

**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: Create Restoration Plan for Cahoon Meadow, Sequoia National Park

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: \$ 74,500

Total Project Cost: \$154,060

Application Number: 580

Final Score: 85.50

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will produce a plan and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance to restore wetland hydrology, vegetation, and ecosystem function in the 17 acre Cahoon Meadow. Cahoon Meadow is a wet meadow located at 7,350 feet elevation at the headwaters of Cahoon Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Kaweah River in Sequoia National Park containing severe erosion gullies. The meadow is located in designated wilderness, and alternatives will include both mechanized and non-mechanized treatments. Additional funds and in-kind services will be provided by the National Park Service.

The following are project objectives:

1. Collect topographic information and create a base map for restoration plans.
2. Assess the success of past (1940s and 1950s) efforts to restore similar erosion gullies using hand crews, to evaluate whether hand-work (check dams) is likely to succeed in meeting restoration goals.
3. Formulate a range of feasible restoration goals and alternatives.
4. Create concept plans for the restoration alternatives, including plan views, cross sections, and draft details of restoration structures.
5. Write a NEPA/CEQA document.

The following are project deliverables:

1. A base map and wetland delineation of Cahoon Meadow.
2. A trip report of the 2013 site visit.

3. A report assessing the long-term (50 year) results of non-mechanized meadow restoration techniques and discussing their potential application in Cahoon Meadow and Sierra Nevada wilderness meadows.
4. A written plan and Environmental Assessment to implement on-the-ground restoration of wetlands at Cahoon Meadow, allowing the park to move directly to implementation of the selected alternative.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate project	December 1, 2012
Complete cooperative agreement with Colorado State University, David Cooper PI	January 31, 2013
Schedule 2013 site visit	March 31, 2013
Six-month progress report to SNC	June 30, 2013
Trip report of site visit, including preliminary identification and description of several restoration/stabilization goals & alternatives	September 15, 2013
Six-month progress report to SNC	December 31, 2013
Wetland Delineation Report	December 31, 2013
Six-month progress report to SNC	June 30, 2014
Begin scoping for EA	April 1, 2014
Search archives for relevant SAM Crew notes, maps, photos, and reports. Convert to digital format. Select meadows for revisits. Provide summary task report to park.	May 31, 2014
Draft Restoration Plan, including base map, several alternatives described with narratives, plan view of treatments, cross-sections of treatments, and conceptual details as necessary.	May 31, 2014
Begin writing EA	June 1, 2014
Complete site visits to relocate check dams & project sites and assess results of 1940s SAM Crew restoration treatments. Provide short trip report.	September 15, 2014
Six-month progress report to SNC	December 30, 2014
Final report assessing success of SAM Crew restoration treatments Provide recommendations.	December 31, 2014
Final Restoration Plan, incorporating results of SAM Crew site revisits	February 28, 2015
Six-month progress report to SNC	June 31, 2015
Release EA for public comment	June 1, 2015
Finding of No Significant Impact signed by Regional Director	December 31, 2015
Submit Final project completion report to SNC	January 31, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$70,950
Indirect**	\$3,550
Administrative***	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$74,500

* 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/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - David Cooper and Evan Wolf, Colorado State University

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.

- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments