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: **LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.**

Project Title: **SOUTH ASH VALLEY RIPARIAN MONITORING PROJECT**

Application Number: **SNC 080213**

PROJECT SCOPE

There is a significant amount of anecdotal evidence indicating that removal of western juniper from the sagebrush steppe habitat results in increased water availability, expansion of riparian/meadow habitats, and increased vegetative productivity. This pilot project will result in scientific data that can be used to assess soil moisture and vegetative response following western juniper removal in Lassen County. Data analysis will be used by LCFSC and shared with local, state, and federal land managers to improve prescriptions and management plans for future juniper removal projects.

Lassen County Fire Safe Council will collect data, analyze data, and report results for three riparian/meadow monitoring sites in South Ash Valley over a three-year period using methods developed by the University of California, Cooperative Extension in Lassen County and UC Davis. Each of the three riparian monitoring sites will include:

- Six soil moisture transects using soil sensors and data loggers to monitor volumetric water content of the soil
- 18 cages to monitor vegetative productivity in treated versus untreated areas
- Six line transects to monitor plant composition and to analyze whether riparian areas expand into upland areas post treatment
- Rain gauges at each monitoring site and temperature data collected from the three closest weather stations

At each site, half of the transects and cages will be in areas that receive treatments and half will be in untreated areas, with the first year's data to be collected prior to treatment. Data will be analyzed to see whether soil moisture increases and/or is available for a longer period of time in treated versus untreated areas.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Six soil moisture transects, 18 cages, six line transects, and rain gauges set up at three riparian monitoring sites	March 2009
Six month progress report	August 2009
1st Annual Preliminary Data Report	February 2010
Six month progress report	August 2010
2nd Annual Preliminary Data Report	February 2011
Six month progress report	August 2011

Final annual report with scientific report and poster presentation discussing the results of monitoring/research	February 2012
FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	**June 30, 2012**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Travel to and from project site (5640 miles @ $.585/mile)	$2,300
Equipment	19,800
Project management	2,500
Project site set-up, data collection, Annual Preliminary Data Reports, and Final Scientific Report	23,000
Direct administration	2,400
GRAND TOTAL	**$50,000**

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- David Lile, County Director UC Cooperative Extension, Lassen County

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.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior