

**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: Feather River Land Trust

Project Title: Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: \$350,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$475,000.00

Application Number: 726

Final Score: 88.75

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) will purchase a 262-acre conservation easement to protect a portion of the Rogers Key Brand Angus Ranch in Plumas County.

The Key Brand Ranch is located in Indian Valley, just 4 miles east of the small town of Greenville. At over 25,000-acres, Indian Valley is one of the Northern Sierra's most important valleys for both wildlife habitat and local agricultural production. The 627-acre Key Brand Ranch contains 365-acres of wetland, montane riparian and wet meadow habitat types with an additional 262-acres of upland meadow and improved irrigated pasture used primarily for agricultural production. The landowner has received funding approval for a permanent "Wetland Reserve Program" (WRP) easement, which will be held by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and will be completed in 2013. This WRP easement will prohibit development and subdivision while restricting grazing in nearly 365-acres of the property's prime wetlands. The easement with FRLT would protect the remaining property's 262 productive acres that are located adjacent to the current WRP easement area.

The ranch directly contributes to the local agricultural economy by producing both hay and high quality angus beef. The Key Brand Ranch provides valuable habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife and plant species. In addition to abundant wildlife, the property contains evidence of use by the Mountain Maidu, including tools and artifacts from an abandoned Maidu Village. Remnants of a stone foundation on the ranch are the likely site of a general store owned by Peter Lassen. The landowner has agreed to allow educational and recreational public use of the property within the easement for events organized, sponsored, and insured by FRLT or its partners, including the Plumas

Unified School District. The proposed easement acquisition is funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Northern Sierra Partnership, and a generous bargain sale donation from the landowner.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Baseline Document Report	July 30, 2013
Close of Escrow- Transfer of CE	July 30, 2013
Six Month Progress Report	October 30, 2013
Final Report	December 31, 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$320,000.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$30,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$350,000.00

* 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
 - Plumas County Supervisor Robert Meacham
 - Northern Sierra Partnership
 - Jim Wilcox, Plumas Corporation
 - California Department of Fish and Game (2)
 - Plumas Audubon
 - Plumas County Board of Supervisors
 - Feather River RCD
 - Environmental Director, Greenville Rancheria
 - Sierra Farmstead
 - Defenders of Wildlife, California Program Director
 - Save Our Sandhill Cranes, President
 - California Cattlemen's Association
- 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.

- 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.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
- Number of Acres Conserved.