

**Agenda Item XI
Attachment A
End-of-Year Report on
2012-13 Action Plan**

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The following represent the major initiatives and activities the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) planned to undertake between March 2012 and June 2013 and our progress and accomplishments relative to the Plan. Progress and accomplishments are shown in italics below each of the actions approved by the SNC Governing Board in March 2012.

This report on progress, along with a new 2013-14 Action Plan will be presented to the Board in June 2013.

Grant Program

Several important actions were planned under the SNC Grant Program before June 2013, including:

- Closing-out Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08 grant projects.
 - *All Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08 and 2008-09 grant projects were closed or extended—18 projects were extended for various reasons beyond the control of the grantee.*
- Awarding the remaining Proposition 84 bond funds by completing the FY 2011-12 and 2012-13 grant awards from solicitation through the execution of grant agreements.
 - *50 grants, worth \$7 million, were awarded under the 2011-12 Healthy Forests Grant Program.*
 - *29 grants, worth \$5.1 million, were awarded under the 2012-13 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program.*
- Developing the operational policies and procedures necessary to improve the efficiency of the program.
 - *Staff developed internal procedures regarding audits and identified another seven topic areas for review and possible development of additional policies and procedures.*
 - *Staff completed the “Managing Your Grant” booklet and made it available to current and future grantees as part of the resource materials available on the SNC Web site.*
 - *Staff started review of the SNC Grants Operations Manual and began updating it to ensure SNC’s grant program is in full compliance with Executive Order S-02-07 and the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Finance (DOF) Bond Accountability and Audits Guide (released in 2012).*
- Continuing to effectively and efficiently meet reporting requirements related to bond expenditures and future bond sales.
 - *Staff responded timely to all 15 bond reports and cash flow drills conducted during this timeframe.*

In addition to these activities that were planned to be accomplished by June 2013 under this program, the SNC also accomplished the following:

- *Staff completed planning for the FY 2013-14 grant round, including development of the draft and final draft grant guidelines and the grant round schedule for awarding the remaining Proposition 84 funds.*

- *Staff responded to five DOF Grantee Audits and reported the internal actions SNC took to address the audit observations made by DOF related to various grantees. SNC also worked with grantees to improve their processes in response to various audit findings. Staff also worked with grantees for reimbursement of funds, as appropriate.*

Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI)

The SNC continued to coordinate implementation of the SNFCI, working closely with a wide range of stakeholders and agencies. Specific actions planned under SNFCI included:

- Continuing to support local collaborative efforts to develop projects consistent with SNFCI objectives.
 - *Local collaborative efforts were supported through a variety of mechanisms, including funding of facilitation, technical assistance and other services and SNC Staff time. These local collaborations include:*
 - *Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative;*
 - *Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group*
 - *Sierra Cascades All Lands Enhancement (SCALE)*
 - *Yosemite-Stanislaus Solutions*
 - *Wilseyville Woody Biomass Product Yard and Calaveras Healthy Impact Solutions (CHIPS)*
 - *Cornerstone Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Project on the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests*
 - *Giant Sequoia Work Group*
 - *Staff monitored and participated in meetings for a number of local collaborative efforts in order to track emerging needs or opportunities. These efforts included:*
 - *Dinkey and Burney-Hat Creek CLFR's*
 - *Klamath Cascades Collaborative*
 - *Treasured Landscapes Project*
 - *Collaboration in the Sequoia National Forest area*
- Working with the SNFCI Regional Coordinating Council, the US Forest Service, other state agencies and key stakeholders in identifying and supporting up to four demonstration projects showcasing ecological restoration in forested areas with strong collaboration and a focus on improving the local economies and social well-being.
 - *After further discussion, the Council determined not to take action on identifying particular demonstration projects. In the absence of this action, the SNC has identified the three CLFRA projects in the SNC Region (Cornerstone, Dinkey and Burney-Hat Creek) and the North Fork biomass utilization project as four demonstration projects that the SNC is supporting to various degrees, from monitoring and attending meetings to more intensive levels of support.*
- Working with the Coordinating Council and the Forest Service to complete the Leadership Intent for Ecological Restoration Implementation Plan.

- *SNC Staff engaged the Coordinating Council and the Forest Service in the completion of a draft Leadership Intent for Ecological Restoration Implementation Plan, including developing socio-economic indicators for the plan.*
- *The Coordinating Council's Policy Work Group is currently working to develop a proposed list of ideas, points of agreement and Coordinating Council actions that will increase pace and scale of restoration, per the goals of the Leadership Intent for Ecological Restoration.*
- *The Implementation Plan will be finalized in 2013-14, at which time the Coordinating Council will direct their attention according to highest prioritized and most strategic efforts for moving SNFCI objectives forward.*
- *Participating in various efforts to promote policy changes and investment in support of SNFCI objectives, including the Biomass Working Group, Sierra Cascade Dialogue, and the Interagency Forest Working Group.*
 - *SNC Staff has participated in all of the above groups, with the exception of the Interagency Forest Working Group. The Interagency Forest Working Group was created to help with various tasks resulting from AB 32 implementation, and SNC involvement has been usurped to some degree by the Bioenergy Action Team. Involvement will most likely be minimal in the future for this group.*
 - *An SNC Staff member serves on the steering committee for the Sierra Cascade Dialogue Group, which has most recently taken the lead on the early adopters of the new Forest Plan Revision Process (Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests), which will have strong ramifications for the Sierra Nevada Region.*
 - *The SNC began implementing its responsibilities in the 2012 California Bioenergy Action Plan by providing several communities with technical assistance and help to secure funding to design and construct community-scaled forest bioenergy facilities. The SNC participates as a member of the CA Bioenergy Action Plan. In addition, SNC worked with key state agencies including the Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission and Calfire to ensure that energy policies and procedures will support the development of community scale bioenergy facilities.*

An additional effort launched this year by the SNC is providing staff and other support to the US Forest Service in the development of a conservation strategy for the Pacific Fisher in the southern Sierra Nevada, a species which is up for listing as an endangered species in 2014 and is at the center of much of the controversy around forest management in the southern Sierra Nevada.

Regional Water

This project continued relationship-building activities to establish the SNC as an accepted and trusted resource among local/state/federal agencies, decision-makers and stakeholders. Several actions were planned to be undertaken as part of this project:

- Coordinating Regional input and engagement in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Water Plan Update 2013 (including serving as lead author for the Mountain Counties Overlay Regional Report).
 - *The SNC worked with the DWR and others to draft the Mountain Counties Overlay Regional Report (MCO RR) for the California Water Plan Update 2013. A public review draft of the document should be available in June, 2013.*
 - *Activities including working with DWR to finalize the document and staying abreast of developments for the Water Plan Update 2018 and the Delta Plan will continue into FY 2013-14.*
- Providing input on Sierra issues and interests in the draft Delta Plan.
 - *The Conservancy reviewed and provided comments on early drafts of the Delta Plan and tracked partners' comments on later drafts, ensuring upper watershed interests and needs were sufficiently communicated in the Delta Plan process.*
- Coordinating efforts to retain Regional funding in the 2012 water bond and/or other funding mechanisms.
 - *SNC conducted informational and strategy meetings with key regional, statewide and national partners, including: the USDA Forest Service; state agencies such as California Natural Resources Agency, CalFIRE, Department of Water Resources, Department of Conservation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Parks and Recreation; and non-profit partners including Trust for Public Land, California Rangeland Trust, The Nature Conservancy, California Forestry Association, Pacific Forest Trust, Northern Sierra Partnership, and others.*
 - *SNC staff developed outreach and communications materials and updated the SNC website to advance understanding of the Sierra-Delta connection and identify the Sierra as the primary source of California's water.*
 - *A number of coordinating efforts, including follow-up activities and meetings with Legislators, improvement of outreach tools and materials, and ongoing engagement with sister agencies and allies who can speak to the importance of our Region in their own outreach efforts, will continue into FY 2013-14.*
 - *See additional related accomplishments under Education and Communications*
- Supporting Sierra-based Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups to enable them to compete more successfully for Department of Water Resources (DWR) planning and implementation funds.
 - *SNC recommitted to participation in the Sierra Water Work Group (SWWG) which actively supports Sierra IRWM groups in a variety of ways.*
 - *SNC sponsored a portion of the 2012 and 2013 Sierra Summits organized by SWWG to bring regional IRWM groups together for three days of education, discussion and information sessions on topics that may lead to regionally favorable policy changes at a state level.*
 - *SNC was selected to sit on the DWR IRWM Strategic Plan Focus Group which will guide development of the IRWM Strategic Plan and shape the future of IRWM.*

Regional Agricultural and Ranching

Under this new initiative, the SNC began assessing the needs of farmers and ranchers in the Region and initiated action to address some of these needs. Specific actions planned included:

- Implementing the 2012-13 Grant program, which will focus on high benefit projects that help to preserve ranches and agricultural lands in the Region.
 - *Twenty-nine projects were awarded \$5.1 million in grant funds by the SNC Board at their March 2013 meeting. Types of projects included Ranch and Farm Infrastructure Development, Conservation Easement Acquisitions, Invasive Species Removal, Stream Restoration and Meadow Restoration.*
- Assessing the gaps in research and information and determining how to work collaboratively with other organizations to address these needs and gaps.
 - *Staff began the development of a Sierra Nevada Agricultural and Ranching System Indicators report, which will be presented to the SNC Board in September 2013.*
 - *Staff began participating on the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Steering Committee and are actively participating in regional and statewide meetings of partner agencies working on related issues in the Region, including Resource Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Resource Conservation & Development Councils, and Integrated Regional Water Management groups.*
 - *Staff attended the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit, California Council of Land Trusts Conference and the California Small Farms Conference.*
- Facilitating discussions on key issues in an effort to reach consensus, for example, livestock grazing on federal lands.
 - *SNC funded the Center for Collaborative Policy to facilitate a public involvement effort in partnership with Inyo National Forest related to grazing on public land on the Kern Plateau.*
 - *Listening and learning sessions on grazing on public lands were held individually with representatives from: UC Davis, UC Cooperative Extension, Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, California Farm Bureau, California Cattleman's Association, Sierra Forest Legacy, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Natural Resource Conservation Services, California Resource Conservation Districts, National Forest Foundation and Environmental Defense Fund.*
 - *Two grants awarded under the 2012-13 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program will bring together diverse interests to address forest service grazing allotments in Alpine and Tuolumne Counties.*

Geotourism

The SNC continued to coordinate with the Sierra Business Council, National Geographic and numerous local partners to add authentic content to the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project website and to draw more visitors to the site. Actions planned to be undertaken by June 2013 included:

- Completing California Historical Landmark and Watchable Wildlife destination pages.
 - *Destination pages were completed and published on the website for all of the California Watchable locations in the Sierra Nevada Region.*
 - *Destination pages were completed and published for 157 California Historical Landmarks in the Sierra Nevada Region. There are still several remaining landmarks to be added to the website and staff will continue to seek volunteers to complete these nominations in the future.*
- Distributing 100,000 printed MapGuides.
 - *SNC organized and facilitated the distribution of 100,000 printed Mapguides. Of the total, 44,000 were distributed outside the Sierra via California Welcome Centers, corporate locations in San Jose/Santa Clara and LA, sporting good locations in Southern and Northern California and the Nevada Commission on Tourism. The remaining 56,000 were distributed within the Sierra at high-traffic locations (businesses and events) throughout the Region; California Welcome Centers in Auburn and Truckee, and SBC & SNC events, conferences and media.*
- Making a free down-loadable mobile phone application available to the public through existing application stores.
 - *The SNC completed procurement of, and made available for free download, mobile phone applications for Iphone and Droid smartphone users.*
- Implementing a marketing plan aimed at increasing the amount of web traffic visiting the site on a monthly basis.
 - *The SNC completed a number of marketing activities to increase awareness of SNGT travel planning website, including purchasing advertisements in the Visit CA 2013 Travel Planner, Sunset Magazine, VIA Magazine. And Sierra Heritage Magazine.*
 - *Leads generated from returned reader interest postcards will be added to the project's GeoExplorer e-newsletter database and provided with copies of the printed MapGuide.*
- Completing a study to assess website impact and response in communities.
 - *SNGT partners worked with graduate students from Duke University to complete a study evaluating National Geographic's Geotourism Program. Interviews and data were gathered from several Geotourism projects in the country. Information specific to the Sierra Nevada project was gathered early in the development of the SNGT and a subsequent study is recommended to accurately assess the effectiveness of the program.*
 - *Each month the SNC tracked statistical data compiled using Google Analytics to track activity on the website. Data has revealed consistent increases in website traffic. The website currently averages more than 35,000 pageviews each month.*
- Continuing to participate in the National Geocouncil with seven other U.S. Geotourism projects to leverage marketing and advertising opportunities across the country.
 - *The SNC and SBC continued to participate on the National Geocouncil, which has now grown to include ten projects in north America. Last year, SBC sent*

project manager, Nicole DeJonghe to National Geographic Headquarters in Washington DC to meet with the National Geocouncil. Participation on the Geocouncil has provided good opportunities to leverage marketing opportunities on all the Geotourism websites and in national efforts to market the United States as a tourist destination.

Ecosystem Services

The SNC worked with partners to undertake a number of actions under this initiative which will quantify environmental benefits in upper watersheds. Planned actions included:

- Coordinating the completion of Phase 1 of the Mokelumne Watershed Avoided Cost Analysis, which will analyze how upper watershed restoration treatments, primarily fuel hazard reduction and forest health management, will benefit downstream beneficiaries and reduce operational costs of energy and water delivery agencies.
 - *Consultants were retained to assist an intensive and Mokelumne-specific modeling process for both fire movement and sediment flow through the watershed. The SNC led the team that selected the winning consultants and the SNC continues to act as the primary point of contact for the consultants for matters concerning budgets, workloads, draft comments, and objectives.*
 - *Current conditions data and modeling completed in October and December, 2012 as part of this analysis highlight the high quality ecosystem services the Mokelumne watershed produces but it also demonstrates the vulnerability of those services if catastrophic wildfire occurs in the watershed. Determining which models and the teams to operate the models, as well as vetting and groundtruthing both inputs and outputs from the models, required an intensive collaborative process that SNC led. This effort not only improved the reliability of the outputs but gave the collaborative partners the opportunity to understand the process, improving the acceptance of the results.*
 - *Forest management treatments in the highly vulnerable areas were modeled to determine their effectiveness at reducing the burn severity of the forests in the watershed.*
 - *SNC and stakeholders are evaluating the analysis of the costs and benefits based on the model results of proactive fuel treatments compared to reactive fire suppression.*
- Assisting in convening key parties to discuss findings and conclusions from this analysis and determining next steps.
 - *SNC Staff led the development of a region-wide and diverse stakeholder group that participates in bi-monthly meetings. This includes leading both an Advisory Committee and Technical Committee.*
 - *Co-lead the Demand Analysis effort to identify and reach out to numerous corporations that are high water volume users in the East Bay Municipal Water District Water. Purpose is to help these downstream beneficiaries understand the importance of secure supply and high water quality for their bottom line. Also, to entice them to consider investing resources in headwaters protection and restoration.*

- *Co-lead the Mokelumne Environmental Benefits Program to develop the protocol and tools to support an investment platform for potential funders to support restoration efforts throughout the Mokelumne watershed.*
- Supporting at least one other effort in the Sierra to quantify the water yield and movement benefits of restoring the forests and watersheds to ecological health.
 - *The SNC funded the Sagehen water yield study, which began in FY 2012-13 and will continue through FY 2014-15. Pre-forest treatment monitoring data has been collected in this FY and post-treatment data will be collected the next two years with the final report expected in the winter of 2015.*
 - *The SNC funded the meadow hydrology assessment by the University of Nevada, Reno, which should be complete by the end of the fiscal year.*

Education and Communications

The SNC developed a new Education and Communications plan to increase awareness among decision-makers about the importance of the Sierra Nevada to the State's long-term health and well-being and to gain support for the watershed, forest health and community sustainability work being conducted by the SNC and our partners. Outreach was designed to focus primarily on the links between clean and reliable water, healthy forests and sustainable rural communities. Planned actions included:

- Meeting with key legislators/staff and key stakeholder groups regarding SNC initiatives.
 - *SNC Staff revised our Education and Communications Plan work plan to identify audiences (Allies, Legislators, and Agencies) and actions to focus SNC efforts to retain Regional funding in the 2014 water bond and/or other funding mechanisms.*
 - *SNC completed a field tour for legislative staff in December, 2012.*
 - *SNC held meetings with seven freshmen legislators in February, 2013.*
 - *SNC Staff, Boardmembers and allies met with 15 veteran legislators/staff and two additional freshman legislators in a March, 2013, Legislative Outreach Day.*
- Developing targeted messages and outreach materials geared specifically for the water bond, SNFCI, Geotourism and Regional Agriculture and Ranching initiatives.
 - *Staff developed key messages, supporting print materials and associated web pages to advance understanding of the Sierra-Delta connection, identify the Sierra as the primary source of California's water, explain forest and Bioenergy benefits, strengthen the link between healthy forests and communities, and begin discussions about the need to remediate legacy mining impacts.*
 - *SNC created and distributed a Proposition 84 Investment Report to inform policy makers and the public about the investment that has occurred through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grant Program.*
- Creating and distributing the FY 2011-12 Annual Report.
 - *FY 2011-12 Annual Report was completed and distributed in December, 2012.*

- Completing a plan for making more effective use of the SNC Web site as a communications vehicle.
 - *SNC created a series of initiative-based web pages to focus attention and provide information about the primary initiative work we are undertaking (Sierra-Delta Connection, Healthy Forests, Bioenergy, Cap and Trade and Abandoned Mine Lands). Regional Policy and Program Staff will continue to refresh and update these pages to keep them interesting, relevant and current.*
 - *SNC is working develop a comprehensive plan for making better, more effective use of the SNC Web site and social media outlets as communications vehicles into FY 2013-14.*

Funding Development

The SNC planned to focus its fund development efforts on three primary actions by June 2013:

- Continuing to track and publicize funding opportunities for the SNC and Regional stakeholders through the Current Funding Opportunities (CFO) newsletter.
 - *Due to changing organizational priorities and budget constraints that led to a loss of staffing resources, the SNC suspended our monthly funding updates in November, 2012. At the time of that announcement, we provided subscribers with information on other sources where they could find similar information and stated that we would revisit the CFO service again in the 2013-14 fiscal year, as staffing resources for that year were determined.*
- Implementing portions of the funding plan being developed for the SNC by consultants under contract.
 - *Consultants suggested that the SNC develop a Region-wide funding plan to attract investment and work with key agencies to expand action plans for implementation and “asks” for state and/or federal funding or policy advocacy. In response, the SNC updated our Education and Communications actions, as described above, with goals of 1) increasing awareness among decision-makers about the importance of the Sierra Nevada to the State’s long-term health and well-being and 2) obtaining investment in the Region to protect the resources that provide those services. Staff has begun targeted outreach with key audiences related to two primary funding goals identified in the plan: inclusion in the 2014 water bond and access to Cap-and-Trade Auction Revenue disbursements for forest sector projects in the Sierra.*
- Providing grant writing assistance for projects developed by partners as part of a major initiative, such as SNFCI, Regional Water, Great Sierra River Cleanup, etc.
 - *SNC took major responsibility for the preparation of a California Energy Commission Grant application for a 12-503 - Renewable Energy Deployment, Development, and Integration grant for bioenergy project research at the North Fork site.*
 - *SNC worked with applicants to include technical assistance to woody bioenergy projects in their Department of Energy (DOE) Clean Energy Technical Assistance Partnerships application.*

- *SNC drafted a request to Clearinghouse Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) for working capital funding for a North Fork project Northern California Community Loan Fund (NCCLF) and worked with Agency to create client relationships whereby the NCCLF would put together a New Market Tax Credit deal, providing up to \$1 million of capital funding.*
- *SNC helped develop a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Business Opportunity Grants (USDA RBOG) grant application to obtain biomass technical assistance for Plumas, Calaveras and Madera County projects.*

Great Sierra River Cleanup

The SNC coordinated the 4th Annual Great Sierra River Cleanup (GSRC) on September 15, 2012 with more than 3,400 volunteers joining together to remove over 63,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from waterways throughout the Sierra Nevada. Specific planned actions included:

- Continuing to work with existing river cleanups throughout the Sierra to unite and expand them.
 - *SNC Staff maintained regular communication with existing river cleanups and hosted cleanup coordinator training, both in Auburn and via webinar. The Auburn training in particular provided a good opportunity for coordinators to see their individual cleanups as part of a larger, unifying event.*
 - *New sites for existing cleanup organizations included Pardee Reservoir, hosted by East Bay Municipal Utility District; Clavey River, hosted by Tuolumne River Trust; and Westwood, hosted by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment.*
- Recruiting organizations in areas with no river cleanup programs to host cleanups in their areas.
 - *New cleanups included Bridgeport Elementary School on the Walker River, and the San Joaquin Office of Education/Manteca GOALS on the San Joaquin River.*
 - *The Bureau of Reclamation became a new partner by working with the Tuolumne Resource Conservation District and providing a new cleanup site at New Melones Lake.*

Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council)

The SNC planned to work with the Stewardship Council to take the actions necessary to carry out duties outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (including amendments mutually agreed upon). Specific actions planned included the following:

- Executing agreements to accept covenants on lands donated to the U.S. Forest Service.
 - *Conservation Covenant Language was developed and submitted to the US Forest Service National Office for their approval and acceptance, but action is still pending. This action is planned to be completed as part of the 2013-14 Action Plan.*

- Finalizing agreements for SNC to carry out certain duties upon the dissolution of the Stewardship Council, including selection of replacement conservation easement holders and performing monitoring activities.
 - *An amendment to the MOU was approved by the SNC Board and signed by the Executive Office on June 12, 2012. The amendment included tasks that the SNC could complete on lands that were retained by the PG&E.*
- Establishing a funding mechanism to compensate the SNC for tasks performed as described in MOU and subsequent agreements.
 - *These funding agreements are continuing to be developed with the Stewardship Council. This action is planned to be completed as part of the 2013-14 Action Plan.*

Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery

The SNC continued to coordinate and facilitate discussions and planning with the California Department of Fish and Game (now CA Department of Fish and Wildlife), Inyo County, the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery and other stakeholders to develop a long term master plan for the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery and surrounding property. Several specific actions were planned to be undertaken under the project, including:

- Convening a workgroup to develop a process for exploring potential uses, ownership and management of the property.
 - *A group of identified stakeholders including the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), Inyo County, SNC and Friends of Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery have convened in person and via phone to identify the necessary authorities and steps to be taken if a transfer of ownership were to be pursued. Legal advisors from all agencies above have provided direction and review of proposed steps.*
- Developing a master plan for the property to guide decision-making.
 - *Inyo County is developing a long-term use plan for the property, which should be completed in 2013. Other documents completed during 2012-13 included an appraisal of the property and facilities (WCB), a Phase I Environmental Conditions Report (Inyo County) that identified the need for a Phase II Report to be completed (Inyo County has begun this process). DFW developed a future-use document that defined acceptable uses for future use of the facility in the context of the original intent of the building.*
- Identifying additional stakeholders to engage in the process.
 - *At this time there haven't been any additional jurisdictional stakeholders to add to the process.*
- Effectuating the transfer of property, if deemed necessary and appropriate.
 - *If a transfer is pursued, SNC could serve as a temporary owner while a long-term third party owner is established. It is anticipated that all final needed information will be in place by Fall 2013 in order for WCB, DFW, SNC, and Inyo County to make decisions about a transfer.*
- Determining what, if any, role is appropriate for the SNC in the ultimate disposition of the property and ongoing management.

- *An analysis of SNC's future role is to be considered in conjunction with development of the master plan.*

Sierra Nevada System Indicators

The SNC continued the development of social, economic, and environmental indicators that will be used by the SNC staff and Board, and externally by SNC partners and other interested parties to promote Regional understanding, make sound investments, guide strategic decision-making, and help us to gauge the results of our efforts. Specific actions as called out in the 2012/13 Action Plan for the project included:

- Publishing, following Board approval, the last three in a series of five indicator reports that present the data and analysis associated with nineteen Sierra Nevada System Indicators.
 - *SNC completed and published the third and fourth reports:*
 - *September, 2012: Water and Air Quality and Climate*
 - *December, 2012: Forest Health and Carbon Storage*
 - *The completion of the fifth report, on Agriculture and Ranch Land, was pushed out into the 2013-14 fiscal year*
 - *During the development of the Forest Health report, a staff recommendation was made for the need to add a sixth indicator report specific to Fire Threat in order to adequately address fire in the Region comprehensively. The Board approved the creation of this additional report at the December, 2012 Board meeting.*
 - *Development work on the final two Indicators reports is ongoing in 2012-13 for completion and publication in September, 2013.*

Internal Operations

The SNC continued to improve its internal operations in a number of areas, including taking the following planned actions:

- Developing a department-wide training plan that will identify training needs and include mechanisms that will track staff training assignment and completion.
 - *The SNC has developed and implemented its training plan and training request procedures that together will identify training needs and track staff training assignment and completion.*
 - *SNC Administrative Staff have also implemented and improved its SharePoint-based Training Services Site, in order to provide easily accessible information on available training courses and their schedules, policies, procedures, forms and reimbursement information.*
- Continuing implementation of IT system improvements including conversion to the State website template, full deployment of SNC's content management software (Plone), web maintenance server upgrades, improved field office service, and improved IT policies and procedures.
 - *SNC IT Staff have completed implementation of IT system improvements including conversion of the SNC Web site to the State website template, deployment of SNC's content management software (Plone) and beta-training of select SNC staff, implementation of web maintenance server upgrades and*

- server performance monitoring, and server virtualization for improved system performance and disaster recovery capabilities.*
- Assessing and strengthening the development and use of its SharePoint-based intranet sites and tools.
 - *In addition to the development and implementation of multiple individual tracking lists and libraries, SNC Staff have improved and/or created the following Sharepoint-based intranet sites:*
 - *Training Services*
 - *Website Revision Services*
 - *Emergency Preparation, Safety, Security and Disaster Preparedness*
 - *Professional (Career Development) Services*
 - *Messaging (External Outreach) Services*
 - *Healthy Forests Team Site*
 - *Grants and Proposition 84 Team Site*
 - Improving emergency preparedness and safety through additional training, table top exercises and drills.
 - *SNC Administrative Staff have completed its Injury and Illness Prevention Plan and have created the plan to provide staff training on workplace safety practices and processes.*
 - *IT staff have further developed IT disaster recovery procedures and have completed SNC's IT security risk assessment.*
 - *As noted above, additional actions that have been taken that contribute to emergency preparedness include the virtualization of SNC's data and application servers and the development and distribution of planning and awareness materials through the Emergency Preparation, Safety, Security and Disaster Preparedness SharePoint site.*