

**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: Tulare County Resource Conservation District and
Sequoia Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: \$350,000

Total Project Cost: \$370,000

Application Number: 644

Final Score: 82.50

PROJECT SCOPE

Demonstration State Forests are managed by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the purpose of providing opportunities to conduct research, demonstration, and education on sustainable forestry practices. State forests are used for experimentation to determine the economic feasibility of reforestation, and to demonstrate the productive and economic possibilities of good forest practices toward maintaining forest crop land in a productive condition. While these forests are managed to provide research and demonstration projects, they continue to provide public recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, and watershed protection.

Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest (MHDSF) is located in Tulare County in the Southern Sierra Nevada range, 22 miles east of Porterville, California. It is unique among the eight Demonstration State Forests in that it contains old growth giant sequoia groves and individual trees. Old growth giant sequoias are protected from harvest. Recreation is the primary land use on Mountain Home. The primary objectives of Mountain Home management is to protect old growth giant sequoia trees, recruit replacement old growth trees from second growth, support recreation, practice sustainable forestry and conduct innovative demonstrations, experiments, and education in forest management.

There are seventeen areas within the bounds of MHDSF that have been identified for fuel treatment by means of mechanical mastication. They range in size from 20 acres to 185 acres. Crews will utilize mastication equipment on 310 acres to modify fuels. Small biological islands shall be retained within the treated areas to provide for species

diversity, thermal cover and aesthetics. In the treatment areas, at least 75 percent of the brush and downed material will be treated. Conifers that are not of merchantable size (generally less than 12" DBH) will be thinned to a variable spacing of 12 to 25 feet, depending on the species. Untreated areas shall include rock outcroppings, over steepened ground, biologic islands, and prohibited areas. The resulting treated material will be left as is or later scheduled for broadcast burning. Other areas proposed for mastication include strategic fuel break areas, infrastructure, and access routes that provide for ingress and egress. This project is considered the hub of most fuel break projects in Tulare County because it will connect with the Rancheria Fuel Break and the Happy Camp Fuel Break.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Treat 60 acres of vegetation	June 1, 2013 – August 1, 2013
Six-month progress report to SNC	December 31, 2013
Six-month progress report to SNC	June 30, 2014
Treat 250 acres of vegetation	June 1, 2014 – December 30, 2014
Project completion/final report	December 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$328,000
Indirect**	\$6,000
Administrative***	\$16,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$350,000

* 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/OPPISTION

- Support
 - Sequoia Fire Safe Council
 - Cal Fire
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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 types of jobs created
- Resources Leveraged