

# **YSS Goals and Objectives for 2016-2017**

## ***DRAFT***

### **MISSION**

The mission of YSS is to restore and maintain healthy forests and watersheds, fire safe communities, and sustainable local economies using a science-based approach.

### **BACKGROUND FOR THESE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

YSS has unanimously agreed that due to the continuing needs of the massive Rim Fire landscape and our group's potential ability to influence actions tied to burn area recovery, the Rim Fire will remain a priority for the next 5-10 years. In addition, within our YSS area of influence, the USFS has postponed treating the green forest in order to focus staff and resources on the unprecedented drought mortality and implementation of HUD-funded projects related to restoring the Rim Fire project area. Meanwhile, the remaining green forest areas within the Stanislaus NF are at increasing risk of being devastated by wildfire.

### **YSS GOALS FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS:**

**GOAL 1: SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED FOR FUEL REDUCTION, WATERSHED RESTORATION, AND ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY WITHIN THE RIM FIRE LANDSCAPE.**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) The Reforestation EIS is approved unhampered by legal challenges.
- 2) Site preparation activities and conifer reforestation begins on Stanislaus Forest land.
- 3) Watershed threats are significantly reduced within the burn area. In particular, construction and/or maintenance of a series of connected strategic fuel breaks begins.
- 4) Noxious, invasive weeds are located, assessed, and treated.
- 5) Local economic interests benefit from biomass removal, site preparation, reforestation, and restoration project actions.
- 6) Positive publicity is gained that broadens public awareness about restoration achievements and remaining restoration treatment needs that require funding.

**POSSIBLE YSS ACTION ITEMS TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES:**

- A) YSS is an active participant in helping to broker an agreement between all concerned parties regarding ways to accomplish maximum reforestation without legal delay.
- B) The YSS group conveys to the media, politicians, and foundations the need for additional funds to perform needed Rim Fire recovery treatments.
- C) YSS is active in providing consensus-based recommendations to the SNC/Stanislaus NF regarding the final list of projects that will be funded by the HUD grant.

**GOAL 2: YSS DEVELOPS A BROADLY-SUPPORTED PLAN FOCUSED ON BRINGING THE REMAINING GREEN FOREST INTO A RESILIENT CONDITION.**

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) YSS fully develops the draft Large Landscape Plan (LLP) as soon as possible, with input from the scientific community and the Stanislaus NF.
- 2) YSS begins to circulate the LLP outside YSS to begin developing broad public support.
- 3) YSS identifies and evaluates potential barriers to LLP implementation. Strategies are developed to remove barriers that YSS can influence.
- 4) YSS obtains sufficient funding to get LLP planning done quickly.

**POSSIBLE YSS ACTION ITEMS TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES:**

- A) Pursue getting the Stanislaus NF designated as 2<sup>nd</sup> WIP Pilot project area.
- B) Form group of committed YSS members to review the LLP at a conceptual level
- C) Continue to pursue every possible source of grant funding for the LLP planning effort.
- D) Set up and implement targeted field trips to the Experimental Forest to educate key Agency managers and Legislators.
- E) Work with others to keep Ultrapower open and operating.
- F) Engage Dr. Stine providing overall review of the LLP and in incorporating tree mortality and other natural influences such as drought, climate change, etc. into the LLP.

### **GOAL 3: THE CREDIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND INFLUENCE OF YSS GROW**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) YSS engages effectively in a timely manner to support the Stanislaus National Forest and private interests that seek YSS input or support for Rim Fire recovery actions.
- 2) YSS maintains visibility and continued credibility with the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 leadership team and with national, state, and local politicians, as well as the media. When appropriate, YSS members identify themselves as affiliated with YSS when attending meetings, events, etc., as long as they differentiate their organizations positions from YSS' positions.
- 3) YSS members participate in regional workshops, forest dialogue sessions, and strategic planning events that have potential to affect both burned lands and unburned, green forest areas of the region.
- 4) YSS interests collaborate to refine discussions and discern areas of overlapping agreement concerning forest management, restoration treatments, fire resiliency strategies, and adaptations needed to respond to drought or climate change impacts.
- 5) The collaborative group maintains active participation, strong internal and external communications, and an inviting and informative website.
- 6) YSS as an organization stays open to new opportunities to meet our mission.

#### **POSSIBLE YSS ACTION ITEMS TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES:**

- A) Above and beyond YSS regularly scheduled meetings, YSS chair, vice-chair, and individual YSS members meet periodically with Forest staff to interact and share updated information.
- B) Notices of upcoming regional or range-wide workshops and strategic planning events are shared at YSS sessions to ensure YSS representation when possible.
- C) Key topics relevant to YSS goals are scheduled for discussions either with YSS committees or at YSS meetings in order to raise group awareness and identify the areas of overlapping agreement that can become the basis for YSS influence on recovery actions.
- D) Assign a YSS member to track YSS achievements (influencing court decisions, supporting or influencing FS actions, hosting field trips, securing grant funds, etc.) for use in publicity, seeking additional funding, and just remembering what we've accomplished.

**GOAL 4: AN EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN IS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED WITH AN AUDIENCE THAT INCLUDES THE PUBLIC, OPINION-LEADERS, AND DECISION-MAKERS**

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Awareness of the growing risks to the environmental and economic health of the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Watersheds will increase.
- 2) Decision-makers will understand the importance of the issues and their roles in supporting corrective actions.
- 3) Opinion-leaders and the public will understand the relevance of the health of the watersheds to their well-being and therefore lend support to corrective efforts.

**POSSIBLE YSS ACTION ITEMS TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES:**

- A) YSS actively assists the producers of “The Fire Next Time” in completing the documentary.
- B) YSS carefully cultivates key environmental reporters to “cover the story.”
- C) YSS will aggressively expand the participation of Bay Area organizations in YSS and YSS outreach efforts.
- D) YSS will pursue opportunities to recruit student interns to assist with development and implementation of a social media campaign.