

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

**Applicant:** United States Forest Service, Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District

**Project Title:** Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

**Subregion:** South

**County:** Madera

**SNC Funding:** \$299,510.34

**Total Project Cost:** \$320,456.34

**Application Number:** 467

**Final Score:** 80.25

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Bass Lake Ranger District will reduce hazardous fuel accumulation of dead and down fuels within 100 ft of the trail system in and around the Nelder Grove Historical Site Area, including around specimen giant sequoia trees associated with the trail systems. The Project is located in Madera County, east of Highway 41, south of the Wawona Entrance to Yosemite National Park and north of the town of Oakhurst.

The 6.5 miles of trails, and 167 acres of fuels reduction work include The Chimney Tree Trail, Shadow of the Giants Trail, The Bull Buck Trail and road system leading to the Graveyard of the Giants. A crew of ten to thirteen people and forest volunteers will be used to feed dead and down fuels into a piles and burn. Downed sequoias will be repurposed in and around Nelder Grove trail system and campground as building materials. The logs will also be used to repair trail fencing, fencing around the specimen trees and as needed in the campground. Local camps near Nelder Grove include Camp Adahi, and Calvin Crest.

The overall project objectives are to return the grove to a healthier and natural state by accomplishing three goals:

- Reduction of fuel loading, such that fire would not have severe affects to large specimen trees, trail systems, and wildlife habitat.
- Protection and improvement of the watershed.
- Improvement of visual aesthetics and safety for visitors by cleaning up in and around the trail systems.

Reducing fuel loading will not only reduce fire intensity from a wildfire, and will also aide in achieving the long term goal of reintroducing fire to lands outside of the trail systems of Nelder Grove. Soil movement into streams, lakes, and riparian zones may degrade water quality and change the geomorphic and hydrologic characteristics of these systems and soil loss from hillsopes may alter future site productivity. Reducing fuels also aids in protecting sensitive botanical and wildlife habitat from complete devastation.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Chimney Tree Trail: 1.25 mile trail system/30.25 acres of work, 10-20 acres of pile burning	September 2012 - December 2012
Chimney Tree Trail: 10.25-20.25 acres of work, 6.0-10.0 acres of pile burning	January 2013 - May 2013
6-month Report	February, 2013
Complete Chimney Tree Trail: 4.25-10.25 acres of pile burning, reducing fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre	September 2013 – December 2013
6-month Report	August, 2013
Archeology & Botany Input - Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn on Bull Buck trail.	Input completed by Labor Day 2013
Complete Bull Buck Trail : 0.5 miles of trail system/12.09 acres of work, 6-12.09 acres of pile burning, reducing fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre	September 2013 - December 2013
6-month Report	February 2014
Archeology & Botany Input - Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn on Shadow of the Giants trail	Input completed by November 2014
6-month Report	August 2014
Shadow of the Giants: 2 miles of trail system/48.38 acres of work, 5-15 acres of pile burning	January– May 2014
Shadow of the Giants: 33.38-43.38 acres of work, 20-30 acres of pile burning	September – December 2014
Complete Shadow of the Giants: 10-15 - acres of work/10-15 acres of pile burning, reducing fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre	January - May 2015
6-month Report	February 2015
Archeology Surveys - Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn on Graveyard of the Giants trail	Survey beginning and completed by Labor Day 2015
6-month Report	August 2015
Graveyard of the Giants: 3 miles/72.57 acres, 20-30 acres of pile burning.	September – December 2015
Graveyard of the Giants: 42.57-52.57 acres of work, 20-30 acres of pile burning and 27.57-37.57- acres of work, 20-30 acres of pile burning reducing fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre.	January – March 2016
Final Report	February 2015
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>March 1, 2016</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$269,432.65
Indirect**	18,703.19
Administrative***	11,374.50
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$299,510.34</b>

\* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

\*\* Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

\*\*\* Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

## PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
  - Calvin Crest Conferences Center
  - Heart of California Council of Campfire USA
  - Friends of Nelder Grove

## 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.

- Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored