



# CALIFORNIA DEER ASSOCIATION

## 2022 Hammerhorn Lake Campground Restoration Proposal

### Background

The purpose of this project is to assist in improving/restoring the Hammerhorn Lake Campground and the surrounding Hammerhorn Lake's recreational opportunities within Mendocino County. This project will take place on Mendocino National Forest (MNF) and will restore many of the opportunities the ADA compliant campground boasted before the 2020 August Complex burned the area. The project would use the requested CDFW funds to restore many features within the campground and immediate area. The requested CDFW funds will be used to restore the campground's wheelchair accessible pathway, restrooms, and the ADA compliant fishing dock that were all damaged or destroyed during the August Complex fire. Funding will also contribute to general campsite restoration and cleanup. This project will aid in post-fire forest recreational recovery by allowing the Mendocino National Forest to host a much needed ADA accessible campground in the area. This project has been developed by Modoc National Forest with support of California Deer Association Ukiah Chapter, California Deer Association, and others. The estimated cost of this phase of the project is \$25,000.

### Project Overview

The Hammerhorn Lake Campground is a unique feature of the Mendocino National Forest. Hammerhorn Lake provides recreational fishing opportunities on the Covelo Ranger District. Small fishing piers on the lake were initially built regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accessible trails from Hammerhorn Lake Campground lead to the Hammerhorn Lake which neighbors the camping area. Additionally, Hammerhorn Lake is the only ADA accessible fishing lake on the west side of the Mendocino National Forest. The USFS has expressed their desire to keep this lake, its piers, and handicap accessible trail as part of the campground and to restore fishing and general recreational opportunities to the public on this site.

California Deer Association (CDA) has the experience, resources, capacity, and partners to complete this project on time and on budget. In the past three years, CDA has managed over \$9.5 million of restoration implementation funds for 31 similar grant projects. CDA grant funders include:

- State agencies – WCB (Wildlife Conservation Board), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), SNC (Sierra Nevada Conservancy),
- Federal agencies - USFS, USFWS, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Science (NRCS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and others.

This project will work in coordination with the California Deer Association Supplemental Project Agreement with the Mendocino National Forest. CDA's current projects within the MNF encompass post-fire restoration of the campground areas by Hazard Tree Removal within the campground and along roadside, burnt/salvage timber removal, and erosion protection measures. All project activities have been determined and cleared through the collaborative partnership between CDA and MNF.



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### Work Plan

The project restoration activities for the Hammerhorn Lake Campground are defined below;

#### **ADA Restroom**

The campsite's handicap accessible restroom will be cleaned and restored for public use. The breather pipes that burned in the wildfire will be replaced to accommodate for restroom exhaust flow, as is necessary for proper restroom function

#### **Paved Walkway**

The damaged walkway that leads to Hammerhorn Lake from the campground will be restored for full access. General cleaning of the walkway will take place. The rebuild/repair deemed necessary during initial scoping will be a part of this restoration effort, and will include rebuilding the handicap accessible ramp and walkway to the viewing/fishing dock

#### **Fishing Dock**

The burned, unsalvageable fishing dock will be removed from the site and rebuilt to ADA standards for handicap access

#### **Campsite**

The campground will be cleared from debris, weeds, and other residual outcomes from the fire. Individual campsite designation posts that were destroyed at each of the campsites will be reestablished by the installation of new 8in. x 8in. ground posts spanned by accompanying horizontal posts

Surveys and clearances have been completed to allow for this work. The actions in this project are categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, pursuant 36 CFR S220.6(d)5 "Repair and Maintenance of Recreation sites and facilities," 36 CFR S220.6(e)1

*\*Additional funding/restoration opportunities below for a possible phase II, which would exceed the scope of work & budget of the above ask of \$25,000*

#### ***This project is scalable to include:***

- *Rebuilding of the upstream water pipe that supplied additional water to the lake and recreational area that was damaged and/or burned entirely in the fire*
- *Repair of the chlorination plant that provided potable water to the campsite prior to the fire*
- *Replacing burned picnic tables*
- *Rebuilding the destroyed fire rings at campsites*



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### Site Photos



Remnants of the handicap accessible pathway to the lake that was destroyed in the 2020 August Complex





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Handicap accessible bathroom to be restored with a new breather pipe and additional interior maintenance



Campsite with overgrown weeds and vegetation that will be treated/removed





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Hammerhorn Lake



Burned pipes that fed the Hammerhorn Lake prior to the 2020 August Complex



Western Pond Turtle in Hammerhorn lake before the 2020 August Complex