



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RELEASE: New Partnership between the Central Sierra Resiliency Fund and Blue Forest Conservation Seeks to Develop Sustainable Financial Solutions for Creek Fire Recovery

SHAVER LAKE, CALIFORNIA – March 2022. The Central Sierra Resiliency Fund (Resiliency Fund) is proud to announce its partnership with Blue Forest Conservation (Blue Forest) to develop financial solutions addressing the long term environmental impacts of the 2020 Creek Fire, including the financing of hazard tree removal, ecological thinning, site prep and tree planting on public and private lands.

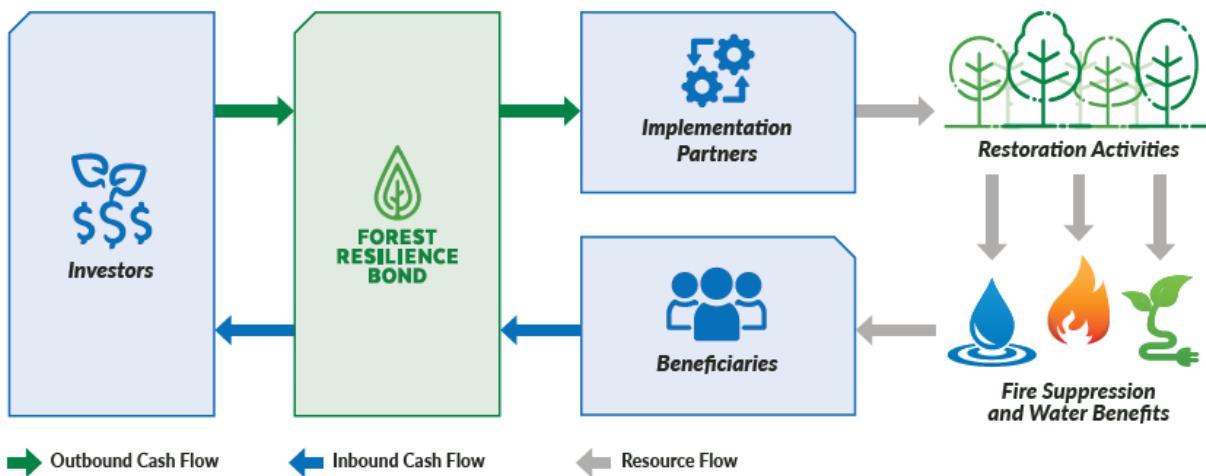
Our organizations recognize that catastrophic wildfires, both past and future, constitute a significant threat to the forest, water resources, infrastructure, and communities of the Central Sierra region of Fresno County. In light of the 2020 Creek Fire, we have committed to work together with the goal of restoring public and private lands in order to both mitigate the post-fire impacts of the Creek Fire and reduce the risk of future wildfires in unburned areas.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Central Sierra Resiliency Fund, and are proud to collaborate with a grassroots organization providing much-needed resources to the communities impacted by the Creek Fire. The Forest Resilience Bond has provided support to fuel reduction projects on U.S. Forest Service lands, and we are excited to expand conservation finance mechanisms to post-fire recovery projects,” said **Nick Wobbrock, Blue Forest Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer.** “With the FRB, we can accelerate the pace and scale of ecologically sound forest restoration and reforestation across the millions of acres that have burned in the past several years alone - these treatments reduce the risk of future wildfire, protect water security, and provide benefits that will safeguard ecosystems and local communities for years to come.”

Together in partnership with the Sierra National Forest, the Resiliency Fund, and Blue Forest are seeking to use innovative financial mechanisms to support the implementation of reforestation projects in areas impacted by the Creek Fire. The landscape pre-Creek Fire had already been impacted significantly by the bark beetle, resulting in many standing dead pine trees. The Creek Fire then burned at high intensity throughout this landscape, facilitated in part by the fuels made available by bark beetle infestation.

“We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Blue Forest and are looking forward to supporting critical reforestation efforts and forest management projects in our local region,” says **Resiliency Fund Council Member Juli Stewart.** “We are excited to connect our community with the experience and expertise that Blue Forest brings to these efforts, partnering with both public and private land managers to work towards landscape level resilience.”

FLOW OF FUNDS OF THE FOREST RESILIENCE BOND



Our collaboration will support restoration and post-wildfire recovery in areas that still have the capacity to provide natural regeneration of forest stands through seeding, and to replant in the high severity burn patches, focusing on species of high ecological value including sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). In addition to reforesting and mitigating future wildfire risk, these management activities will benefit water quality, protect biodiversity and air quality, increase reliability of hydropower systems, and promote carbon sequestration.

About Central Sierra Resiliency Fund

The Central Sierra Resiliency Fund's mission is to support the revitalization of the forests and communities surrounding Shaver Lake through land restoration, local stewardship, and economic efforts that honor the historical legacy of the Central Sierra region. The Resiliency Fund is a community initiative held at the Central Sierra Historical Society and Museum. Local community members and concerned professionals have collaborated to create a Resiliency Council to administer the restricted fund and determine funding recipients. The Council is partnering with other local, state, and national organizations to ensure resources to empower the mountain community to get people living, working, and recreating on the mountain again. For more information, visit: <https://museumofthesierra.org/resiliencyfund> or follow the Resiliency Fund on Facebook (@sierraresiliencyfund) and Instagram (@resiliencyfund).

About Blue Forest Conservation

Blue Forest is a non-profit organization creating sustainable financial solutions to meet pressing environmental challenges. We work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to provide financial support to fund conservation and climate resilience projects on landscapes. Our flagship financial product, the [Forest Resilience Bond](#) (FRB), deploys private capital to finance forest restoration projects on private and public lands to reduce the impact of catastrophic wildfire. Learn more at <https://www.blueforest.org/> or on Twitter (@BlueForestConsrv).