

**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: Bureau of Land Management
Eagle Lake Field Office

Project Title: Rush Creek Improvement Project

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$207,164.00

Total Project Cost: \$350,000.00

Application Number: 718

Final Score: 81.67

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will result in constructing up to 8 miles of fencing to protect Rush Creek and related riparian areas, and make improvements to seven natural springs to provide sustainable water sources across 500-acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for cattle, sheep, and wildlife.

The project will permanently fence off the degraded Rush Creek Tributary portion of the project area to vehicular traffic and temporarily fence it off to grazing. The Rush Creek Tributary area is currently being overused, in part, due to a lack of adequate water sources across the landscape. Cattle, sheep, wild horses and burros are conditioned to use familiar places that provide adequate resources. The Rush Creek Tributary area is a convenient, accessible and reliable water source and feeding place. In addition, the Nobles Trail traverses through the tributary for about four miles and parallels Smoke Creek Road, a main thoroughfare. Eliminating vehicles from the tributary will protect botanical and cultural resources, eliminate pollution associated with oil and gas emissions and reduce soil compaction. Temporarily eliminating grazing allows the vegetation to rest and to recover naturally.

Seven dispersed springs have been identified for improvement. All are located within a 10 mile radius of the Rush Creek tributary area and all are adjacent to established roadways. The project will install spring boxes, cradled aluminum troughs, inflow and outflow pipes and escape ladders; this allows small wildlife species to escape if they happen to fall into the trough. Spring box improvements provide quality water for livestock, wildlife, wild horses, burros, and allow grazing permittees to more adequately

distribute the grazing pattern across the landscape. In addition, it will conserve two important riparian areas. Fencing will protect the water sources, soils and vegetation and enhance the riparian meadows, improve water quality and provide a naturally sustainable ecosystem.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Weed Inventories/Treatments	June 2013, Annual thru 2015
Special Status Plant Survey	June 30, 2013
Fencing and Spring Improvements	June 2013 – October 2014, 2015
Six Month Progress Reports	December 31, 2013, June 30, 2014, December 3, 2014, June 30, 2015
Final Report	October 30, 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$188,331.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$18,833.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$207,164.00

* 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
 - 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.

- Acres of land improved or restored.
- Linear feet of stream bank protected or restored.
- Number of significant sites protected or preserved.
- Feet of trail/path constructed or improved.