

**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:** Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

**Project Title:** Carman Creek Watershed/Forest Ecosystem Health Improvement Project

**Subregion:** North Central

**County:** Plumas/Sierra

**SNC Funding:** \$350,000.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$450,000.00

**Application Number:** 509

**Final Score:** 84

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Carman Creek watershed is located in Plumas and Sierra Counties, within the Upper Middle Fork of the Feather River Watershed approximately 2 miles northeast of the town of Calpine, CA. Current land uses on National Forest lands are recreation, forest management, and grazing. Private lands adjacent to the National Forest are managed for timber, grazing and other agricultural uses.

The proposed project includes 120 acres of hand thinning/fuels reduction which will improve forest health and resilience. Four stream/meadow restoration sites will improve approximately 30 acres of riparian habitat and 1.1 miles of stream within the West Fork drainage of Carman Creek. These projects are subsets of Carman Watershed Restoration Project Phase II and the Saddle Vegetation Treatment Project. Phase II of the restoration project includes ten identified restoration sites within the Carman Creek watershed's complex of meadows and streams identified in the U.S. Forest Service Watershed Assessment (USFS 2007) as high priority for restoration. The Carman Creek Watershed Restoration Project Phase I was completed in 2005 and addressed active erosion (down cut channels and active head cuts) in Knuthson Meadow, Three Cornered Meadow and several other unnamed small down-cut meadows.

Fuels Reduction

Approximately 120 acres of fuels reduction have been identified as high priority fuels reduction work within the West Fork Drainage of Carman Creek. The treatment identified is hand thinning and hand piling within the Carman Valley/Calpine Defensible Fuel Profile Zone. The project area has also been identified as a high priority for

treatment within the Sierra County Fire Management Plan and is near the community of Calpine, CA.

Meadow Restoration

**Site #4** has been disturbed by old railroad grade construction and actively erodes during large storms. The project will remove sections of railroad grade that are diverting the natural stream flow, relocate the flow into remnant channels on the old meadow surface and obliterate the eroded channel using native soil plugs. Approximately 1,500 feet of existing degraded channel and 500 feet of railroad grade would be obliterated.

**Site #5** is where an old road grade has captured the natural flow for a few hundred feet resulting in down-cutting and meadow dewatering. The project will remove the existing road grade and associated ditch and return the flow to the natural meadow channel system.

**Site #6** is where an old railroad grade has created a significant cut in a hillside and captured the stream causing erosion of the area. The project will reconnect the flow into the original channel and remove the through cut area (approximately 500 feet long).

**Site #7** is where railroad grade construction and subsequent culvert placement has caused a stream segment to down-cut and widen through the meadow area above and below the road. The project will remove the existing culvert, create a rocked low water crossing, and divert the stream (upper portion of the West Fork of Carman Creek) out of the gully and into remnant channels on the meadow surface. The 2,000 foot down-cut channel section would be closed off using native soil plugs.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Pre project monitoring	August 2012-June 2013
Project layout, contracting, and implementation.	August 2012-October 2013
Contracting preparation and contractor selection	May 2013-July 2014
Implement timber treatments	June 2013-Sep. 2014
Implement site restoration at sites 4-7	June 2013-Oct. 2014
Project Monitoring – during and after	July 2013 – November 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (four)	February 2013, August 2013, February 2014, August 2014
Final project report	December 2014
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 30, 2015</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$293,650
Indirect**	10,698
Administrative***	45,652
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$350,000</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
  - California Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - Feather River Coordinated Resource Management
  - Tribal Liaison Statewide Tribal
  - District Conservationist, Plumas/Sierra Co, NRCS
  - Feather River Resource Conservation District
  - District Ranger, Sierraville Ranger District, TNF
  
- “No Position”
  - Sierra County Board of Supervisors

## 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 People Reached
- Number and type of jobs created
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities
- Lineal Feet of stream bank protected or restored
- Acres of land improved or restored