



**Programs Report**  
**August 2019**

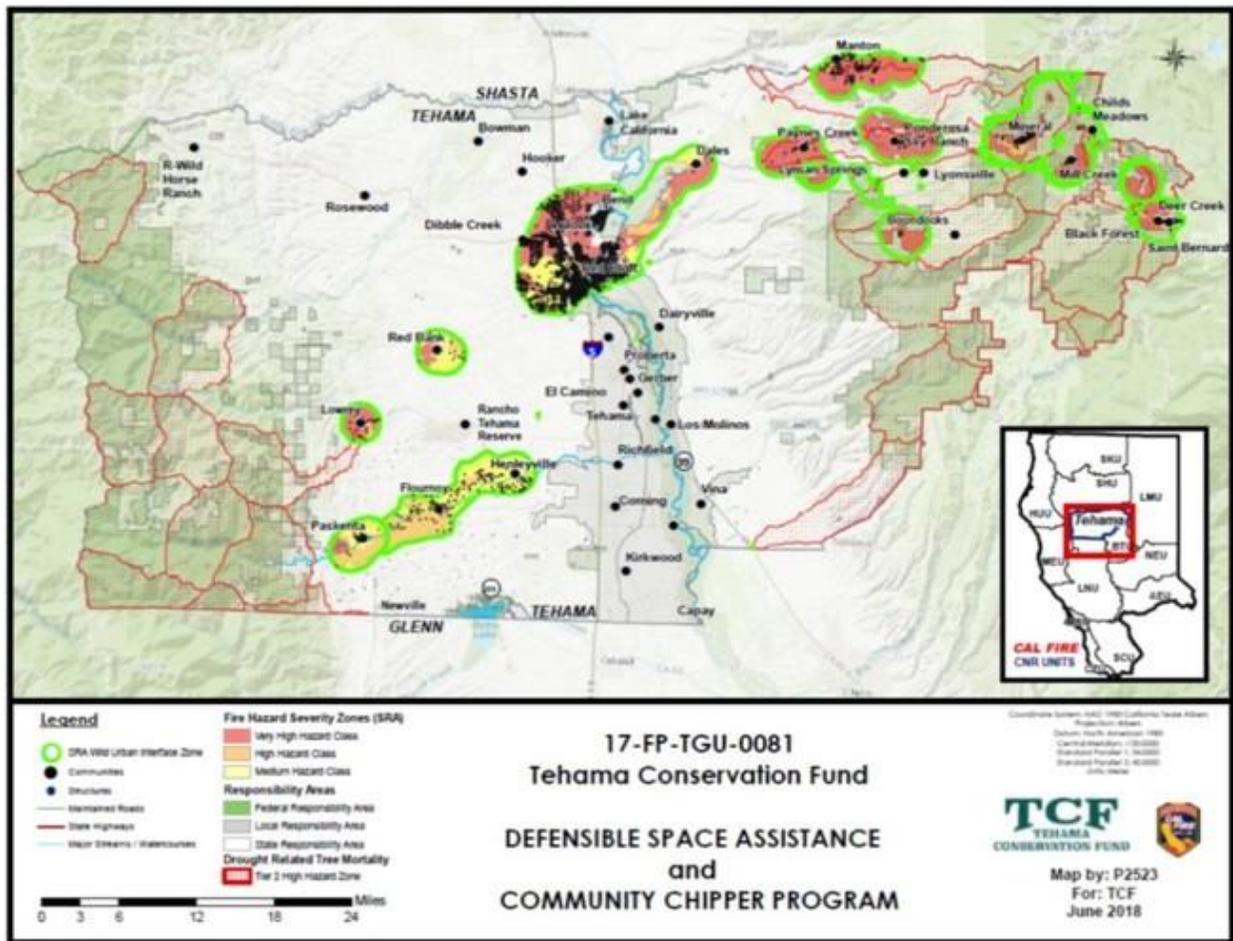
Formed in 2014, the Tehama Conservation Fund (TCF) is the non-profit organization associated with the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCD). The two organizations share the same board of directors and work together to promote conservation in Tehama County.

**The TCFs mission is to *“create opportunities to explore, enjoy and enhance Tehama County's natural resources, and preserve them for future generations.”***

For more information please visit [www.tehama-conservation-fund.org](http://www.tehama-conservation-fund.org)

# Wildfire Defensible Space Assistance and Community Chipping Program

In partnership with the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCBTC), the TCF received funding from CAL FIRE’s California Climate Investment to develop and implement a three-part Program of fuels education and management assistance to the communities within Tehama County’s SRA. These include the TCF hosting two community fire safety workshops which will showcase the principles of Wildfire Defensible Space and four community chipping days which provide onsite chipping for approximately fifteen private property owners each day who have cut and stacked vegetation from their property. The third component is Wildfire Defensible Space assistance that will provide free defensible space assistance to 60 special needs property owners including the elderly (65 and older) or those who are physically and/or financially unable to provide and/or maintain mandated defensible space around their property.



This new Program has the potential to treat up to approximately 240 acres, provide educational opportunities to 40 workshop attendees as well as 120 landowners who use the chipping day service or Defensible Space assistance. The Program will start during the winter of 2018-19 and is to be completed no later than March 15, 2022.

## Hands-On Habitat: Youth Activities

July 2016

June and July 2017

July 2018

During the summer, TCF hosts a hands-on habitat workshop for youth 6 years of age and older. The theme in 2018 was the **Power of Pollinators**.

Attendees explored elements of our natural world through an educational hands-on project by building a bee barn and habitat model. Youth applied gained knowledge of bees, other pollinators and various habitat types in Tehama County. The attendees were very creative in making their own small-scale bee barn nest and habitat model. Each participant gets to take home their creations.



TCF hosted the **Milkweed, Monarchs and Migration** hands-on habitat activity for the Antelope SERRF summer program youth. The lesson plans were developed with insight from Debbie Chakarun, a local ecology education volunteer. The students participated in interactive

PowerPoint presentations, artwork, games, and planting 20 milkweed plugs in their school garden.

## **Wild & Scenic® Film Festival (WSFF)**

Saturday, November 1, 2014  
Saturday, November 14, 2015  
Saturday, November 12, 2016  
Saturday, November 11, 2017  
Saturday, March 30, 2019  
Saturday, March 2020 (date TBD)

As a fifth-year host, the TCF brings the event to Red Bluff and builds upon the inaugural 2014 On-Tour event hosted by the Sacramento River Discovery Center and TCF affiliate, the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC).



The WSFF offers a platform to strengthen partnerships and engage people from outside our current partnerships for an evening of passive, non-confrontational education. We hope that our audience will be inspired by the stunning cinematography, compelling stories, and different perspectives presented through film to reconsider their own beliefs and behavior as well as plans to meet current challenges and those of the future. As WSFF lead, the TCF ensures the following tasks are completed:

1. Administer the SYRCL's WSFF grant;
2. Coordinate WSFF sponsorship requests and grant funding proposals;
3. Coordinate WSFF promotion, financial record keeping including sponsor and donation tracking and ticket sales, pre-event organization, and hosting of the event;
4. Promote the WSFF through print and social media as well as radio announcement(s);

5. Provide ongoing communication with partners about financial progress; and
6. Report post-event outcomes to SYRCL and thank the attendees, sponsors, and donors for supporting the event.

## **Conservation Education**

### **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Certification**

Host: Shasta County Department of Education

Funder: California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC)

2018 and 2019

TCF staff member completed the two-year NGSS training as a Phenomenal Science educator. NGSS is an approach to science learning that includes Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts. It is based on student observation and investigation of natural phenomena. This student driven method builds knowledge in science by developing ideas, based on evidence, that can explain and predict phenomena. By centering education on phenomena that students are motivated to explain, the focus shifts from learning about a topic to figuring out why or how something happens. NGSS students gain a greater understanding of the function of our natural world as well as enhanced communication skills through discourse. TCF recognizes that these are the foundational characteristics of conservation stewardship and is fit to integrate NGSS, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and stewardship.

This certification allows TCF to advance its educational services to area teachers and is eager to incorporate its principles into existing STEM lessons.

### **Trout in the Classroom**

Partners: California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tehama County Fish and Game Commission

TCF participated in a training session for educators that host trout in the classroom. Educators learn about how to care for eggs and fish tanks to hatch and foster fingerlings in the classroom. Students then release the young trout into a local watercourse. Having completed the training, TCF is available to assist teachers to maintain their tanks and to supplement lesson plans that pertain to conservation, habitat, and stewardship through STEM and NGSS learning modalities.

## **Funding Approaches**

### **Shasta Regional Community Foundation**

Giving Tuesday: One day of online giving

Fund: \$700

The TCF participated in the North State Giving Tuesday regional philanthropic day-of-giving. The online platform increases visibility of the nonprofit and provides an easy opportunity for the public to make monetary donations to local charities.

**Campbell Foundation**

Submitted August 29, 2019      Award Notice: Winter 2019

Funding Request: \$10,000 for Conservation Connect program support

The community participates in various programs and workshops presented by TCF and request that these opportunities are offered more frequently. The TCF proposes to meet the growing demand of community-based conservation educational activities in Tehama County and to implement innovative Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) practices in a classroom setting. Inclusive by nature, the program provides multiple access points for public participation from various demographics and interests. The program consists of a workshop based on a topic of community interest, two classroom visits, and an enhanced educational exchange during the annual conservation film festival.