

Agenda Item VIId  
Attachment A



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water,  
Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River  
and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**Applicant:** Tuolumne River Preservation Trust

**Project Title:** Rim Fire Restoration

**Subregion:** South Central

**County:** Tuolumne

**SNC Funding:** \$842,474

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,318,229

**Application Number:** 856

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project implements a collaborative effort between the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), USDA Forest Service, and Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions to initiate Rim Fire restoration work on the ground, funded by a commitment of \$1 million in SNC Prop 84 bond money. This grant follows on two previous SNC grants for this purpose: a Rim Fire Springs Assessment (SNC grant #813) and a Rim Fire Restoration Planning grant (#816). The project concept was developed through extensive discussions with the Stanislaus National Forest and other potential funding partners.

This project provides a coherent strategy to focus a portion of needed restoration work within the Lower Cherry Creek watershed, a critical area in the heart of the Rim Fire burn area. Ninety one percent (91%) of the entire Lower Cherry Creek watershed burned in the Rim Fire. The project will provide biomass thinning of about 200 acres of high-severity burned forest, restore four (4) meadows, rehabilitate seven (7) of the ten (10) identified springs in the watershed (and monitor the other three), and replace or improve two at-risk roadway culverts.

The project includes 204 acres that have been identified for strategic felling and piling of burnt material utilizing a combination of mechanical equipment and hand crews. The trees identified for removal would be designated by species and diameter to create a mosaic pattern with multiple age classes. While the forest thinning area is covered under the Rim Fire Recovery Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the identified acreage for this grant is unmerchantable for commercial salvage and biomass removal.

Four meadows (Wilson Meadow, Upper Cherry Creek Tributary Meadow, Middle Cherry Creek Tributary Meadow, and Lower Cherry Creek Tributary Meadow) in the Lower Cherry Creek watershed will be restored by stabilizing headcuts and reintroducing large woody debris that was lost to fire in order to repair and prevent continuing erosion, and remove encroaching conifers.

Spring restoration will reduce the potential for post fire flooding and debris flows that may enter into the springs and lead to incised channeling. Actions taken to protect and improve the springs include removal of invasive species and encroaching conifers, directionally felling dead trees around the springs, and planting native spring vegetation.

Two culverts along Forest System Road 1N96 in the Lower Cherry Creek watershed were identified for significant risk of being overwhelmed by increased post-fire flows. A large 10 foot diameter culvert at Granite Creek on 1N96 will be improved by placing a 4-5 foot squash culvert, offset and elevated from the existing culvert, to act as a 'relief valve,' in addition to armoring of recent scouring around the existing culvert and minor improvements to the road bed at the crossing. A 24 inch culvert at an unnamed tributary to Granite Creek along 1N96 will be replaced with larger 4-5 foot squash culvert.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Forest thinning	Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2016
Prescribed pile burning	April 2017 – Dec. 2017
Meadow restoration	April 2016 – Oct. 2017 *
Springs restoration	April 2016 – Dec. 2016
Culvert replacement / improvement	April 2016 – Oct. 2017 *
Six-month Progress Reports	Oct. 2016, April 2017, Oct. 2017 (if needed)
Final Report	February 1, 2018
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>March 1, 2018</b>

\* Meadow restoration and culvert replacement/improvement might be completed in 2016 if weather permits.

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$839,294
Administrative**	3,180
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$842,474</b>

\*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.

\*\*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**

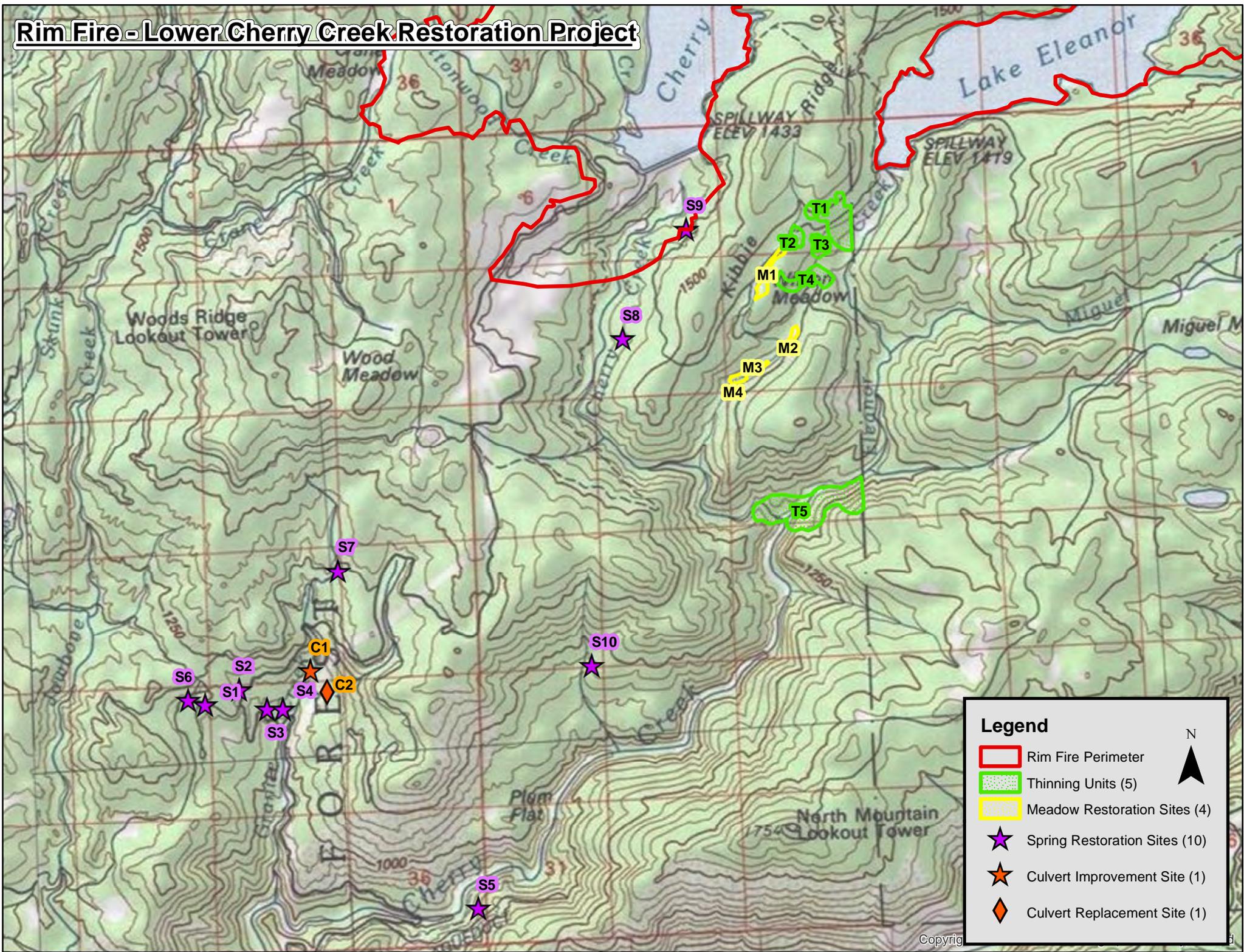
This project is supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders through their participation in the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions collaborative group.

## **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.

- Acres of land improved or restored
- Linear feet of streambank improved or restored
- Number of culverts improved or replaced

# Rim Fire - Lower Cherry Creek Restoration Project



**Legend**

- Rim Fire Perimeter
- Thinning Units (5)
- Meadow Restoration Sites (4)
- Spring Restoration Sites (10)
- Culvert Improvement Site (1)
- Culvert Replacement Site (1)

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