

5a. Detailed Project Description Narrative

Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest (MHDSF) is located in Tulare County in the Southern Sierra Nevada range, 22 miles east of Porterville, California. Mountain Home has several of the largest and oldest giant sequoia trees in the world with some reaching 240 feet tall and 27 feet in diameter. Some of the 5,000 old-growth giant sequoias are more than 2,000 years old, the giant sequoia flourishes among ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir and incense-cedar. In addition to a diverse flora and fauna recreational opportunities are abundant. There are 5 public campgrounds, 3 fishing ponds and access, via trails, to endless United Forest Service property including the Golden Trout Wilderness.

There are seventeen areas within the bounds of Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest (MHDSF) that have been identified for fuel treatment by means of mechanical mastication. They range in size from 20 acres to 185 acres. These areas are located in the mixed conifer forest type as is typical for the southern Sierra Nevada. Mastication has been identified as an appropriate method for fuel treatment at MHDSF among other suitable methods. This alternative was evaluated and discussed in the 2010 revision of the General Forest Management Plan (GFMP) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) which was reviewed by the State Clearing House on February 17, 2010 and approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on March 11, 2010.

If we are given the grant money, we will utilize mastication equipment on 310 acres to modify fuels. The masticator is a small bobcat with a head that masticates vegetation down to within 6 inches of the top soil. The masticator will utilize benches and existing skid trails to access workable areas. The areas deemed appropriate for mastication are generally accessible by tracked equipment on slopes that range from 0 to 35%. Small biological islands shall be retained within the treated areas to provide for species diversity, thermal cover and aesthetics. The clumps and patches will generally range from 0.1 to 0.25 acres in size.

In the treatment areas, at least 75% of the brush and downed material shall be treated. Conifers that are not of merchantable size (generally less than 12" DBH) shall be thinned to a variable spacing of 12 to 25 feet, depending on the species. Untreated areas shall include rock outcroppings, over steepened ground, biologic islands, and prohibited areas.

The resulting treated material will be left as is or later scheduled for broadcast burning for ecological reasons. Burning will not be included in the budget for this grant; however, it will take place after the grant is over. Science has shown that giant sequoia requires bare mineral soil and ash on the forest floor to naturally regenerate. Furthermore, heat rising into the forest canopy is necessary to open the serotinous cones of this species. Without the combination of assets provided by fire, giant sequoia will not regenerate naturally from seed.

Other areas proposed for mastication include strategic fuel break areas, infrastructure, and access routes that provide for ingress and egress. Given MHDSF's remote location, a proactive stance against wildfire to protect watersheds, forest, habitat and the public is prudent because emergency response vehicles are over an hour away.

This project is considered the hub of most fuel break projects in Tulare County because it will connect with the Rancheria Fuel Break , and the Happy Camp Fuel Break (both done under Prop 40) on the West side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. On the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, it will connect to various U.S.F.S. planned projects, and a multitude of projects identified in our Tulare County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The end results will be significant for both the human occupants of MHDSF and the biologic communities with in the forest. Because this project is the hub of our fuel modification projects it will act as a force multiplier having a greater effect on the watershed (water quality and quantity, forest health, wildfire prevention and wildlife habitat improvement. By connecting the fuel breaks, we will decrease the chance of a catastrophic wildfire which can affect the soil, water, air, animals, plants and people who recreate in this forest.

The end result for the recreation enthusiasts will be a safer place to recreate in a more aesthetically pleasing environment.

By reducing fuels in strategic locations we are protecting the watershed from very hot intense fires that would result in contaminates entering tributaries that run into the Tule River and Lake Success. In addition to protecting water quality, we will be increasing water quantity available to humans; flora and fauna do to decreased transpiration of water into the atmosphere from plants.

Forest health will improve by improving spacing, age class and composition of the trees within the various treatment areas. As a result of the above referenced treatment, the horizontal and vertical diversity of the wildlife habitat found at the MHDSF will improve as well.

5b. Work plan and Schedule Narrative

Assuming a commencement date of September 15, 2012, operations shall occur at the following rate. It is anticipated that 1 to 3 acres will be treated per day dependant upon vegetation and topographic constraints. Therefore, an average production rate of 1.5 acres per day shall be utilized. With that being said, at least 30 acres per month will be treated with shut down periods due to inclement weather and ensuing saturated soil conditions. During a typical operation season, the forest is closed from mid-November to mid-June. At an average of 30 acres per month it will likely take 10 to 11 full months to complete the project. Estimated date of completion is December 30, 2013.

Detailed Project Deliverables	Timeline	Cost
Treat 60 acres of vegetation	From September 15, 2012 to November 15, 2012	\$70,000
Write Progress Report	15-Mar-13	
Treat 250 acres of vegetation	From June 1, 2013 to December 30, 2013	\$280,000
Project completion/final report	30-Dec-13	

5c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements Narrative

No property restrictions exist, other than access during the winter months due to snow.

We have completed similar projects on two sides of Mountain Home State Forest successfully and all of the local cooperators support the project.

The project was subject to CEQA analysis (mitigated negative declaration, please see attached documents). This alternative was evaluated and discussed in the 2010 revision of the General Forest Management Plan (GFMP) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) which was reviewed by the State Clearing House on February 17, 2010 and approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on March 11, 2010.

5d. Organization Capacity Narrative

The mission of the Tulare County RCD is to protect and enhance the natural resources of Tulare County while ensuring the economic sustainability of our communities. The RCD has been in existence for over 50 years because of active dedicated directors. The RCD, currently, has four directors and one associate director. During this time, the RCD has completed numerous natural resource based grants in a timely manner. The following is a list of projects and the year they were completed; Potholes Shaded Fuel Break (Prop 40, 2007), TRIR Northern Boundary Phase (2008), Blue Ridge Fuel Break (Prop. 40, 2009), Grouse Fuel Break (Prop 40, 2009), Fish and Wildlife Service Assessment and Mitigation Plan (2009), Crawford Fuels Project (2009), Black Mtn Shaded Fuel Break 2011, Badger Fuel Break (2011) and Tulare County CWPP (SNC, 2011).

The Tulare County RCD predominantly consists of volunteers (directors and associates). Currently, paid contractors include grant manager/project manager (David Witt), who is a Certified rangeland manager under the Board of Forestry, a bookkeeper (Terri Van Huss) and an administration assistant Bob Puls. The grant manager and bookkeeper have been with the TCRCD for over 9 years and have worked on numerous federal and state grants under the direction of the president, who has been with the TCRCD for over 10 years.

For this project, the following people will work on this project: Jim Kral RPF with Cal Fire (Mt. Home Manager), Terri Van Huss (Book Keeper), Bob Puls (Administration), David Witt (Project Management and Administration) and the Board of Directors for the Tulare RCD.

5e. Cooperation and Community Support Narrative

This project was identified in both the Tulare County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Management Plan of 2010. The project was developed as part of a collaborative process with multiple agencies which include USFS, USFWS, Cal Fire, Sequoia FSC, BLM, Tulare County RCD, and the public at large.

The following groups have written a letter of support and they are attached for your review: Mountain Home State Forest, Cal Fire, Sequoia Fire Safe Council, Bureau of Land Management and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

5f. Long-term Management and Sustainability Narrative

The treated areas will be maintained via prescribed fire and or herbicide application as described in the MHDSF Management Plan. Maintenance activities shall be performed on an “as needed” basis determined by the Forest Manager. Periodic maintenance treatments are anticipated to be performed at regular intervals ranging from 3 to 7 years. There are 5 fire crews in the Tulare Unit that will be available in the winter months to help burn enabling the maintenance of this project.

5g. Performance Measures Narrative

1. Acres of land improved or restored.
2. Number and types of jobs created.
3. Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Appendix B3

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project

Applicant: Tulare County Resource Conservation District

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>Project Management Costs</i>	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00				\$16,000.00
<i>Site Implementation Work Costs</i>	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00				\$310,000.00
<i>Mileage</i>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00				\$2,000.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$164,000.00	\$164,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$328,000.00

SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>Monitoring</i>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00				\$2,000.00
<i>Liability Insurance</i>	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00				\$4,000.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	\$167,000.00	\$167,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$334,000.00

SECTION THREE Administrative Costs (Costs may not to exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :						Total
<i>*Organization operating/overhead costs</i>	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00				\$16,000.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350,000.00

SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Year One	Year Two	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>						
Project Management	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00				\$20,000.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
Total Other Contributions:	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00

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.