

**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: Lake Valley Fire Protection District

Project Title: Mt. Ralston Community Defense Zone

Subregion: Central

County: El Dorado

SNC Funding: \$171,156

Total Project Cost: \$201,230

Application Number: 616

Final Score: 72.75

PROJECT SCOPE

The Mt. Ralston Community Defense Zone Project (DZP) will create a fuels-buffer between National Forest Service (NFS) land and privately owned residential properties. The 28-acre fuel thinning project, located on private land within the headwaters of the South Fork of the American River, is adjacent to the heavily traveled Highway 50 and within a high fire hazard severity zone. The project will thin dead, dying and diseased trees, understory ladder fuels, non-riparian brush and downed woody debris. Tree felling will be conducted by a hand crew with chainsaws. Slash is to be piled and burned in the spring or fall in accordance with an approved smoke management plan filed with El Dorado County Air Quality Management District. Where accessible, a truck pulled chipper or track chipper may broadcast cut materials on site. Biomass created will be utilized in area to protect soils from erosion. The residual stand shall primarily consist of the dominant and co-dominant Jeffrey pine, white fir, incense cedar western juniper and aspen.

A fire started within or outside the community could threaten lives, destroy homes and severely impact the forest and watershed. The DZP protects Tamarack Creek, a tributary to the American River and water source for the Mt. Ralston Property Owners water system. Overarching goals for this project are to restore the Mt. Ralston forest ecosystem and watershed.

This project:

- Protects private property, cultural, historic, biological and infrastructure resources from destruction by wildfire;

- Improves suppression capability and provides for firefighter safety in the event of a wildfire;
- Enhances existing individual efforts to protect property by creating a single fuel break;
- Provides a platform for future fire hazard reduction efforts;
- Complements U.S. Forest Service efforts to reduce hazardous fuels on National Forest Service lands; and ,
- Protects Tamarack Creek and surrounding watershed habitat values.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE*
Complete access (tenure) agreements with property owners	December 2012
Complete final prescription, layout and design	January 013
Prepare project by marking tree, setting boundary flagging, WLPZ flagging and wildlife area protection measures	February 2013
Obtain necessary approvals and permits from CalFire	February 2013
Implementation of project by Angora Peak handcrew in accordance with forester's prescription, approvals and permits	Late summer or early fall of 2013
Slash burning in DPZ	Spring of 2014
Six month Progress Reports (2)	June 2013, December 2013
Final Report	July 31, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	July 31, 2014

* *Timeline depends upon winter/spring access*

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	0
Staff: Property owner agreements	\$2,880
Staff: Project boundaries, marking and flagging	\$3,888
RPF: Prescription and permitting	\$6,000
Labor: treatments	\$102,368
Equipment: treatments	\$10,100
Labor: burning	\$25,340
Equipment/fuel: burning	\$3,000
Indirect**	0
Implementation: monitoring	\$1,420
Publications, printing, PR	\$600
Administrative***	\$15,560
GRAND TOTAL	\$171,156

- * 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

- None submitted

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
- Number and Diversity of People Reached