

**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: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Project Title: Control Velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*) in the Kern Canyon of Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: \$237,638

Total Project Cost: \$647,738

Application Number: 521

Final Score: 75.33

PROJECT SCOPE

This is a joint effort between Sequoia National Park (NPS) and Sequoia National Forest (USFS), to successfully eradicate velvetgrass, a perennial grass, and native to Europe, on lands in the Kern Canyon area in designated wilderness. Large scale efforts were implemented from 2009-2011, and have been successful at reducing populations of velvetgrass. Montane meadows and riparian wetlands are rare vegetation types in Kern Canyon occupying less than 2 percent of the land area, and are critical for habitat protection, native species diversity, biomass, and productivity. Initial efforts to reduce velvetgrass using herbicides, tarping, and hand-pulling have been successful, but further funding is required to ensure that it does not again come to dominate the area. Combining continued treatment efforts with the prior three years of work they have conducted, will allow them to eradicate velvetgrass from the Kern Canyon. Eliminating velvetgrass from the Kern Canyon will also ease grazing restrictions in these areas and reduce the likelihood of further spread via human activity.

Crews will install tarping materials on large USFS velvetgrass infestations and use hand-pulling and herbicide application on other populations on NPS and USFS lands. Four seasonal NPS personnel will oversee work crews of 12 people to hand-pull velvetgrass and install tarping materials. Backcountry Horseman will provide pack support for all large work crews.

Crews will also monitor past control efforts to ensure that they are not re-infested and to assess and correct any potential erosion problems as native vegetation begins to re-establish. Monitoring infestations can continue on NPS lands, while focusing efforts on USFS lands that have only received a single year of treatment.

Results of this project will be shared with outside land managers by presentations at the California Invasive Plant Council meeting and potential preparation of a manuscript for publication on their proceedings. Results of the project will also be presented to the public through meetings with interested parties (i.e. Backcountry Horseman).

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Field Crews Conducting Restoration Activities	June-September 2013
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	June-September 2013
Six-month Report to SNC	December 31, 2013
Public Presentation of Project Results (At least 1 per year)	October–December 2013
Field Crews Conducting Restoration Activities	June-September 2014
Six-month Report to SNC	June, 2014
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	June-September 2014
Six-month Report to SNC	December 31, 2014
Public Presentation of Project Results (at least 1 per year)	October–December 2014
Field Crews Conducting Restoration Activities	June-September 2015
Six-month Report to SNC	June, 2015
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	June-September 2015
Public Presentation of Project Results (At least 1 per year)	October–December 2015
Final Project Report to SNC	December 31, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$231,434
Indirect**	6,204
Administrative***	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$237,638

* 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.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more 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

- Support
 - High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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