California Wildfire Innovation Fund I, L.P. (Blue Forest Asset Management)

Catastrophic wildfire is costly to the state of CA and emits more carbon in some years than the state's transportation sector. This PPP fund invests in businesses involved in landscape-scale forest restoration, which reduces the risk and intensity of wildfire.

CWIF is a $50MM private investment fund supporting forestry restoration businesses that decrease the severity and frequency of catastrophic wildfire in CA. CWIF is capitalized by private and public investment, with a $25MM LP commitment from CSAA Insurance Exchange and a $25MM "participating loan" from the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, an instrumentality of the State of California.

CSAA's LP commitment demonstrated alignment between the capital needs of forest restoration businesses + motivations of return-seeking capital. As a government entity, IBank faced hurdles, including the requirements to structure its investment as debt and to comply with policy-related program requirements. Orrick played a key role in designing the structure and nuanced terms that provided similar economics to the two investors, granted IBank special protections vis a vis its statutory limitations, and streamlined governance processes that preserve the benefits of private fund investing.

Environmental impacts include ecosystem resilience, watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, and reduced emissions; social benefits include job creation, sustainable recreation, public health, and community safety; financial impacts include greater access to capital for underserved entrepreneurs and rural economic development. Most outcomes will occur over 9 years. CWIF can make larger investments and access opportunities in a broader range of companies and sectors, which enables CWIF to target impact outcomes in a comprehensive, integrated approach.

Learn more about CWIF.

Press Release 07.26.23

Heartwood Biomass Project Brings Jobs, Environmental Benefits to Tuolumne County

Press Release 04.04.24

BurnBot Secures $20M in Series A Funding to Prevent Destructive Wildfires with Mechanized Vegetation Management

Perry Teicher, Lead Counsel, Orrick; **Andrew Vogeler**, Counsel, Orrick; **John Narducci**, Counsel, Orrick; **Ramon Galvan**, Counsel, Orrick; **Elizabeth Damaskos**, Former Counsel, Winston & Strawn