

**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: Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council

Project Title: Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural lands Improvement Project

Subregion: South

County: Kern

SNC Funding: \$274,420.00

Total Project Cost: \$274,420.00

Application Number: 689

Final Score: 79.50

PROJECT SCOPE

Public and private landowners in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Watersheds agree that the single greatest threat to the viability of their ranching and agricultural lands is the uncontrolled spread of noxious weed species. 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.

By prescribing site-specific treatments, the project treats noxious weeds stands within private ranching lands and on public lands and private preserves utilized by ranchers in the Kern River Valley, South Fork and North Fork of Kern River and in the Walker Basin Creek Watersheds. 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. Mechanical treatment methods employed include the following: Cutting and/or girdling

of target trees with application of herbicide to the cut areas; mowing, disking, and grazing. The project's Pest Control Advisor will meet with individual landowners, observe their specific areas of infestations, develop treatment prescriptions and agree upon the treatment method(s).

In addition to the chemical and mechanical weed control measures specified above, the project partners will develop noxious plant identification print materials and fact sheets for distribution to participants and community stakeholders. A monitoring report will summarize the acres of land improved, the species of weeds treated and maps identifying treatment areas.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
SNC Grant Authorization	June 30, 2013
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with the Audubon Kern River Preserve Manager, Land Steward and Department of Fish & Game(DFG) Pest Control Advisor 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.	September 30, 2013
Landowner /licensed weed control contractor with technical assistance of DFG Pest Control Advisor will conduct fields meetings - deliverables include copies of treatment prescriptions for each parcel.	December 31, 2013
SNC 6 Month Report	December 31, 2013
First Weed Control Treatment by weed control contractor and employees conducting back pack spraying.	March 31, 2014
SNC 12 month progress report	June, 2014
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Advisor 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	September 2014
Second Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.	December 31, 2014
18-Month Progress Report	December 31, 2014
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Adviso 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	March 31, 2015
Third Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more	June 30, 2015

than one spray episode as needed.	
24-Month Progress Report	June 30, 2015
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Adviso 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	September 30, 2015
30-Month Progress Report	December 31, 2015
Fourth Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.	June 30, 2016
36-Month Progress Report	June 30, 2016
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Adviso will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations	September 30, 2016
42-Month Progress Report	December 31, 2016
Fifth Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.	June 30, 2017
48-Month Progress Report	June 30, 2017
Final Report to SNC	December 1, 2017
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 31, 2017

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$189,456.00
Indirect**	\$0.00
Administrative***	\$28,418.40
GRAND TOTAL	\$274,420.00

* 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
 - Eastern Kern RCD
 - Kern River Valley Revitalization
- Oppose
 - None

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.

- The 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.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.