



**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo**

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Alex Keeble-Toll – Director of Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving and accepting National Forest Foundation for funds for the Nevada County Community Resilience Project (RS-541) in the amount of \$7,000,000 for use from June 10, 2026 through August 31, 2028, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the grant agreement and all documents necessary to fulfill the requirements of the grant and directing the Auditor Controller to amend the fiscal year 2026/27 Emergency Services budget (4/5 Affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The Project will run through the Office of Emergency Services budget. A budget amendment in the amount of \$3,500,000 in revenues and expenditures is requested for approval as an estimate for the projected spend for fiscal year 2026/27 Emergency Services budget.

BACKGROUND: The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) have a vested interest in supporting wildfire resilient communities and landscapes in Nevada County by securing funding for and implementing projects on or with benefit to National Forest System (NFS) lands.

In 2025, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) completed a comprehensive County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) (Res. 25-064), which identified significant areas on TNF as being a high priority for projects. Likewise, the 2024 Evacuation Study (File No. 24-0695) identified key ingress and egress across or adjacent to TNF land.

Treatment of roadside fuels on TNF to improve evacuation outcomes is a shared objective between TNF and OES. On July 9, 2024 the County of Nevada executed the first-ever

Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) with USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest (Res. 24-411) to begin addressing roadside fuels in East County recreation areas.

On January 14, 2025 a second GNA was executed (Res. 25-031) for work along Cruzon Grade, a critical evacuation route for San Juan Ridge residents identified as a priority in the 2024 Evacuation Study.

On July 14, 2026 a third GNA was executed for work (SR 26-0551) in collaboration with Truckee Fire Protection District (TFPD) in an area identified as a priority in the TFPD CWPP.

In 2026, TNF instructed the NFF to allocate \$7,000,000 in USFS funds to their Directed Grant Program so that OES could apply for these funds. On April 14, 2026 OES received approval from the Board of Supervisors to apply to the NFF Directed Grant Program (Res. 26-130) and on June 9, 2026, OES was awarded \$7,000,000 in funding from the NFF through the 2026 Strategic Projects Initiative

The NFF Directed Grant funds are intended to support fuel mitigation activities across approximately 1,528 acres on TNF, primarily in District 5. Project areas include TNF land in the vicinity of Cascades Shores, Highway 20, Cruzon Grade, the Town of Washington, Bowman Lake, Gaston Ridge, and Lowell Hill Ridge.

Grant funded activities would include thinning of small diameter trees, removal of surface and ladder fuels, mechanical methods, manual methods, and targeted herbicide for invasives. This work would be accompanied by and complementary to timber removal and sale across the same acreage, improving ingress/egress, mitigating the risk of wildfire, and enhancing forest health.

As the project would take place on the Tahoe National Forest, the appropriate authority is required for OES to implement this work. Authority to implement the Nevada County Community Resilience Project (RS-541) is included in the Evacuation Safety Corridor and Protection Enhancements (ESCAPE) Good Neighbor Agreement between the USDA Forest Service and OES (SR 26-0585), which is being brought to the Board of Supervisors as a separate item.

Item Initiated by: Corinne Benson, Administrative Analyst II

Approved by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services