

# YSS Goals and Objectives for 2018-2019

## 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 5-7 years. Treatment of the green forest has come to a near standstill. Rim Fire restoration, including HUD funded projects, and tree mortality have consumed the minimal resources available on the Stanislaus National Forest. In response to the impending crisis of untreated forest, the USFS and Tuolumne County have entered into a Master Stewardship Agreement as a mechanism to increase "pace and scale" of forest health treatments. YSS has agreed to develop Supplemental Project Agreements using an ecologically based scientific approach, backed by consensus from the collaborative.

## 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) Site preparation activities and conifer reforestation continues; 20,000 acres approved under the Reforestation EIS are completed by 2025.
- 2) Noxious, invasive weeds are located, assessed, and treated.
- 3) Local economic interests benefit from biomass removal, site preparation, reforestation, and restoration project actions.
- 4) Positive publicity is gained that broadens public awareness about restoration achievements and remaining restoration treatment needs that require funding.
- 5) Watershed restoration projects identified in the Reforestation EIS are funded and completed. Projects include, fuel reduction, prescribed fire, meadow restoration, etc.

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

- A) The YSS group conveys to the media, politicians, and foundations the need for additional funds to perform needed Rim Fire recovery treatments.
- B) YSS raises funds to support reforestation and other restoration goals (\$/yr).

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

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) YSS continues to circulate the LLP outside YSS to begin developing broad public support.
- 2) YSS identifies and evaluates potential barriers to LLP implementation. Strategies are developed to remove barriers that YSS can influence.
- 3) YSS obtains sufficient funding to get LLP planning done quickly.
- 4) Beyond the Stanislaus National Forests normal work plan, an additional 5000 ac of forest restoration treatments and 3000 ac of prescribed burning are completed annually. Recent baseline levels of forest treatments have been 2000-3000 acres/year of thinning and 400 acres/year of prescribed fire.

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

- A) Form group of committed YSS members to review SPA development and coordinate MSA activities with Tuolumne County.
- B) Finalize initial SPA under the MSA utilizing projects which are NEPA ready.
- C) Complete a SPA from the ground up, including NEPA/CEQA requirements.
- D) Continue to pursue every possible source of grant funding for the LLP planning effort.
- E) Set up and implement targeted field trips to the Experimental Forest to educate key Agency managers and Legislators

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

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) YSS engages effectively in a timely manner to respond to the Stanislaus National Forest and private interests that seek YSS input or support for resilient forest and health watershed.
- 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 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 ecosystem and watersheds to their well-being and therefore lend support to corrective efforts.

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

- A) YSS carefully cultivates key environmental reporters to “cover the story.”
- B) YSS will expand the participation of Bay Area organizations in YSS and YSS outreach efforts.
- C) YSS will pursue opportunities to recruit student interns to assist with development and implementation of a social media campaign.