

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: UPPER MERCED RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Project Title: POST-FIRE INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT IN THE UPPER MERCED RIVER WATERSHED
Application Number: SNC 080205

PROJECT SCOPE

The Upper Merced River Watershed Council (Council) will conduct invasive species removal work in the Briceburg area, adjacent to the Wild and Scenic Merced River. Eradication efforts will focus on Yellow Starthistle and Italian Thistle on seven stream-miles, translating to roughly 45 acres, including a section of the Merced River Trail which follows the river.

Specifically, the Council will:

- Survey and map affected areas within the project boundaries
- Develop maps and establish transects
- Develop treatment plan to eradicate targeted species
- Hire hand-crews for removal of targeted species for two seasons
- Manage previous invasive eradication on a trail section within the project area
- Provide educational opportunities relative to invasive species management at the Merced River Center and document participation
- Conduct photo-monitoring of project, including pre and post project photos
- Make information on the project available through public media outlets such as the Mariposa Gazette and the Council Newsletter.
- Recruit and train volunteers to assist in eradication effort
- Participate in local and statewide meetings on invasive species
- Attend and participate in events and conferences relating to invasive plants in order to build capacity in the area relative to invasive plant management.

The Council will conduct these activities in collaboration with key partners, including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other interested parties.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-----------------|
| Begin to Hire and train hand crews | February 2009 |
| Begin recruitment and training of volunteers | February 2009 |
| Initiate mapping of treatment areas | March 2009 |
| Establish Transects | April 2009 |
| Initiate photo documentation | April 2009 |
| Begin First-year Italian Thistle Treatment | April 2009 |

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| Complete First-year Italian Thistle Treatment | May 2009 |
| Initiate educational outreach efforts at Merced River Center | May 2009 |
| Begin First-year Yellow Star Thistle Treatment | June 2009 |
| Complete First-year Yellow Star Thistle Treatment | July 2009 |
| Continue photo documentation post-treatment | August 2009 |
| Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC | August 2009 |
| Continue educational and outreach efforts at the Merced River Center | September 2009 – February 2010 |
| Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC | February 2010 |
| Continue educational and outreach efforts | March 2009 |
| Initiate second-year mapping of targeted species | March 2010 |
| Continue photo documentation | April 2010 |
| Begin second-year Italian Thistle Treatment | April 2010 |
| Complete second-year Italian Thistle Treatment | May 2010 |
| Begin second-year Yellow Star Thistle treatment | June 2010 |
| Complete second-year Yellow Star Thistle Treatment | July 2010 |
| Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC | August 2010 |
| Complete educational and outreach efforts | September 2010 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | October 31, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Staff salary (mapping, outreach and education, volunteer recruitment, photo-monitoring, project reporting, project management, partner coordination) | \$40,800 |
| Invasive Species Control Crews | 9,100 |
| Equipment and Displays | 2,000 |
| Administration | 8,600 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$60,500 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Bureau of Land Management
- Central Sierra Watershed Committee
- Mountain Meadows Farms
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Sierra National Forest
- Sierra Nevada Alliance
- Yosemite Area Audubon Society

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved