

## Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here:

(SNC 070326 Inyo Complex Post-Fire Watershed Recovery)

Proposition 84 Strategic Opportunity Grant, Category 2

Project: Inyo Complex Post-Fire Watershed Recovery

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office

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Bishop, CA 93514

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Total project cost = \$34,320

The Inyo Complex Fires in the summer of 2007 burned more than 35,000 acres on alluvial fans of the eastern Sierra Nevada in Inyo County, California, including the riparian vegetation of several streams in the Owens River system and the surrounding watershed. This presents an outstanding opportunity to study the subsequent recovery of the stream and watershed ecosystem, as we have a broad spectrum of baseline data for stream condition and plant and wildlife populations. We will conduct and integrate studies of riparian condition and stream bank stability; riparian and upland native vegetation and invasive weeds; riparian breeding songbirds; small mammals and reptiles; and range condition. We will compare observations of burned areas with pre-fire baseline data and with unburned control areas. BLM Bishop FO will collaborate with Inyo National Forest, California Dept. of Fish & Game, Eastern Sierra Audubon and PRBO Conservation Science in planning and implementing the project.

Observations will be conducted annually during the first few years, during which time rapid change is expected. In later years observations will be less frequent but continued for as many years as needed to observe long-term change. At this time we are seeking funding for the first two years.

The project will address both direct and indirect effects of the fire, determining if they are beneficial or adverse, and test predictions regarding the potential of various types of vegetation community to return to their pre-fire condition during the time that both native and invasive plants, and the wildlife that use them, are competing for resources in the recovering landscape. It will provide land managers information to help guide science-based decisions in allocating resources and planning treatments for fire prevention, fire suppression, and post-fire rehabilitation efforts, controlling adverse impacts and maximizing benefits in habitat types found to be most vulnerable to fire-induced change. The knowledge gained can be applied wherever similar habitats are found, throughout the Eastern Sierra. This may also serve as a model project to stimulate and guide such studies in other regions.