

NEWS RELEASE

November 18, 2010
For Immediate Release

Contact: Pete Dufour
(530) 823-4668



Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board to Meet in Tuolumne County on December 1 & 2

*All 22 County Boards of Supervisors in the Sierra Nevada Region
Unanimously Support the SNC's Forest and Community Initiative*

Auburn — All 22 counties in the Sierra Nevada Region have now formally signed onto a resolution to work collaboratively with other stakeholders to improve forest health and support local economies, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) announced today. The Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) is among the issues on the agenda when the SNC holds its quarterly governing board meeting in Columbia (Tuolumne County) December 1-2.

“Securing this support from county governments, environmental organizations and the wood products industry provides us with a real opportunity to make progress on these issues,” said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. “Our forests and communities need our attention now, and we need to find ways to take the actions necessary to restore forest health, reduce the threat of large damaging fires, and create jobs in our communities.” He noted that SNFCI is designed to bring a wide range of parties together regionally and locally to identify areas of agreement and to initiate action.

The Governing Board will receive an update on the organization’s efforts in obtaining support for SNFCI. To date, in addition to the 22 counties, the initiative has received formal support from more than 100 local, regional and national organizations, as well as individuals representing a wide array of interests in the Sierra. The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors endorsed SNFCI at its November 2 meeting.

“One of the great things about the Conservancy is the fact that it comes to our communities to learn firsthand about our local issues and needs,” said Tuolumne County Supervisor and SNC board member Paolo Maffei. “The SNC’s leadership in addressing forest health, reducing the risk of fire and strengthening our local economy is a tremendous benefit to this area.”

Wednesday, December 1, the SNC board and staff will visit projects funded by the SNC as well as other locations in Tuolumne County to gain a better understanding of local issues on a tour that begins at 1:30 p.m. in the main parking lot of Columbia State Historic Park.

--more--

The board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 2 at Angelo's Hall in Columbia State Park, 11209 State Street, Columbia. In addition to SNFCI, the Board will be briefed on development of the SNC's strategic plan, which will guide the organization's actions over the next three years.

The public is welcome to attend both events and should plan on providing their own transportation for the field trip. Additional information about the meeting, the tour and SNFCI can be found at www.sierranevada.ca.gov.

About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Governing Board

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. In its first five years, the SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded nearly \$30 million in grants for projects ranging from fuels reduction to trail improvements, and conservation easements to watershed restoration. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.

The SNC Governing Board meets quarterly around its Region, which spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties and runs from the Oregon border on the north to just southeast of Bakersfield.

###