

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1)**

Applicant: Butte County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Magalia Forest Health Management Project

Subregion: North Central

County: Butte

SNC Funding: \$75,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$75,000.00

Application Number: 835

Final Score: 95.25

PROJECT SCOPE

The project area is located in the community of Magalia in Butte County, home to approximately 11,000 residents. The community is situated within a mixed conifer forest between the Little Butte and Butte Creek watersheds, which are significant tributaries to the Feather River watershed. The project is located within a collection area of drinking water supply for the Town of Paradise, and is within a CAL FIRE designated "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone."

This project will produce the following deliverables: Completion of a Forest Management Plan, a collaborative landscape level inventory and assessment on the health of 800 forested acres. The property to be the focus of this effort consists of parcels owned by Paradise Irrigation District, Paradise Pines Property Owners Association, and Paradise Unified School District. The Plan will identify, map, and describe forest health treatment methodologies for each identified project area. This documentation will support a decision towards completion and filing of a California Environmental Quality Act determination document by Butte County or Butte County Resource Conservation District.

Treatments as a result of the plan developed under this grant will increase forest diversity and resiliency to better adapt to the stresses of climate change, safeguard a significant reservoir that supplies drinking water to nearby communities, and contribute to the reduction of catastrophic wildfire threat to the residents who live within the watershed.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contracting complete	March 30, 2016
Archaeological Surveys and Native American Notification complete	May 30, 2016
Draft environmental document delivered to Butte County or Butte County Resource Conservation District for purpose of filing CEQA documentation	July 30, 2016
Forest Management Plan complete/approved by partner landowners and Butte County Fire Safe Council	August 31, 2016
Six Month Progress Reports (1)	August 1, 2016
FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 1, 2017

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$71,000.00
Indirect**	\$1,000.00
Administrative***	\$3,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$75,000.00

* 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
 - Butte County Air Quality Management District
 - FSC- Bare on the Ridge
 - FSC- Paradise
 - BLM- Redding Field Office
 - CCC- Chico Satellite office
 - Butte County Emergency Services
 - Paradise Irrigation District
 - Paradise Pines Property Association

- Oppose
 - N/A

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 Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) _____

County Clerk
County of _____

(Address)

Project Title: _____

Project Location - Specific: _____

Project Location – City: _____ Project Location – County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: _____

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: _____

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: _____

Exempt Status: **(check one)**

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: _____

Lead Agency
Contact Person: _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: _____

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant

Revised 2005

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project (continued):

Environmental documentation pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), presumed to be a mitigated negative declaration, will be prepared for the treatment areas and prescriptions identified in the FMP. An archaeological report will also be prepared, which will include an archaeological records search and Native American Notification. The work funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is part of the larger planning and completed fuels projects in the community by U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC).

The long-term management plan for the project to be addressed by the FMP and mitigated negative declaration is to implement thinning of overstocked trees, watershed enhancements, habitat improvements, and other recommendations. The purpose of the plan is to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfire, protect and improve water quality, and restore forested ecosystems. A variety of treatment techniques will be anticipated in the FMP to accommodate the varying topography of the region including: hand cut and pile burn, hand cut with lop and scatter, mastication, and hand cut with chipping. BCFSC and the three property owners will keep the FMP document active for 10 years by seeking grant funding and implementing forest health treatments. The FMP will be included in the Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan/Butte Unit (CWPP). This will allow the private timber industry and local, state, and federal agencies to provide input and develop projects in conjunction with the FMP.

Beneficiaries of the project include the following:

Paradise Pines Property Owners Association (property owner)

Paradise Irrigation District (property owner)

Paradise Unified School District (property owner)

Residents in the community of Magalia