Sierra Nevada
Watershed Improvement Program

Proposition 1
DRAFT GRANT GUIDELINES
Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17

FUNDED BY THE
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a California state agency that initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California.

The Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act (Act), enacted in 2004, and commencing with PRC Section 33300, established the SNC; Sections 33343 and 33346 set forth the authority for SNC to award grants of funds in order to carry out the purposes of the Act. The SNC adopted its Strategic Plan in accordance with the Act; this document provides general direction for SNC's activities and these Grant Guidelines.

Forested watersheds of the Sierra Nevada Region provide more than sixty percent of California's developed water supply and are the primary source of fresh water flowing into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These forests filter water, store snowpack, and slow runoff from winter storms, producing the high-quality and reliable water supply that Californians depend on. However, many forests in the Sierra Nevada are unhealthy and at risk for disease and uncharacteristically large wildfires.

The threat that declining forest health places on the reliability and quality of California's water supply is so great that many statewide plans have called for action to restore forests and safeguard the state's primary water source. The California Water Action Plan, developed by the California Natural Resources Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and California Department of Food and Agriculture, clearly recognizes the importance of the Sierra to the state's water resources and specifically calls for:

- Restoration of forest health through ecologically sound forest management
- Protection and restoration of degraded stream and meadow ecosystems to assist in natural water management and improved habitat
- Support and expansion of funding for protecting strategically important lands within watersheds to ensure that conversion of these lands does not have a negative impact on our water resources

In addition, the 2013 California Water Plan Update completed by the Department of Water Resources points to declining watershed health, long-term drought, catastrophic fire, and climate change in the Sierra Nevada as water supply challenges of regional and statewide significance. The 2013 Update notes that large damaging fires resulting from overgrown forest stands are a threat to water and air quality, as well as the many other benefits provided to the state by forested watersheds. Climate change and drought in the Sierra Nevada will only increase the frequency of catastrophic fires, leading to devastating water supply consequences.

Utilizing biomass, the small-diameter woody material and diseased or insect-infested wood generated from forest restoration projects, to create energy will also help meet the state's primary goals identified in California's 2012 Bioenergy Action Plan.

Increasing the use of biomass resources helps the state meet environmental mandates such as greenhouse gas reductions, and promoting forest bioenergy, helps to create jobs in rural regions, reduce fire danger, improve air and water quality, and reduce waste. The 2012 Bioenergy Action Plan includes a broad array of action items related to the promotion of forest bioenergy, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is identified as one of the key responsible agencies for implementing those action items.

The California Natural Resources Agency's Safeguarding California augments and identifies strategies regarding adapation and risk management relating to climate change. This plan states, "Efforts to improve forest health not only make forests more capable of withstanding climate impacts (and avoids the negative impacts associated with forest losses), but those efforts will also increase the long-term carbon storage capacity of forests and aid in fighting climate change."

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Program

California voters passed Proposition 1, The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Bond Act of 2014, on November 4, 2014. Proposition 1 added Section 79731 to the Public Resources Code (PRC), authorizing the State to issue bonds, and the Legislature to appropriate the proceeds, for multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state. Section 79731 (i) of the PRC allocates $25 million of these funds for SNC. The SNC anticipates awarding up to $10 million in this grant round.

This grant program intends to focus on projects consistent with the following purposes identified in Proposition 1:

- Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.
- Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resources management and greenhouse gas reduction.
- Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate changes on California's communities and ecosystems.

Grant Guidelines and Grant Application Packet

The Grant Guidelines describe project eligibility and the process used by the SNC to solicit proposals, evaluate applications, and authorize grants under the SNC Proposition 1 Grant Program. They also explain the scope of, and the requirements for, grant applications. A Glossary of Terms is provided.

A Grant Application Packet (GAP) supplements these Grant Guidelines, and includes information and forms needed for a grant application. For applicants who want more information about the administrative requirements once a grant is authorized, sample grant agreements are provided at http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/applying-for-a-grant.

II. GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

Applicant Eligibility

Grant funds may be authorized for:

- Public agencies (any city, county, special district, joint powers authority, state agency, or public university). Please note that federal agencies are not eligible to receive Proposition 1 grants.
- Qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. "Nonprofit Organization" means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC.
- Eligible Tribal Organizations (includes any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 47868 to 47872, inclusive, of Number 155 of Volume 77 (August 10, 2012) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time).

NOTE: SNC's governing statute does not allow grants to mutual water companies or to state Indian tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List (entities otherwise eligible under Proposition 1), unless the state Indian tribes also meet the Eligible Tribal Organizations criteria listed above.

Project Funding and Eligibility

Grants up to $500,000 for Category 1 (on-the-ground projects) and up to $75,000 for Category 2 (necessary activities that will lead to a specific future on-the-ground project) will be made by the SNC for projects meeting the criteria described below. Category 1 projects will be given preference. Funds available for Category 2 grants will be limited to 10% of the total amount allocated to the SNC in Proposition 1.

In order to be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC under this program, projects must meet ***all*** of the following criteria:

- Be located within a forested area of the Sierra Nevada Region or have a direct impact on forest lands or waters within the Region.
- Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan and the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP), and meet the requirements of Proposition 1 regarding competitive grants.

NOTE: The Proposition 1 Bond Measure allocates funds to be administered by several resource agencies. Please visit the SNC Website and Funding Table to determine which department or agency may be best suited to fund your project type. The SNC will be focusing its resources on Forest Health projects during this grant round.

If you are considering a project that does not meet the focus of this Grant Program, please contact your SNC Area Representative as alternative funding opportunities may be available from other agencies or departments administering public funds.

Grant Categories

Category 1 grants include site improvement or restoration projects. Examples of potential Category 1 grant projects include, but are not limited to:

- Implementing fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health, including utilization of biomass resulting from sustainable activities associated with improving forest health as referenced in California's 2012 Bioenergy Action Plan
- Projects that protect and restore watershed health by improving forest conditions through treatments to prevent or treat forest pests and invasive species, as well as reforestation and implementation of suitable stand maintenance activities after wildfire
- Forest management to increase forest resilience, and/or improve habitat conditions and biodiversity
- Vegetation treatments to increase carbon sequestration benefits, and foster adaptation resiliency of vegetation in light of predicted climate change
- Sustainable utilization of biomass and/or a full range of forest products, including saw logs, resulting from activities associated with improving forest health

Specific Category 1 Site Improvement/Restoration requirements are:

- All project proposals are required to address how California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and where necessary National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), compliance will be achieved.
- All project proposals are required to identify and state progress and projected dates of completion for all permits necessary to complete the project.
- In compliance with the Professional Foresters Law (Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 750-753, et seq.) projects that impact on the management and treatment of the forest resources and timberlands of this state are required to use Registered Professional Foresters. Projects implemented on federally managed lands will be permitted to use "qualified but exempt" federal staff to satisfy this requirement.

Category 2 grants are limited to pre-project activities that are necessary for a specific future on-the-ground project that meets the requirements in these Guidelines for Category 1 projects.

Examples of Category 2 grant projects include work such as:

- Acquiring permits for a specific future on-the-ground project
- Analysis to support the completion of CEQA and/or NEPA environmental documentation for a specific future on-the-ground project
- Performing necessary studies and assessments, and developing necessary project designs related to a specific site or physical project
- Preparing plans or supplementing existing plans that will result in a specific project or a set of projects

Ineligible Projects

Examples of ineligible projects include:

- Fee title acquisitions or activities leading to fee title acquisitions
- Conservation easements or activities leading to conservation easements.
- Grants to service or repay loans
- Projects dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, a law or regulation
- Operations and maintenance of existing structures, including roads
- Education, outreach, or event-related projects, although these types of activities may be included as a small part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for SNC grant funds

This list is not exhaustive and is offered only as guidance to potential applicants. The SNC will make determinations of eligibility on a project-by-project basis during the project proposal phase. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please consult with your Area Representative.

Project Development and Evaluation Process

These Guidelines govern the preparation, submittal and review of grant applications for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17. The following steps will be involved in the award process:

- Requests for Proposals will be published on July 1, 2015, contingent upon enactment of the California state budget. See Table 1 for application submittal deadlines and possible award dates.
- Potential applicants should contact the SNC Area Representative assigned to their county to determine whether a potential project is eligible for consideration.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a pre-application to be reviewed by SNC staff and subject matter professionals.
- Applications will not be considered for scoring until complete and submitted to the SNC. The submission deadlines to be eligible for scoring and potential authorization will be:

Table 1

Application Deadline	Possible Board Authorization Dates
September 1, 2015	December 2015 or March 2016
March 1, 2016	June 2016 or September 2016
September 1, 2016*	December 2016 or March 2017
March 1, 2017*	June 2017 or September 2017

* ***NOTE**: these application dates are subject to remaining Proposition 1 funds after the first two award periods.*

- Applications scoring 85 or more points may be eligible for a recommendation for award.
- After all application requirements are completed, funding recommendation(s) will be placed on the Board meeting agenda as an action item at the direction of the Executive Officer.

NOTE: The SNC will consider the geographic distribution of projects and project types and may prioritize projects based on this consideration.

Evaluation Criteria

After submission of a complete application, the SNC will use the following evaluation criteria in determining a project score of up to 100 points.

Category 1 Projects:

- The tangible results from the project that will further the purposes of Proposition 1 and the degree to which the project aligns with existing State planning priorities or State plans referred to in the Grant Guidelines (Up to 25 points)
- The design and readiness of the project, including the proposed budget, funding sources, environmental documents, permits and long-term management plan (Up to 25 points)

  NOTE: Special consideration will be given to projects that:
  - employ new or innovative technology or practices
  - use the California Conservation Corps to implement the project where feasible
- The tangible results from the project that will further the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan and the SNC WIP (Up to 20 points)
- The likelihood of successful implementation based on the applicant's capacity and experience in implementing similar projects (Up to 10 points)
- The degree to which the project has community support and the project is consistent with similar efforts and/or larger plans on nearby or surrounding lands or identified partnerships (Up to 10 points)
- The degree to which the project leverages resources of other agencies, organizations, and funding sources to maximize public benefits and outcomes (Up to 10 points)

Category 2 Projects:

- The tangible results from the specific future on-the-ground project that will further the purposes of Proposition 1 and the degree to which the project aligns with existing State planning priorities or State plans referred to in the Grant Guidelines (Up to 25 points)
- The design and readiness of the project and an explicit description of the specific future on-the-ground project to which the Category 2 project leads, including restrictions, technical documents and agreements necessary to complete the specific future on-the-ground project (Up to 25 points)

  NOTE: Special consideration will be given to projects that:
  - employ new or innovative technology or practices

    - Identify opportunities to use the California Conservation Corps to implement the proposed project where feasible
- The tangible results from the specific future on-the-ground project that will further the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan and the SNC WIP (Up to 20 points)
- The likelihood of successful implementation based on the applicant's capacity and experience in implementing similar projects (Up to 10 points)
- The degree to which the project has community support and the project is consistent with similar efforts and/or larger plans on nearby or surrounding lands or identified partnerships (Up to 10 points)
- The degree to which the project leverages resources of other agencies, organizations, and funding sources to maximize public benefits and outcomes (Up to 10 points)

Consultation and Cooperation with Local Agencies

In compliance with the SNC's governing statute, local government agencies, such as counties, cities, and local water districts, are notified of eligible grant projects being considered for funding in their area.

For all applications under consideration, SNC Staff will notify the county and/or city affected and public water agency (when appropriate), and request comments within 15 business days following notification. The SNC will make all reasonable efforts to address concerns raised by local governments. The individual SNC Boardmembers representing each geographic Subregion within the SNC boundary will also be notified at this time and may wish to communicate with the affected entities as well.

Project-specific resolutions of support from affected cities, counties and/or water agencies should be included with the application.

Grant Provisions

For each awarded grant, the SNC develops an individual grant agreement with detailed provisions and requirements specific to that project. Please be aware that if you are authorized to receive a grant from the SNC, the provisions listed below will also apply:

- Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the State of California.
- Grant-eligible costs may be incurred by the grantee only after the grantee has entered into a fully executed agreement with the SNC; only these costs will be eligible for reimbursement.
- To the extent practicable, grantees will be required to include onsite signage indicating that the project was funded by Proposition 1.

The SNC will provide assistance to the grantee to ensure the grantee's clear understanding and interpretation of the terms and conditions of the grant.

Land Tenure for Category 1 Projects

Applicants must submit documentation to the SNC showing that they have adequate tenure to, and site control of, the properties to be improved or restored (minimum of 10 years).

Proof of adequate land tenure includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Fee title ownership
- An easement or license agreement
- Other agreement between the applicant and the fee title owner, or the owner of an easement in the property, sufficient to give the applicant adequate site control for the purposes of the project and long-term management
- For projects involving multiple landowners, all landowners or an appointed designee must provide written permission to complete the project.

Land Tenure Requirements (Alternate Process)

When an applicant does not have tenure at the time of application, but intends to establish tenure via an agreement that will be signed upon grant authorization, the applicant must follow the alternate land tenure process by submitting a template copy of the proposed agreement, memorandum of understanding (MOU), or permission form at the time of application. Once a project has been authorized for funding by the SNC Board, the applicant must submit documentation of land tenure before a complete grant agreement can be executed. Applicants are encouraged to submit this information in an expeditious manner. If this information is not provided within 90 days of Board authorization, the SNC may choose not to fund the project.

Long-term Management and Monitoring

- The property restored or enhanced with funds provided by the SNC shall be operated, used and maintained throughout the Project Life consistent with the purposes of the grant and in accordance with the long-term management plan for the project.
- The SNC and its officers, employees, agents and representatives shall have access to the project site at least once every twelve months from the date of the grant agreement execution through the end of the project life for purposes of inspections and monitoring. The SNC shall provide a written request prior to scheduling a project site review.
- If the project includes water quality monitoring data collection, it needs to be reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in a manner that is compatible and consistent with surface monitoring data systems or ground water monitoring data systems administered by the SWRCB.
- If the project includes watershed monitoring data collection, it needs to be reported to the Department of Conservation (DOC) in a manner that is compatible and consistent with the statewide watershed program administered by the DOC.

Environmental Documents

The SNC is required to comply with CEQA at the time the Board authorizes any grants. In addition to CEQA compliance, NEPA compliance is required for all projects

proposed on federal land. Since the complexity of CEQA compliance will vary depending on the proposed project activities and the type of applicant, it is very important that applicants consult with SNC Staff as early as possible. Status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the project proposal.

Eligible Costs

Only project costs for items within the scope of the project, within the time frame of the project agreement, and supported by appropriate documentation are eligible for payment. Costs related to project-specific performance measures and reporting are required to be addressed in the project budget.

Eligible administrative costs must be directly related to the project and may not exceed 15 percent of the project implementation cost. Any applicant administering multiple grants will be required to submit a cost allocation plan with their application.

Ineligible Costs

If an application contains ineligible costs, the SNC may contact the applicant to confirm that the project is still viable if they are removed from the project budget.

Examples of ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- establishing or increasing a legal defense fund or endowment
- making a monetary donation to other organizations
- paying for food or refreshments
- Unsubstantiated administrative costs

Performance Measures and Reporting

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes to the SNC achieving its programmatic goals.

Applicants must propose project-specific performance measures at the time of complete application submittal. Detailed information and recommended performance measures can be found in the GAP. Applicants may also propose alternative performance measures, which will be subject to the approval of SNC Staff if the grant is authorized. The proposed measures will be finalized in consultation with SNC Staff prior to grant agreement approval. Please refer to the GAP for further description of how performance measures will be considered as part of the application.

All grantees will be required to provide deliverables in the form of periodic progress reports and a final report. The final report must include data related to the project performance measures. See www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/managing-your-grant for additional information on the required content of these reports.

III. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in the SNC Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines shall have the following meanings:

Acquisition – To obtain ownership of permanent interest in real property through fee title or conservation easements. Leaseholds and rentals do not constitute Acquisition.

Administrative Costs – Administrative costs include any expense which does not relate directly to project implementation. Similar to the traditional definition of 'overhead,' administrative costs include rent, utilities, travel, per diem, office equipment and supplies, services such as internet and phone, etc.

Applicant – The entity applying for a SNC grant pursuant to these Guidelines.

Application – The individual grant application form and its required attachments pursuant to the SNC Program.

Authorized Representative – The officer authorized in the Resolution to sign all required grant documents including, but not limited to, the grant agreement, the application form, and payment requests.

Biological/Other Survey – An evaluation or collection of data regarding the conditions in an area using surveys and other direct measurements.

Board – The governing body of the SNC as established by PRC Section 33321.

Bond or Bond Act – Proposition 1, Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Public Resources Code Section 79700 et seq.).

Capital Improvement Projects – Projects that utilize grant funds for site improvement and/or restoration.

CEQA – The California Environmental Quality Act as set forth in the Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. CEQA is a law establishing policies and procedures that require agencies to identify, disclose to decision makers and the public, and attempt to lessen significant impacts to environmental and historical resources that may occur as a result of a proposed project to be undertaken, funded, or approved by a local or state agency. For more information, refer to: http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/

CEQA/NEPA Compliance – Activities an entity performs to meet the requirements of CEQA and/or NEPA.

Collaborative Process – Cooperation between stakeholders with different interests to solve a problem or make decisions that cut across jurisdictional or other boundaries; often used when information is widely dispersed and no single individual, agency or group has sufficient resources to address the issue alone.

Condition Assessment – Characterization of the current state or condition of a particular resource.

Conservancy – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy as defined in Public Resources Code Section 33302 (b).

Conservation Easement – Any limitation in a deed, will or other instrument in the form of an easement, restriction, covenant or condition which is or has been executed by or on behalf of the owner of the land subject to such limitation and is binding upon the successive owners of such land, and the purpose of which is to retain land predominantly in its natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, forested or open-space condition (Civil Code Section 815.1).

Data – A body or collection of facts, statistics, or other items of information from which conclusions can be drawn.

Design – Preliminary project planning or identification of methodologies or processes to achieve project goals.

Easement – An interest in land entitling the holder thereof to a limited use or enjoyment of the land in which the interest exists, or to restrict the use or enjoyment of the land by the owner of the fee title.

Eligible Costs – Expenses incurred by the grantee during the agreement performance period of an approved agreement, which may be reimbursed by the SNC.

Enhancement – Modification of a site to increase/improve the condition of streams, forests, habitat, and other resources.

Environmental Site Assessment – Phase I, Phase II or other reports which identify potential or existing contamination liabilities on the underlying land or physical improvements of a real estate holding.

Executive Officer – Executive Officer of the SNC appointed by the Governing Board, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33328, to manage the SNC.

Fee Title – The primary interest in land ownership that entitles the owner to use the property subject to any lesser interests in the land and consistent with applicable laws and ordinances.

Fiscal Sponsor – An organization that is eligible to receive SNC Proposition 1 grants and is willing to assume fiscal responsibility for a grant project, although another entity would carry out the grant scope of work.

Forests – For the purposes of these guidelines, forests are defined as areas of the Sierra Nevada Region that are characterized by predominantly conifer and mixed-conifer forests.

Grant – Funds made available to a grantee for eligible costs during an agreement performance period.

Grant Agreement – An agreement between the SNC and the grantee specifying the payment of funds by the SNC for the performance of the project scope within the agreement performance period by the grantee.

Grant Agreement Performance Period – The period of time during which the eligible costs may be incurred under the grant, and in which the work described in the grant scope must be completed.

Grant Agreement Term – The period of time that includes the agreement performance period, plus time for all work to be billed and paid by the state. This period is the same as the beginning and ending dates of the agreement.

Grantee – An entity that has an agreement with the SNC for grant funds.

Grant Scope – Description of the items of work to be completed with grant funds as described in the application form and cost estimate.

Infrastructure Development/Improvement – The physical improvement of real property, including the construction of facilities or structures (such as bridges, trails, culverts, buildings, etc.).

In-kind Contributions – Non-monetary donations that are utilized on the project, including materials and services. These donations shall be eligible as "other sources of funds" when providing budgetary information for application purposes.

Land Tenure – Legal ownership or other rights in land, sufficient to allow a grantee to conduct activities that are necessary for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. Examples include fee title ownership, an easement for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, or agreements or a clearly defined process where the applicant has adequate site control for the purposes of the project.

Model/Map – Representations to visually show the organization, appearance, or features of an area or subject.

NEPA – The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. NEPA is a federal law requiring consideration of the potential environmental effects of a proposed project whenever a federal agency has discretionary jurisdiction over some aspect of that project. For more information, refer to: https://ceq.doe.gov/

Nonprofit Organization – A private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC as set forth in Public Resources Code Section 33300 et seq.

Other Sources of Funds – Cash or in-kind contributions necessary or used to complete the site improvement/restoration project beyond the grant funds provided by this program.

Outreach Materials – Audio, visual, and written materials developed to help explain a particular topic or subject.

Performance Measure – A quantitative measure used by the SNC to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes.

Permitting - The process of obtaining any necessary regulatory approvals from appropriate governmental agencies in order to implement the project.

Plan – A document or process describing a set of actions to address specific needs or issues or create specific benefits.

Pre-Project Due Diligence – The analysis necessary to prepare a future on-the-ground project for implementation.

Preservation – Protection, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities.

Project – The work to be accomplished with grant funds.

Public Agencies – Any city, county, district, joint powers authority, state agency, or public university.

Region – The Sierra Nevada Region as defined in Public Resources Code Section 33302 (f).

Resilience – The ability of an ecosystem to regain structural and functional attributes that have suffered harm from stress or disturbance.

Region-wide – The overall breadth of the SNC Region or multiple Subregions within the Region.

Resource Protection – Those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to natural, cultural, historical or archaeological resources, or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or resources, such as restoration, preservation or interpretation.

Restoration – Activities that initiate, accelerate or return the components and processes of a damaged site to a previous historical state.

Site Improvements – Project activities involving the physical improvement or restoration of land.

SNC – Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Study/Report – Research or the detailed examination and analysis of a subject.

Total Cost – The amount of the Other Sources of Funds combined with the SNC Grant request amount that is designated and necessary for the completion of a project.

Tribal Organization – An Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 47868 to 47872, inclusive, of Number 155 of Volume 77 (August 10, 2012) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time.