

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

**Applicant:** U.S. Forest Service, Modoc National Forest

**Project Title:** Swanson Canyon HFR/Riparian Enhancement CE/EA

**Subregion:** North

**County:** Modoc

**SNC Funding:** \$73,999

**Total Project Cost:** 100,000

**Application Number:** 461

**Final Score:** 84

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The immediate goal of this project is to complete a NEPA analysis for the Swanson Canyon fuel reduction and riparian enhancement project. This project is located within the Pit River Watershed. It contains a seasonal stream that runs north to south and is flanked by steep canyon walls. The lower portion of the canyon contains a wet meadow that feeds into Rattlesnake Creek and eventually the Pit River.

The anticipated deliverable would be a categorical exclusion or environmental assessment under NEPA. The purpose of the project itself is to reduce hazardous fuels within the Swanson Canyon area, enhance riparian vegetation, and repair the adjacent road to eliminate sediment delivery into the creek. The project would occur on Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) lands. Reducing hazardous fuels in the Swanson Canyon area would, in turn, reduce the probability of a large-scale, destructive fire burning from Forest Service lands into the neighboring subdivision of Modoc Recreational Estates.

Similar faded fuel break is being implemented within the Modoc Recreational Estates and this project would augment those efforts on private lands.

This project is consistent with the goals of the Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration Strategy for the Modoc National Forest, the Modoc National Forest Plan, and the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Final SEIS. The U.S. Forest Service proposes removal of non-old-growth juniper, leaving the few existing ponderosa pine. The environmental analysis would also analyze actions to prune the limbs of the remaining trees to reduce flammability.

Cut wood would be removed from the riparian area for piling and burning; woodcutter-generated slash would likewise be piled and burned. Burn piles would consist of limbs and old slash (waste wood from cutting). The burn pile locations would later be seeded with native tobacco, which thrives in burned areas. Bole (trunk) wood from the treatment would be offered free to the public as firewood. Crews would use only hand labor (no heavy equipment).

After thinning the juniper, the riparian area would be seeded with Great Basin wild rye and other native plants to improve water retention of the soil. Rip rap would be installed on the road for side slope stabilization, aggregate (gravel) surfacing to direct runoff, contour of the road prism with side sloping, and reestablishing ditch lines to better direct runoff. Any trash (old tires, barrels, refrigerators, etc.) would be removed from the project area.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Archeological Surveys	September, 2012-September 2013
Botanical Surveys	June 2013-September 2012
Road Condition Surveys, Maintenance Evaluation	September 2012 – September 2013
Project Coordination	September 2012 – December 2013
Travel and Project Administration	September 2012 – December 2013
Progress Report	March 2013
Progress Report	September 2013
Final Progress Report	March 2014
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 2014</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct Funding Costs	\$55,400
Indirect	\$13,500
Administrative	\$5,099
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$73,999</b>

### PROJECT SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

- Modoc Fire Safe Council

## **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.

### **Number of People Reached**

- Reach out to public through public involvement in the NEPA process
- Confer with Fire Safe Council, Modoc Estates Homeowner Association, (Alturas) River Center, and Pit River Tribe on plan design

### **Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada**

- Forest employees' time
- River Center time and expertise
- CA Dept. of Corrections inmates' time and labor
- Indian youth time (Cedarville Rancheria)

### **Number and Type of Jobs Created**

- Provide jobs for local, low-income youth

### **Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities**

- Preserve fishing quality on Rattlesnake Creek and Pit River, due to removal of upstream sediment loading.
- Increase value of homes in adjoining Modoc Estates by reducing severe-fire hazard.
- Make bole wood from thinning available to public as fuel wood.
- Increase recreational economic value of area by enhancing the creek, and repairing and maintaining the road.