

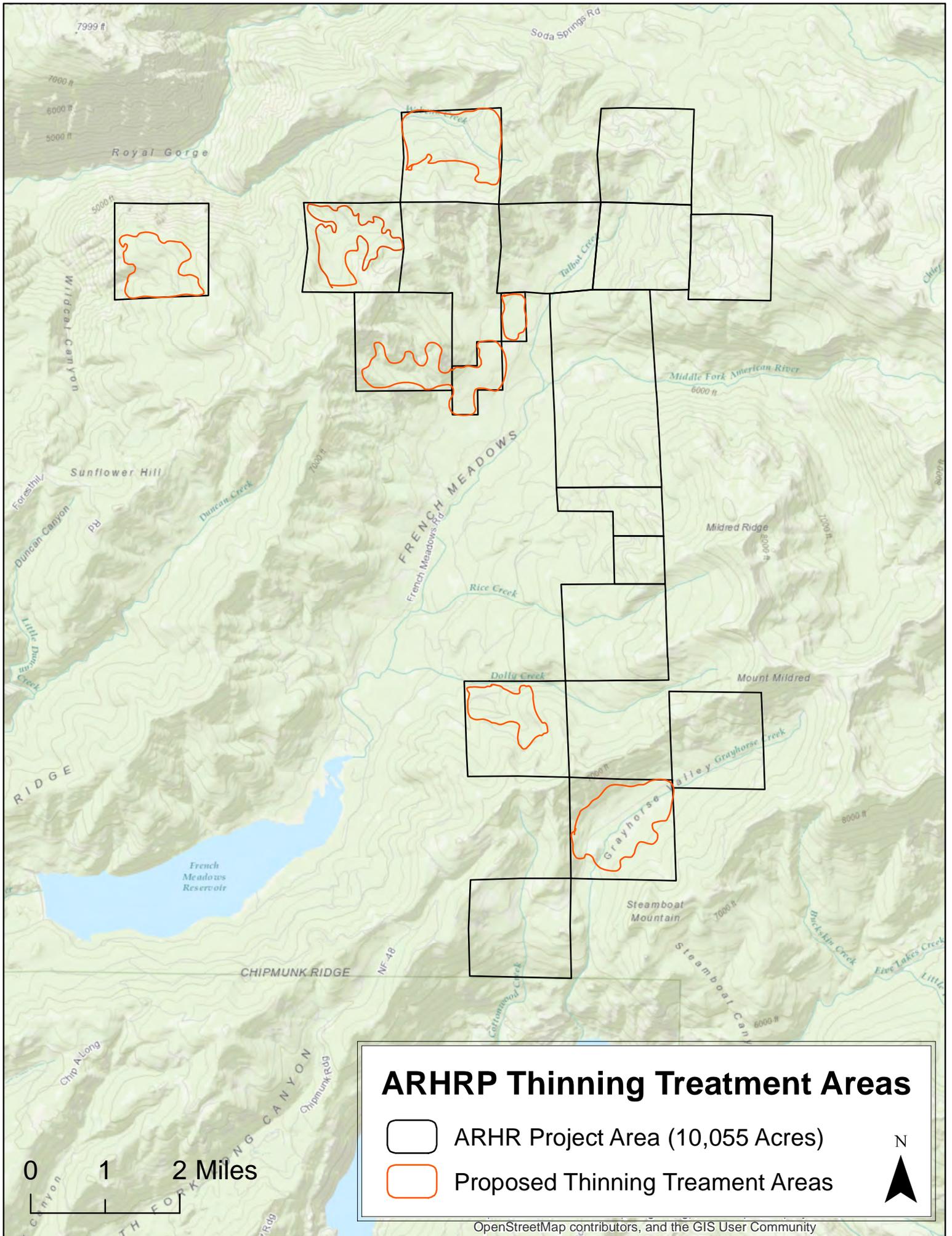


**841
American River Headwaters Improvement Project,
Placer County,
North Fork American Watershed**



**841
Project Area**

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Thailand, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



7999 ft
7000 ft
6000 ft
5000 ft

Royal Gorge

Soda Springs Rd

Wildcat Canyon

Tailboat Cree

Foresthill
Duncan Canyon
Duncan Creek

Sunflower Hill

FRENCH MEADOWS
French Meadows Rd

Middle Fork American River
6000 ft

Little D
Creek

Rice Creek

Mildred Ridge
8000 ft

RIDGE

Dolly Creek

Mount Mildred

French Meadows Reservoir

Grayhorse Creek

CHIPMUNK RIDGE

Steamboat Mountain
7000 ft

Chip Along

CHIPMUNK CANYON
Chipmunk Rd

Steamboat Can

Buckskin Creek

Five Lakes Creek

ARHRP Thinning Treatment Areas

ARHR Project Area (10,055 Acres)

Proposed Thinning Treatment Areas



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: American River Conservancy

Project Title: American River Headwaters Improvement Project

Subregion: Central

County: Placer

SNC Funding: \$500,000

Total Project Cost: \$4,500,000

Application Number: 841

Final Score: 94.0

PROJECT SCOPE

This grant funds thinning of 330 acres of high-priority forest treatments within the 10,115 acre American River headwaters project area that was recently acquired by American River Conservancy. Mechanical removal and hand-thinning will be utilized where appropriate. Treatment operations will thin younger, overgrown forest while protecting and separating established groves of larger trees.

This project site is a major conservation acquisition of private land checkerboarded with Forest Service land just west of Granite Chief Wilderness and bridging the headwaters of the North and Middle Forks of the American River. The overall multi-partner project will treat 2,400 acres of over-dense forest, remove 200 acres of conifers encroaching on mountain meadows, decommission/obliterate 25 miles of old logging roads, and remove 37 culverts in order to restore healthy stream flows. The project will also serve as a research and demonstration site for landscape-scale, ecologically-based forest management that could increase the pace and scale of forest restoration throughout the Sierra.

The project area is in the watershed immediately above French Meadows and Hell Hole Reservoirs, which are principal water storage facilities for the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). The property was selectively logged over the past 65 years and subject to fire suppression, resulting in dense stands of young lodge-pole pine and fir species that are vulnerable to large, damaging wildfire. Previous logging activities resulted in ground disturbance that is subject to erosion which contributes to stream sedimentation. The project will reduce wildfire risks through forest thinning and continued maintenance and future appropriate use of prescribed burning. Overall project outcomes will also reduce sedimentation of the streams and reservoirs, improving water quality and storage capacity.

American River Conservancy is working with UC Merced to monitor streamflow and soil moisture over time, in order to verify that forest treatments will improve snow retention and groundwater by reducing sublimation and evapotranspiration caused by excess tree canopy, resulting in more precipitation being conserved for environmental and public benefits.

Secured additional funding for the project includes \$950,000 from the Jim and Becky Morgan Foundation, \$475,000 from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, \$386,950 from the Nature Conservancy, and \$356,250 from the American River Conservancy. The remaining funds needed are pending from California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Forest Thinning Treatments (330 acres)	July 2016 - October 2018
Progress Reports	April 30, 2017 October 31, 2017 April 30, 2018 October 31, 2018
Final Report	December 31, 2018
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 31, 2018

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	
Project Management	\$102,400
Forest Thinning	320,000
Monitoring, data collection	20,000
Administrative**	
Administrative costs	57,600
GRAND TOTAL	\$500,000

* 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. Direct expenses should also include costs directly attributable to the project such as performance measure reporting, project management, billing, signs, etc.

** Administrative: Shared expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct costs. Examples of administrative costs include the costs of operating/maintaining facilities, general expenses, general administration, etc.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Northern Sierra Partnership
 - Point Blue Conservation Science
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Tahoe National Forest
 - Western States Trail Foundation
 - Protect American River Canyons
 - Placer County Water Agency

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include one to three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of land improved or restored

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: _____ Street Address: _____
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of: _____
Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: _____
Address: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
Contact: Patrick Eidman
Phone: (530) 823-4689

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____
County of Placer
Address: 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190
Auburn, CA 95603
Contact: Michael J. Johnson
Phone: (530) 745 - 3132

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2016022077

Project Title: American River Headwater Restoration Project

Project Applicant: The American River Conservancy P.O. BOX 562 Coloma, CA 95613

Project Location (include county): Headwaters of the Middle and North Forks American River, Placer County.

Project Description:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to implement the American River Headwater Restoration Project. The project would enhance native forests, reconnect meadow hydrology, and improve fish passage through the removal of culverts, decommissioning of logging roads, and removal of encroaching conifers from meadows. The project would also involve non-commercial thinning of forests to restore fire resiliency, wildlife habitat, and forest structure. SNC has reviewed the IS/MND prepared by Placer County, and has independently determined that the project would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

This is to advise that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above
(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on _____ and has made the following determinations regarding the above
(date)
described project.

Continued on next page

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment
2. A Negative Declaration **was** prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA
3. Mitigation measures **were** a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan **was** adopted for this project
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted for this project.
6. Findings **were not** made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration, supporting information and record of project approval are available to the General Public at:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Dr #205, Auburn, CA 95603

Signature (Public Agency): _____ Title: _____

Date: _____ Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2011