

\$5 Million Grants Offered to Help Sierra Forests, Meadows

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Written by David Castellon

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is offering \$5 million in grants for public agencies and non-profits to fund programs to help forests and meadows in the Sierra.

Projects funded by the Healthy Forests grants can improve efforts to prevent large, damaging wildfires — which can include forest thinning and clearing brush to reduce fuel for fires — and efforts to restore meadow and other Sierra ecosystems.

Those projects can focus on public or private lands, but owners of the properties where the work would occur cannot receive the grants.

The funding is provided by money raised through California's Safe Drinking Water Bond Act, passed by voters in 2006. The application deadline is Oct. 21.

See the application guidelines online at www.sierranevada.ca.gov, and looking under "Announcements."