

For Immediate Release 04/13/2021

Nina Martynn
Communications Coordinator
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
530-284-1364

nmartynn@sierrainstitute.us
www.sierrainstitute.us



Historic wildfire seasons have elevated awareness and increased urgency around forest management. To help fill this critical need, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment was awarded one million dollars for a High Road to Forest Restoration Partnership that will provide pathways to jobs and on the job training to develop the workforce needed for crucial landscape restoration in the forests of central and northern California.

Coordinated by Sierra Institute, this partnership is a key step in building a regional capacity to train the workforce needed to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk. Communities most impacted by forest health will see expanded career opportunities within the forest sector, with jobs geared toward landscape stewardship, climate-mitigating and fire risk-reduction projects, and environmentally sustainable practices.

The partnership is anchored in the central and northern Sierra Nevada and is focused on building capacity for Tribal forest restoration crews. Partners include two non-profit organizations, two community colleges and several Tribes along with others involved in the Intertribal Stewardship Workforce Initiative. A key goal of the partnership is to increase skills and opportunities for those who have faced barriers to employment due to historical injustices including Tribal members, residents of low-income rural communities and those with previous justice system involvement.

The Sierra Institute focuses on projects with a triple bottom line—community, environment, economy—making them an ideal partner in this venture. The program is part of the California Workforce Development Board’s High Road Training Partnership, which is funded through California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health, and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.