



**802-Upper Stephens Meadow
Restoration Project
Lassen County**



**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: Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Project Title: Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$115,385.00

Total Project Cost: \$123,000.00

Application Number: 802

Final Score: 90

PROJECT SCOPE

The Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration project is designed to protect a Sierra montane meadow that is threatened by lodgepole pine encroachment. This property, located in western Lassen County, is privately owned and is leased for cattle grazing and actively managed for timber resources, and has a conservation easement held by Lassen Land and Trails Trust.

This restoration project will improve water quality in the Eagle Lake Watershed through the protection of this working landscape on upper Pine Creek, the primary tributary to Eagle Lake, while also preserving valuable wildlife habitat of the Sierra Nevada. This property provides numerous watershed benefits to the Eagle Lake Watershed, which is a crucial environmental, economic and cultural resource to the citizens of Lassen County and the northern Sierra Nevada, but encroaching conifer threatens to eliminate these resource services.

Based upon an approved Non Industrial Timber Management Plan, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant funds will be used to remove encroaching lodgepole pine in the meadow area and monitor riparian corridor and montane meadow before and after treatments.

After the conifer removal project, grantee will utilize a volunteer crew to assist with rehabilitation work and planting of native riparian plant species, as well as include this project in an education program to educate citizens about the importance of water and natural resources in the Sierra Nevada. Lodgepoles harvested from the site may be used to construct necessary fences at parking locations along the Modoc Line, a project the SNC previously assisted, and may also be able to use chips as mulch to stabilize soils in the parking areas.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Establish monitoring protocols and photo points	October – November 2014
Remove encroaching lodgepole pine within the meadow area.	November – December 2014
Final clean-up and removal of lodgepole seedlings by hand-pulling	June – August 2015, August 2016
Conduct post-treatment monitoring	August 2015, August 2016
Progress Reports	February 28, 2015, August 30, 2015, February 28, 2016, August 30, 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 31, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	
Project Management	\$13,000
Forest Treatment Work	\$93,000
Indirect**	
Monitoring	\$2,860
Supplies	\$1,000
Publications, Printing, Public Relations	\$500
Travel	\$1,200
Administrative***	
	\$3,825
GRAND TOTAL	\$115,385

* 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
 - Lassen NF, Eagle Lake Ranger District
 - US Fish and Wildlife, Partners for Wildlife
 - Rosenberg Trust
 - UC Cooperative Extension; Lassen County

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
- Linear feet of streambank protected or restored
- Acres of land improved or restored

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 802)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on a 640-acre private ranching/grazing property (Assessor Parcel Number [APN] 085-080-06) which is subject to a conservation easement in upper Stevens Meadow, immediately south of Forest Route 31N36, approximately four miles west of State Route (SR) 44, approximately 16 miles west of Eagle Lake, approximately 16 miles north of Lake Almanor, approximately 16.5 miles northeast of Chester, and approximately 28 miles northwest of Susanville, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Susanville and Chester

Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Lassen Land and Trails Trust, the conservation easement holder, is requesting \$115,385 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Grant Program to implement the removal of encroaching lodgepole pine on approximately 90-acres of the 640-acre property along Pine Creek within Upper Stevens Creek Meadow in Lassen County. The proposed project would remove encroaching lodgepole pine using both mechanical and hand treatment methods. Mechanical removal of lodgepole pine trees would take place on approximately 20-acres. On the remaining 70-acres, the lodgepole pine trees would be harvested using hand treatment methods. The lodgepole trees would be used for a zigzag fence. Harvested trees not needed for fencing would be chipped and transported to a biomass energy facility; however, these activities (chipping and transporting to a biomass energy facility) would provide off-set costs and are not part of the proposed project. The encroaching lodgepole pine threatens to impair the plant community through altered hydrology, shade, and changing soil composition. The loss of the meadow would impact Pine Creek, and ultimately Eagle Lake, by increasing water speed, erosion and sediment loads, flooding events, and would alter the native plant communities along the length of the stream. Therefore, by removing the encroaching lodgepole pine trees, the proposed project would maintain the native meadow plant community, protect the vegetation along the banks of Pine Creek, and would improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

The project site is subject to an approved Non-industrial Timber Management Plan which contains silvicultural prescriptions (timber harvest requirements) and provides protective measures for stream zones, cultural resources and special status plant and wildlife species. Any work within the watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) would include hand treatments and would be seasonally limited. No cultural resources are within the proposed project area. The proposed project area provides some habitat for State and Federal special status species; however, as part of the treatment activities, pre-treatment surveys would identify plant and wildlife special status species in the treatment areas. If special status plant species are identified, they would be flagged and avoided. If special status wildlife species are identified, a buffer surrounding their activity locations would be provided and treatment activities would occur outside that buffer, allowing the treatment methods to avoid wildlife special-status species.

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore and maintain the native meadow plant community in order for the montane meadow to function properly. In a properly functioning meadow, the native sedges, willows and other species stabilize the stream bank and act as sponges to keep water available late into the season. The loss of streamside vegetation leads to

stream incisions, which in turn leads to a lower water table, further altering the vegetative community. Protection of the meadow would ultimately provide healthier meadows, healthier streams, and healthier watersheds, and would protect existing natural resources from being altered by encroaching lodgepole pine and associated habitat degradation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (mechanical and hand treatments of encroaching lodgepole pine) to maintain and improve the long-term viability of the montane meadow, including its hydrologic function. The proposed project would improve the habitat quality and function of the montane meadow to help sustain forest and watershed health and contains measures to protect water quality, special status plant and animal species, and cultural resources in the project area. No significant adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

Detailed Project Description Narrative:

Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration (EGID #802)

Project Description:

The Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration project is designed to protect a Sierra montane meadow that is threatened by lodgepole pine encroachment. This property, located in western Lassen County, is privately owned and actively managed for timber resources, and has a conservation easement held by Lassen Land and Trails Trust (LLTT). This restoration project will improve the overall health of the forest and the Eagle Lake watershed through the protection of this meadow, as well as improving wildlife habitat conditions. Additionally, forest biomass removed as part of this restoration project will be utilized as fencing or sold as chips to defray project costs.

This project will provide a public benefit through forest health improvement, watershed restoration, and protection of wildlife habitat. In addition, the property is a private inholding surrounded by Lassen National Forest land, and this project will provide increased opportunities for tourism by protecting the primary tributary to Eagle Lake, which provides many recreational opportunities. The deliverables from this project will be improvement of one mile of Pine Creek, improvement and protection of 90 acres of montane meadow, and protection of critical wildlife habitat, including the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout (ELRT), which is currently under review for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Project Funds will go toward the removal of encroaching lodgepole pine in conjunction with funds secured for this purpose from the US Fish and Wildlife Service-Partners Program and the private landowner. Additional in-kind contributions will come from USFS-Eagle Lake Ranger Station, which will conduct monitoring of the project to evaluate the effects of conifer removal on understory plant community changes through time, and from Trout Unlimited, which will conduct habitat typing on Pine Creek. This will also help put the project in context of similar projects conducted on National Forest land along Pine Creek and within the watershed.

The Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project will support the goals of Proposition 84 and the mission of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California through the improvement of the health of the forest, watershed health, protection of critical wildlife habitat, and enhancement of valuable recreational opportunities.

Lassen Land and Trails Trust believes that this project is critical due to its water resources and wildlife habitat. Although the project will occur on private land, there will be a public benefit due to numerous watershed benefits to the Eagle Lake watershed, which is a crucial environmental, economic and cultural resource to the citizens of Lassen County and the northern Sierra Nevada. Encroaching conifer threatens to eliminate these resource services, which will spread beyond the private property boundary. With the support of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, we will work with partners from the private and public sectors and the landowner to remove encroaching lodgepole pine which threatens to alter the hydrology of the meadow.

This project will fit in well with on-going efforts in the region, along Pine Creek, and in this area of the Sierra Nevada. The US Forest Service-Eagle Lake Ranger District has had several successful lodgepole removal projects along Pine Creek, and these projects have shown no negative impacts to water quality, including sedimentation and water temperature. US Forest Service staff would participate in the project by conducting monitoring of the site in order to evaluate conifer removal effects on understory plant communities, including measures of species richness, diversity, cover and wetland prevalence index and comparing these data to an untreated meadow threatened with conifer encroachment. The Forest Service will also collect data on forest structure to evaluate how tree density and canopy cover influence understory plant communities. In addition, efforts to reintroduce and re-establish a native population of Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout are on-going, leading to interest from Trout Unlimited to conduct in-stream habitat surveys, and California DFW has expressed interest in spawning and rearing studies on this property.

Maintaining the native meadow plant community is critical to the proper functioning of a montane meadow, however, encroaching lodgepole pine threatens to impair the plant community through altered hydrology, shade and changing soil composition. In a properly functioning meadow, the native sedges, willows and other species stabilize the stream bank and act as sponges to keep water available late into the season. The loss of streamside vegetation leads to stream incisions, which in turn leads to a lower water table, further altering the vegetative community. Some minor bank incision has already occurred in the project area, and this process will accelerate as lodgepole pine outcompetes the willows and sedges. The loss of this meadow near the headwaters of Pine Creek could have drastic consequences on the stream all the way to Eagle Lake. These effects include increased water speed, increased erosion and sedimentation into Eagle Lake, more drastic flooding events, and increased effects of drought, which will lead to the alteration of native plant communities along the length of the stream. After the conifer removal project, we will include this project in our education program to

educate citizens about the importance of water and natural resources in the Sierra Nevada.

Montane meadows are considered a keystone habitat in the Sierra Nevada because they offer water during the dry season, provide higher plant productivity, and other resources. Meadows are an important part of a healthy forest as they provide critical habitat to a variety of species. A wide variety of wildlife including fish, migrating waterfowl, sandhill cranes and deer take advantage of this property and the meadow system. This project will restore key habitat for the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout as part of the larger effort toward the recovery of this population. This fish is the only rainbow trout native to the Eastern Sierra Nevada, and is endemic to Eagle Lake and its tributaries. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified this species as a "Species of Special Concern" and a "Heritage Trout Species" and is also under review for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Project Design:

The proposed project will restore approximately 80 acres of montane meadow and riparian habitat along the upper reach of Pine Creek, a Class I watercourse and main tributary to Eagle Lake. There are two main techniques being used for the conifer removal. The first is mechanical removal, which will take place on approximately 20 acres. The first phase will be to fell, harvest, skid and transport all lodgepole trees of merchantable size to be sent to a sawmill for conversion into lumber. This phase is expected to pay for itself through the sale of timber, and is not included in this project. After the sawlogs are removed, all other lodgepole trees will be harvested, and will either be prepared for use as zigzag fencing, or will be chipped and transported to a biomass energy plant. In this way, all biomass resulting from these activities will be utilized. The second approach will be to remove lodgepole using hand treatments. Approximately 19 acres are considered dense stands, while an additional 52 acres have more scattered conifer encroachment.

All biomass resulting from this forest health improvement project will be utilized through sale of chips to biomass plants to offset project costs, or will be processed to be used as fencing material. This fencing may be used to surround proposed parking areas on the Modoc Line Rail Trail, which was purchased in part using Sierra Nevada Conservancy funds in 2008, and is owned and managed by Lassen Land and Trails Trust. This plan ensures that all forest biomass resulting from this restoration project will be utilized to increase the cost-effectiveness of project funds, and to further leverage these funds.

The project area is located within 640 acres of private property owned by the Rosenberg family that is surrounded by national forest land. The property is managed under a conservation easement held by Lassen Land & Trails Trust since 1992. The proposed project complements community and interagency goals to rehabilitate the upper reach of Pine Creek and establish natural spawning and rearing of ELRT. Public outreach and education programs are planned through field tours, local news releases, LLTT newsletters, and internet postings to increase awareness of native trout issues and watershed conservation efforts in Lassen County and the Sierra Nevada region.

Pine Creek is the primary watercourse on the property. Two branches converge in the center of the property. The northern branch enters the property from the west and is perennial and is a Class I waterway. The southern branch may become intermittent late in the summer, and is a Class I waterway which becomes a Class III watercourse in the extreme southern portion of the property. In addition, there are two springs located in the western portion of the property which feed Pine Creek. Stream grade is a gentle 4% and the channel bottom is basalt boulders, cobbles and sand.

The property has mature stands of lodgepole pine and Jeffrey pine, along with an aspen stand in a rugged rocky basalt flow, and a large native grass meadow lies in the center portion of the property, which is the project area.

This property is zoned UC-2, or Upland Conservation, with an 80-acre minimum. Under the terms of the conservation easement, this property cannot be subdivided. In the Lassen County General Plan, the property is designated as Prime Recreation, which is consistent with this project. This project will enhance the recreational values of surrounding Forest Service land, and the watershed of Eagle Lake. Although there is not public access to the property, Lassen Land and Trails Trust will lead educational trips on the property, providing public access in a controlled manner. Additionally, the Trust is the sponsor of a Natural Resource focused Explorer Post, who have expressed interest in participating in the project through volunteer labor and educational trips.

Workplan and Schedule

Initial work preparing for lodgepole removal will begin in June 2014, and will be completed using funds from US-FWS Partners Program and the private cash donation. Timber harvest using SNC funds will begin in August 2014, the estimated starting date for a project agreement.

Project Deliverables	Responsible Parties	Timeline
Establish monitoring protocol	USFS, LLTT	June 2014
Project Monitoring: Pre-treatment	USFS, LLTT	June 2014
Project Monitoring: photopoints, report	LLTT	August 2014, 2015, 2016 (on-going in perpetuity)
Lodgepole Removal (mechanical)	Contractor	August-November 2014
Lodgepole removal (hand treatment, intensive)	Contractor, LLTT	June-November 2014
Lodgepole removal (hand treatment, extensive)	Contractor, LLTT	September-October 2014
Project Monitoring: post-treatment	USFS, LLTT	October 2014, August 2015, August 2017, August 2019
6-month reports to SNC	LLTT	February 2015, August 2015, February 2016
Final cleanup, hand removal of lodgepole seedlings	LLTT, volunteers	June-August 2015, August 2016
Final Report (project completion)	LLTT	August 2016

Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements

We have received several of the documents and agreements necessary for project completion, and anticipate final approval by April 2014. Many of these are part of the active Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) for the property. An update of the Non-industrial Timber Management Plan was submitted on February 17, 2014, which includes specific provisions for the meadow. NTMP serves as a Certified Regulatory Program under CEQA, so the Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration is not considered a new project under CEQA. There is a timber waiver for water quality from the California State Water Resources Control Board which covers the property. Through

a partnership on this project, US-FWS Partners Program has completed necessary NEPA documentation, including Section 7 and cultural resources clearance.

Organizational Capacity

Lassen Land and Trails Trust is a 501 (c)(3), member-supported organization whose mission is to conserve significant natural lands and agricultural landscapes; to promote and enhance a regional recreational trails network. Over its 25-year history, the Trust has conserved over 4,000 acres in northeastern California and currently partners to develop, enhance and promote over 135 miles of recreational trails. The Trust has succeeded in its achievements through support from its partners, including the Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake and Alturas Field Offices, USFS Lassen National Forest, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Lassen County and the City of Susanville along with a number of private foundations and individual donors.

The Trust's annual budget is just under \$300,000 and supports a professional staff including an executive director and lands manager, as well as its programs in conservation, trails and education.

An all-volunteer Board of Directors governs the Trust, which adheres to the standards and policies of the Land Trust Alliance. In addition, the Trust looks to volunteer committees to provide guidance and insight into its programs in conservation, trails and education, as well as in its governance and fundraising. A broad base of community volunteers assist in restoration projects, educational programs, trail activities and maintenance, as well as fundraising events.

Cooperation and Community Support

One major opportunity that we will take advantage of is the increased interest in Pine Creek and Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout (ELRT) by a variety of groups. These include CalDFW, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pine Creek Coordinated Resource Management Planning Group, Susanville Rancheria, Trout Unlimited, and CalTrout, among others. The focus of these groups is to return the ELRT to a naturally stable state through habitat restoration along the length of Pine Creek, brook trout removal, and the release of ELRT in upper reaches of the stream. In addition, Eagle Lake is a critical environmental and economic resource to Lassen County and the Sierra Nevada region, and protecting the water sources to this lake are a priority to many groups. This project would protect the water quality and quantity of Eagle Lake, as well

as protecting critical habitat necessary to the rehabilitation of the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout.

Our project will fit in with ongoing efforts on Pine Creek and with the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout. In particular, USFS-Eagle Lake Ranger District has conducted several similar projects nearby along Pine Creek and other tributaries. They will be participating in monitoring of the project which will help put the project in context of other meadow restoration projects in the area. The subject property is completely surrounded by National Forest land, so it is important that this project relate to USFS projects. *Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration* project methods have taken into account lodgepole removal projects conducted by USFS-Eagle Lake Ranger District staff, which have shown positive results in terms of aspen growth, and have not shown any negative water quality effects. Lassen Land and Trails Trust will also participate in Pine Creek Coordinated Resource Management Planning Group meetings, associated Technical Review Team for Fisheries, and the Eagle Lake Working Group organized by Trout Unlimited and CalTrout. This will keep partners updated on the project progress and will ensure that we stay current on other ELRT/Pine Creek projects. We believe that this project will work well within overall efforts to restore the Pine Creek/Eagle Lake watershed and rehabilitate the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout population.

We have received formal letters of support for this project from Cassandra Roeder, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Ann Carlson, US Forest Service-Eagle Lake Ranger District; David Lile, University of California Cooperative Extension- Lassen County; Paul Divine, California Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Jane Rosenberg, the property landowner.

Long-term Management and Sustainability

This property is currently protected from development and subdivision under terms of the conservation easement held by Lassen Land and Trails Trust. This easement is held in perpetuity, ensuring that the environmental values of the property cannot be lost. However, the lodgepole pine threatens the long-term sustainability of the meadow habitat, which is why this project is so important. Because both saw-logs (diameter > 11 inches) and non-saw logs will be removed from the meadow, regrowth of lodgepole pine will be slow. This means that the effort to remove lodgepole will not have to be repeated for another 20-30 years. At that point, it would not be as large of an area as is included in this project, and higher timber prices for lodgepole may allow the continuation of the project to be cost effective for the family.

Lassen Land and Trails Trust conducts annual monitoring under the terms of the conservation easement and will establish additional photopoints in the project area to ensure that changes can be tracked. The US Forest Service will participate in monitoring of project effectiveness through monitoring of understory plant communities, including measures of species richness, diversity, cover and wetland prevalence index. These data will then be evaluated in conjunction these data to an untreated meadow threatened with conifer encroachment on National Forest land. This monitoring protocol will occur pre-treatment and the 1st and 3rd years post-treatment. In addition, US Forest Service has a temperature monitor in Pine Creek downstream of the project area which continually records water temperature, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This continual monitoring of conditions on the subject property and Pine Creek will ensure that any issues that arise can be swiftly addressed.

Budget Narrative

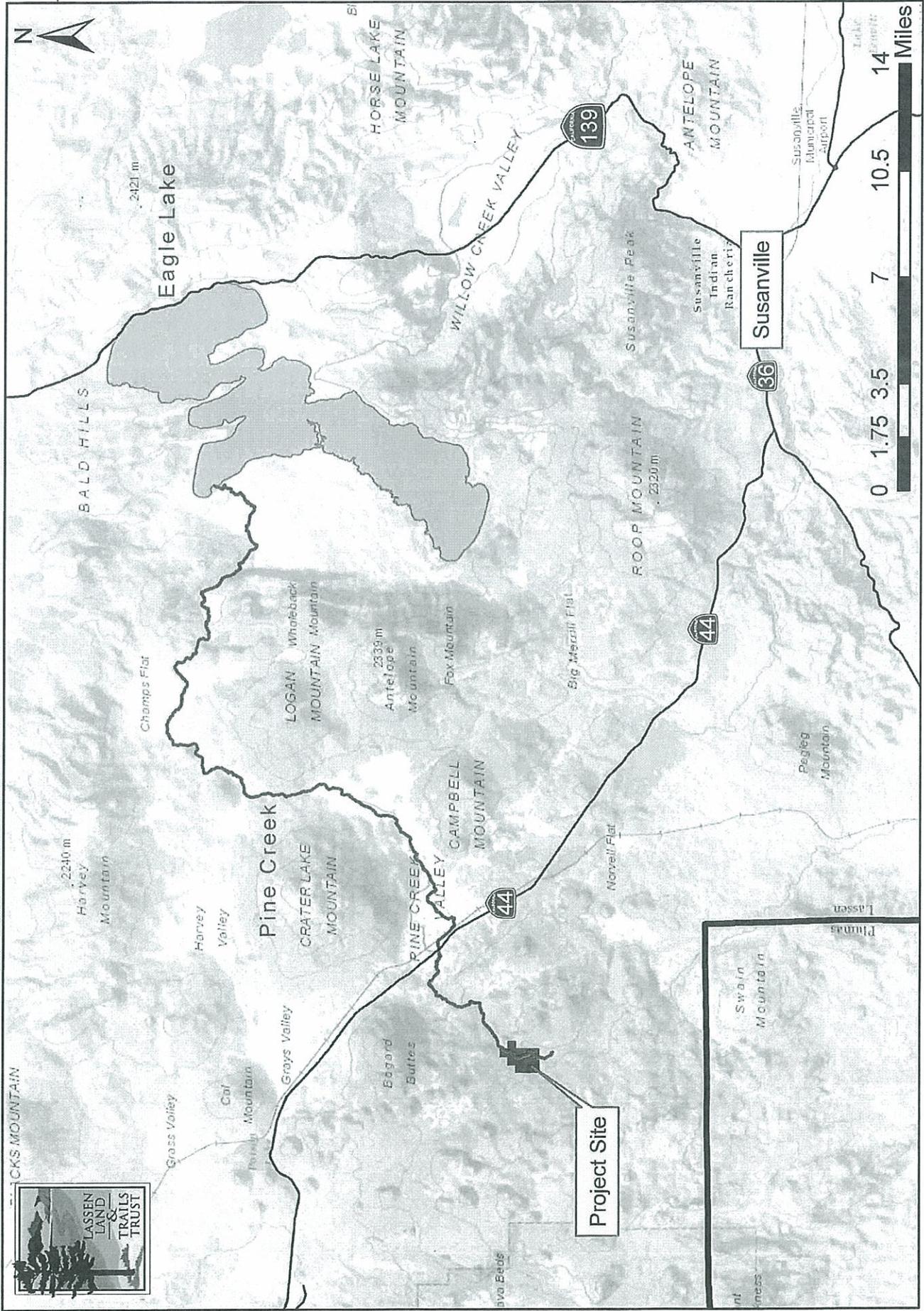
We have carefully developed a budget which we feel will effectively achieve project goals and ensure successful completion of the project. There are a total of 200 hours of staff time (at \$65/hr) included in Project Management over 3 years, which will ensure that the project stays on track and is carefully and accurately implemented. The majority of the remaining project funds will go to on the ground work and the actual removal of lodgepole. This portion of the project will be through a contractor, and will be managed by the landowner's private forester. The 20 acres of mechanical harvest is expected to have a net cost of \$48,000 after biomass is utilized and put toward project costs. The 19 acres of intensive hand treatment will cost \$1,000/acre for a total of \$19,000, while extensive hand treatment of approximately 52 acres will cost \$500/acre, for a total of \$26,000. In addition, we have included a total of 44 staff hours to effectively monitor the project effectiveness, work with US Forest Service staff, and to establish new photopoints to track changes through the Trust's annual monitoring. This will be spread over 3 years in order to monitor changes throughout the project. Administrative costs for this project will be minimal, with a total of \$3,825, which is just over 3% of the total project costs. This brings the total project budget to \$115,385.

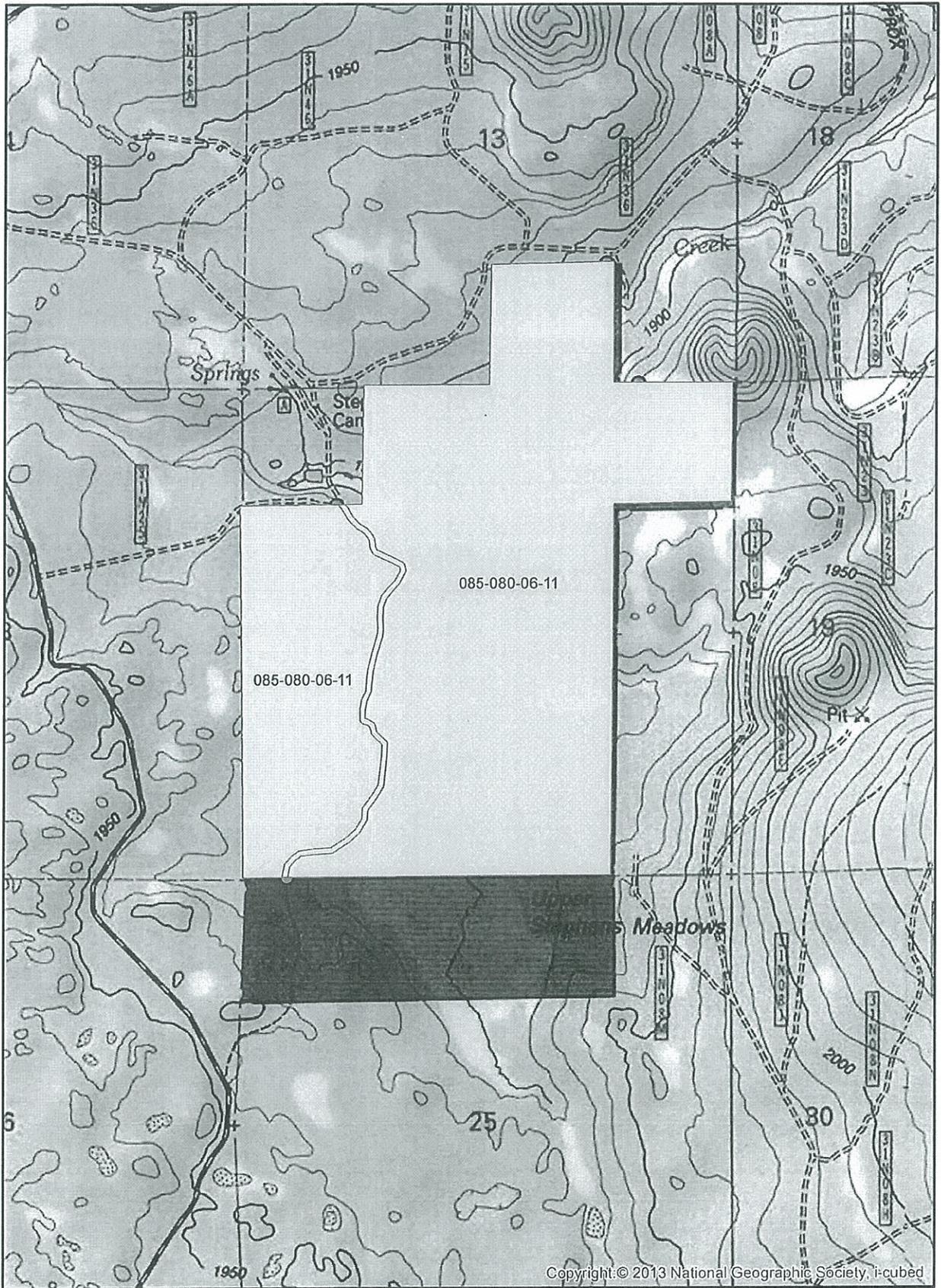
We will leverage these funds from Sierra Nevada Conservancy to secure additional funds to complete the project. We have already received \$5,000 toward the project from the landowner, as well as \$13,000 of project funds of from US Fish & Wildlife Service-Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Partners). Partners have already completed

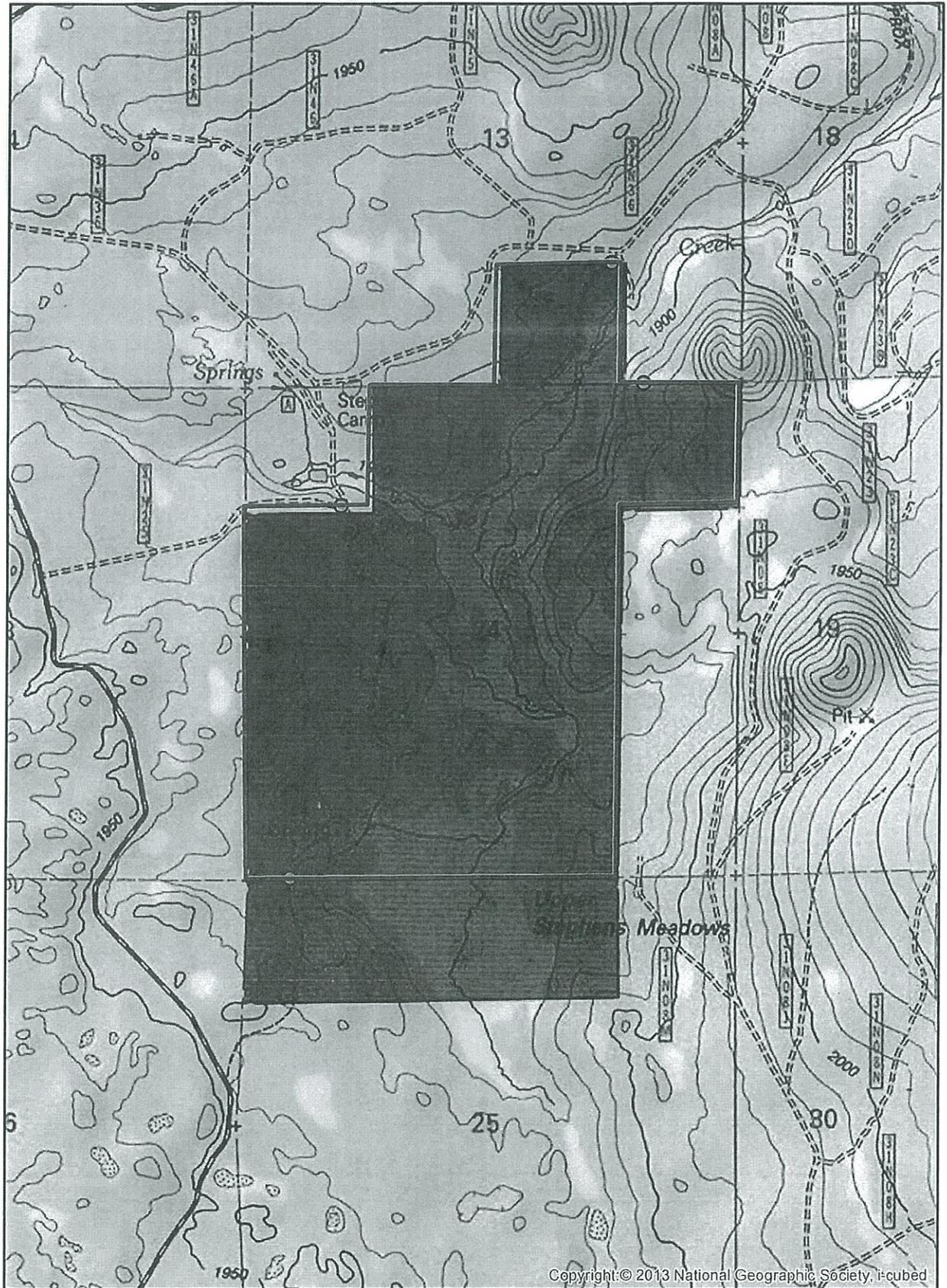
permitting from US Army Corp of Engineers and California DFW, botanical surveys and archaeological surveys, and these costs will be in addition to the \$13,000 of allocated funds for this project. We have secured project contributions from US Forest Service-Eagle Lake Ranger District through implementation of monitoring of conifer removal effectiveness, and Trout Unlimited which will conduct habitat typing of the in-stream and meadow conditions. Additionally, the Registered Professional Forester will apply to California Forest Improvement Program for funds to cover the cost of project supervision.

The utilization of forest biomass has also been carefully planned to maximize the effectiveness of the project budget. The use of non-sawlogs to be used as fencing supplies will reduce management costs of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy-funded Modoc Line Rail Trail, which is owned and managed by Lassen Land and Trails Trust, and the sale of chips will be used to offset project costs.

Upper Stephens Meadow Restoration: General Location Map





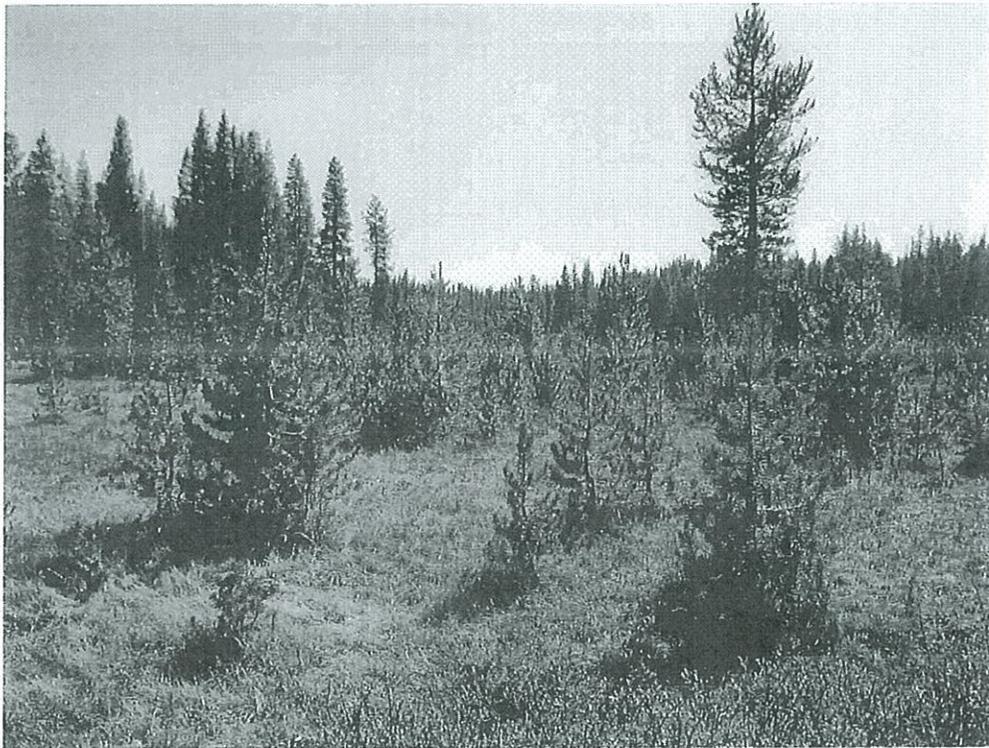




Lassen Land & Trails Trust. PO Box 1461, Susanville, CA 96130. (530) 257-3252
www.lassenlandandtrailstrust.org

Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration

Photos of Project Site



Encroaching lodgepole in meadow habitat



Young lodgepole pines growing in meadow

Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration

Photos of Project Site



Meadow area with encroaching lodgepole pine



Pine Creek in central portion of Property

Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration

Photos of Project Site



View of meadow from within lodgepole stand



Pine Creek and Upper Stevens Meadow with lodgepole encroachment

Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration

Photos of Project Site



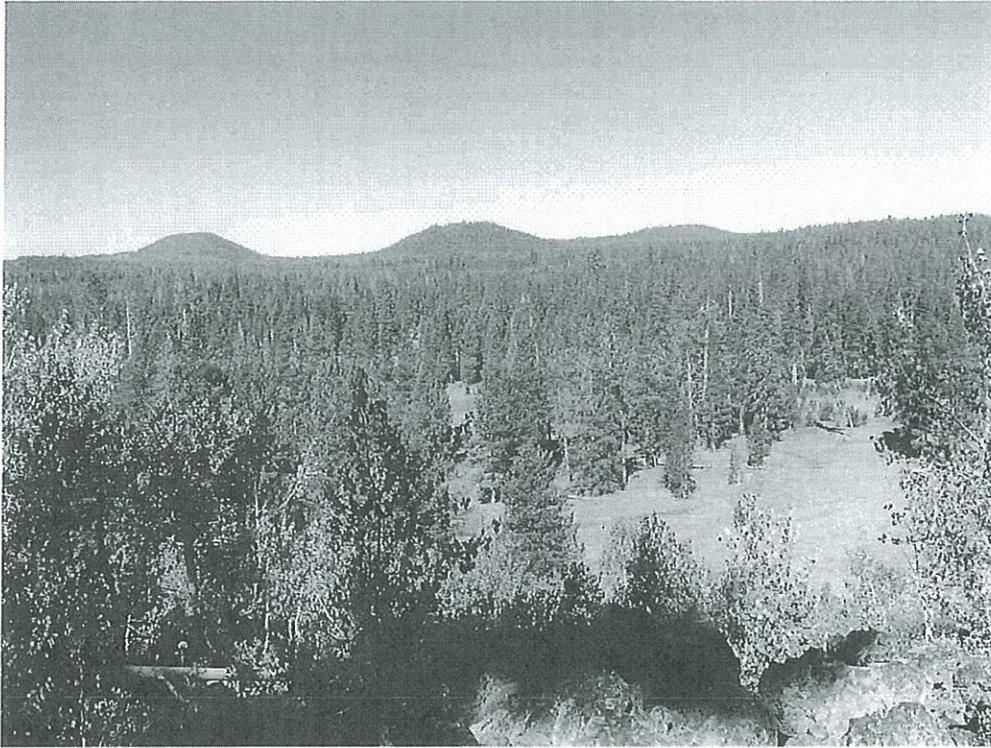
Pine Creek in north-central portion of property



Lodgepole pine growing along banks of Pine Creek

Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration

Photos of Project Site



Overlook of meadow from eastern portion of property



Young lodgepole growing in meadow habitat

File Code:

Date: October 10, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

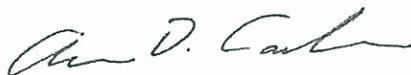
Dear Mr. Branham:

On behalf of the Eagle Lake Ranger District, Lassen NF I am writing to express my support of Lassen Land and Trails Trust and their proposed Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project. This project will protect and restore critical Sierra Nevada meadow habitat along Pine Creek, the primary tributary to Eagle Lake. With the help of funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, this agricultural property within the Pine Creek/Eagle Lake watershed will be protected and improved, which will have a positive impact on the environmental, economic and social well-being of the citizens and communities of the Sierra Nevada region.

Upper Stevens Meadow is located near the headwaters of Pine Creek, which flows year-round through the property. This meadow is part of the historical breeding and spawning grounds for the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout, and supports many other wildlife species which depend on this consistent source of water. Lassen Land and Trails Trust, which holds a conservation easement on this property, is proposing the restoration of this meadow which will enhance water resources of Pine Creek, as the meadow holds water during run-off events and releases it slowly throughout the summer. Pine Creek provides key fish and wildlife habitat within the critical juncture of the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, Modoc Plateau and Great Basin.

I believe this project supports our shared priorities and concern for quality habitat and watershed protection in the region, and would be a good fit for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy Prop 84 grant. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



ANN D. CARLSON
District Ranger





**United States Department of the
Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service**



**Modoc National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. box 1610
5364 Co. Rd. 115
Alturas, CA 96101
(530)233-3572**

10/25/2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham:

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program I am writing to express my support of Lassen Land and Trails Trust and their proposed Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project. This project will protect and restore critical Sierra Nevada meadow habitat along Pine Creek, the primary tributary to Eagle Lake. With the help of funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, this agricultural property within the Pine Creek/Eagle Lake watershed will be protected and improved, which will have a positive impact on the environmental, economic and social well-being of the citizens and communities of the Sierra Nevada region.

Upper Stevens Meadow is located near the headwaters of Pine Creek, which flows year-round through the property. This meadow is part of the historical breeding and spawning grounds for the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout, and supports many other wildlife species which depend on this consistent source of water. Lassen Land and Trails Trust, which holds a conservation easement on this property, is proposing the restoration of this meadow which will enhance water resources of Eagle Lake, as the meadow holds water during run-off events and releases it slowly throughout the summer. Eagle Lake is a valuable economic and recreational resource to the people of Lassen County, and provides crucial fish and wildlife habitat within the critical juncture of the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, Modoc Plateau and Great Basin.

As a partner with the Trust on the Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration project, USFWS Partners Program is prepared to provide the support of our staff and resources to ensure the success of this project. At this time the Partners Program has guaranteed \$10,000 in matching funds to the Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration project. I believe this project supports our shared priorities and concern for quality habitat and watershed protection in the region, and would be a good fit for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy Prop 84 grant. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cassie Roeder
Partners for Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Biologist
Modoc National Wildlife Refuge

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

707 Nevada Street
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-2601 office
<http://celassen.ucdavis.edu>

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

October 19, 2012

Dear Mr. Branham:

I am writing to express my support of Lassen Land and Trails Trust and their proposed Upper Stephens Meadow Restoration Project. This project will protect and restore critical meadow habitat along Pine Creek, the primary tributary to Eagle Lake. With the help of funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, key meadow and water resources within the Pine Creek/Eagle Lake watershed will be improved, which will have a positive benefit within the watershed.

Upper Stephens Meadow is located near the headwaters of Pine Creek, which flows year-round through the property. This meadow is part of the historical breeding and spawning grounds for the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout, and supports many other wildlife species which depend on this consistent source of water. Lassen Land and Trails Trust, which holds a conservation easement on this property, is proposing the restoration of this meadow which will enhance water resources of Eagle Lake.

I am more than willing to collaborate with the Trust on the Upper Stephens Meadow Restoration project, and I believe it would be a good fit for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant.

Please feel free to contact me at 251-8133 for any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Lile
County Director
UC Cooperative Extension, Lassen County

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM**

Project Name: Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration

Applicant: Lassen Land & Trails Trust

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
Project Management	\$7,150.00	\$3,900.00	\$1,950.00			\$13,000.00
Mechanical harvesting	\$48,000.00					\$48,000.00
Hand Treatment (intensive)	\$19,000.00					\$19,000.00
Hand Treatment (extensive)	\$26,000.00					\$26,000.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$100,150.00	\$3,900.00	\$1,950.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$106,000.00

SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
Monitoring	\$1,300.00	\$1,040.00	\$520.00			\$2,860.00
Supplies	\$500.00	\$500.00				\$1,000.00
Publications, Printing, Public Relations	\$500.00					\$500.00
Travel to/from project site	\$600.00	\$400.00	\$200.00			\$1,200.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$1,800.00	\$1,540.00	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,560.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	\$101,950.00	\$5,440.00	\$2,470.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$111,560.00

SECTION THREE Administrative Costs (Costs may not to exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :						Total
<i>Administration</i>	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00			\$3,825.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,825.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	\$103,225.00	\$6,715.00	\$3,745.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$115,385.00

SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>List other funding or in-kind contributors to project (i.e. Sierra Business Council, Department of Water Resources, etc.)</i>						
USFWS-Partners Program	\$13,000.00					\$13,000.00
Private Landowner contribution	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00
Volunteer post-treatment hand removal		\$2,475.00	\$2,475.00			\$4,950.00
California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection	\$3,000.00					\$3,000.00
USFS-Eagle Lake Ranger Station	\$1,822.00	\$1,339.00		\$2,333.00		\$5,494.00
Trout Unlimited	\$1,000.00					\$1,000.00
Total Other Contributions:	\$23,822.00	\$3,814.00	\$2,475.00	\$2,333.00	\$0.00	\$32,444.00

NOTE: The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.

* Operating Costs should be allocated to the percentage that is applicable to the grant based on your cost allocation methodology and cannot exceed 15% of your total project costs.

Long-term Management and Sustainability

Lassen Land and Trails Trust conducts annual monitoring under the terms of the conservation easement and will establish specific photopoints in the project area to ensure that changes can be tracked. In addition, US Forest Service has a temperature monitor in Pine Creek downstream of the project area which continually records water temperature, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The Forest Service will also conduct monitoring of project effectiveness, and will collect data pre-treatment, and 1 year and 3 years post-treatment. This continual monitoring of conditions on the subject property and Pine Creek will ensure that any issues that arise can be swiftly addressed. This property is currently protected from development and subdivision under terms of the conservation easement held by Lassen Land and Trails Trust. This easement is held in perpetuity, ensuring that the environmental values of the property cannot be lost.

We have included a total of 44 hours of staff time for monitoring, which will ensure that there is accurate record keeping in the first 3 years of the project. After that, long-term monitoring will occur in perpetuity under the terms of the conservation easement.

Restrictions / Agreements

Project: Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration, EGID #802

Applicant: Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Contact Person/email/phone: Amy Holmen, land@lassenlandandtrailstrust.org, (530) 257-3252

The project covers land under private ownership which has a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection approved Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP).

Mr. Jim Branham
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

SUBJECT: Agreement to Participate – Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Branham,

I am writing to confirm that I am Trustee to the Lillian Jane Deas Trust and the William Edgar Deas Trust which holds legal title to property containing the project area identified in the grant application submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy by Lassen Land & Trails Trust. We support the proposed meadow restoration project and give permission for this project to occur on our property which has a conservation easement held by Lassen Land and Trails Trust. The restoration of this meadow which will enhance water resources of Eagle Lake, which is a valuable economic, environmental, and recreational resource to the people of Lassen County and the Sierra Nevada region.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project which will protect valuable water resources and habitat of the Sierra Nevada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emily Jane Rosenberg", followed by the word "Trustee" written in a smaller, less cursive font.

Emily Jane Rosenberg, Trustee

Lillian Jane Deas Trust under the Garrett H. Rosenberg and Helen B. Rosenberg Trust Agreement Dated August 19, 1982 and the William Edgar Deas Trust under the Garrett H. Rosenberg and Helen B. Rosenberg Trust Agreement Dated August 19, 1982

Lassen Land & Trails Trust
Board of Directors Resolution No. 2012 USM

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE Category One Grant Program UNDER THE Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond ACT OF 2006, Proposition 84	Resol. No: 2012 USM Date: September 25, 2012
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Section II

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Directors of the **Lassen Land & Trails Trust** at a regular meeting held **September 25, 2012** by the following vote:

Ayes: 7
Noes: 0
Abstentions: 1
Absent: 3

Signed and approved by: _____



Frank Hall

Vice-President, Board of Directors Lassen Land & Trails Trust

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided Funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project;

WHEREAS, the **Lassen Land & Trails Trust** has identified the **Upper Stephens Meadow Restoration Project** as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Lassen Land & Trails Trust, that this Board:

1. Approves the submittal of an application for the **Upper Stephens Meadow Restoration**; and

2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that Applicant will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
5. Appoints **Louise Jensen, Executive Director**, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Lassen Land & Trails Trust on the 25th day of September, 2012.