

YSS Goals and Objectives for 2021

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.

GOAL 1: PLANNING FOR THE SERAL PROJECT WILL CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD WITH YSS INVOLVEMENT TO ENHANCE PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS AND TO MINIMIZE CONTROVERSY

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) As appropriate, the Leadership Team will provide the Forest staff with timely input from the stakeholder group and will coordinate to ensure that SERAL planning progress moves forward efficiently.
- 2) YSS will cooperate with the Forest Service to raise stakeholder awareness about PODs, ForSys, and other modeling/prioritization tools that may be applied to the SERAL project.
- 3) Effective publicity describing the need for increasing the pace and scale of forest treatments will be strategically supported by YSS efforts - using SERAL as a positive example.
- 4) YSS will use outreach and media opportunities to advocate for “all the tools in the forest treatments toolbox” to educate the public about thinning logging, broadcast burning, mastication, and other beneficial treatments.
- 5) YSS will continue applying for grants or other funding sources for SERAL and/or other timely forest restoration treatment projects and associated planning needs.

GOAL 2: YSS BROADENS CONNECTIONS TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR ACTIONS NEEDED TO REDUCE HIGH-SEVERITY WILDFIRES AND OTHER FOREST THREATS

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) YSS members increase outreach and messaging to already active groups and partners.
- 2) The YSS Leadership Team pursues new opportunities for outreach to homeowner groups, out-of-area organizations, and others who may add value to collective efforts to restore forest resiliency and to reduce risk of devastating wildfire events.
- 3) YSS obtains outreach messaging funding to use for developing a higher level of publicity.
- 4) YSS looks for opportunities to connect forest treatments on Federal and Non-federal land that increase community wildfire protection and ecological/watershed health.

GOAL 3: RIM FIRE REFORESTATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS PROCEED EFFECTIVELY

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) YSS supports the successful implementation of already-approved site preparation activities, conifer reforestation, and noxious weed treatments within the Rim Fire footprint.
- 2) YSS partners with the Forest Service to broaden public awareness about restoration achievements and remaining restoration treatment needs that require funding.
- 3) YSS coordinates with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Forest Service, and other forest-focused interests to fund and implement already-approved watershed restoration projects in the Rim Fire area, including fuel reduction, prescribed fire, meadow restoration, etc.

GOAL 4: THE CREDIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND INFLUENCE OF YSS CONTINUES TO GROW

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) YSS engages effectively in a timely manner with the Stanislaus National Forest and private interests that seek YSS input or support for projects aiming for a resilient forest and healthy watersheds.
- 2) YSS maintains visibility and continued credibility with the Region 5 leadership of the Forest Service and with national, state, and local politicians, as well as the media. When appropriate, YSS members will 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 will actively 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 will collaborate with all key forest interests 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) YSS as an organization will stay open to new opportunities and strategies to meet our mission.