



BLUE FOREST

Financial Innovation for Sustainable Solutions

Dear Blue Forest Community,

Happy New Year! While recent events have convulsed our nation, we hope you're personally off to a great start this 2021. On our end, we wanted to share what's new at Blue Forest in 2021.

In spite of the difficulties of 2020, Blue Forest's work continued as we formed new partnerships and expanded to new states in our project development work. Now, we're looking to hire a [Project Development Manager](#) and a [Spring Intern](#) to support our scaling this year. We'll also be adding another position in the coming weeks so stay tuned to our "[Work with Us](#)" page. Please share these opportunities with anyone who may be a good fit, as we welcome applications and recommendations from our network.

We are proud of our interdisciplinary, dedicated, and collaborative team members and are eager to welcome new individuals to the team.

For some positive news, take a break and listen to this recent [podcast](#), where Blue Forest co-founder and CEO, Zach Knight and [ImpactAlpha](#) Editor and CEO, David Bank, discuss the extreme wildfire events of recent years and share potential solutions to address this crisis.

Wishing you and yours a productive, healthy, and peaceful 2021.

All our best,

The Blue Forest Team

Have you visited the new Blue Forest [website](#)?

We'd love hear your feedback! Reply to this email or email us at connect@blueforest.org.



Photo courtesy of: USFS Region 5

The 2020 fires are out at last — what happens now?

Written by: Tessa Maurer

The 2020 fire season may have felt like a bomb going off when unprecedented fires broke out, first in California on Labor Day weekend, then up and down the West Coast and in Colorado. Over the next few months, more than 8.2 million acres burned. Tens of thousands of people were evacuated and dozens died. Poor air quality extended from Canada to Mexico for weeks, impacting tens of millions. But the season that started so explosively ended with a whimper, swallowed up in the surging pandemic and election disputes.

Read the full blog [here](#).

Tessa Maurer is a Senior Project Scientist at Blue Forest. Her work focuses on quantifying the benefits of forest restoration work and translating the findings into useful tools for land managers, utilities, and the general public. In between research projects, she also supports project development and science communication.

PARTNER PROFILE



South Yuba River Citizens League

The [South Yuba River Citizens League](#) (SYRCL – pronounced “circle”) was originally founded in 1983 by grassroots activists determined to protect the South Yuba River from dams. With over 37 years of achievements, 3,500 members and 1,300 active volunteers, SYRCL is doing great things for the Yuba watershed including restoring wild salmon to their native waters and replanting the banks of the goldfields with trees. Today, SYRCL serves as the central hub of community activism to protect, restore, and celebrate the Yuba River watershed.

Along with FRB partners Blue Forest, [National Forest Foundation](#), the [US Forest Service](#) and [Yuba Water Agency](#), SYRCL is one of nine organizations that comprise the [North Yuba Forest Partnership](#) (NYFP). The partnership also includes local government, tribes and large NGOs such as [Sierra County](#), the [Camptonville Community Partnership](#), the [Nevada City Nisenan Rancheria](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#).

Started in 2019, largely as a result of the success of the pilot [Yuba Project](#) Forest Resilience Bond, the partnership focuses on prioritizing, planning and executing landscape-scale forest health projects on nearly 275,000 acres of Sierra Nevada forests.

“The fact that the Forest Resilience Bond was used for the pilot Yuba Project is really what launched the North Yuba Forest Partnership,” explained SYRCL Executive Director, Melinda Booth. “It was a tangible example of how the FRB can actually work here, giving a foundation of something real to build on to develop this much larger project.”

“When things started to develop in the North Yuba Forest Partnership, SYRCL was identified as the local, on-the-ground organization. We know this watershed; we’ve been here for 37 years and we’re going to continue to be here so having our involvement seems essential to the project. We have that lens of really knowing the place and understanding our watershed’s health,” noted Booth. “We’re focused on river conservation—those are our roots—but you can’t have a healthy river without having a healthy forest and a healthy watershed overall.”

Having a local partner like SYRCL has been key to the efforts of the NYFP, especially at the planning stage. With almost four decades of presence in the watershed, SYRCL brings the social license to this partnership helping to increase the pace and scale of the work. And as the NYFP gets ready to switch gears from the planning stage to implementation, the different skill sets of each organization are really going to shine.

“It seems like every partner plays a little bit of a different role,” said Booth. “While SYRCL has a lot of experience and knowledge about fundraising for projects through more traditional means like individual philanthropy, private foundation grants, state and federal grants, etc., orgs like Blue Forest come in saying, ‘hey, there’s another way to do this’ and bring in a totally new tool to the conservation toolbox and that, I think, is really effective.”

SCIENCE CORNER



[“The delayed effect of wildfire season particulate matter on subsequent influenza season in a mountain west region of the USA”](#)

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It all started when Dr. Erin Landguth, professor of computational ecology & population health at the University of Montana, set out to understand the underlying factors that influence public health outcomes. Having spent years developing relationships with state agencies to gather data, she started investigating the spatial and temporal factors that lead to respiratory disease and, in particular, seasonal influenza.

As she started her research, Dr. Landguth had an idea – could wildfire season be exacerbating the flu season, even though it is months after the flames have been extinguished?

Continue reading [here](#).

Not sure how the Forest Resilience Bond works? Watch this [video](#)!

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