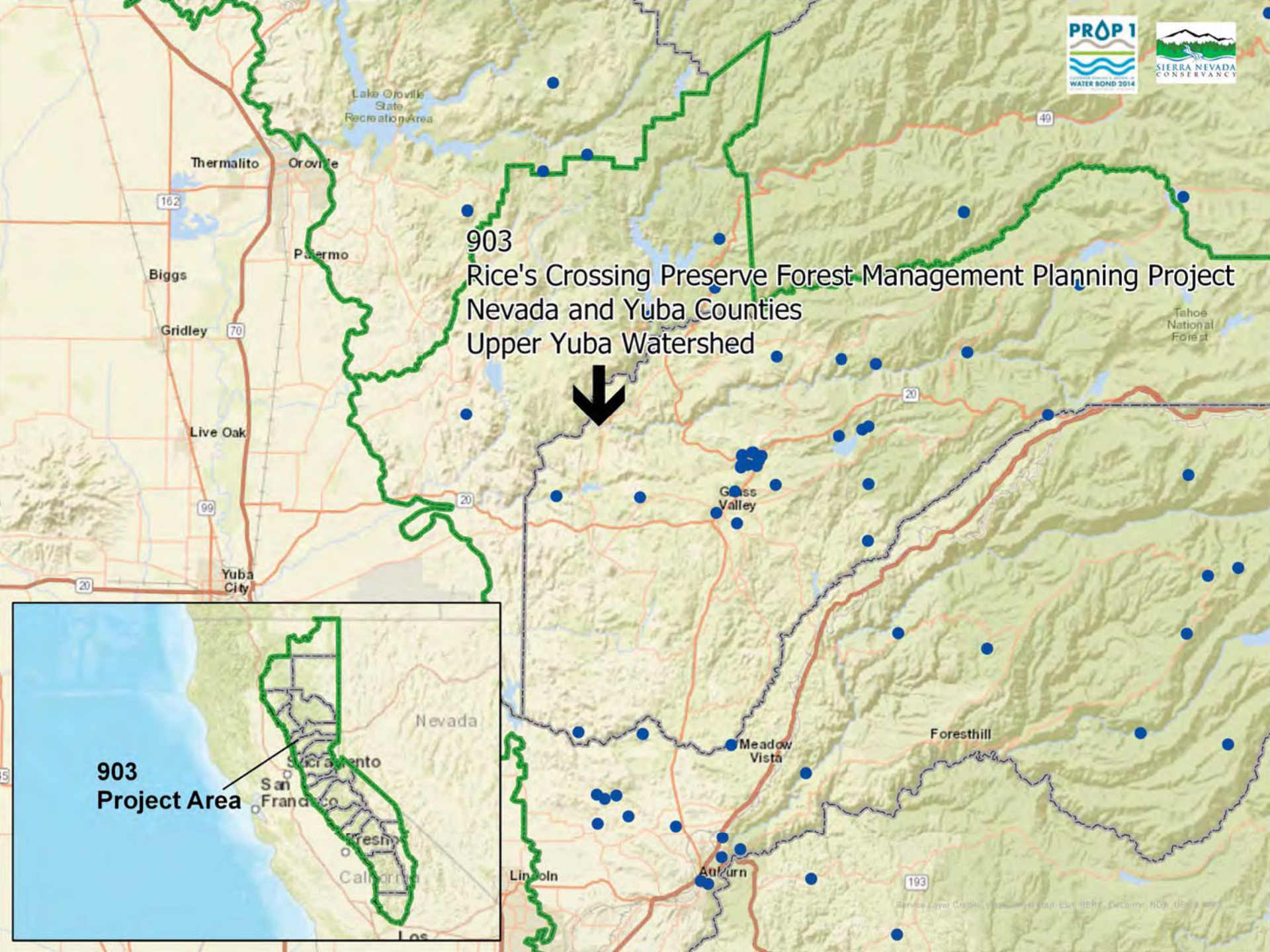
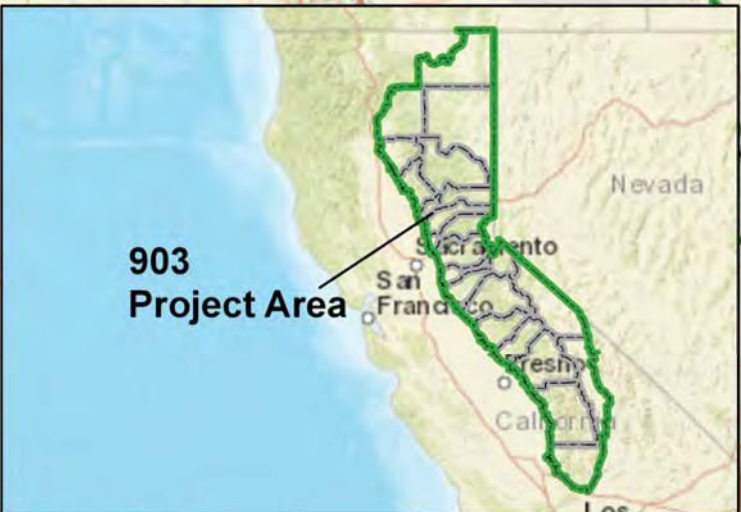
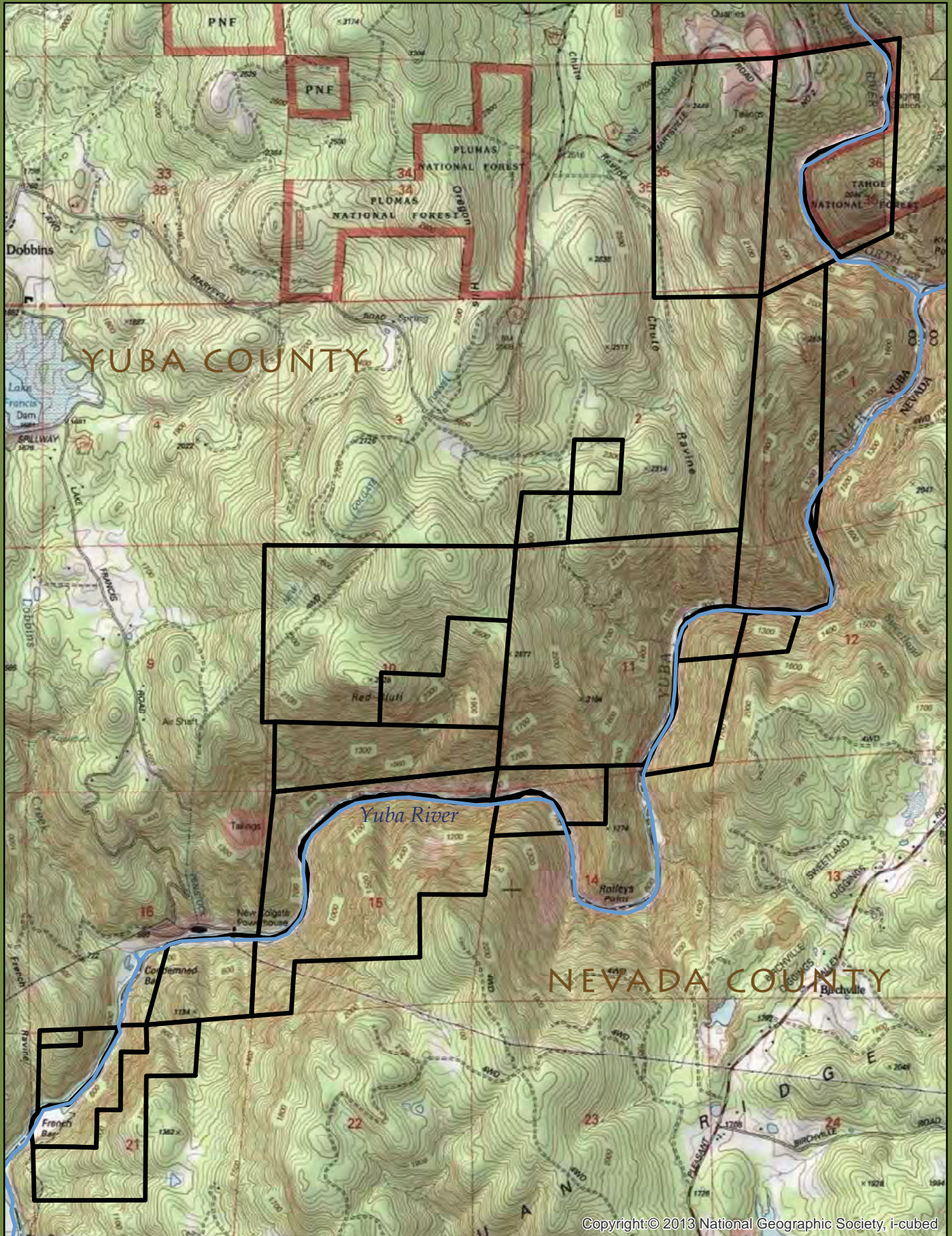




903 Rice's Crossing Preserve Forest Management Planning Project Nevada and Yuba Counties Upper Yuba Watershed



TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



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0 0.25 0.5
Miles



Rice's Crossing Preserve

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

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

SNC ID Number: 903

Applicant: Bear Yuba Land Trust

Project Title: Rice's Crossing Preserve Nonindustrial
Timber Management Planning Project

SNC Subregion: Central

Counties: Yuba and Nevada

Funding Amount Requested: \$74,550

Funding Amount Recommended: \$74,550

Total Project Cost: \$79,550

Final Score: 90

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

This planning grant will complete a Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) for about 2,000 acres of the 2,706-acre Rice's Crossing Preserve, owned by the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT). The NTMP will guide the Land Trust's management of the Preserve to reduce heavy fuel loading and so reduce wildfire threat, and generally improve forest and watershed health through uneven-age forest management. Rice's Crossing Preserve encompasses land on both sides of the middle fork of the Yuba River, and in both Yuba and Nevada Counties, between Bullards Bar and Englebright Reservoirs.

For this project, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will be contracted to develop the Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan. Creation of an NTMP will allow Bear Yuba Land Trust to manage the Preserve forest along the Yuba River using uneven-age management and long-term sustained yield methods in order to decrease the risk of high-severity fire, protect critical wildlife habitat, protect the water supply, and provide a source of income to continue management of the forest. The NTMP serves as the functional equivalent of CEQA for implementation of forest treatments.

Bear Yuba Land Trust's mission is to promote conservation of land in the Bear and Yuba Rivers watershed. Since 1991, they have protected over 10,000 acres. BYLT acquired the Rice's Crossing Preserve property in 2014 with funding that included a \$1 million Prop 84 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). BYLT has

successfully completed two other SNC Prop 84 grants – one for riparian restoration design and management, and one for forest fuels reduction and restoration.

The BYLT staff and volunteers will contribute \$5,000 worth of time to this project.

The site area covered by the NTMP encompasses the North Yuba River from just below Bullards Bar Reservoir to where it joins the Middle Yuba River and then several miles of the Middle Yuba River. This project supports the goals of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program and Proposition 1 by planning for the restoration of forestland and protecting water that flows into Englebright Reservoir and then joins the Sacramento River in Marysville-Yuba City on its way to the Delta. The steepness of the canyon through Rice’s Crossing Preserve could lead to significant erosion in the case of a high-severity fire in the canyon.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Forester’s (RPF) initial work: NDDDB and CHRIS reports ordered and GIS analysis/maps	March – Aug. 2017
Biological/Botanical surveys	Oct. 2017 – June 2018
First Draft NTMP	July 2018
CAL FIRE initial review	Aug. – Sep. 2018
File Second Draft NTMP with CAL FIRE	October 2018
Pre-Harvest Inspection	November 2018
CAL FIRE review of Pre-Harvest Inspection	December 2018
RPF revises NTMP per review	January 2019
30-day public review of NTMP	Jan. – Feb. 2019
Final NTMP	March 2019
Six-month Progress Reports	Every six months from execution of grant agreement
Estimated Project Completion Date – Final Report	June 30, 2019

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Preparation of NTMP (Registered Professional Forester, technical consultants, surveys)	\$56,500
Project Management, supplies, reporting, invoicing, monitoring, Performance Measures	\$12,050
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$6,000
TOTAL:	\$74,550

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

SUPPORT:

- Bureau of Land Management, Mother Lode Field Manager
- Yuba County Water Agency
- South Yuba River Citizens League
- Sierra Streams Institute

OPPOSITION:

- None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project-specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

Notice of Exemption

Form D

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

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

(Address)

County Clerk
County of Yuba
915 8th Street, Suite 107
Marysville, CA 95901

Project Title: Rice's Crossing Preserve Non-Industrial Timber Management Planning Project

Project Location - Specific:

The project is located in Yuba County, centered at 39.376023, -121.153521, and Nevada County, centered at 39.318890, -121.198083.

Project Location – City: Dobbins Project Location – County: Yuba and Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding of \$74,550 to the Bear Yuba Land Trust to prepare a Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP), which will serve as the functional equivalent CEQA document. Once it is adopted and approved by the Ca. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection, the NTMP would guide potential management actions on 2,000 acres in the Preserve to reduce the threat of high intensity wildfires, promote resilient stand structures, protect nature's resources, and reduce the threat of watershed damage from erosion related to wildfire, other sources, or large scale mortality.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bear Yuba Land Trust

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: Section 15262, "Feasibility and Planning Studies"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This is a planning project involving the preparation of a Non-industrial Timber Management Plan, which will review and identify forest management strategies for Rice's Crossing Preserve. This planning project does not involve physical alterations to the environment. The proposed Rice's Crossing Preserve Non-Industrial Timber Management Planning Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, which applies to feasibility and planning studies for future actions that have not yet been approved. Upon approval in the future, the NTMP would guide management actions to protect water quality and natural resources and reduce wildfire threats within the Preserve.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Patrick Eidman Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

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
 - Signed by Applicant
- Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Revised 2005