

**Narrative**  
**Grant I.D. # 689**

**5. Narrative Descriptions**

**a. DETAILED PROJECT DISCRIPTION**

The “Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project” will treat noxious weeds within private and public.

**Project Description**

Public and private landowners in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin watersheds are in strong agreement that the single, greatest threat to the viability of their ranching and agricultural lands is the uncontrolled spread of noxious weed species. Land owners have repeatedly and emphatically expressed they lack the capacity, fiscal means and public services to sufficiently treat existing noxious weed populations and fear the continued spread of weeds throughout their lands and downstream areas.

The Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project proposes to implement a strategic noxious weed control program within this complex of public and private land, thereby slowing and perhaps even stopping, the spread of noxious weeds, and improving overall watershed health, habitat quality, and the condition of agricultural lands within the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin watersheds. The proposed project will also decrease the likelihood of the spread of noxious weeds to un-infested areas including private and public agricultural and ranching lands located adjacent to and downstream of the project area, and contribute to the economic viability of Sierra grazing and farm lands by maintaining and improving both hay and forage quality.

The proposed project supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s mission and program areas in that it will: 1) protect and restore vegetative resources; 2) improve the environmental condition of riparian and associated upland habitats within working lands, and; 3) improve the region’s economic state given the habitat quality of working lands directly relate to the ranchers’ abilities to produce sustainable products. Further, the proposed project meets the Proposition 84 requirements in that it will: 1) protect perennial and seasonal waterways in a region where water supply and reliability is often limited, and; 2) protect existing natural resources from the further introduction and spread of noxious weeds and associated habitat degradation.

**Project Summery**

The Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project will treat noxious weeds within private ranching lands and on public lands and private preserve utilized by ranchers on a prescription basis in the Kern River Valley, South Fork and North Fork of Kern River and in the Walker Basin Creek watersheds. The project is expected to improve the habitat quality and condition of agricultural lands within the project area and, potentially, downstream. The project will also help to sustain the economic viability of the ranches by maintaining forage quality and the integrity of the grazing lands and associated riparian corridor. Final deliverables include a monitoring report summarizing the acres of land improved and the species of weeds treated and a map identifying specific areas treated.

## Environmental Setting

The proposed project areas include the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin watersheds located in Kern County. Habitat types within these areas include the largest cottonwood willow riparian forest in California, wetlands, meadows, irrigated pastures and cultivated fields of hay and some row crops. The project area begins on the east end where the South Fork Kern River enters the Kern River Valley from the Sierras and 8 miles along the riparian corridor to the Take Line of Lake Isabella reservoir (580,000 acre feet). The second part of the project is located along the North Fork Kern River Riparian area just north of the Take Line of Lake Isabella. The third part of the project is located along Indian Creek and Walker Basin Creek in Walker Basin approximately 15 miles south of the town of Lake Isabella.

Flows from spring runoff in Kern River peak in June. Flows are diverted for irrigation by local farms and ranches. On the North Fork Cal Water diverts and treats water for domestic use in the Kernville and Wofford Heights areas. Cal Water and Kern County Water Agency both treat Kern River Water for domestic use in Bakersfield. Indian Creek flows west into Walker Basin Creek then south west into Caliente Creek in the San Joaquin Valley foothills near Highway 58. One project areas is 4 miles east of the confluence of the creeks on Walker Basin Road and the other project area is 1 mile south of the confluence of the creeks at the junction of Walker Basin and Caliente Bodfish Roads in Walker Basin. Creek flows peak in May. Average annual precipitation in the project area is 13.4 inches. Precipitation and snow pack vary greatly from year to year. 2012 is extremely dry. Irrigated flows are low and reserved for perennial crops. Grasses and noxious weeds are stunted this year where irrigation has not occurred. Native perennials are hardy and will comeback when precipitation returns. Target noxious weed are just as hardy.

South Fork Kern River riparian area along the flood plane is dominated by Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) red willow (*Salix laevigata*) forest in the river corridor and along wetlands created by return irrigation flows and high water table. Also abundant are Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) and Alder (*Alnus*). Other perennials include mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) narrow leaf willow (*Salex exigua*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), broad leafed cat tail (*Typha latifolia*), wild rose (*Rosa californica*), deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) yellow rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* ssp. *viscidiflorus*), and many other perennials and annuals.

On the DFG Canebrake Ecological Reserve web page Kevin O'Conner wrote that the South Fork Kern River Valley has confirmed 330 bird species, over 2000 plant species (1/4 of state total), 67% of state butterfly species and 115 species of mammals. The South Fork Valley is one the first 10 "Globally Important Bird Areas" designated in the United States. The North Fork of the Kern River is also populated with many of the plant animal and bird species as the South Fork with some minor exceptions. Walker Basin is natural meadows enhanced with flood irrigation and dry farming for hay. The project area does not include these hay production fields.

The project areas on South Fork Kern River has 2 species of birds listed by the state as endangered, southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and yellow billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*). Southwestern willow fly catcher is

federally listed as well. The project's licensed Pest Control Advisor (PCA), Joel Trumbo DFG PCA has provided CEQA documentation for DFG lands included in the project. AKRP Manager (Reed Tollefson) and Land Steward (Sean Rowe) are both qualified biologists with expertise in special status species in the region. In addition both hold necessary federal and state permits to survey for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. They will have direct supervision of employees and contractor on this project. Avoidance Measures for nesting areas are, no monitoring or treatment of noxious weeds during nesting season, April 15 thru September 1.

Land use within the project areas includes irrigated pasture, rotational grazing, native grass and alfalfa hay production. High quality weed free hay is produced for dairies and the local market. The ranchers, DFG Canebrake Ecological Preserve and AKRP all have their respective properties cross fenced for rotation of grazing to prevent over grazing in accordance with BMP's established by NRCS. Much of the livestock is moved to open range in the spring, outside of project area. DFG Canebrake Ecological Preserve and AKRP allow grazing by local ranchers on a prescription basis. Both DFG Canebrake Ecological Preserve and AKRP have open access policy to the public and professional researcher's. Both have established interpretive trail systems.

The agricultural producers have been and still are excellent land stewards and desire to continue to do so.

No proposed land use changes are associated with this project. Additionally, DMRC&D in consultation with Kern County Agricultural Commissioner were provided with a copy of Title 3. California Code of Regulations Div. 6. Pesticides and Pest Control Operations, Chapter 3. Pest Control Operations Subchapter 2. Work Requirements, Section 6622. Operator Identification Numbers, Subsection (a) "A person performing pest control for hire is exempt from the requirements of this section", Subsection (c) (lines 6, 7, 8) "The operator of the property is not required to obtain an operator identification number when a person performing pest control for hire purchases and applies these pesticides". Kern County Planning Department Director, Lorelei Oviatt has determined that the proposed project is consistent with the 2004 Kern County General Plan. No permit is required and no restrictions apply in the project area. This project involves no ground disturbing activity. No historic places will be affected. The project activities do not require a County grading permit or conditional use permit etc.

### **Goals**

The project goals are to: 1) Treat existing populations of noxious weeds for up to five consecutive years throughout the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin watersheds, within the 7,110-acre project area; 2) Reduce the existing noxious weed populations to below a level of ecological significance; and 3) Enhance landowner knowledge and behavior toward noxious weed prevention, treatment and management. Noxious plant fact sheets and educational literature will be developed for distribution to land owners, and agencies managing backcountry livestock users.

Project deliverables include a series of maps of the project area showing the acreage of the improved (treated) area in each year of the project, copies of literature and presentations provided to participants, strategic, periodic photo-documentation from key locations showing changes in vegetation composition, annual monitoring reports and a

final monitoring report. The goal is a significant reduction or elimination of noxious weeds and corresponding improved habitat quality in ranching lands.

### **Scope of Work**

The proposed project area comprises noxious weed control on a complex of public and private lands forming the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin watersheds located in the north central portion of Kern County in the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The project area includes a portion of the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Canebrake Ecological Reserve and Audubon Kern River Preserve and 9 private land owners for a total of approximately 7,110 acres and eight linear miles of the South Fork Kern River channel, .25 miles along the North Fork Kern River, .1 Miles along Kelso Creek, .25 miles along Walker Basin Creek and 1 mile along Indian Creek in Walker Basin. The project's invasive weed control strategy will follow an integrated approach using chemical and non-chemical control techniques to reduce current infestations, and implementing prevention strategies to protect un-infested areas. Work will be conducted along the South Fork and North Fork Kern River, Kelso Creek Walker basin Creek and Indian Creek riparian corridors and associated wetland areas, in irrigated pastures in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin watersheds under the direction of the project's licensed Pest Control Advisor (PCA), Joel Trumbo (DFG).

Target species include, but are not limited to, 7 noxious weeds, specifically, *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), *Arundo donax* (Giant Cane), *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian Olive), *Lepidium latifolium* (Perennial Pepperweed), *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple Loosestrife), *Centaurea solstitialis* (Yellow Starthistle) and, *Tamarix ramosissima* (Salt Cedar), on a complex of 11 public and private lands. Of these, purple loosestrife is most widespread and of greatest concern along the South Fork Kern River. Perennial pepperweed is most widespread and of greatest concern in the North Fork Kern River and Walker Basin. Population densities of purple loosestrife have been observed on California Department of Fish and Game Canebrake Ecological Reserve on the eastern end of the project and to the west for approximately 8 miles along the South Fork Kern River riparian and wetland lands. Each of the said species has been recognized by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) as highly invasive and capable of causing significant impacts on agricultural production and wildlife habitat quality. To varying degrees each of these species is capable of out-competing livestock forage plants, hay crops, and native or other desirable plant species on which ranchers and wildlife depend. Once established, these species as well as the other species being addressed maintain dominance by various strategies including asexual reproduction via rhizomes, allelopathy, long seed survival in soil, and high seed production rates. If left uncontrolled, each one of these species is capable of monotypic dominance as seen in downstream reaches of the San Joaquin Valley. However, of all the species addressed by this project, none poses as great a threat as purple loosestrife along the South Fork Kern River and perennial pepperweed along the North Fork Kern River and in Walker Basin. These species are spread readily along riparian corridors and are already well-established in several sites.

Specified noxious weeds control methods are well-established and have been underway in a limited fashion in the Kern River Valley since the mid 1980s by public and private land owners but have had limited manpower and financial resources. The

proposed project will entails one or more chemical or non-chemical treatments per growing season for up to five years as specified by the project's PCA. The following herbicides may be used depending on site-specific conditions chlorsulfuron, glyphosate, imazapyr and triclopyr amine. All of these herbicides are non-restricted and can, depending on site-specific conditions; be purchased and used without a restricted pesticide permit from the county agricultural commissioner's office. Any of the above-mentioned herbicides, either singularly or in combination, may be used to control any of the project's target weed species. All herbicide applications will be applied via ground-based methods, primarily using hand-held or backpack spray equipment. The majority of sites can be treated using spot spray techniques that minimize the potential for herbicide contact with non-target vegetation. In more limited circumstances, boom sprayers mounted on a truck operated by a Kern County Agricultural Commissioner licensed contractor may be used to treat Perennial Pepperweed in the Kernville and Walker Basin project areas. Back pack or hand held sprayers will also be employed in these areas as prescribed. Herbicide drift or overspray will not result in significant damage to non-target vegetation. Each of these herbicides was selected based on the following criteria: a high degree of efficacy on the target weed species, low human risk and insignificant environmental persistence in soil, water and biota. Additionally, each of these herbicides poses an insignificant toxicity risk to non-target wildlife species. Based on laboratory-derived toxicity values (both acute and chronic) and the exposure levels that might reasonably be expected, none of these herbicides would exceed the U.S. EPA's Levels of Concern based on a standard hazard quotient assessment.

Mechanical methods that will be employed include the following: Cutting and/or girdling of target trees with application of herbicide to the cut areas. Mowing, disking, and grazing have proven to be ineffective on this projects target weeds. The project's PCA will meet with individual landowners, observe their specific areas of infestations, agree upon the treatment method(s) to be implemented and develop treatment prescriptions.

In addition to the chemical and mechanical weed control measures specified above, the Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council (DMRC&D) Upper Kern River Watershed Coordinator (WSC) in cooperation with DFG PCA, Audubon Kern River Preserve (AKRP) Manager and Land Stewart will develop noxious plant identification print materials and fact sheets for distribution to participants and community stakeholders.

WSC with cooperation of DFG PCA and AKRP will provide noxious weed education literature to participating landowners, project partners, supporters, stakeholders, and the general public. Detailed educational information will be provided on topics such as the pathways in which noxious weeds are introduced and spread, how landowners can establish control points to limit the re-introduction of noxious weeds, management actions landowners should take should they observe new populations of noxious weeds, how landowners can best leverage their resources and funds to strategically treat noxious weeds, and how landowners can work together to develop an integrated management plan to address noxious weeds in the future.

**b. WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE**

This project is expected to take 60 months to complete assuming grant authorization by May 1, 2013. The specific timeline is outlined in Table 1 below. DMRC&D will administer this project, DMRC&D WSC in cooperation with DFG PCA and AKRP

Manager and Land Steward will develop landowner noxious weed education literature, landowner access permission forms and surveys. DFG PCA will liaison between land owners and licensed weed control contractor. AKRP Manager and Land Steward will oversee weed control activities in the field, ensure regulatory compliance, work with the contracted weed control contractor and 3 employees hired through employment agency and trained by licensed weed control contractor who will conduct the truck mounted chemical weed control activities and will implement written prescriptions and work plans for the project areas to be treatment with the technical assistance of DFG PCA's. AKRP Manager, Land Steward and WSC will assist with this training. AKRP Manager, Land Steward and WSC will track the acreage of land improved. WSC will conduct photo-documentation, and DMRC&D will write and submit six-month progress reports and the final monitoring report with assistance of WSC, AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG PCA.

Participating landowners will coordinate with the weed control contractor to develop prescriptions appropriate for their property, and work toward preventing the re-introduction of the target noxious weeds and long-term management.

**Table 1. Workplan and Schedule**

| Project Tasks and Deliverables   | Timeline   |
|--|------------|
| SNC Grant Authorization  | Months 1-2 |
| DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG PCA will develop education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record, copies of literature/presentations provided to participants, and copy of landowner participation agreements. | Month 3    |
| Landowner /licensed weed control contractor with technical assistance of DFG Pest Control Advisor will conduct Fields Meetings-<br>Deliverables include copies of treatment prescriptions for each parcel.   | Months 3-6 |
| First Weed Control Treatment by weed control contractor and employees conducting back pack spraying.   | Months 3-9 |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing a summary of landowner consultations and discussion of the prescribed treatment methods, photo-documentation, and map of treated area  | Months 3-6 |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing photo-documentation and map of treated area.   | Month 12   |

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|---|--------------|
| DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG PCA will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies | Months 12-15 |
| Second Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.   | Months 12-18 |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing a summary of landowner consultations and discussion of the prescribed treatment methods, photo-documentation, and map of treated area   | Month 18     |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing photo-documentation and map of treated area.  | Month 24     |
| DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG PCA will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies | Months 24-27 |
| Third Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.  | Months 24-30 |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing a summary of landowner consultations and discussion of the prescribed treatment methods, photo-documentation, and map of treated area   | Month 30     |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing photo-documentation and map of treated area.  | Months 36    |
| DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG PCA will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies | Months 36-39 |
| Fourth Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.   | Months 36-42 |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing a summary of landowner consultations and discussion of the prescribed treatment methods, photo-documentation, and map of treated area   | Month 42     |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing photo-documentation and map of treated area.  | Month 48     |
| DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG PCA will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations   | Months 48-51 |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies  |              |
| Fifth Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.   | Months 48-54 |
| Six Month Progress Report – deliverables include a progress report containing a summary of landowner consultations and discussion of the prescribed treatment methods, photo-documentation, and map of treated area  | Month 54     |
| Final Report – deliverables include a final monitoring report including a series of maps showing the acreage of the improved (treated) area in each year of the project, a summary and discussion of the landowner surveys used to document improvements in knowledge and behavior, and photo-documentation taken from key locations over the course of the project showing changes in vegetation composition. | Month 60     |

**c. RESTRICTIONS, TECHNICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS, AND AGREEMENTS**

**Restrictions/Agreements**

There are no known property restrictions, encumbrances or agreements or toxic contamination sites within project area that could adversely affect project completion. Should any become known subsequent to project initiation, the former will be fully complied with and the latter avoided. Chemical and mechanical weed control measures will be modified accordingly. Mechanical weed control measures will be the cutting or girdling of trees and application of herbicide to the cut area. The project will not employ any ground disturbing activities.

**Regulatory Requirements/Permits**

This project is exempt from CEQA based upon Class 4, Section 15304 Minor Alterations to Land. The project applicant is a non-profit organization and requests the SNC act as the Lead Agency for the work to be conducted on private lands. The DFG has filed a separate NOE for the work to be conducted on the Canebrake Ecological preserve properties included in this project. No other permits are required for this project as specified below.

- California Department of Fish and Game. N/A. Project activities do not involve the substantial modification of the stream bed and banks.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. N/A. Project activities will not fill any USACE-jurisdictional area.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board. N/A. Project activities do not involve the application of herbicides to surface water.
- County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office. N/A. Project Activities do not involve the use of restricted use pesticides.
- State Historic Preservation Office. N/A. No ground disturbing activity with this project. No historic places will be impacted. SHPO only responds to projects with Federal funding.

- California Native American Heritage Commission. There are no known recorded cultural or archeological resources within the project area.
- CAL FIRE. N/A. No burning or fuels reduction work is proposed for this project. Local government agencies. N/A. No grading is proposed for this project, and the herbicides proposed for use are not restricted.

#### **d. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

The DMRC&D Council is a well-situated applicant to administer and complete a noxious weed control project in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Watersheds. The DMRC&D Council is a 501c3 non-profit organization composed of a 4-member Board of Directors and a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Council employs an administrative assistant in the office, a DOC-funded Watershed Coordinator. The Council operates in six counties, San Bernardino, Inyo, portions of Mono, portions of Los Angeles, eastern Kern, and southeastern Tulare counties. The mission of the RC&D Council is to work in partnership to enhance the quality of life and achieve economic growth, development, and sustainability while protecting the environment. DMRC&D Council's application was approved by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in 2000, one of twelve in California. DMRC&D is currently administering five grants, two are SNC grants; Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator, three year grant for \$251,742, the third consecutive three year grant; Department of the Navy, endangered Tui Chub five year monitoring grant for \$252,123; California Advanced Services Fund grant for \$150,000 to encourage greater broadband use in Mono, Inyo and Eastern Kern Counties; SNC funded Lone Pine Waste Water Reuse Feasibility Study, \$121,400; SNC funded Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program, \$34,000. The DMRC&D WSC in collaboration with the AKRP, DFG's PCA will manage project activities on each project area and conduct land owner planning and educational activities, site-specific treatment prescriptions, implementing chemical and mechanical weed control activities and ensuring regulatory compliance. The Council will complete press releases about the project for local newspapers. Articles about the project will be included in newsletters and in the Council's Annual Plan and Annual Report. The project description and details will be posted on the RC&D Council's website ([desertmountainrcandd.org](http://desertmountainrcandd.org)). The Council will keep elected officials informed regarding the success of its program and projects.

#### **e. COOPERATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Confirmed project partners include DFG Canebrake Ecological Reserve, multiple private land owners in the South Fork and North Fork Kern River and along Kelso Creek in the Kern River Valley and on Indian Creek and Walker Basin Creek in Walkers Basin. The following community members support the project. Eastern Kern Resource Conservation District (EK RCD), Kern River Valley Revitalization, Kern River Ranger District USFS. The concept for this project originated from multiple conversations and field meetings with private landowners, AKRP, DMRC&D and DFG who repeatedly identified noxious weed control as one of their top priorities within the watershed. Upon seeing the SNC's Grant Program, DMRC&D offered to develop a proposal, and administer a grant should it be awarded given that the private and public landowners lack the capacity to do so.

## **f. LONG TERM MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The project proposed herein will be a momentous initial step toward weed control and eradication in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin watersheds. It is the aim of the project applicant, participating land owners and project partners, including the AKRP, DFG Canebrake Ecological Reserve, Kern County Agriculture Commissioner to accomplish and finance the long-term management of the project through three primary means: 1) Plan for herbicide application on private and State-owned lands by employees, and Kern Ag Commissioner licensed noxious weed treatment contractor; 2) For the project applicant and partners to seek future grant funding to hire contractors to maintain and expand the treated areas, and perhaps most importantly and with the longest vision; 3) Utilizing the Department of Water Resources' Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program. The Kern River Valley and Walker Basin are in Kern County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Kern IRWMP) portion of the Tulare Lake Basin. Kern IRWMP applied for Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) and was recently awarded full funding for development of its first IRWM Plan. This project is registered with the Kern IRWMP. Prioritization of projects is planned for later this year.

## **g. PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

The performance measures proposed for this project include:

1. The Number of People Reached. This measure will document the number of participating landowners, partners, and interested parties in the project's noxious weed education out reach.
2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada. This measure will document the in-kind match provided by the DFG, AKRP, DMRC&D WSC and volunteer hours provided by participating landowners at a minimum.
3. Number and Type of Jobs Created. This measure will document the FTE job(s) created through the project administration and contracted weed control work.
4. Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities. Preserve the high value hay production and preserve and protect the high quality natural and irrigated forage agricultural producers depend on to sustain their businesses.
5. Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior. This measure will document a change in landowner knowledge and behavior toward noxious weed prevention, treatment and long-term management. Data will be collected by AKRP and WSC using a pre-implementation survey, and four follow-up annual surveys.
6. Acres of Land Improved or Restored. This measure will document the total acres of treated land in each year of the project, and the reduction in the existing noxious weed populations to below a level of ecological significance. Currently there are no known site importance or priority ratings for the project area. As a supplement to this measure, photo-documentation and a quantitative monitoring program will be conducted at selected locations within the project area to assess invasive weed control efficacy.
7. Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada. The DMRC&D WSC, DFG PCA, and AKRP Manager will be contributing time and technical advice to this project.