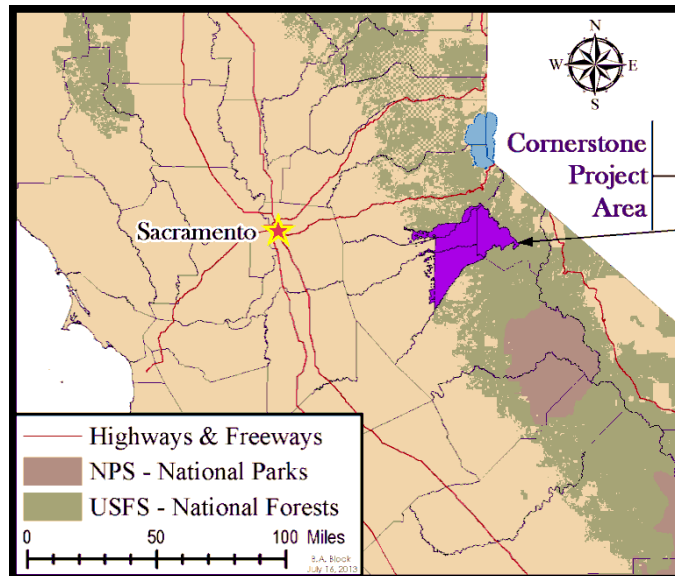




USDA Forest Service Stanislaus NF Cornerstone Project

Cornerstone Project of the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) Stanislaus and Eldorado National Forests



The Cornerstone Project of the ACCG is a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) project that addresses landscape restoration over ten years located on 390,904 acres of National Forest System lands on the Amador and Calaveras Ranger Districts. The Cornerstone collaborative group includes approximately 28 groups and a few unaffiliated individuals within four counties, as well as activities on private, state, and county lands that are leveraged in addition to CFLRP funds. The focus area is the upper reaches of the Mokelumne River headwater area, and the CFLRP purpose is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.

In 2012 the Forest Service Chief Tidwell said, “*Accelerated restoration efforts demonstrate a shared vision where environmentalists, forest industry and local communities are working together to build healthier forests and contribute to local economies.*” The Forest Service has increased the pace of restoration efforts for National Forest System (NFS) lands. In 2012 CFLRP started providing funding for 20 new and continuing watershed restoration projects, one of which was our local **Cornerstone project** ([weblink](#)). The Forest Service Chief is committed to restoring forests and bringing jobs to rural America through the use of partnerships with states, communities, tribes and other local interest groups ([weblink](#)). The CFLRP strategy and actions are designed to expand the number of treated acres by 20 percent over the next three years and increase the pace of active forest management. Projects include fuels reduction, reforestation, riparian and meadow restoration, road decommissioning, replacing and improving culverts, forest thinning and harvesting, and prescribed fire ([weblink](#)).

The Cornerstone project specifically also includes: restoration and maintenance of high-value watersheds, grant assistance, habitat restoration, forest stand improvements, weed control, range improvements (see below photo), support to build and open a small “wood to energy“ biomass plant in Calaveras County, local job creation and expansion of local economies including the Master Participating Agreement with the Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS), support to the Amador Fire Safe Council, Indian Valley Volunteer Day, Callecatt Ecological Restoration project, Ramsey Fire Salvage (see photo below), a multiparty monitoring plan, and trail projects including the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail.

The Cornerstone has annual reports that track funds spent and report goal and performance measures. Goals 1 through 4 of the Implementation Plan include the following themes: improve fire prevention and suppression, reduce hazardous fuels, restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems, restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-adapted ecosystem, and promotion of community assistance. The average annual CFLRP funding request is 1.7 million dollars for Cornerstone projects, and is leveraged by matching funds from the two national forests, other Cornerstone cooperators, and in-kind services. The large 2013 Rim fire (on other sections of the Stanislaus NF and on Yosemite NP) may alter the previously predicted volume of tree sales related to the amount of post-fire salvage and the capacity of local industry to process salvage timber and green-tree sales, and therefore may alter Cornerstone proposed accomplishments for FY 2014 and 2015. For more information about the Cornerstone project and the annual report, see ([weblink](#) and [weblink](#)).



Indian Valley Restoration Field Trip, photo by Foothill Conservancy



Ramsey fire, 2012, on the Calaveras Ranger District burned approximately 1,200 acres. Some burned trees were salvaged and sold in 2013, and restoration efforts continue.