



# FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

## NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION: HOOD MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

Project:	Stabilization and Re-vegetation of Hood Mountain		
Lead Department:	Regional Parks		
Funding Requested:	\$233,110		
Estimated Total Cost:	\$310,813	Estimated Grant Start Date:	September 2019

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Repair of an area left bare from fires and reduce erosion and possible flood and debris flow on Hood Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve (Hood Mountain).

### PUBLIC BENEFIT OF THE PROJECT

Reduce the elevated potential for loss of life and property from loose mud, sand, soil, rock, water and air (“debris flow”).

### WILDFIRE HISTORY

In the 50 year span from 1964-2015 Sonoma County experienced 18 major wildfires that destroyed nearly 2,000 structures. In October 2017 the “Sonoma Complex Fires” resulted in the loss of life, destroyed nearly 7,000 structures, and burned more than 100,000 acres in Sonoma County and surrounding counties. The “Sonoma Complex Fires” burned in nearly identical footprints to 1964’s Hanley Fire and Nuns Canyon Fire.

### BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

Sonoma County Regional Parks played a critical role throughout the October 2017 firestorm. Firefighters bulldozed fire breaks and lit backfires throughout the local parks. They created the buffers where first responders could battle the flames and halt their spread just yards from homes and endangered communities. Hood Mountain is a botanically rich part of the county that experienced low, moderate and high burn severity.

### THE PROBLEM

As a result of high burn severity, steep slopes and underlying soils, Hood Mountain is also a site of likely post-fire debris flow. Hood Mountain provided a major line of defense for firefighters, but bulldozer lines cut through rare and endangered plant communities. Burned soils, bulldozed ridges, and scorched vegetation have combined to increase runoff and erosion.

### THE SOLUTION

The project will stabilize the bulldozed area along a ridgetop, reducing the likelihood of flood and debris flow hazards. The approach to restoration includes creating shade, moving downed trees and revegetating the site with direct seeding and planting locally grown material.

The project thus takes a two-pronged restoration approach to protect structures at risk. The approach was selected due to the multiple benefits, both near and long term, to the rare ecosystem and fire-affected community. In addition, planting locally-collected and site-adapted seeds is the widely accepted best practice and most climate-resistant action. Not only native but local species are most likely to succeed over the long term as they are genetically adapted to conditions in the project area.

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