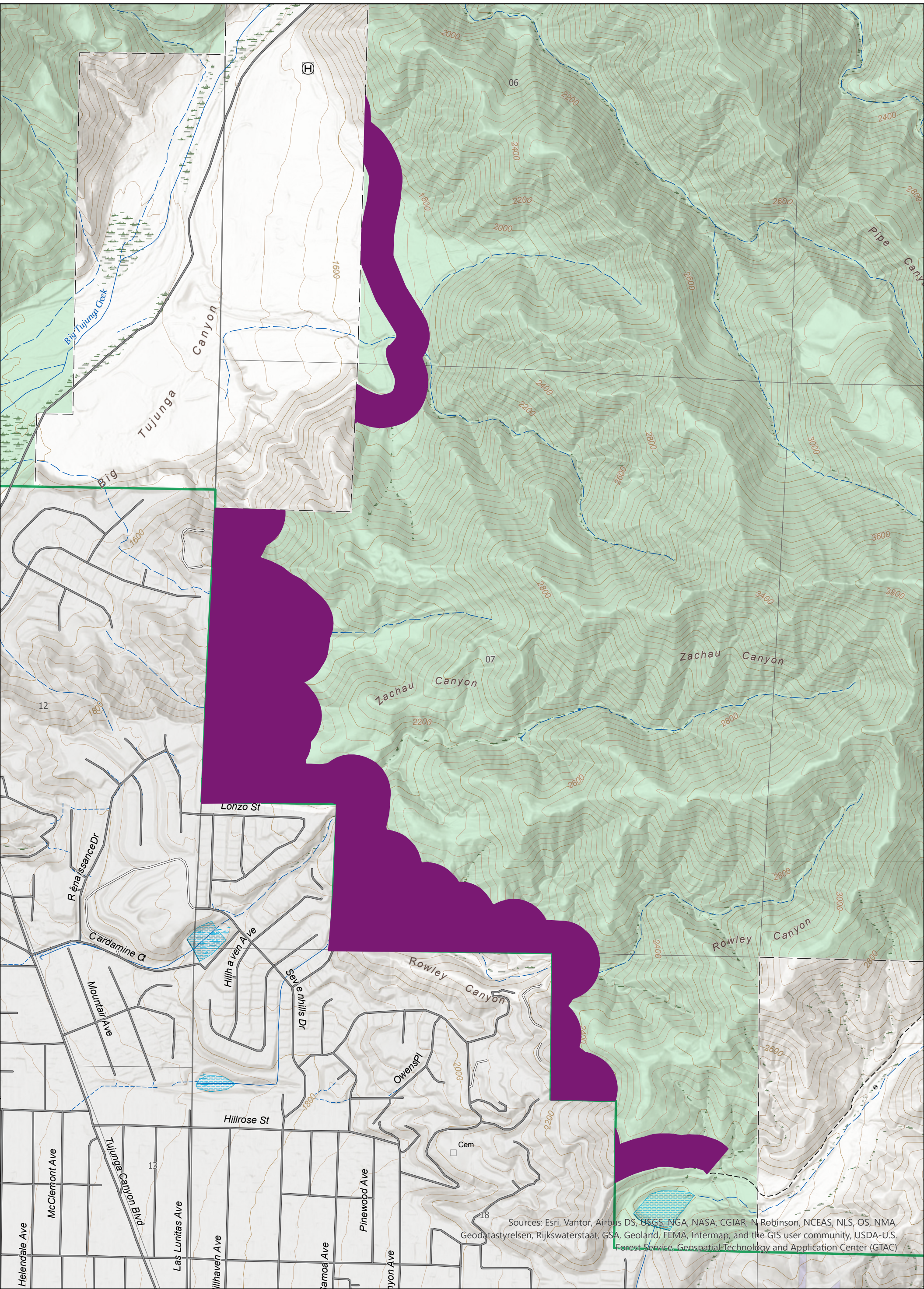
Sunland

N

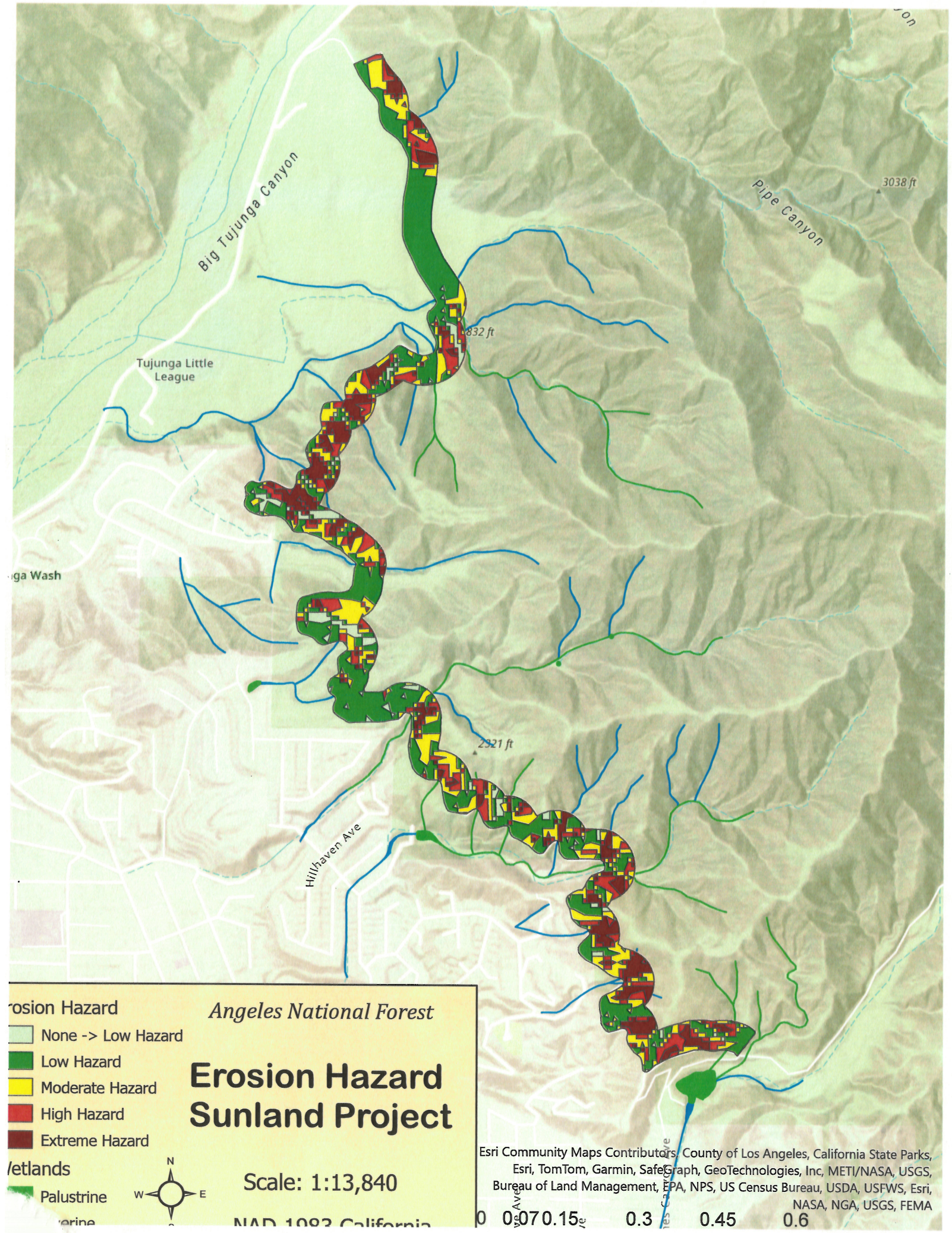
Sunland

Scale: 1:9,204

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Sources: Esri, Vantor, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap, and the GIS user community, USDA-U.S. Forest Service, Geospatial Technology and Application Center (GTAC)


Big Tujunga Canyon
Pipe Canyon
3038 ft
832 ft
Tujunga Little League
ga Wash
2321 ft
Hillhaven Ave
rosion Hazard
None -> Low Hazard
Low Hazard
Moderate Hazard
High Hazard
Extreme Hazard
Wetlands
Palustrine
Angeles National Forest
Erosion Hazard
Sunland Project
N
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Scale: 1:13,840
NAD 1983 California
Esri Community Maps Contributors, County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
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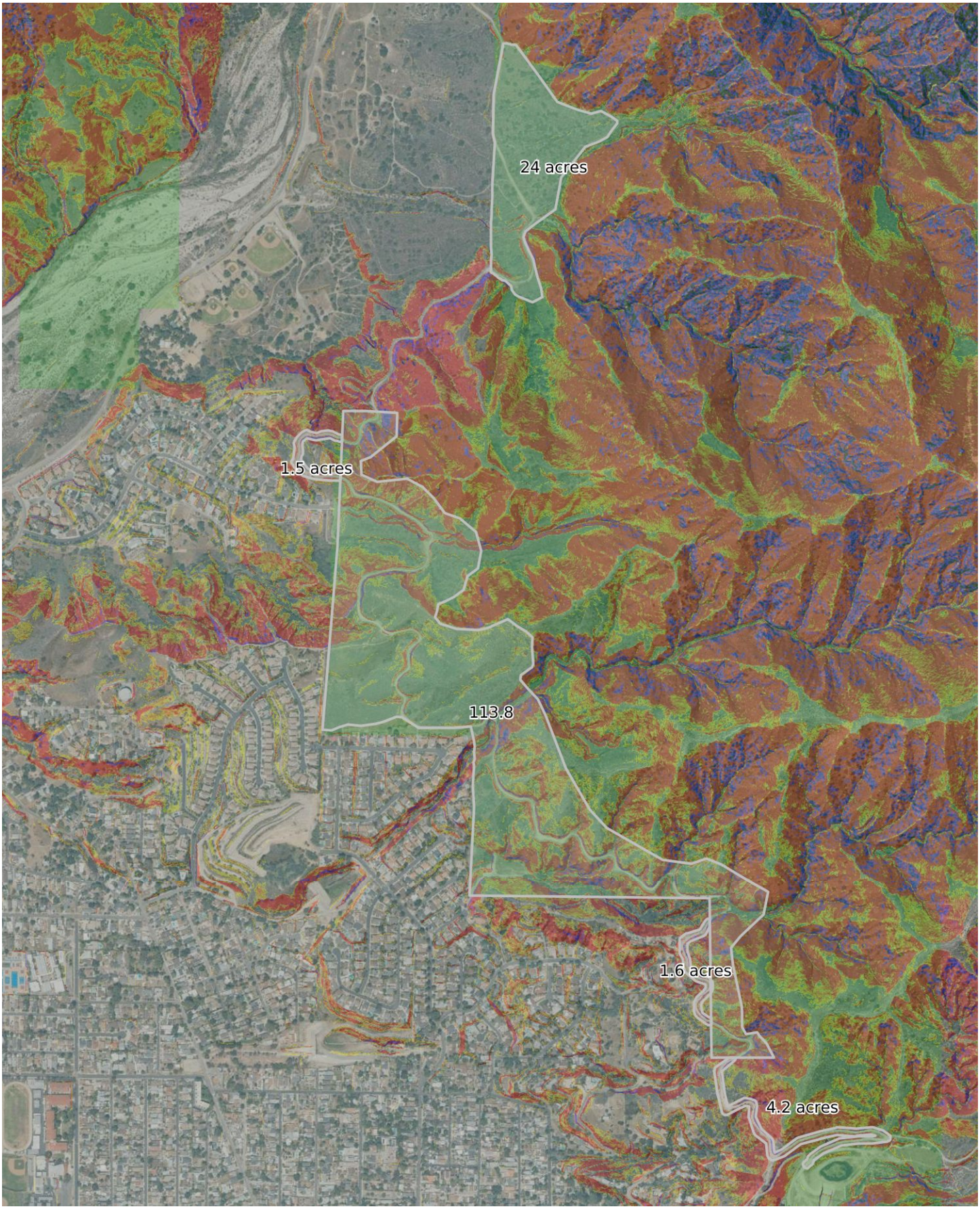

Mercator Projection
WGS84
UTM Zone 11S
CALTOPO

0.5 1.0 1.5 km
0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 mi
USDA Farm Service Agency. Scale **1:12967** 1 inch = 1081 feet

MN
11.4º

Appendix B - Five-Step Project Screening Process for Riparian Conservation Areas

The ***Five-Step Project Screening Process for Riparian Conservation Areas*** described below is used to assist in ensuring that riparian conservation areas (RCAs) are recognized, emphasized and managed appropriately during new project planning and implementation.

This screening process is used in addition to the land allocation restrictions that apply to the project area. For example, mechanized fuels treatments are allowed in riparian conservation areas (based on consistency with the riparian management objectives). However, where a riparian conservation area overlaps with a wilderness area, treatments are limited to non-mechanized and non-motorized methods.

The management objectives for riparian conservation areas are listed in Part 2 of the forest plan, Appendix B, WAT 1 - Watershed Function and WAT 2 - Water Management. The riparian management objectives serve as a check for evaluating management prescriptions to determine if a proposed activity will move an area toward the riparian desired conditions described in Part 1, Goal 5.2 - Improve Riparian Conditions, of the forest plan.

Activities are designed to protect, maintain, or restore the riparian ecosystem. In the riparian conservation areas that include perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, and wetlands allow only those actions that maintain or improve long-term aquatic and riparian ecosystem health including quantity, quality, and timing of stream flows.

Five-Step Project Screening Process for Riparian Conservation Areas:

Step 1:

Determine riparian conservation area width by stream type based on the following criteria:

Stream Type	Width Of The Riparian Conservation Area
Perennial Streams	328 feet (100 meters) on each side of the stream, measured from the bank full edge of the stream
Seasonally Flowing/Intermittent Streams	98 feet (30 meters) on each side of the stream, measured from the bank full edge of the stream
Streams In Inner Gorge (*)	Top of inner gorge
Special aquatic features (**) or perennial streams with riparian conditions extending more than 164 feet (50 meters) from edge of streambank, or seasonally flowing/intermittent streams with riparian conditions extending more than 33 feet (10 meters) from edge of streambank	328 feet (100 meters)from edge of feature or riparian vegetation, whichever width is greater
Other hydrological or topographic depressions without a defined channel (meadows, vernal pools)	RCA width and protection measures determined through project level analysis

(*) Inner gorge is defined by adjacent stream slopes greater than 70 percent gradient
(**) Special Aquatic Features include: lakes, ponds, wetlands, seeps, and springs

Step 2:

Use the environmental GIS layer and species accounts to determine additional protective RCA widths specific to individual species or suites of species (e.g., arroyo toad has a topographical contour distance from water, etc.).

Step 3:

Screen new projects against the riparian and aquatic desired conditions (Part 1, Strategic Goals - Goal 5.2 - Riparian Condition and Goal 6.2 - Biological Resource Conditions), and recovery plans for federally listed riparian dependent species to determine if the proposal is either neutral or will move the area closer towards the desired conditions. If it does, then proceed to Step 4. If it does not, there is a need to modify the project proposal, deny the proposal or complete a project-driven land management plan amendment.

Step 4:

Screen new projects against the forest plan riparian management objectives (Part 2, Appendix B Program Strategies and Tactics, WAT-1 and WAT-2) to ensure that the project incorporates one or more of the listed strategies. As part of the analysis consider physical factors, such as soil characteristics, groundwater and surface water characteristics, geology and geologic hazards, slope, and stream characteristics; and biological factors, such as aquatic and riparian dependent species present, their habitat needs (see species guidance documents in Part 3, Appendix H), and the ability of the existing environment to provide needed habitat.

Step 5:

Refer to *Forest Service Handbook (FSH 2509.22) - Forest Supplement* for specific guidance about management tactics to apply when conducting activities within RCAs.

Note: Modification of specific RCA widths for individual projects is possible if a need is identified during the interdisciplinary team (IDT) process; an earth scientist or biologist has participated in the proposed change; and it has become part of the proposed action for Line Officer approval. Use a peer review process for vegetation treatments or other activities proposed within an RCA that are likely to significantly affect riparian or aquatic resources.