



## California Department of Fish and Wildlife Upland Game Bird Account

- 1. Project Title:** Cleveland-Icehouse Forest Health Project
- 2. Amount Requested:** \$48,072.00
- 3. Applicant Contact Information:** National Wild Turkey Federation, Tax ID# 57-0564993

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#### 4. Introduction:

Project type: *Hunter opportunity*, includes habitat improvement, outreach, education and land acquisition. The mission of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is *dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage*. As such, the NWTF recognizes that projects that improve habitats for one species serves the same for a variety of other species of wildlife. The Cleveland-Icehouse Area is an approximate 20,000 acre landscape located on the Pacific and Placerville Ranger Districts of the Eldorado National Forest within the South Fork American River Watershed (Figure 1). Ponderosa pine plantations were established following the loss of forest cover due to high severity wildfires occurring during the 1992 Cleveland Fire and 1959 Icehouse Fire. The Cleveland-Icehouse Forest Health Project (FHP) is located within the fire scars, and consists of approximately 3,000 acres of ponderosa pine plantations and neighboring natural stands that are at risk of loss to catastrophic wildfire as well as insect and disease (Figure 2). However, in order to maintain and continue to advance these plantations to provide resilient forest conditions which support clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and wood products into the future, additional work is needed to achieve and maintain the future desired condition of this landscape.

In the project areas current state, it poses little benefit to wild turkeys and mountain quail habitat, where 100% canopy cover has eliminated shrub growth along with the growth of annual grasses and forbs. Conifer encroachment of hardwoods in the project area is also leading to a loss in stand diversity and a reduction in acorn mast production, a vital three season food source for wild turkeys in California. This creates an important need for this project on a landscape scale to benefit upland game birds.

#### 5. Project Description:

The Eldorado National Forest has engaged in a 10-year Stewardship Agreement with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) to help implement and administer the Cleveland-Icehouse FHP. The NWTF will oversee contractor administration, treatment design, implementation, and project financing in conjunction with the project lead from the USDA Forest Service. Implementation of the project will continue to grow as funds are acquired throughout the life of the agreement.

The Cleveland-Icehouse Forest Health Project is a 2,976 acre forest thinning project, broken up into 90 separate units. Of those 90 units, 38 units (1,716 acres) are currently under contract, and the NWTF has acquired the funding to complete 20 units (481 acres). That leaves 32 units (779 acres) currently in need of funding.

Of the 481 acre total, 211 acres will be commercially thinned with the objective of decreasing stand densities to attain a residual basal area that would vary from approximately 60 to 100 ft<sup>2</sup>/ acre. Additionally, 205 acres will be treated by mechanical mastication, focused on increasing residual tree health, stand heterogeneity, and rearranging fuels to decrease fuel ladders and canopy continuity. An additional 65 acres will be treated by hand thinning timber to create the same desired outcome where mechanical masticators are not feasible.

All oak trees in the project area will remain and be cleared around to maintain stand diversity and species heterogeneity.

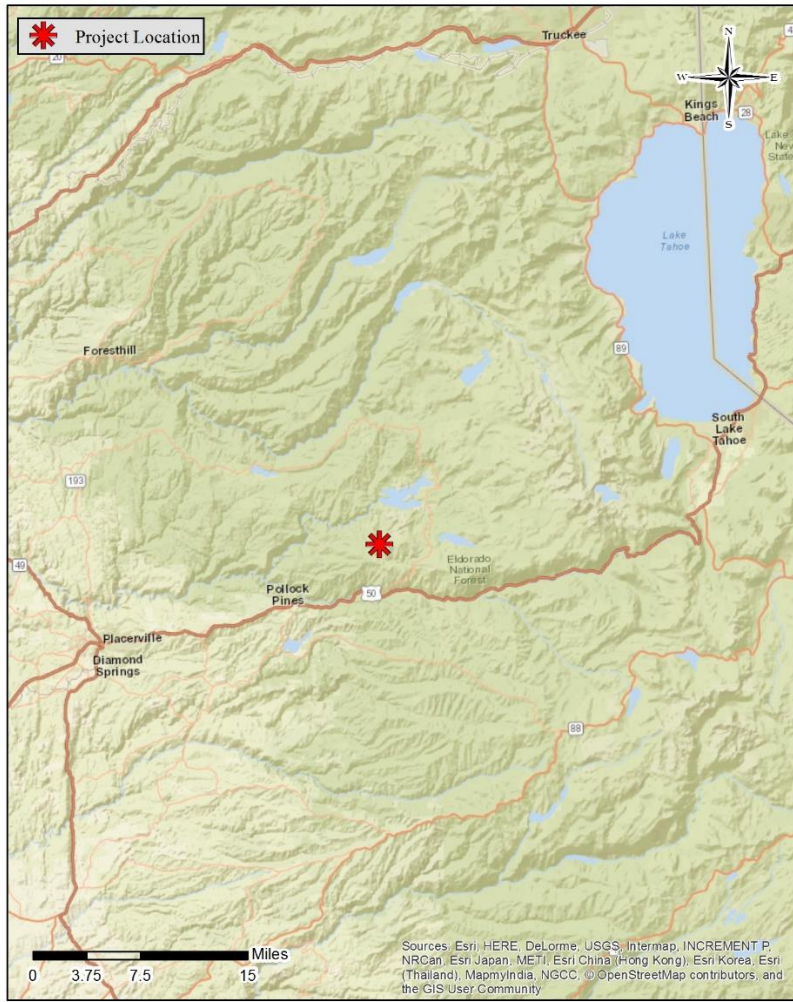
NWTF is requesting \$50,000 toward this project from CDA, and \$200,000 from the CDFW Big Game Management Account. If funded, these dollars will help complete 262.5 more acres through mastication. NWTF respectfully requests that the Upland Game Bird Account provide additional funding to implement the treatment of 50 additional acres through mastication.

Item Number	Description	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Unit Price \$	Total \$
1	Commercial Thin Plantations (Non-commercial material)	Acre	211	\$100	\$21,100
2	Mastication	Acre	205	\$800	\$164,000
2a*	Mastication	Acre	62.5	\$800	\$50,000
2b*	Mastication	Acre	200	\$800	\$160,000
2c*	Mastication	Acre	50	\$800	\$40,000
3	Hand Thinning	Acre	65	\$1000	\$65,000
Total					\$500,100

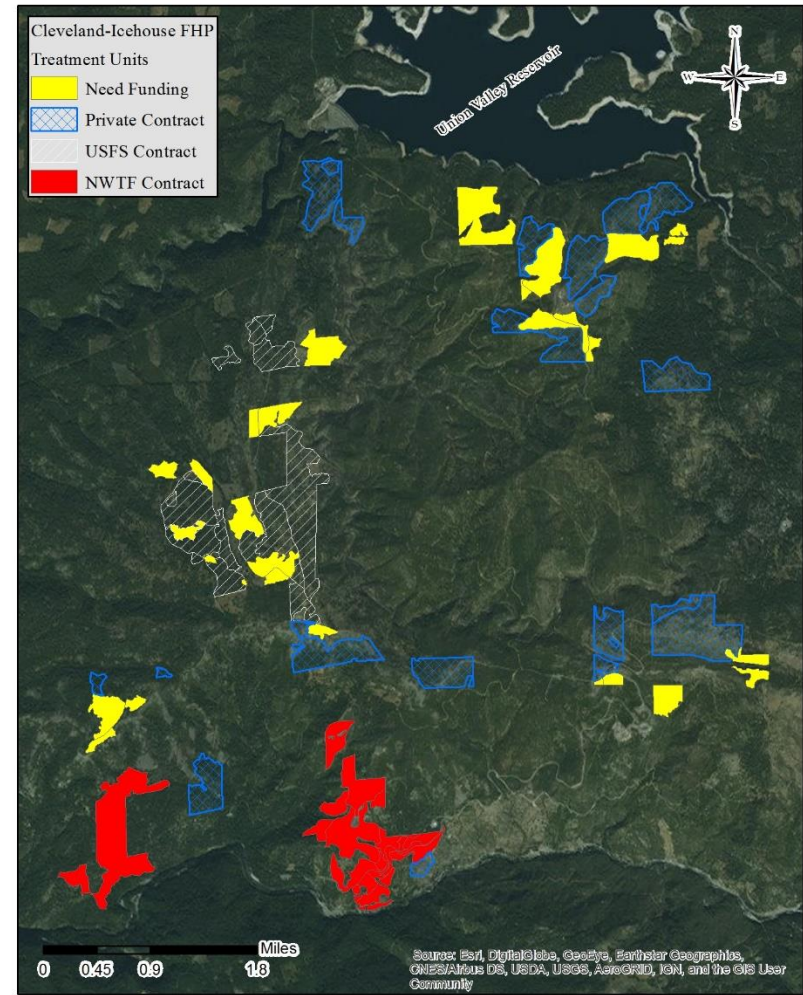
a\* are acres associated with potential California Deer Association Funds.

b\* are acres associated with potential Big Game Management Funds.

c\* are acres associated with potential Upland Game Bird Funds.



**Figure 1.** Location Map of the Cleveland-Icehouse Forest Health Project (FHP).



**Figure 2.** Project Map of the Cleveland-Icehouse Forest Health Project (FHP).

## **6. Expected Benefits:**

The Eldorado National Forest is one of the most popular forests for wild turkey hunters in California, and the Cleveland-Icehouse Forest Health Project will enhance upland game bird habitat on 481 acres of public hunting land within that landscape. Benefits will include the increased production of shrubs, along with annual grasses and forbs, which are all important spring and summer food resources for wild turkeys and mountain quail. The growth of herbaceous plants that will occur post-treatment will create beneficial nesting cover for wild turkeys, who prefer lateral cover up to 1 meter in height. Stand diversity will increase through the reduction of ponderosa pine encroachment on hardwood species, which will also maintain acorn production.

Once treated, these stands will be much more resilient to landscape level disturbance events, such as catastrophic wildfire, and large scale insect and disease infestation. The project area will be able to be managed in the future through prescribed fire, where low-severity fire conditions will help to set back overgrown understory succession, and enhance the quality of forage for upland game birds.

## 7. Itemized Budget

<b>Upland Game Bird Grant Account Proposal</b>							
		<b>Location</b>			<b>Grant Request</b>		
<b>LINE ITEM BUDGET FOR:</b>	<b>Cleveland-Icehouse FHP</b>	<b>Eldorado National Forest</b>			<b>\$48,072.00</b>		
<b>PERSONNEL (GRANTEE STAFF):</b>							
	<b>Staff Title</b>	<b>Rate *</b>			<b>Unit</b>		
	NWTF Staff Salary/Labor	\$44.23	per hour	@	700	hours	\$30,961.00
	Contract Inspector	\$35.00	per hour	@	400	hours	\$14,000.00
	Mileage	\$0.535	per mile	@	4050	miles	\$2,166.75
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES:</b>							<b><u>\$47,127.75</u></b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE:</b>							
	<b>Work/Item Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Units</b>		<b>Cost/Unit</b>		
	Commercial Thin	211	acres	@	\$100.00	per acre	\$21,100.00
	Mastication - NWTF Funds	205	acres	@	\$800.00	per acre	\$164,000.00
	Mastication - CDA Funds**	62.5	acres	@	\$800.00	per acre	\$50,000.00
	Mastication - Big Game Funds**	200	acres	@	\$800.00	per acre	\$160,000.00
	<b>Mastication - Upland Game Funds</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>acres</b>	<b>@</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>per acre</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>
	Hand Thinning - NWTF Funds	65	acres	@	\$1,000.00	per acre	\$65,000.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>							<b><u>\$500,100.00</u></b>
<b>GRANT ADMINISTRATION:</b>							
	<b>Work/Item Description</b>	<b>NWTF's Federally-Approved Overhead Rate</b>			<b>Cost/Unit</b>		
	Commercial Thin	20.18%		@	\$21,100.00		\$4,257.98
	Mastication - NWTF Funds	20.18%		@	\$164,000.00		\$33,095.20
	Mastication - CDA Funds**	20.18%		@	\$50,000.00		\$10,090.00
	Mastication - Big Game Funds**	20.18%		@	\$160,000.00		\$32,288.00
	<b>Mastication - Upland Game Funds</b>	<b>20.18%</b>		<b>@</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>		<b>\$8,072.00</b>
	Hand Thinning - NWTF Funds	20.18%		@	\$65,000.00		\$13,117.00
<b>TOTAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:</b>							<b><u>\$100,920.18</u></b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST:</b>							<b><u>\$648,147.93</u></b>

\* Includes fringe benefits

\*\*Funds have been requested, but have not yet been awarded or secured