

**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:** American Rivers

**Project Title:** Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow

**Subregion:** East

**County:** Alpine County

**SNC Funding:** \$75,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$150,000

**Application Number:** 684

**Final Score:** 86.0

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Hope Valley Meadow is located at the intersection of Highways 88 and 89, thoroughfares between Gold Country and Lake Tahoe and is one of the largest meadows in the Sierra Nevada. The overall Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Project has three main goals: 1) to restore the hydrologic function and full range of ecosystem services that will include natural water storage, flood attenuation, increased forage, aquatic and riparian habitat and recreational values; 2) assist the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in determining whether well-managed grazing could be compatible with post-restoration management objectives and identify questions and solutions associated with re-introducing grazing at this site; and 3) validate a forage model with on-the-ground data that predicts increased forage as a result of meadow restoration.

The project has been designed to proceed in four phases, with Phase 1 (assessment and conceptual restoration designs) already completed and Phase 2 (technical restoration designs) being completed by December 2013. This request is for Phase 3 of the project which will include pre-restoration forage monitoring; review, discussion and synthesis of best management practices around grazing on the restored site; data collection sufficient for the USFS to begin developing a site-specific management plan; and permitting including completion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review so that the site is "shovel-ready." Phase 4 will be implementation of meadow restoration and adaptive management.

This project aligns with the stated focus of the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant cycle as it is a Category Two project that will lead to meadow restoration which will improve habitat and hydrologic function. The completion of this project will

also address questions regarding how, when and where grazing could be introduced to meadow sites after restoration is complete – creating a framework that may be used on other meadow restoration sites where the re-introduction of grazing as a management tool is under consideration. This project aligns with Proposition 84 goals including contributing to the protection of rivers and streams, their watersheds and associated land and other natural resources through the implementation of meadow restoration.

American Rivers has leveraged SNC funding by securing an additional \$75,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Bella Vista Foundation as a match for this request.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Finalized work plan and budget	June 1, 2013
Signed subcontracts/grants with project partners	June 30, 2013
Development of final monitoring plan for gathering necessary data	June 30, 2013
Biannual finance and performance reports	November 15, 2013
Installation of monitoring equipment	November 15, 2013
Final CEQA document	May 15, 2014
Biannual finance and performance reports	May 15, 2014
Compilation and analysis of best management practices	July 15, 2014
Biannual finance and performance reports	November 15, 2014
401 and 404 Permits (including Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan-SWPPP)	December 15, 2014
Pre-restoration data collected and analyzed	September 15, 2015
Final monitoring report	November 15, 2015
Final NEPA document	December 15, 2015
Draft Report	April 15, 2016
Final Report	May 15, 2016
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>May 15, 2016</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$61,984.90
Indirect**	\$3,232.50
Administrative***	\$9,782.60
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</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/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
  - Friends of Hope Valley
  
- Oppose – N/A

## 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
- Dollar value of resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
- Number and type of jobs created
- Number of new, improved or preserved economic activities
- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation