

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is required by its statute, Public Resource Code Section 33350, to “make an annual report to the Legislature and to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency regarding expenditures, land management costs, and administrative costs.” The SNC’s goal for the annual report is to provide an attractive, informative, and easily understood summary explaining the SNC’s annual budget and highlighting major accomplishments for the year.

For the last three annual reports, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010, the SNC used the document as a principal education and outreach tool: with interactive multi-media components, professional layout, full four-color printing, and widespread distribution in both hard copy and electronic formats. Preparation and distribution of these previous annual reports entailed a significant investment of time and resources, including both hard costs of production/distribution and staff costs associated with developing a full-scale product with professional photography, video clips, and expanded text.

Given the current California State budget situation and a variety of operational limitations faced by the SNC, staff recommends using a scaled-down approach for 2010-2011. A streamlined version of the report will still meet the SNC’s statutory requirements and fulfill our goal to provide a high-quality, informative document to our stakeholders: legislators, Secretary of Natural Resources, partners, and the public.

We can continue to review this approach in future years. For example, we may want to return to a larger-scale annual report document when the Proposition 84 grant program ends, in order to highlight the results of the projects funded under that program. Similarly, as we achieve other Strategic Plan objectives, we may want to provide more detailed information in the annual report.

Current Status

The proposed streamlined approach for the 2010-11 annual report will provide a brief update on each of the activities outlined in the SNC’s 2011 Action Plan, including the Proposition 84 grant program to date, along with the mandated budget and fiscal activities section.

Proposed Outline:

- Brief Introduction
- Program Accomplishments (based on 2011 Action Plan list), including:
 - Grant Program
 - Awarded 2011
 - Completed during this fiscal year (and as a % of total)
 - Accomplished (based on Performance Measures)

- Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative
- Strategic Plan
- External Outreach
- Great Sierra River Cleanup
- Geotourism MapGuide Project
- Sierra Day in the Capitol
- Water Report and Water Facts Booklet
- Mokelumne River Environmental Benefits Program
- System Indicators
- Pacific Forest & Watershed Lands Stewardship Council
- Budget and Fiscal information

Next Steps

Staff is recommending that the 8 to 10 page annual report design, layout, and illustrations will be compiled in-house. With Board concurrence, staff will prepare the annual report and distribute it appropriately. Staff anticipates that the annual report, as described above, would be distributed by October 31, 2011.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve the proposed approach for preparing the 2010-11 annual report and direct staff to develop and distribute the completed report.