

King Fire Restoration Project

American Forests and the U.S. Forest Service are taking another major step to restore the Eldorado National Forest from severe wildfire damage. We will plant 140,000 tree seedlings across 1,000 acres this year, adding to the nearly 2,000 acres already completed. Future plantings will extend across 10,000 acres.



Photo credit: U.S. Forest Service

Project Location

Eldorado National Forest, California

Why This Project?

The King Fire of 2014 was one of the most ecologically damaging wildfires in California history. It burned a total of 97,000 acres, including approximately 17,000 acres of forest that will not recover without our help.

By 2014, California's multi-year drought exacerbated the existing threats to tree mortality. Mountain pine beetles and blister rust ran rampant throughout the forest, increasing wildfire risk. More than a century of flawed fire management policies added to the forest's susceptibility to abnormal, extreme-heat fire. The ecosystem is adapted to frequent, low- to medium-severity wildfires, where only a portion of the trees in an area perish, leaving some alive to grow seeds and prompt regeneration. The designation "complete deforestation" or "total mortality" defines an area where the wildfire left the region without living trees or seed sources to prompt recovery — meaning that without human intervention, these areas will not regenerate. Before 2014, the largest patch size of complete deforestation for mixed conifer forests in the Sierra Nevada was 250 acres.

Richly steeped in Gold Rush lore and revered for its incredible wilderness areas since its establishment in 1910, Eldorado National Forest attracts two million annual visitors to its rugged mountainous terrain, verdant forests and stunning vistas.



AMERICAN FORESTS