Section 5

Narrative Descriptions

a. Detailed Project Description

- Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc.
- Project Summary
- Environmental Setting

b. Workplan and Schedule

c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements

d. Organizational Capacity

e. Cooperation and Community Support

f. Long Term Management and Sustainability

g. Performance Measures

Section 5 a – Narrative Descriptions

Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):

Greenwood Center was constructed in 1982 on 69.6 acres and is located in the rural foothills of the Georgetown Divide which is referred to this way because it is located between the middle and south fork of the American Rivers. The elevation of the center is 1,608 feet and surrounded by Ponderosa pines and oak woodlands. The center sits within the rural community of Greenwood. Local wildlife often observed include jack rabbit, fox, deer, wild turkey, with the occasional bear sighting. Center facilities utilizing approximately 5 acres includes dormitory space for 70 corps members, commercial kitchen facilities, a dining hall, classrooms, computer lab, administration building, supply/tool buildings, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. The corps member population is representative of the ethnic and cultural diversity of California.

The Greenwood Center Forest Improvement Fuels Reduction project will provide roadside and forest fuels treatment using varying methods that may include hand clearing/chipping, hand pile and burning. Vegetation treatments will first focus on the highest threat southwest facing slopes by removing heavy accumulations of surface fuels, thinning trees and removing brush to break up the horizontal continuity; pruning lower limbs to remove ladder fuels and cutting invasive species. Up to 80% of the live and dead ladder fuels including trees and shrubs up to 8 inches diameter (DBH) may be cut and stacked for burning. Snags, or dead trees larger than 8 inches diameter may be removed if deemed hazardous to the crews and Registered Certified Forester/Environmental Scientist. The project will encompass approximately 44.6 acres of fuel reduction habitat improvement.

All cut vegetation will be piled and burned during the appropriate season and weather conditions. After burning the piles, the blackened “rings” will be softened to blend into the natural landscape by raking needles and small course woody material over the sites until the winter needle/leaf cast naturally covers them. Burn piles shall be located away from remaining standing trees to prevent damage to the trees and black scars on the bark. All conifers and oaks will be flagged to assure their protection during project activities.

The Forest Improvement Project’s outcome is to recreate a forest with a more fire resilient stand structure that maintains, restores, and protects the numerous forest attributes and processes.

The project area is best described as a mosaic of conifers, hardwoods interspersed with an abundance of brush dominated habitat. This transition zone between pine and hardwood forests is thickly overgrown with mixed chaparral, Manzanita and Broom creating the hazardous fuel ladder. The dominant species are Ponderosa Pine, Incense Cedar, California Black Oak and live Oak.

Work will be accomplished by California Conservation Crews (CCC) and will be monitored by a Registered Certified Forester or qualified Environmental Scientist. The project will reduce the fire danger within the Greenwood Center property, adjacent neighboring properties and roads allowing for safe ingress/egress should a fire occur. Project implementation will not significantly impact the current level of habitat availability at the landscape level.

5b. Work Plan and Schedule

Work shall be performed during the months from October 1st through February 29th. Initial work shall commence beginning with the fall season of 2012 during periods when the weather is conducive for this type of work. The project is expected to continue into the fall and winter of 2013/14.

The work shall only be performed when the weather conditions are appropriate for operation of wood chippers and pile burning as permitted by the air pollution control district.

5c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements

No Restrictions, CEQA document “Notice of Exemption” has been filed with the State Clearinghouse.

5d. Organizational Capacity

The CCC has been performing this type of work since the inception of the Corps in 1976. The Greenwood Center employs 60 young adults and takes pride in accomplishing this kind of valuable outdoor work.

The Greenwood Center is currently involved in a multi-year contract to perform fuel load reduction forest improvement work annually in the Tahoe Basin for the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC). This work takes place during the summer months when the weather permits and the contract has been in place for several years. CTC has been very satisfied with the work and a strong partnership has been developed.

5e. Cooperation and Community Support

The community is in support of this forest improvement project. Some of the surrounding properties that border the Greenwood Center have been contacted and are willing to provide support in the form of letters and fuel load reduction on those private properties.

5f. Long Term Management and Sustainability

The long term management of the project shall be accomplished through routine maintenance of the property. This will be accomplished by utilizing the "New Hires" giving the newly employed corps members the opportunity perform outdoor work in a more controlled setting. This work training will permit staff to better evaluate new corps members for a good fit in the program.

Work will also be conducted during periods when crews are not working on projects outside the center. The completion of this project will allow the center to have the ablity to get and keep the upper hand on the annual workload on the property.

5g. Performance Measures

The project shall be divided into quadrants to permit the project manager to assess/measure and document production on a daily basis. The areas of immediate concern are the south, southwest facing slopes which have the greatest amount of dense undergrowth and heavy fuels.

These areas will be treated and documented on completion/ production reports. The final and completed project will be reviewed and assessed by a registered qualified Forester/Environmental Scientist for compliance and quality.