

Soaproot Stewardship Application

Proposition 84 Grant Program

Grant Application Packet

High Sierra Ranger District

Sierra National Forest

December 2013



1. Authorization or Resolution to Apply

Insert:

AuthorizationLtr_withSignature.pdf

2. Documents Required of Nonprofit Applicants

Not Applicable

3. Supplemental Documents

Land Tenure Documents

The Soaproot Stewardship is located entirely on land administered by the USDA Forest Service. Forest Service is responsible for maintaining Forest Service system roads that pass through private in-holdings within the Soaproot Stewardship. No agreements are required to implement treatments funded by the 2014 Soaproot Proposal.

Leases or Agreements

Not Applicable (no leases or agreements required)

4. Environmental Documentation

a. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Documentation

Sierra Nevada Conservancy will act as the Lead Agency and will develop the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration as well as the detailed NEPA information for CEQA compliance of this proposal.

b. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documentation

Documents included in Application

Soaproot Restoration Project Environmental Assessment
Soaproot Restoration Project Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact
Appendices for the Soaproot Restoration Project
Terrestrial Wildlife Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation (BA/BE)
Migratory Landbird Conservation Report
Management Indicator Species report
Fire and Fuels Specialist Report
Air Quality Report

Aquatics Species BA/BE
Vegetation and Silvicultural Specialist Report
Water Resources Specialist Report
Riparian Conservation Objectives Consistency Report
Cumulative Watershed Effects (CWE) Analysis Report
Botanical Resources BA/BE
Botanical Resources BA/BE Noxious Weed Assessment

Insert:

CEQA Compliance Form.docx

5. Supplemental and Supporting Documents

a. Performance Measures

1. Number and Diversity of People Reached
2. Number and Types of Jobs Created
3. Number and value of New, Improved or preserved Economic Activities
4. Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
5. Acres of land Improved or Restored

b. Regulatory Requirements/Permits

The Soaproot Stewardship project has no required permits from State or Federal Agencies. There is no known Federal or State Threatened or Endangered species found within the project area therefore consultation was not required with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Game. During the Soaproot NEPA analysis, the District Archaeologist prepared an Archaeological Reconnaissance Report that was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer for NEPA compliance.

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**SOAPROOT STEWARDSHIP PROJECT PROPOSAL
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1. Detailed Project Description Narrative

a. Project Description

For ease of reading, the following definitions of terms will be used throughout this document to distinguish between similar named items. This proposal will be referred to as the **2014 Soaproot Proposal**; the environmental document(s) that embrace the implementation actions will be referred to as the **Soaproot NEPA**; and the contract that implements the actions will be referred to as the **Soaproot Stewardship** or the **Project**.

The current conditions that exist in the Soaproot Stewardship vicinity reflect a history of forest logging practices, grazing, and fire suppression. These practices have resulted in a forest structure that consists of dense, even-aged forests that are increasingly susceptible to severe wildfire and stress and mortality caused by drought, insects, and disease. Ladder fuels and dead and down woody material have increased substantially due to fire suppression activities and natural disturbance processes such as severe storms and insect outbreaks over the past century, creating a hazardous fuels situation and making high-severity fires more likely in the Project area. Evidence has shown that high severity wildfire in the past within the Soaproot Stewardship (most notably the Bretz Fire in 1947) triggered the types of increases in runoff and erosion that has led to undesirable channel conditions. More recently, the Aspen Fire (Sierra NF) and the Rim Fire (Stanislaus NF) this past summer had extensive areas of high intensity wildfire where ground cover is now gone. This type of intense wildfire could be repeated in the Soaproot Stewardship area under the right conditions.

Many investigations of wildfire effects on hydrologic processes have found increases in stream flows. Changes in soil properties such as removal of organic ground cover and creation of water repellent (hydrophobic) conditions result in decreased infiltration capacity and increased runoff. This leads to larger and flashier peak flows and more erosion on hillslopes. The three mechanisms by which wildfire affects hydrology are identified as: 1) decreasing canopy interception increases the proportion of precipitation available for runoff; 2) decreasing evapotranspiration increases base flow; and 3) consuming ground cover increases runoff velocity and reduces infiltration and storage as soil moisture. Research has found that surface runoff can increase by 70% and erosion by three orders of magnitude when ground cover is reduced from 75% to 10%. Intense rainfall produces the greatest increases in peak flows.

Watershed restoration treatments (reduction of surface and ladder fuels) are necessary to return the Project area to a landscape resilient to the effects of wildfire. Severe wildfire effects in the project area are a real concern based on current live vegetation structure and dead material present. The current watershed vegetative condition in the Project area creates a landscape that is susceptible to high intensity wildfire that could consume large areas of vegetation. Post wildfire conditions will affect the hydrologic process, leading to stream sedimentation from denuded slopes during rain events and prior to slope revegetation. One of the goals of this project is to reduce hazardous fuels by treating the fuels through mechanical methods. The proposed vegetation and dead fuel treatments would be implemented to create a watershed more resilient to the effects of wildfire.

Vegetative treatments would reduce tree and brush density in several areas creating a situation where wildfire suppression has greater probability of success should a wildfire occur by allowing fire suppression forces to successfully control these fires before they become large, high intensity events. Maintenance of this vegetative condition would be accomplished with future planned underburning and vegetative treatments. The proposed vegetative treatments that are integrated in the Soaproot Stewardship and funded through the 2014 Soaproot Proposal include:

1. 262.3 acres of biomass removal treatments
2. 470.5 acres of tractor piling slash using dozer
3. 305 acres of grapple piling slash using excavator

Road Maintenance is planned on roads used during the implementation of the Soaproot Stewardship. Existing roads in the Project area are contributing sediment to streams from lack of past maintenance. Roads used during the Soaproot Stewardship will be maintained to restore a fully functional drainage system. The proposed road maintenance work provides long-term benefits to water quality by reducing road erosion and hydrologic connectivity. In areas with high levels of existing hydrologic connectivity, greater reductions in sediment delivery would result from road maintenance that would minimize the length of road delivering runoff and sediment to streams. Also, reductions in road runoff delivered to streams would increase flow concentration time, reduce peak flows, and reduce the potential for in-channel erosion during high flows. Road maintenance will occur on approximately 29.1 miles of Forest Service system roads to accomplish the Project area objectives. Funding for Road Maintenance is not being requested in the 2014 Soaproot Proposal because they will be financed with Forest Service funds.

Formally ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and mixed conifer, the species composition in the Project area now includes considerable fire-intolerant white fir (*Abies concolor*) and incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). The primary vegetation types in the Project area are ponderosa pine and mixed chaparral in the lower elevations. Sierra mixed conifer is found in the upper elevations of the Project area. The overstory canopy is a mix of white fir, incense-cedar, ponderosa pine, and sugar pine with canopy cover ranging from 10 to 70 percent. Currently, there are several California spotted owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs) and/or Home Range Core Areas (HRCAs) within the Project area. Several Pacific fisher den site buffers have been delineated within the Project area. There are several occurrences of threatened (T) and Endangered (E) botanical species within the Project area including Yosemite bitterroot (*Lewisia disepala*), orange annual lupine (*Lupinus citrinus* var. *citrinus*), and carpenteria (*Carpenteria californica*).

The Project is located entirely within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). This zone is an area where human habitation is mixed with areas of flammable wildland vegetation that extends out from private developed land into land under private, state, and federal jurisdictions. There is a need to protect adjacent landowners and private property from the effects of wildfire. Existing fuel loadings and dense conifer stands within the Project area raise the potential for fire to spread rapidly within the WUI, threatening nearby communities, private property, and natural resources. The Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan's (SNF LRMP) highest priority has been given to fuel reduction activities in the WUI to protect human communities from

wildland fire as well as minimize the spread of fires that may originate in urban areas. The existing fuel conditions also increase the risk to firefighters and the public.

Restorative treatments have started in the Project area through the successive offering of the Soaproot Stewardship contract. The Soaproot Stewardship was advertised on the Federal Business Opportunities website for 30 days starting July 29, 2013. The Soaproot Stewardship was advertised as an Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRSC) and SF 1449 contract type. Technical proposals were solicited from prospective contractors with a required proposal due date of August 30, 2013. The Project received one proposal from Sierra Forest Products (SFP) and was awarded to SFP on September 9, 2013. Currently, Forest Service funding has financed approximately \$559,000 of treatments. However, limited funding has resulted in only part of the Soaproot Stewardship being implemented. There is approximately \$450,000 of unfunded optional work in the Soaproot Stewardship. This work includes 262.3 acres of biomass removal, 470.5 acres of tractor piling of excess fuels (dead material and live ladder fuels), 520 acres of grapple piling of excess fuels, and 55 acres of mastication (shredding of brush and small trees). The Sierra National Forest is requesting \$350,000 through the 2014 Soaproot Proposal to complete a portion of the optional work in the Soaproot Stewardship contract. The remaining work (215 acres of grapple pile and 55 acres of mastication) will remain unfunded.

Watershed Restoration Goals

The greatest risk to watershed health in the Soaproot Stewardship is the risk of high intensity wildfire. Fire severity has a large effect on erosion and sediment yields. A study in Utah estimated that in a burned area with 60-75% ground cover, 2% of rainfall contributed to overland flow, while in an area where only 10% cover remained, over 70% of the rainfall ran off. In a study of post-fire erosion from simulated rainfall, investigators found that sediment yields from high burn severity plots was 10-26 times greater than from low severity and unburned plots. Ground cover accounted for 81% of the variability, including lower sediment yields found in older, recovering burned areas. Sediment yield increases are usually the highest the first year following a fire, then decrease as groundcover increases, vegetation becomes established, and water repellency recovers. Some studies have found that more of the observed sediment load increases were due to in-channel erosion than to hillslope erosion. It is often difficult to determine how large episodic sediment inputs factor into the sediment budget of a watershed, but that post-fire mass-wasting events such as landslides and debris flows exert lasting effects on stream channel morphology. The vegetation and fuel reduction treatments in the Soaproot Stewardship will help move towards the goal of improving watershed resilience to the effects of wildfire and maintaining watershed function. Live vegetation treatments will remove transpiring plants which will help reduce the strain on water table levels.

The Soaproot Stewardship is located in the Upper Big Creek subdrainage, one of the SNF designated priority watersheds for restorative treatments. Big Creek, Summit Creek, and Providence Creek are the three main streams at risk from the negative effects of high intensity wildfire. The Lower Big Creek subdrainage is also located in the Soaproot Stewardship. Rush Creek is the main stream in the north half of this subdrainage. Rush Creek eventually empties into Big Creek. Channel types and stability are important factors that influence how channels would

respond to disturbances. According to the district hydrologist, stream reaches with channel types that are sensitive to disturbance are located in Providence Creek, Rush Creek, and several tributaries to Big Creek. Proposed treatments that reduce fire severity should protect these stream reaches from disturbance.

The Soaproot Stewardship has habitat for two Forest Service sensitive aquatic species. Habitat is present for the Foothill yellow-legged frog, *Rana boylei* in the perennial streams of the Soaproot Stewardship. The Western pond turtle, *Clemmys marmorata* (subspecies *marmorata* and *pallida*) has foraging and dispersal habitat. The Western pond turtle spends half of its life in dispersal (terrestrial) habitat, generally from fall to spring, upland from streams. The goal of creating a watershed more resilient to high intensity wildfire would help protect these sensitive species from losing stream and terrestrial habitat within the Soaproot Stewardship.

Downstream from the Soaproot Stewardship is Pine Flat Reservoir. This major reservoir on the Kings River provides irrigation water to valley farmers and produces electricity at the Pine Flat Dam. Sedimentation from the project area over time would reduce the amount of storage in Pine Flat Reservoir and the benefits resulting from this stored water.

Collaboration with Research

Within the Project area (and throughout the High Sierra Ranger District) are two research studies conducted by the Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research Station, Sierra Nevada research Center. The first project is the Kings River Fisher Project (KRFP). The KRFP was initiated in 2007 by the USDA Forest Service Region 5 and the Pacific Southwest Research Station for two reasons: 1) to fill gaps in our current understanding of fisher ecology and habitat requirements and 2) to address the uncertainty surrounding the effects of timber harvest and fuels treatments on select response variables of interest, including fishers and their habitat. Objectives include documenting demographic parameters, identifying the range of natural variation associated with these values, and relating this information to potential limiting factors such as disease, predation, and habitat.

To address these questions, the KRFP is using three overlapping monitoring techniques in a spatially nested design. Live-trapping provides data on population structure and individual health. Telemetry, both conventional VHF and GPS, provides data on animal movement and survival. Scat detector dog surveys provide additional information on population density, habitat use, and diet. Each method carries unique strengths and weaknesses, and overlapping them, both spatially and temporally, facilitates a more complete understanding of fisher ecology in the region and more precise estimates of demographic rates.

Since February 2007, 78 fishers have been captured and 72 of these have been radio-collared (2010 data). These animals have been accurately relocated 3317 times, including both remote triangulations and walk-ins. 2284 scats have been collected, with genetic analysis completed on 1924. Thirty-two percent of these (N = 616) have been confirmed as fisher, with the remaining samples either failing to amplify or being identified as other species. Using a combination of telemetry and scat dog data, we generated a preliminary density estimate of 13.4 fishers per 100 km². We observed reproductive activity for 79% of the adult females monitored during two

breeding seasons, with 45 kits observed at 31 natal dens. We located an additional 64 maternal dens in a variety of structures. Survival rates ranged from 0.61 for subadult males to 1.0 for juvenile females, and predation accounted for 81% of all mortality. Genetically confirmed predators include mountain lion (40%), bobcat (40%), and coyote (20%).

PSW generated 95% kernel home range estimates of 1,113 ha for females and 4,522 ha for males. In agreement with most published literature, fishers were found in areas of higher canopy cover. However they were also found more often in areas with higher number of small (<20" dbh) trees, indicating that these trees may provide requisite structure and canopy. Fishers avoided edges, particularly with respect to resting sites, and were found on the lower portions of north facing slopes more often than any other topographic position. Fishers used a variety of tree species and structures for resting, with the most common choices being cavities in black oak and white fir. Diet was dominated by mammalian remains, though we documented a large diversity in food consumed including plants, birds, reptiles, and insects.

The KRFP will continue to monitor fishers during and after Soaproot Stewardship implementation.

The second major study within the project area is the California spotted owl Demographic Study. This study was initiated in 1990 on the former Kings River District for five reasons. The objectives were (1) to characterize the life-history structure of the California spotted owl, (2) to estimate the values of the demographic parameters needed to compute rates of population change, (3) to test the sensitivity of the rate of population change to each of the demographic parameters, (4) to infer which parameters may be most influenced by management decisions, and (5) to suggest future research priorities, as indicated by the demographic analysis. The parameters include: (1) the probability of survival from one age to another, (2) fecundity, the expected number of female fledglings produced per female per year, and (3) the age at first reproduction. This project will continue to monitor California spotted owls during and after Soaproot Project implementation.

Location

The Soaproot Stewardship includes treatments on 1,270 acres of the Sierra National Forest (SNF) in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, approximately 30 miles northeast of Fresno, California. The legal description is: Township 10 South, Range 24 East, Sections 24 and 25; Township 10 South, Range 25 East, Sections 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 22 - 24, 26, 29 - 33; Township 10 South, Range 26 East, Section 18; and Township 11 South, Range 25 East, Sections 3 - 8; Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian Township. The area ranges in elevation from 2,800 to 6,600 feet. The Project area covers the area south of Shaver Lake and east of Dinkey Creek in the Blue Canyon area on the High Sierra Ranger District (HSRD). The Project area is primarily within the Summit Creek (7552.310104), Providence Creek (7552.310101), and Rush Creek (7552.310103) Cal Water planning watersheds. In comparison, the Project is within the Upper Big Creek (180300100801) and Lower Big Creek (180300100802) subwatersheds (equivalent to the HUC6 scale) as designated on the SNF. There are 15 subdrainages (equivalent to the HUC 8 scale) found in the Project area. Big Creek is the main stream in the project area. Tributaries include Summit Creek,

Providence Creek, and Rush Creek. Nearby communities include Shaver Lake, Ockenden, Pineridge, Cressman's, and Dinkey Creek.

The location of the 2014 Soaproot Proposal treatment units are found throughout the Soaproot Stewardship contract area. The 2014 Soaproot Proposal units are found in all three Cal Water planning watersheds cited above and are located in WUI.

Project Implementation Elements

The Project prescriptions are designed to maintain the suitability of sensitive species habitat, while remaining consistent with fuels and fire objectives. Vegetation treatments proposed would occur as three different prescriptions and are based on whether they occur inside of fisher den buffers and spotted owl PACs, outside of these areas, or within plantations. The following treatment descriptions are planned during implementation of the Soaproot Stewardship.

Restoration Thinning

Restoration thinning is prescribed outside of Pacific fisher den site buffers and outside of California spotted owl PACs that are not within the WUI defense zones. The restoration thin prescription uses concepts from the PSW-GTR-220 report, using topographic variables, to guide treatments proposed for the Project. These treatments have an emphasis on retaining denning structures and creating and enhancing gaps and pockets of high density. Creation of gaps would occur in incense-cedar thickets that average 10 inches DBH or less and would range from one-half to two acres in size. The gaps would be created in pockets of tree mortality caused mainly by the bark beetle. Within these pockets, four to six of the largest snags per acre would be retained and all trees greater than 30 inches DBH would be retained. Small, unmapped riparian areas located throughout the proposed treatment stands would be treated to retain or increase the dominance of vegetation consistent with restoration objectives. Commercial tree harvest methods to be used involve mechanical ground-based equipment (tracked feller bunchers and rubber-tired skidders) to remove conifer trees up to 29.9 inches DBH. In compliance with the SNF LRMP, trees with a DBH of 30 inches and greater would be retained throughout the Project area except where they pose a safety or structural hazard. Tree removal would focus on white fir and incense-cedar and suppressed trees of all species. Priority tree species to retain would be disease-free sugar pine, ponderosa pine, California black oak, and quaking aspen; the tallest trees; trees with the largest crowns and straightest boles that are free of damage from insects, disease and physical or mechanical causes. Trees with potential fisher resting structures such as mistletoe witches brooms, multiple tops, or stem rot greater than 20 inches DBH are also a priority for retention. **This treatment is not part of the 2014 Soaproot Proposal request.**

Ladder Fuel Thinning

Within fisher den buffers and spotted owl PACs, mechanical fuel treatments would follow the recommendations made by the Dinkey Collaborative Joint Fact Finding Committee. These recommendations include avoiding treatment within the den buffers and PACs if possible and would limit thinning to trees equal to or less than 12 inches DBH. Where fire objectives

prevail, the removal of mid-sized trees (12 to 16 inches DBH) will occur. **This treatment is not part of the 2014 Soaproot Proposal request.**

Biomass Thinning

Within the units prescribed for restoration and ladder fuel treatments, small trees (4 to 9.9 inches DBH) will be thinned to a spacing of 20 feet and the trees yarded to a central landing. Depending on economics this biomass material will either be removed off-site or burned. There are several units within plantations that will also have small trees thinned to a spacing of 20 feet to accelerate development of large trees and meet ecological restoration objectives. This material will also be removed to landing and either removed or burned. Mechanized equipment such as a feller buncher and rubber-tired skidder would be utilized. **This treatment is part of the 2014 Soaproot Proposal request.**

Mastication

Mastication (mechanical shredding) of brush and dead and down woody fuels is prescribed in older plantations to reduce surface and ladder fuels and competing vegetation. Mechanical equipment used is typically tracked with a mastication head mounted on an articulating arm and is able to operate on slopes greater than 35 percent. **This treatment is not part of the 2014 Soaproot Proposal request.**

Tractor or Grapple Pile Slash

The fuel prescriptions involve the mechanical rearrangement of fuels created from harvesting activities, natural processes or dense brushy areas. Dead and down woody material treatment will occur after proposed vegetation treatments are completed. Areas of dense green brush will be tractor piled as a separate treatment. Piles will be later burned with FS personnel. In watersheds where cumulative watershed effects (CWEs) are a concern, grapple piling is prescribed. **This treatment is part of the 2014 Soaproot Proposal request.**

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance will occur on approximately 29.1 miles of roads needed for access to treatment units. Road maintenance involves pre, during, and post sawtimber hauling activities. Road maintenance activities would include roadside brushing, installation of waterbars or rolling dips, grading, cleaning ditches and culverts, and removing small trees and limbs that interfere with traffic and/or visible sight distance around curves. **This treatment is not part of the 2014 Soaproot Proposal request.**

Project Economics

The Soaproot Stewardship was advertised with several mandatory (base) work activities, several optional work activities, and a base value for sawtimber. Based on a government estimate of proposed service work cost, the FS listed mandatory activities that could be awarded with available Forest Service funds at the time of the Soaproot Stewardship award. The optional work activities would be released for treatment and payment at bid rates when funds become available within 160 days of contract award. After 160 days, the optional work activities may be released for implementation at a negotiated rate agreed to by both parties. Only the mandatory work activities

were awarded to SFP due to the limitation of appropriated funding for the Project. At this time there is approximately \$450,000 of optional activities unfunded. Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant funds in the amount of \$350,000 is requested to fund some of the optional work activities. Table 1 summarizes the economic status of the Soaproot Stewardship.

Table 1. Soaproot Stewardship Economics

Fiscal Item	Value
1. Mandatory Work Activities (Expense)	\$558,925.04
2. USDA Forest Service Funding (Revenue)	\$545,000.00
3. Timber Value (Revenue)	\$13,948.20
Available for Optional Activities	\$23.16
Optional Work Activities (Expense)	\$449,927.50
Additional Funding to Complete all Optional Activities	\$449,904.34

b. Workplan and Schedule Narrative

SFP submitted a detailed technical proposal with their bid for services. The technical proposal outlines how SFP will accomplish the mandatory and optional activities for the Project. The technical proposal from SFP is proprietary and not available for review. SFP started operations in October 2013. There are limited operating periods (periods where operations cannot occur to protect sensitive animal species and other constraints) associated with the project that might affect the timing of work. Their plan is to start harvesting in units that have both sawtimber and biomass products. They will cut both products at the same time, bundle the material, then skid the products to a landing. At the landing the products will be limbed and sorted. The sawtimber will be loaded onto log trucks and hauled to the SFP sawmill in Terra Bella, Ca. The processed biomass may either stay in the landing for future burning or could be hauled off-site as a commercial product. The production of sawtimber removal is estimated at 50 MBF or 300 tons per day. The production for biomass treatments is estimated at 5 acres per day. SFP expects to complete the sawtimber/biomass thinning by summer of 2014. Upon completion of each unit with sawtimber and biomass harvest, units with mandatory tractor piling will next be piled. The production rate for tractor piling is estimated at 10 acres per day. The sawtimber/biomass cut and remove and tractor pile activities will be completed by one sub-contractor.

Units with mandatory mastication will require a separate sub-contractor with specialized equipment. These mastication units are separate from the timber harvest units and their treatment will begin in the spring of 2014 and should be completed in two months. The production for mastication is estimated at 3 acres per day and will require approximately 70 days to complete.

Road maintenance is performed before haul, during haul, and after hauling is complete. The main portion of the work is upon completion of hauling. SFP will be using a third sub-contractor for road maintenance. Road maintenance will start in the fall of 2013 and continue until the entire sawtimber haul is complete. The average production for road maintenance is estimated at two miles per day.

The optional work activities will occur in the 2014 field season using 2014 Soaproot Proposal funds. The optional biomass thinning, tractor piling slash and mastication will have the same production estimates as the mandatory work. Grapple pile is exclusive to the optional work activities. If grapple piling is funded, SFP will use a fourth sub-contractor with specialized equipment to accomplish the work. The estimated production for grapple piling is approximately 10 acres per day. Optional mastication work will not be funded with SNC Grant funds.

The Soaproot Stewardship contract has a termination date of October 31, 2016. It is anticipated that SFP can complete all the work in the contract, including any optional work, by the fall of 2014 and well within the termination date.

The Forest Service has assigned a Contracting Officer Representative (COR) to administer the contract for compliance. Two Contract Inspectors (CI) will also be assigned to the Project to ensure contract specifications are met. In addition, SFP will have a daily on-site operator/foreman representing the sub-contractor to monitor progress and quality control in all work activities. SFP will also provide a company Forester on-site a minimum of two times a week to monitor the progress and quality of operations.

Table 2. Soaproot Stewardship Schedule, Deliverables, and Resources Needed for Work Funded by the 2014 Soaproot Proposal

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
<p>Biomass Thin and Pile at Landing on 262.3 acres (units 16, 21, 24, 25, 27, 43, 54, 67, 91, and 92) Contractor will sub-contract with logging operator to accomplish this work with an excavator equipped with cutting head. Specifications for spacing of leave biomass trees are contained in the stewardship contract. Cut biomass material will be skidded to landing to reduce the fuel loading within the treated units. Biomass trees will either be removed from landing as fuelwood or burned at the landing. Acceptance of work will be performed by Forest Service personnel.</p>	<p>Start June 1, 2014 and finish September 1, 2014</p>
<p>Tractor pile slash on 470.5 acres (units 3, 8, 15, 16, 17, 21, 29, 30, 32, 37, 48, 54, 59, 78, 91, and 92) Contractor will sub-contract with logging operator to accomplish this work with a dozer equipped with brush rake. Brush and down woody material will be piled following specifications in the stewardship contract. Piles will be burned by Forest Service fire personnel. Acceptance of work will be performed by Forest Service personnel.</p>	<p>Start June 1, 2014 and finish October 1, 2014</p>
<p>Grapple pile slash on 305 acres (units 1, 2, 10, 12, 22, 26, 27, 28, 31, 51, 58, 63, 63A, 76, and 84) Contractor will sub-contract with local grapple pile operator to accomplish this work with an excavator equipped with grapple head. Down woody material will be piled following specifications in the stewardship contract. Piles will be burned by Forest Service fire personnel. Acceptance of work will be performed by Forest Service personnel.</p>	<p>Start June 1, 2014 and finish September 15, 2014</p>
<p>Six –month Progress Report</p>	<p>December 1, 2014</p>
<p>Final Report</p>	<p>June 1, 2015</p>

Table 3 and 4 summarizes the bid offered by SFP and accepted by the Forest Service. The basic work activities are currently funded with Forest Service funds. Optional work activities will be funded through the 2014 Soaproot Proposal.

Table 3. Schedule of Service Items for Entire Soaproot Stewardship*

Description Base Work Activities	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantity	Unit Price Bid	Total
Haul Merchantable Sawtimber to Mill	Tons	9,298.8	\$ 24.72	\$229,866.34
Biomass Thin and Pile at Landing	Acres	483.0	\$ 410.00	\$198,030.00
Tractor Pile Slash	Acres	56.9	\$ 299.00	\$ 17,013.10
Mastication	Acres	152.4	\$ 519.00	\$79,095.60
Road Maintenance	Miles	29.1	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 34,920.00
			Sum	\$558,925.04
Optional Work Activities				
Biomass Thin and Pile at Landing	Acres	262.3	\$ 410.00	\$ 107,543.00
Tractor Pile Slash	Acres	470.5	\$ 299.00	\$ 140,679.50
Grapple Pile Slash	Acres	520.0	\$ 333.00	\$ 173,160.00
Mastication	Acres	55.0	\$ 519.00	\$ 28,545.00
			Sum	\$449,927.50
Total All Service Items				\$ 1,008,852.54

*The 2014 Soaproot Proposal only includes the Optional Biomass Thin and Pile at Landing, the Optional Tractor Pile Slash, and 305 acres of the Optional Grapple Pile Slash

Table 4. Timber/Product Removal Price Schedule for Soaproot Stewardship (informational purpose only)

Species	Product	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Offer	Total Offer
All	Sawtimber	9,298.8	Tons	\$1.50	\$13,948.20
Total – All Products					\$ 13,948.20

c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements Narrative

The Soaproot NEPA was first listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for the SNF on January 1, 2011 and was listed until project planning was completed. In addition, the agency used the collaborative approach described above. The Dinkey Collaborative met several times beginning in January 2011 for full collaborative meetings, field visits, and technical sub groups. The proposed action was provided to SOPA respondents and other interested individuals, Native American Tribes, adjacent landowners, permittees, organizations, and government agencies for comment during scoping from June 10, 2011 to July 10, 2011. A public notice was published in

the *Fresno Bee* on June 11, 2011. At the end of the scoping period, a total of four responses were received. The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) reviewed the comments received and developed a list of issues to address in the analysis.

The Soaproot Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed by Dean Gould on September 20, 2012. The decision document was developed under the 218 appeal regulations. The 218 regulations call for a 30-day Objection Period after release of the decision. The project received no objections from our interested public allowing the Forest Service to fully implement the Soaproot NEPA proposed action.

Soaproot NEPA Purpose and Need

The SNF Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) provides direction to maintain and restore ecological sustainability and emphasizes the need to modify wildland fire behavior across broad landscapes through the strategic placement of area treatments, reduce stand density and improve tree vigor, and to improve overall forest health. The following needs are tied to the overarching purpose to restore a healthy, diverse, fire-resilient forest structure in the Soaproot NEPA analysis area:

- There is a need to improve watershed resilience and function and improve aquatic habitat for sensitive wildlife species.
- There is a need to restore a vigorous, diverse, forest ecosystem that is resilient to the effects of wildfire, insect and disease, air pollution, and climate change.
- There is a need to protect adjacent landowners and private property from the effects of wildfire.
- There is a need to reduce smoke production from wildfire and prescribed fire.
- There is a need to protect denning, resting, and nesting structures from future wildfire and to enhance these structures, as well as foraging habitat for Pacific fisher and California spotted owl
- There is a need to reduce the spread of noxious weeds and to protect sensitive botanical species within the Soaproot NEPA analysis area.

Soaproot NEPA Proposed Action Summary

The SNF intends to apply restoration treatments within the 6,958 acres that comprise the Soaproot NEPA analysis area. There are areas within the Soaproot NEPA analysis area that will not receive restorative treatments because of inaccessibility, poor soil productivity, and steep slopes. Outside of fisher den buffers and spotted owl PACs, vegetation treatments would follow the guidelines outlined in the PSW-GTR-220 with an emphasis on retaining denning structures and creating and enhancing gaps and pockets of high density. Within den buffers and PACs, ladder fuels treatments would follow the recommendations made by the Dinkey Collaborative Joint Fact Finding Committee. Fuels treatments would include mechanical, hand, and prescribed fire methods. Plantation treatments would include pre-commercial thinning, site preparation, planting and release using herbicides. Noxious weeds would be eradicated using manual and chemical methods. Watershed and riparian treatments are also proposed in the Soaproot NEPA analysis area. This action responds to the goals and objectives outlined in the SNF LRMP, and helps move the Soaproot NEPA analysis area towards desired conditions described in that plan.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy will act as the Lead Agency and will develop the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration as well as the detailed NEPA information for CEQA compliance of this proposal.

d. Organizational Capacity Narrative

The Soaproot Stewardship was awarded to SFP, owner of the sawmill in Terra Bella, Ca. SFP was established in 1968 with the goal of manufacturing lumber. Since 1968, SFP has undertaken numerous federal timber sales and successfully operated on them until completion. The SFP forestry staff, along with their sub-contractors, is well qualified to conduct all the required activities on the Soaproot Stewardship. The proposed logging and vegetation removal sub-contractors have worked many years on similar projects. The logging sub-contractor own and operates feller bunchers, mastication heads, skidding equipment including rubber tired skidders, mechanical delimiters, log loaders and chippers.

The equipment necessary to complete the road maintenance portion of the contract is owned by the sub-contractor assigned to the task. This equipment includes a motor grader and a water truck.

Recently, SFP was awarded and completed four similar stewardship projects on the HSRD. In all four stewardship contracts, SFP completed contract requirements on time and with good quality of work.

Table 5. Summary of Sub-contractor Past Performance

Task	Operator	Equipment Required	Work on Similar Projects by Operator
Haul Merchantable Sawtimber to Mill	Logging Sub-contractor (Pelayo Logging)	Sub-contract haul to local log truckers	Successfully hauled logs on Dinkey South, Dinkey North, Keola, and Power 1 Stewardship contracts
Biomass Thin and Pile at Landing	Logging Sub-contractor (Pelayo Logging)	Feller buncher, rubber-tired skidder and log processor owned by sub-contractor	Successfully biomass thinned on Dinkey South, Dinkey North, and Keola Stewardship contracts
Tractor Pile Slash	Logging Sub-contractor (Pelayo Logging)	Dozer with brush rack owned by sub-contractor	Successfully tractor piled slash on Dinkey South, Dinkey North, Keola, and Power 1 Stewardship contracts
Mastication	Mastication Sub-contractor (Mark Scott, Inc.)	Excavator with mastication head owned by sub-contractor	Successful performance on mastication contracts in the past on the SNF
Road Maintenance	Road Sub-contractor (Messer Logging)	Motor grader, water truck, and backhoe owned by sub-contractor	Successfully maintained roads on many timber sale contracts on the HSRD

Grapple Pile Slash	Grapple Pile Sub-contractor (Shane Killian Const.)	Excavator with grapple piling head owned by sub-contractor	Successful performance on grapple piling contracts in the past on the SNF
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The FS has assigned a Contracting Officer Representative (COR) to administer the contract for compliance. Two Contract Inspectors (CI) will also be assigned to the Project to ensure contract specifications are met.

e. Cooperation and Community Support Narrative

Collaboration with Interested Public

The analysis area of the Soaproot Restoration Project Environmental Assessment was selected by the Dinkey Collaborative (a group of diverse stakeholders assembled to direct the planning approach for the Project) to reduce hazardous fuels and restore ecological components within the Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project (DLRP). The DLRP was developed under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) established by Title VI of the Omnibus Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11). The DLRP, which includes 154,000 acres on the HSRD and adjacent private lands, was one of the projects selected to implement the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The Dinkey Collaborative represents local landowners, Native American Tribes, forestry and timber industries, environmentalists, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Highway 168 Fire Safe Council, and the SNF. Participants represent the interests of themselves and their interest groups.

The Dinkey Collaborative developed a series of iterative agreements that address desired conditions, purpose and need, and the proposed action. The Dinkey Collaborative adopted as a conceptual framework the General Technical Report 220 developed by North et al. (2009) titled *An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierran Mixed-Conifer Forests* (PSW-GTR-220); identified the key elements of the purpose and need; and identified variables that would define a desired condition across different topographic and aspect zones (i.e., canyons, slopes, and ridges with northern or southern exposures). The Dinkey Collaborative also crafted a set of decision priorities that reflect the intent to create heterogeneity (i.e., diversity in plant size, type, and density) across the landscape while addressing public health and safety and restoration needs.

A cross-disciplinary approach was used for the collaborative process to incorporate the various insights and perspectives of group members. Dinkey Collaborative members discussed the Soaproot NEPA analysis area in several meetings and site visits, as either a full group or smaller subcommittee to work out the details of the proposed action for the Soaproot NEPA Environmental Assessment. The Dinkey Collaborative provided input and viewpoints during the development of alternatives to consider for the Soaproot NEPA analysis. At the conclusion of project planning, the SNF received letters of support from many collaborative members. Private landowners adjacent to the project fully support the restoration treatments. Treatments in the

Project are similar to treatments on SCE timber lands found on the HSRD and adjacent to the Soaproot NEPA analysis area.

The DLRP strategy identified restoration treatments for the Soaproot NEPA analysis area that were collaboratively developed, using PSW-GTR-220 as a foundation. Using this strategy, the Soaproot NEPA seeks to achieve multiple goals:

- reduce hazardous fuels,
- retain and promote large tree and denning/nesting structures needed by Pacific fisher and California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*),
- promote stand and landscape heterogeneity, and
- provide sufficient natural regeneration of shade-intolerant tree species for the creation of future fire-adapted forests.

The DLRP strategy incorporates long-term ecological restoration and habitat improvements through management of the existing forest structure. The goal of this strategy is to restore heterogeneity at the landscape scale to approximate but not strictly impose a historical condition and to create a mosaic of density and structure based on ecological processes influenced by aspect, slope position, site productivity, tree species, and unusual micro-site conditions. The most important of these historical processes is fire (North et al. 2009).

The Bald Mountain Project is currently being planned north and east of the Soaproot Stewardship within the DLRP. The Bald Mountain Project covers approximately 17,350 acres and has similar goals as the Soaproot Stewardship.

f. Long-Term Management and Sustainability Narrative

The management areas that include the Soaproot Stewardship will continue to be managed on a regular schedule in the foreseeable future. Commercial and biomass thinning would occur on a twenty year reentry schedule. Underburning is not part of the Soaproot Stewardship, but the area has been in an underburn program for nearly 20 years. The HSRD will continue to use underburning as a management tool every 7 to 9 years in the Soaproot Stewardship area. Management in plantations, either existing or created by the Project, would continue on a regular basis by treating competing vegetation and ensuring the success of the plantation. Road maintenance would continue to occur on the major system roads through the project area using Forest Service road maintenance crews or private contractors.

The SNF LRMP directs that management of land and resources be designed to maintain desired conditions or to move existing conditions toward desired conditions. This governing document along with the principles outlined in *An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierran Mixed-Conifer Forest* (PSW-GTR-220) will provide the basis for long-term management within the project area.

2. Supplemental Documents

a. Cooperation and Community Letters of Support

Insert:

SupportLtr1.pdf

SupportLtr2.pdf

SupportLtr3.pdf

SupportLtr4.pdf

SupportLtr5.pdf

DinkeyCollaborativeRoster05-22-11.pdf

b. Long-Term Management and Sustainability

The Soaproot Stewardship has no Long-term Management Plan. The Soaproot NEPA that authorizes the Forest Service to implement treatments in the project area is valid until the last treatments are complete. There are underburn treatments prescribed for much of the area in the Soaproot Stewardship and the Soaproot NEPA authorizes multiple entries for underburn treatments. The Soaproot NEPA will allow a minimum of 10 years and up to 20 years of maintenance underburns within the Soaproot Stewardship project area. The Forest Service plans on returning to the Soaproot Project area in 20 years with maintenance project to thin trees, treat down woody material, and pile brush.

c. Maps and Photos

Insert:

soaproot_SNC_LocationMap12-11-2013.pdf

soaproot_SNC_ParcelMapEast.pdf

soaproot_SNC_ParcelMapWest12-11-2013.pdf

soaproot_SNC_TopoMapEast.pdf

soaproot_SNC_TopoMapWest12-11-2013.pdf

PhotosSoaprootProjectSite.docx

d. Additional Submission Requirements

Insert:

soaproot_SNC_SitePlanMapEast.pdf

soaproot_SNC_SitePlanMapWest12-11-2013.pdf

3. Financial Forms

a. Detailed Budget Form

Insert:

SoaprootStewDetailedBudgetFormFinal12-11-13.xlsx

b. Cost Allocation Plan

Not Applicable

A Cost Allocation Plan was not prepared for this GAP. The funds requested for the 2014 Soaproot Proposal will pay for on-the-ground work in a Stewardship contract. No funds would be used for administrative costs.

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM**

Project Name: Soaproot Stewardship Project

Applicant: USDA Forest Service - Sierra National Forest - High Sierra Ranger District

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	2013 Year One	2014 Year Two	2015 Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>Forest Treatments:</i>						\$0.00
<i>Biomass Thin and Pile at Landing (262.3 ac. @ \$410/ac.)</i>		\$107,543.00				\$107,543.00
<i>Tractor Pile Slash (470.5 ac. @ \$299/ac.)</i>		\$140,679.40				\$140,679.40
<i>Grapple Pile Slash (305 ac. @ \$333/ac.)</i>		\$101,565.00				\$101,565.00
						\$0.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$0.00	\$349,787.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$349,787.40

SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	2013 Year One	2014 Year Two	2015 Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	\$0.00	\$349,787.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$349,787.40

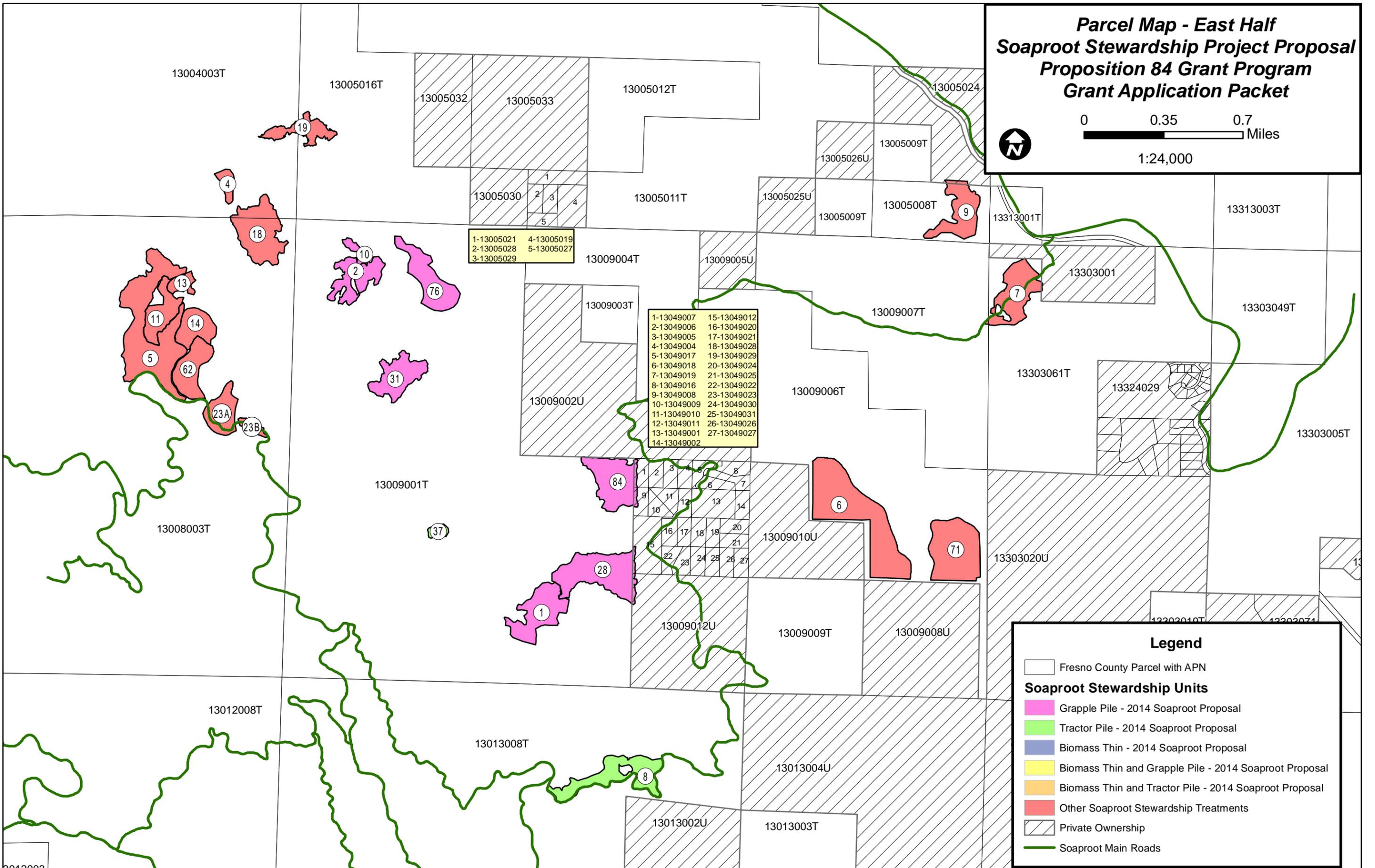
SECTION THREE Administrative Costs (Costs may not to exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :						Total
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	\$0.00	\$349,787.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$349,787.40

SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	2013 Year One	2014 Year Two	2015 Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>List other funding or in-kind contributors to project (i.e. Sierra Business Council, Department of Water Resources, etc.)</i>						
USDA Forest Service Funds <i>Stewardship Unit Layout and Tree Marking</i>	\$243,600.00					\$243,600.00
USDA Forest Service Funds <i>Stewardship Appraisal and Contract Preparation</i>	\$6,000.00					\$6,000.00
USDA Forest Service Funds <i>Stewardship Services Bid</i>	\$544,977.00					\$544,977.00
USDA Forest Service Funds <i>Stewardship Contract Administration</i>	\$14,000.00	\$32,000.00				\$46,000.00
Total Other Contributions:	\$808,577.00	\$32,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$840,577.00

NOTE: The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.

* Operating Costs should be allocated to the percentage that is applicable to the grant based on your cost allocation methodology and cannot exceed 15% of your total project costs.

**Parcel Map - East Half
 Soaproot Stewardship Project Proposal
 Proposition 84 Grant Program
 Grant Application Packet**



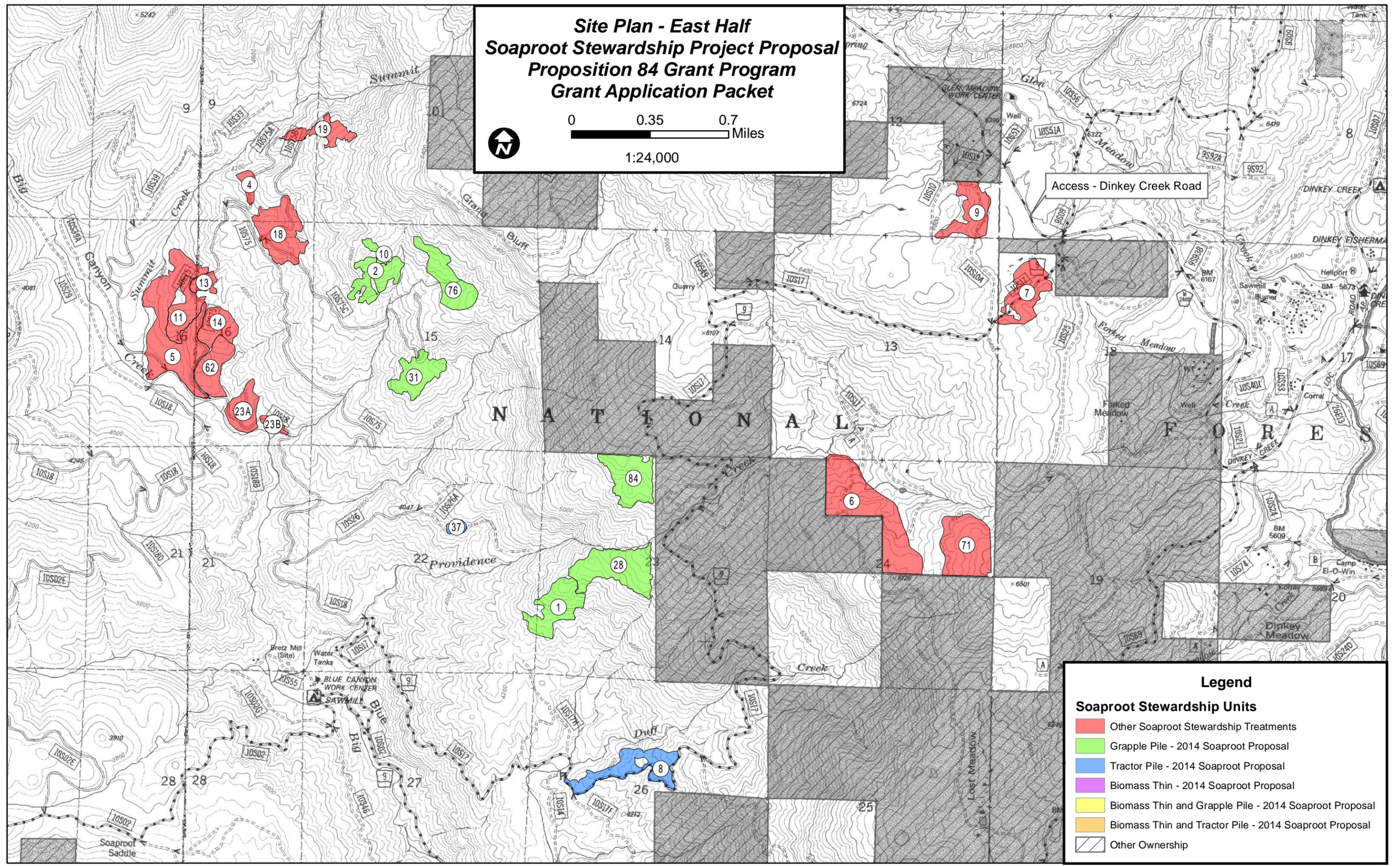
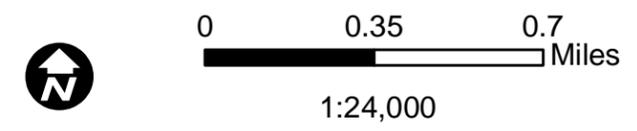
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11-13049010	25-13049031
12-13049011	26-13049026
13-13049001	27-13049027
14-13049002	

Legend

- Fresno County Parcel with APN
- Soaproot Stewardship Units**
 - Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Biomass Thin - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Biomass Thin and Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Biomass Thin and Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Other Soaproot Stewardship Treatments
- Private Ownership
- Soaproot Main Roads

**Site Plan - East Half
 Soaproot Stewardship Project Proposal
 Proposition 84 Grant Program
 Grant Application Packet**



Legend

Soaproot Stewardship Units

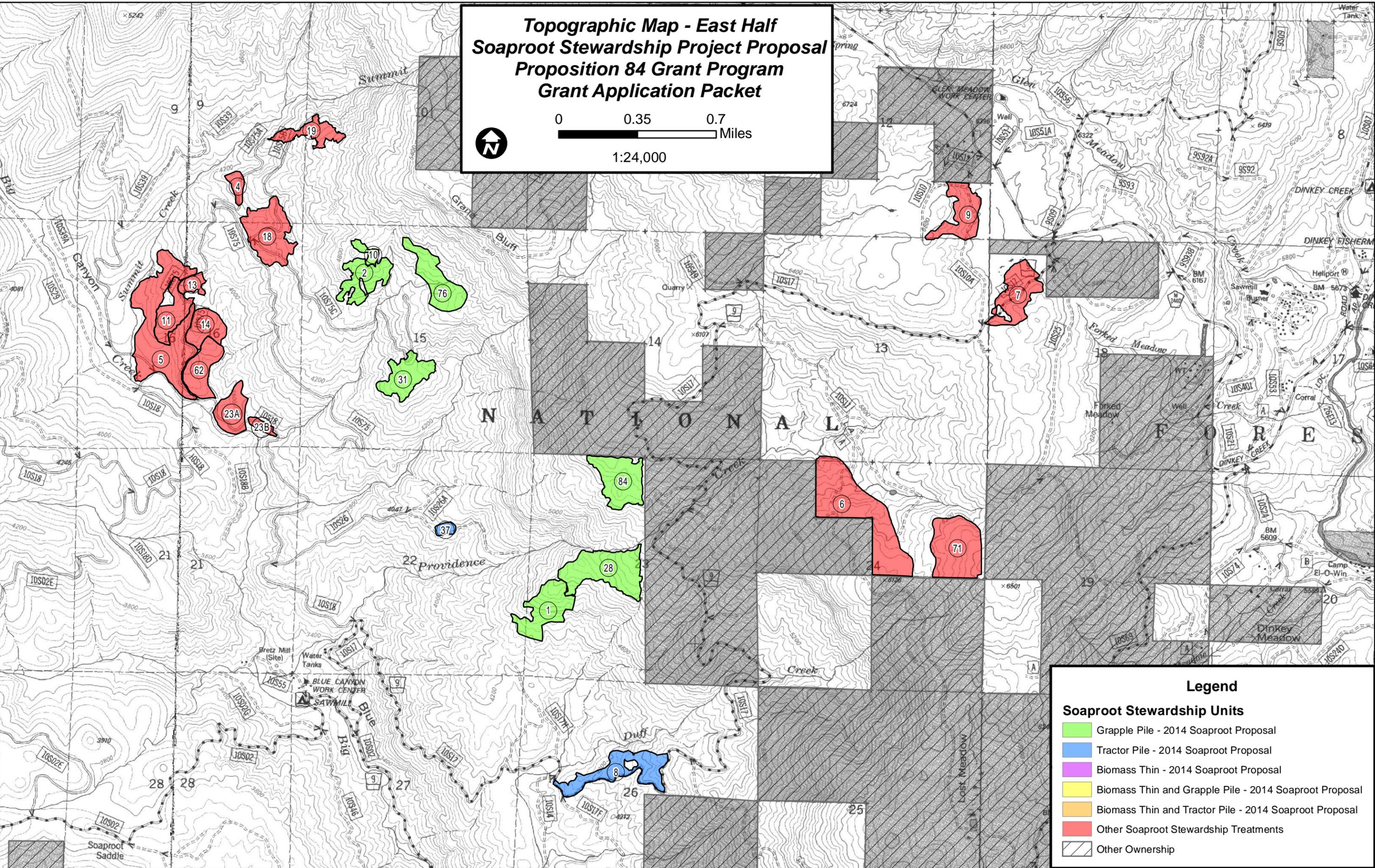
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- Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Biomass Thin - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Biomass Thin and Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Biomass Thin and Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Other Ownership

**Topographic Map - East Half
 Soaproot Stewardship Project Proposal
 Proposition 84 Grant Program
 Grant Application Packet**



0 0.35 0.7 Miles

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Legend

- Soaproot Stewardship Units**
- Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Biomass Thin - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Biomass Thin and Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Biomass Thin and Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Other Soaproot Stewardship Treatments
 - Other Ownership

Photos of the Soaproot Stewardship Project Site



Photo 1. Unit 51 in 2014 Soaproot Proposal that has heavy dead fuel accumulation. Treatments include commercial thinning and grapple piling. Grapple pile funded by SNC.



Photo 2. Unit 51 in 2014 Soaproot Proposal that is densely stocked with biomass trees. Example of a biomass thin treatment.



Photo 3. Unit 26 in 2014 Soaproot Proposal that is densely stocked with biomass trees. Example of a biomass thin treatment.



Photo 4. Unit 8 in 2014 Soaproot Proposal that is densely stocked with brush. Treatment of tractor pile brush with dozer would be funded with SNC funds.



Photo 5. Feller buncher working in Soaproot Stewardship unit 21 thinning trees for forest restoration.



Photo 6. Underburning within the Soaproot NEPA analysis area. This tool is used to maintain treated areas.



Photo 7. Post harvest in Unit 48. Tractor pile slash would be funded with SNC funds

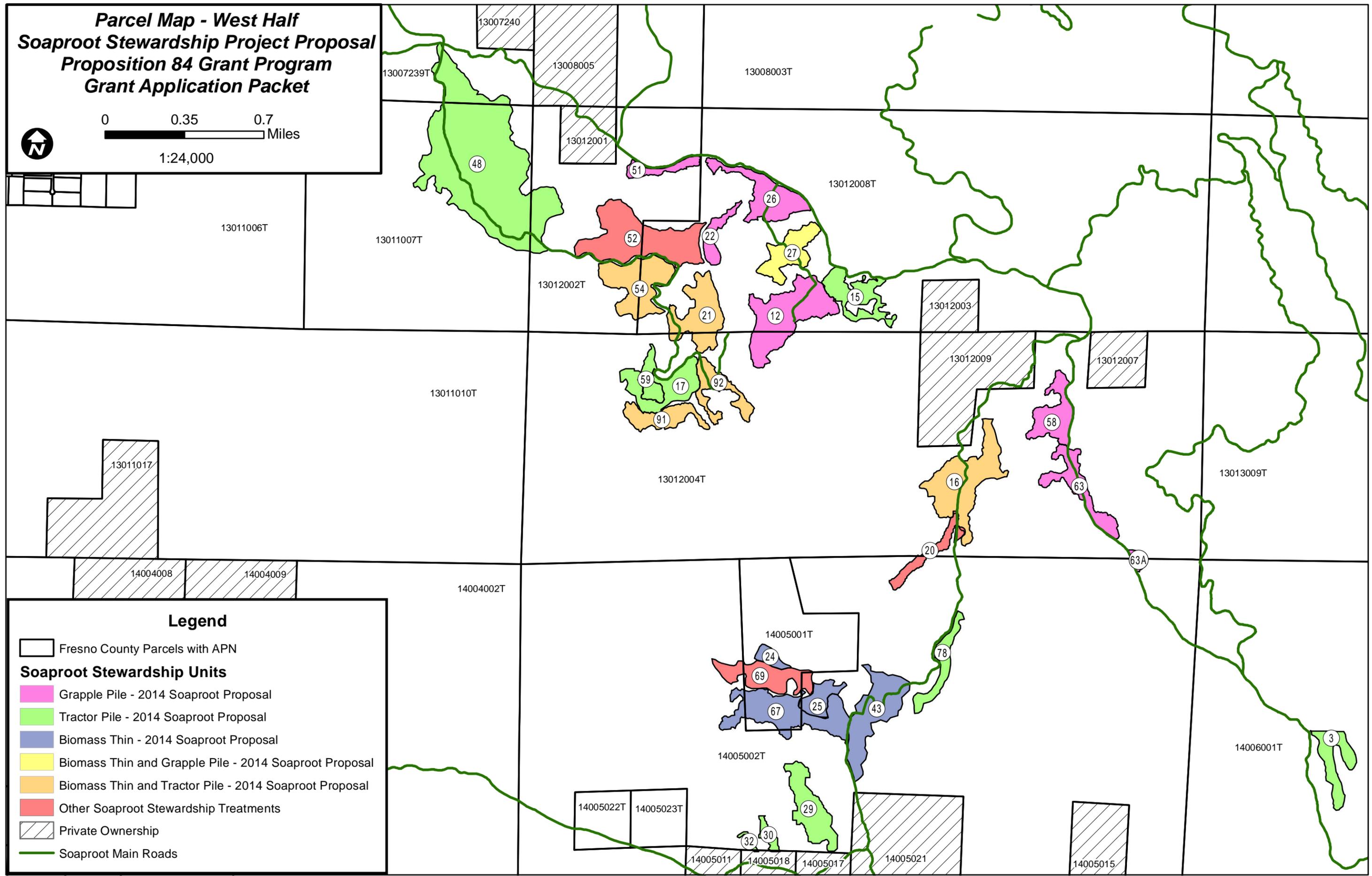
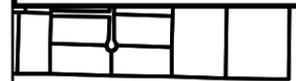
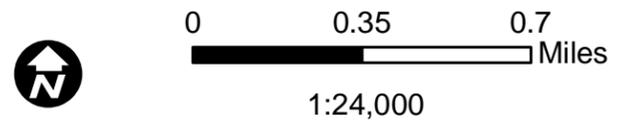


Photo 8. Post harvest in Unit 48. Area has been commercial and biomass thinned.

**Long Term Management Plan
Soaproot Stewardship Project Area**

	Year of Activity									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
2014 Soaproot Proposal Activity										
Biomass Thin and Pile at Landing		X								
Tractor Pile Slash		X								
Grapple Pile		X								
Soaproot Stewardship Activity										
Harvest Sawtimber and Haul to Sawmill	X	X								
Biomass Thin and Pile at Landing	X	X								
Tractor Pile Slash	X	X			X					
Mastication	X									
Road Maintenance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grapple Pile		X								
Soaproot NEPA Activity										
Pile Burning		X	X							
TSI Stand Cleaning			X	X						
Reforestation Work			X	X	X					
Clarence Underburn		X	X							
Rush Underburn							X	X		
Little Rush Underburn							X	X		
Soaproot Underburn				X	X					

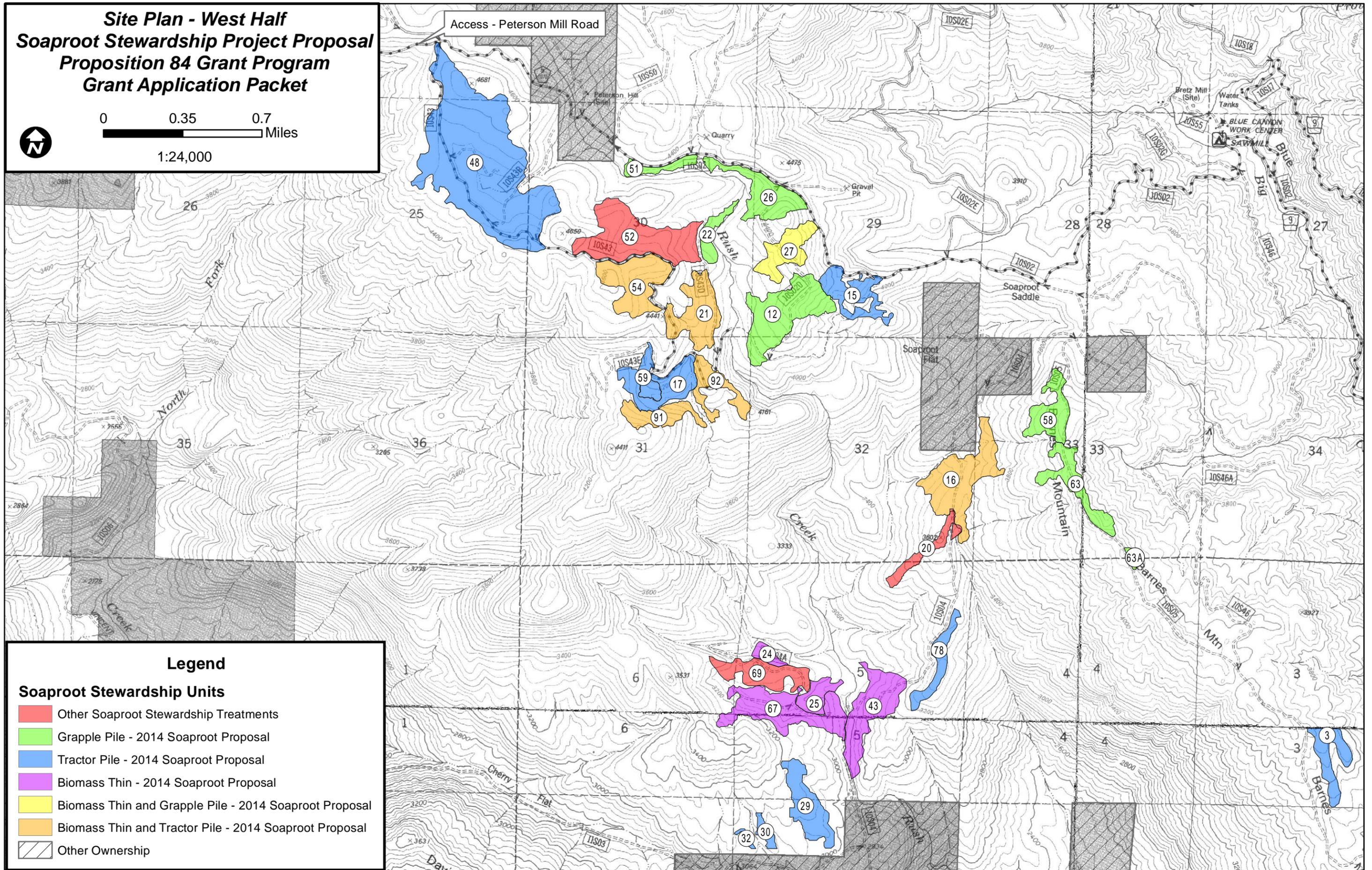
**Parcel Map - West Half
 Soaproot Stewardship Project Proposal
 Proposition 84 Grant Program
 Grant Application Packet**



Legend

- Fresno County Parcels with APN
- Soaproot Stewardship Units**
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- Biomass Thin and Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
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- Soaproot Main Roads

**Site Plan - West Half
 Soaproot Stewardship Project Proposal
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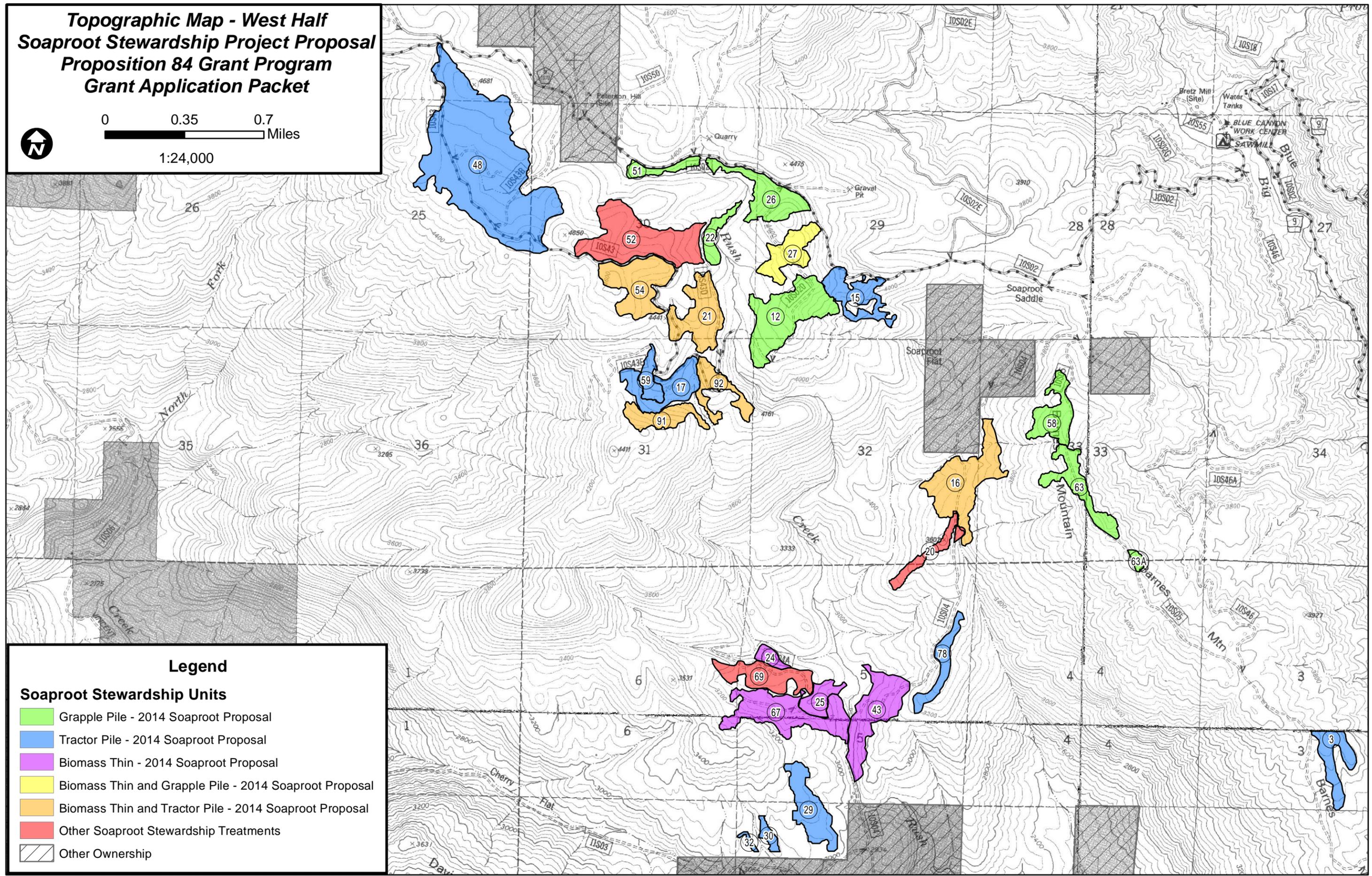
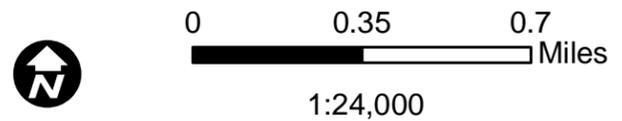


Legend

Soaproot Stewardship Units

- Other Soaproot Stewardship Treatments
- Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Biomass Thin - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Biomass Thin and Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Biomass Thin and Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
- Other Ownership

**Topographic Map - West Half
 Soaproot Stewardship Project Proposal
 Proposition 84 Grant Program
 Grant Application Packet**



Legend

- Soaproot Stewardship Units**
- Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
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 - Biomass Thin and Grapple Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Biomass Thin and Tractor Pile - 2014 Soaproot Proposal
 - Other Soaproot Stewardship Treatments
 - Other Ownership

#	FIRST	LAST NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
1	Ron	Alec			Chairman	Haslett Basin Traditional Committee
2	Rich	Bagley	richard.bagley@sce.com	559-841-3194		Highway 168 Fire Safe Council
3	Gina	Bartlett	gina@ccp.csus.edu	415-255-6805	Senior Mediator	Center for Collaborative Policy
4	Susan	Britting	britting@earthlink.net	530-295-8210	Science and Policy Coordinator	Sierra Forest Legacy
5	Elissa	Brown	elissa@elissabrown.com		Consultant to SNC	
6	Kim	Caringer	caringer@ecr.gov			USIECR
7	Kim	Carr	kcarr@sierranevada.ca.gov	209-620-0553	Mt. Whitney Area Manager	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
8	Charlotte	Chorneau	cchorneau@ccp.csus.edu		Associate Facilitator	Center for Collaborative Policy
9	Matt	Dietz, Ph.D	matt_dietz@tws.org	(415) 398-1111 x107	Ecologist, Research Dept.	The Wilderness Society
10	Glen	Duysen	gduysen@ocsnet.net	559-535-4893		Terra Bella Mill
11	Kent	Duysen	sfp@sierraforest.net	559-535-4893		Terra Bella Mill
12	Larry	Duysen	lduysen@sierraforest.net	559-535-4893		Terra Bella Mill
13	Patrick	Emmert	patrick.emmert@sce.com	(559) 841-3194		Southern California Edison
14	Shawn	Ferreria	Shawn.Ferreria@valleyair.org	(559) 230-5823	Senior Air Quality Specialist	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
15	Larry	Fisher	fisher@ecr.gov		Public Lands Program Manager	USIECR
16	Pamela	Flick	pflick@defenders.org	(916) 313-5800 x105	CA Program Coordinator	Defenders of Wildlife
17	Dorian	Fougères	dfougeres@ccp.csus.edu	(415) 812-7819	Lead Mediator	Center for Collaborative Policy
18	Lisa	Garcia				
19	Ron W.	Goode	rwgoode911@hotmail.com	home (559) 355-1774	Chairperson	North Fork Mono Tribe
20	John	Gong	john.gong@mail.house.gov			Congressman Nunes' Office
21	Lisa	Gymer	lgymer@dfg.ca.gov	559-243-4005		CA Dept.of Fish and Game
22	Chad	Hanson	cthanson1@gmail.com	(530) 273-9290		John Muir Society
23	Steve	Haze	stevehaze007@gmail.com	(559) 855-5840	1st Vice President	Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development
24	Rich	Kangas	rkangas02@comcast.net			Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter
25	David	Konno	djk1952@yahoo.com		Program Manager	Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development
26	Ray	Laclergue	ray@intermountainnursery.com	559-855-8697	Local Landowner & Business Owner	Intermountain Nursery

27	Anne	Lombardo	amlombardo@ucdavis.edu	(209) 966-2417	Project Representative	Sierra Nevada Adaptive Mgmt Project, UC Cooperative Extension, Mariposa County
28	Daniel	Martinez	Daniel.martinez@valleyair.org	559-230-5959	Supervising Air Quality Inspector	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
29	Robert	Marquez	csrancheriarobert@netptc.net		Chairman	Cold Springs Rancheria
30	Maggie	McCaffrey	mccaffrey@ecr.gov			USIECR
31	Mike	McGrann	mmcgrann@dfg.ca.gov	(559) 243-4005x181	Associate Wildlife Biologist	CA Department of Fish and Game
32	Matt	Meadows	mmeadows@ucmerced.edu	209-233-2802 (c) office to the right		Southern Sierra Critical Zone Observatory, Sierra Nevada Research Institute
33	John	Mount	mount.john@ymail.com	559-779-3509		Southern California Edison
34	Peter	Nelson	pnelson@defenders.org	(202) 772-0202	Director, Federal Lands Program	Defenders of Wildlife
35	Scott	Nester	scott.nester@valleyair.org	559-230-6100	Director of Planning	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
36	Malcolm	North	mpnorth@ucdavis.edu		Professor & Researcher	UC Davis and USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station
37	Anthony	Ratekin	anthony.ratekin@mail.house.gov			Congressman Nunes' Office
38	Kim	Rodrigues	karodrigues@ucdavis.edu	(530) 754-8509	Executive Director, Academic Personnel	Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources, UC Davis
39	Bob	Rice				UC Merced
40	Tracy	Rowland			US Bureau of Land Mgmt	
41	Vance	Russell	vrussell@nationalforests.org	(530) 902-6416	California Director	National Forest Foundation
42	Terry	Sandridge	sandrits@netptc.net	(559) 331-0161		Sierra RCD and SCE
43	Steven	Shaw	stephen.shaw@valleyair.org			San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
44	Eric	Smith	csrancheriaeric@netptc.net	(559) 960-0240	EPA Assistant	Cold Springs Rancheria
45	Mark	Smith	mtsmith@psnw.com	559-298-5927	Interested Forester	no representative role
46	Craig	Thomas	craig@sierraforestlegacy.org	530-662-8718		Sierra Forest Legacy
47	Mandy	Vance		5 209-742-0482	Mt. Whitney Project Consultant	Mariposa county Resource Conservation District for Sierra Nevada Conservancy

48	Stan	Van Velsor	stan_vanvelsor@tw.s.org	(415) 398-1111	Policy Associate, OHV Campaign Coordinator	The Wilderness Society
49	Jay	Watson	jwatson@thesca.org	510-832-1966		Student Conservation Association

#	FIRST	LAST NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
1	Frank	Aebly	faebly@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4934	Forest Hydrologist	Sierra National Forest
2	Elaine	Alaniz	enalaniz@fs.fed.us			
3	Scott	Armentrout	sarmentrout@fs.fed.us	559-269-0904	Forest Supervisor	Sierra National Forest Supervisor
4	Carolyn	Ballard	cballard@fs.fed.us	(559) 855-5355 x3354	Fuels Officer	High Sierra Ranger District SNF
5	Keith	Ballard	kballard@fs.fed.us		Soaproot Project Mgr.	Sierra National Forest
6	Stephanie	Barnes	slbarnes@fs.fed.us	(559) 855-5355 ext 3343	District Fisheries/ Aquatic Biologist	High Sierra Ranger Station, SNF
7	Pam	Bierce	pbierce@fs.fed.us	559-297-0709 ext. 4804	Public Affairs Officer	Sierra National Forest
8	Nevia	Brown	neviabrown@fs.fed.us			Sierra National Forest
9	Dirk	Charley	dcharley@fs.fed.us	559-297-0706 x4805	Tribal Program Manager	Sierra and Sequoia National Forests
10	Mary	Chislock	mchislock@fs.fed.us	(559) 784-1500	PAO	Sequoia National Forest, Giant Sequoia National Monument
11	Teri	Drivas	tdrivas@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4923	Forest Rec/ Lands/ Wilderness Officer	Sierra National Forest
12	Robbin	Eckmann			Recreation	Sierra National Forest
13	Alan	Gallegos	ajgallegos@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4934	Geologist	Sierra National Forest
14	Rebecca	Garcia	rebeccagarcia@fs.fed.us		PAO	Sierra National Forest
15	Tomas	Gonzalez	tgonzalez@fs.fed.us	(559) 855-5355 x3336	Fuels Officer	High Sierra Ranger District SNF
16	Dean	Gould	dagould@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4840	Forest Engineer	Sierra National Forest
17	Julie	Gott	ygott@fs.fed.us	(559) 855-5355 x3358	District Hydrologist	Sierra National Forest, High Sierra RD
18	Amy	Gustafson	amygustafson@fs.fed.us		Range Manager	Sierra National Forest
19	Andy	Hosford	ahosford@fs.fed.us		Road Manager	Sierra National Forest

20	Mose	Jones-Yellin	mjonesyellin@fs.fed.us	(559) 855-5355 x3310 (559) 297-0706 x4858	Natural Resource Specialist, Presidential Management Fellow	Sierra National Forest
21	Tom	Lowe	tlowe@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4840		Sierra National Forest
22	Steve	Marsh	smarsh@fs.fed.us	559-855-5355 x3309	District Archeologist	Sierra National Forest
23	Marc	Meyer	mdmeyer@fs.fed.us	559-297-0706 ext. 4929	Southern Sierra Nevada Province Ecologist	USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
24	Tom	Munton	tmunton@fs.fed.us	559-323-3203		USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station
25	James	Oftedal	joftedal@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4962	Director	Central California Consortium
26	Ray	Porter	rporter@fs.fed.us	559-855-5355 ext. 3340	District Ranger for High Sierra Ranger District	Sierra National Forest
27	Kathy	Purcell	kpurcell@fs.fed.us	559-868-6233	Research Wildlife Biologist	USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station
28	Ramiro	Rojas	rrojas@fs.fed.us	559-855-5355 ext. 3327	District Silviculturalist	Sierra National Forest
29	Janet	Sanchez	jesanchez@fs.fed.us			Sierra National Forest
30	Greg	Schroer	gschroer@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4933	Forest Wildlife Biologist	Sierra National Forest
31	Kim	Sorini-Wilson	ksorini@fs.fed.us	(559) 855-5375 x3328	Wildlife Biologist	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF
32	Susan	Sutton	ssutton01@fs.fed.us	559-323-3224		USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station
33	Zach	Tane				
34	Craig	Thompson	cthompson@fs.fed.us	559-868-6296	Research Wildlife Ecologist	USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station; Sierra Nevada Research Center
35	Denise	Tolmie	dtolmie@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4822	Forest Fuels Officer	Sierra National Forest
36	Jamie	Tuitele-Lewis	jtuitelelewis@fs.fed.us		District Botanist	Sierra National Forest
37	Cindy	Whelan	cwhelan@fs.fed.us	(559) 297-0706 x4931	Forest Planner	Sierra National Forest

From: Tapia, Judith on behalf of comments-pacificsouthwest-sierra
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 10:20 AM
To: Ballard, Keith
Cc: Ballard, Carolyn
Subject: Fw: Soaproot Restoration Project
Attachments: pic18787.gif

----- Forwarded by Judith E Tapia/R5/USDAFS on 07/12/2011 10:19 AM -----
"Steven Brink"
<steveb@foresthealth.org>
07/07/2011 09:44 AM

To

<comments-pacificsouthwest-sierra@fs.fed.us>

cc

Subject

Soaproot Restoration Project

California Forestry Association fully supports this project. The following comments are offered:

- 1) Page 9 Plantation Thin Prescription - for plantations with commercial size trees to be removed, we encourage the Forest to use a designation by description of designation by prescription approach to avoid the costly marking alternative.
- 2) Page 4 - Noxious Weeds - We're surprised there is no "proposed action" to eradicate existing areas of noxious weeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Steven A. Brink
1215 K St., Suite 1830
Sacramento, CA 95814
steveb@foresthealth.org
cell 916-208-2425
office 916-444-6592
fax 916-444-0170

Patrick Emmert
14408 Buggy Whip Lane
Prather, CA 93651

July 11, 2011

Mr. Ray Porter, District Ranger
High Sierra Ranger District
P.O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651

Re Soaproot Restoration Project

Dear Ray,

I am writing to submit my personal comments on the Soaproot Project.

Goals and Desired Conditions

I understand the Existing Conditions and fully support the stated goals and conditions. As a landowner of property located adjacent to the project area, I endorse treating fuels to significantly reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread. Reduced threat of wildfire benefits the public, the private landowners, wildlife, soils, water, and air. I endorse treating the hazardous fuels in a cost effective manner. I endorse restoration of fire adapted ecosystems for long term management of the vegetative growth.

Purpose and Need for Action

I agree with the stated purpose and need.

I do not believe the project should purposely create “intensive fire” burning on the landscape in order to create burned trees to be potentially utilized by wildlife species. I do not believe the project should purposely kill trees in order to create snags and down logs specifically for wildlife species. – I trust natural mortality to benefit wildlife species over the landscape.

Proposed Restoration Treatments

I fully support the proposed treatments. However, I do not support the agreement with the Dinkey Collaborative group that stipulates no mechanical treatments in the areas characterized by the Conservation Biology Institute’s model as having a greater than 40% probability of Pacific fisher occurrence. The CBI model was intended to be used for landscape review of potential to find fisher and not to preclude treatments on the project level.

Fisher Den Site Buffers

I do not support the practice of establishing a 700-acre buffer zone around current and past fisher den sites. This practice can be expected to create a continuous buffer over the landscape and prohibit effective fuel reduction treatments involving mechanical treatments for commercial timber.

I believe the Project should include a unit(s) for mechanized treatments within fisher habitat, as stipulated for underburning in the Clarence Burn Unit, and then study fisher response to fall harvest activities.

Patrick Emmert

Ballard, Keith E -FS

From: Tim Kroeker <tkroeker@dfg.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 5:12 PM
To: Ballard, Keith
Subject: Soap root restoration project

Hello Keith,

Allow me to introduce myself. I have been temporarily assigned to act as the DFG wildlife biologist for Fresno County. Normally I work in Mariposa and Madera Counties. Since the soap root area has been historically very important to the North Kings Deer herd and we don't know when the Fresno County position will be filled I would like to review as much as possible the plans for that area. Generally speaking I am very supportive of any project that will reduce and re-juvenate the mature browse stands and open up the habitat. If you have a map showing treatments it would be a big help or other information you think might be useful to me in reviewing this project. Maybe we could meet some time too, at your convenience.

Thank you

Tim Kroeker
Associate Wildlife Biologist
California Department of Fish and Game
559-641-7592

Kirby D. Molen
Registered Professional Forester #2313
P.O. Box 397
Auberry, Calif. 93602
(559) 855-3644

August 30, 2013

Mr. Keith Ballard
Timber Management Officer
High Sierra Ranger District
Sierra National Forest
P.O. Box 559
Prather, Calif. 93651

RE: Letter of Support –SOAPROOT Stewardship Project

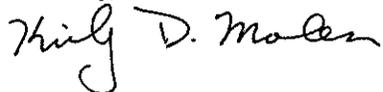
Mr. Ballard:

This is a letter of support for the proposed Soaproot Stewardship Project located in the Blue Canyon area of the High Sierra Ranger District. The area is heavily overgrown with conifer and missed vegetation that is in great need of treatment. In my estimation, the area has a very high propensity for a large fire incident and any vegetative management would be an improvement on current conditions. The Soaproot Project is well planned and will provide some treatment areas where the progress of a major fire event would be slowed.

This basin elevations range from 3,000 to 5,500 feet with numerous residential homes located in the town of Shaver Lake on the northwestern boundary of the project. If a fire incident were to start within the project area, without some vegetative management, it would be hard to stop before it got into the homes in the Shaver Lake area.

In closing, as a Registered Professional Forester licensed in the State of California, I would give my full support for any funding that would assist in vegetative management within the Soaproot Project area. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kirby D. Molen
Registered Professional Forester #2313

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- **"Neutral"** means that someone does not prefer the decision/agreement/recommendation but will not block its implementation.

Name and signature Shawn Ferreria 
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No Segment restoration projects will facilitate/ ^{mitigate} air quality concerns.

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
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Name and signature PAMELA FLICK, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE 
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No
ON BACK

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

My reservations are based on the uncertainty of what "GTR 220 thin" achieves given the lack of monitoring done thus far on Binkey North & South, as discussed by the group.

I hope to rearrange my schedule in order to participate in the Oct. 14th site visit to help inform the group on this issue.

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Name and signature Susan Britting Susan Mting
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No *on back*

Name and signature Craig Thomas Craig Thomas
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No *on back*

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Sierra Forest Legacy's support is with reservations because we want to have a clearer understanding about the outcome of the prescriptions in Dinky north/south project. It is not clear if the marking guidelines in Dinky north/south accomplished the desired outcome. Monitoring results from the Dinky north/south project need to be ~~considered~~ evaluated and considered in developing the prescriptions and marking guidelines for the Soaproot project.

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Name and signature Richard J. Bagley Richard J. Bagley
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

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Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

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Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

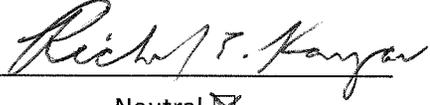
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Name and signature Richard E. Kangas 
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No
(over)

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Explanatory Note:

I will not comment on this project,
But I still prefer larger trees to be left
living with burning, a preferred treatment.
In this respect larger trees would be all trees
greater than 20" dbh and sufficient replacements
above 12" to allow larger sizes to proliferate.
Then forest and ecological restoration will
be promoted.

R. F. Langor

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Name and signature Kent Doyson
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

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Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
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Name and signature Mark T. Smith Mark T. Smith
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

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Name and signature Larry Dwyer
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
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Name and signature Matt Meadows 

Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral

Explanatory statement attached: Yes No *so long as monitoring of alternative actions takes place and effectiveness of activities is determined, specifically are "created large snags", actually used by wildlife?*

Name and signature _____

Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral

Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____

Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral

Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____

Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral

Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____

Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral

Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

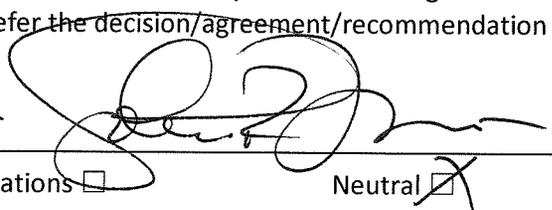
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Name and signature JOHN R MOUNT 
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
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Name and signature Raymond G. LaCrosse
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
Explanatory statement attached: Yes No

Name and signature _____
Level of support: Full With Reservations Neutral
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Name and signature _____
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