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HIGH ROAD
TRAINING PARTNERSHIP



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 multi-agency 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.

Key partners are Sierra Institute and Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions (CHIPS), tribes and community colleges, including Feather River College. The program will include paid work experience and training for individuals already working on forest restoration crews, as well as community members interested in forest restoration work. A key focus is on advancing training for those interested as well as helping tribes launch crews. Training events will be listed on the Sierra Institute website and advertised through local channels. The program starts in June with a kick off soon after. Shasta Community College, Feather River College, Big Sandy Rancheria and Greenville Rancheria are also involved as training partners. CHIPS currently runs forest restoration crews in partnership with a number of tribes, and Sierra Institute runs its youth crews, wilderness fuels modules and new swamper crews for which we're still advertising for participants this summer. CHIPS' crews are staffed mostly by tribal members from the central Sierra region and from Paradise and Magalia area, while Sierra Institute crews are staffed by youth, young adults and others from our local communities and beyond. A strategic 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.