

**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:** Eastern Sierra Land Trust

**Project Title:** Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement

**Subregion:** East

**County:** Mono County

**SNC Funding:** \$ 350,000.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,167,400.00

**Application Number:** 703

**Final Score:** 87.50

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The purpose of this project is to seek a permanent agricultural conservation easement for the 1,240-acre Sinnamon Meadows located near the popular recreation destinations of Virginia Lakes and Bridgeport in Mono County. This site is an important recreational, historic, natural, agricultural, and scenic resource for the area. This project will aid in the protection of threatened working agricultural landscapes as the land will be available for continued grazing. The agricultural conservation easement will restrict the future uses of the property to agricultural activities and open space. The property has been identified as a high priority for preservation by a planning effort for the conservation of the Bi-State population of greater sage grouse.

The completion of this project provides numerous public benefits including the protection of crucial habitat for multiple special status wildlife species and the protection of water resources that flow across and originate on the property. The long-term management of the property will be focused on the continued use and maintenance of the land as seasonal pasture grazed by livestock.

Mono County is about 95% publically owned land. The development pressure in the remote areas of the county is for 40-acre summer homes. This property is a pocket of privately owned property and highly desirable for 40-acre parcels.

The project supports Proposition 84 goals through the protection of the meadow and the streams that originate on the property. It also aligns with the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant program by preserving and protecting the lands for ongoing and future agricultural uses. This project leverages SNC funds as matching funds of more than 70% of the total project cost are being secured from additional sources including Wildlife Conservation Board and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Federal Farm and Ranch Land protection Program (FRPP).

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Final legal review of easement document	July 29, 2013
Baseline Conditions Report completed	July 29, 2013
Adaptive management plan completed with NRCS and DFW assistance	July 29, 2013
Escrow and easement completed and recorded	August 29, 2013
Six month progress report submitted	November 15, 2013
Final report and performance measures submitted	December 29, 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>December 29, 2013</b>

**NOTE:** A significant amount of work towards completing this high priority conservation project has already been completed at the time of this award. ESLT is confident the completion of the project will be possible within six months of grant awards.

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$348,364.00
Indirect**	\$436.00
Administrative***	\$1,200.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$350,000.00</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
  - Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner
  - California Department of Fish and Game
  - Mr. Tim Hansen, District 4 Supervisor, Mono County
  - State of Nevada Department of Wildlife

## **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.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected
- Acres of Land Conserved