

**Background**

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, which included \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), with approximately \$50 million to be granted to eligible projects throughout the Region. Including the June 2012 grant awards, the SNC has awarded 200 projects worth approximately \$45 million.

With \$10 million remaining in unallocated Proposition 84 grant funds, the Board directed staff to expend \$5 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12 in the Healthy Forests focus area and \$5 million in FY 2012-13 in the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands focus area. At the March 2012 meeting the Board approved adding \$2 million to the total available for award in FY 2011-12, making the total \$7 million. These funds were made available due to the re-appropriation of funds from prior year projects that closed out without using them. Due to the application of a focus area and the small dollar amount remaining to be awarded, unlike in previous years, the Board did not recommend Subregional allocations in each of these grant cycles. Eligible projects for both FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13 include conservation easement acquisitions and site improvement or restoration projects (Category One) and pre-project activities associated with specific future on-the-ground projects (Category Two).

The SNC released its FY 2011-12 grant program solicitation in the fall of 2011, with pre-applications required by the end of October. Projects that were accepted as eligible were given a deadline of January 23, 2012 for submittal of full applications.

**Current Status**

**Summary of FY 2011-12 Pre-Applications and Applications Received**

The SNC received 197 pre-applications requesting a total of \$27,854,609. Of those, 121 full applications were submitted representing \$17,094,792 of need throughout the Region. There were 78 Category One projects totaling \$14,277,799. The remaining 43 Category Two projects totaled \$2,816,993. Of the applications received, 24 Category One projects (31%) were disqualified due to various California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) non-compliance problems and four Category Two projects (9%) were deemed ineligible, resulting in a total of 93 applications requesting \$12,585,319.

In response to this large volume of projects and the need to provide sufficient time to carefully evaluate each of them, the Board approved a staff recommendation at the March 2012 meeting to split the project recommendations into two phases. Phase I award recommendations, consisting of the highest value Category One projects totaling up to \$5 million, were presented at the June Board meeting. Projects recommended for Phase II are being presented at this Board meeting. These projects consist of the highest ranking remaining Category One and Category Two projects, up to a \$7 million total award, and include two projects that are being recommended out of ranking order to address geographical distribution.

### **Evaluation and Recommendation Process**

Unlike previous years, evaluations were conducted by two teams of evaluators – one team of technical experts and one team of SNC internal staff. There were twelve technical experts, seven of whom are Registered Professional Foresters currently working for or retired from other agencies or active in private practice. The technical team also represented expertise in subjects such as wildlife biology, water quality, fire, and working landscapes. The internal team consisted of four SNC staff from throughout the organization with a good understanding of the SNC mission and goals. Each team focused on a different set of evaluation criteria; the technical team scored up to 55 points for Proposition 84 alignment, forest health benefits and project quality, while the internal team scored up to 45 points for how well the application addressed the SNC mission and programmatic goals, Proposition 84 alignment, organizational capacity and community support. Each application was reviewed by a total of six evaluators - four from the technical team and two from the internal team.

The scores from each application evaluation group were averaged by team, then added together for a total combined preliminary score. If single outlier scores were present, a reconciliation process allowed for a re-review by one or more evaluators. Technical evaluator scores were considered final unless the evaluator personally adjusted his/her own score. Internal team scores were considered preliminary until reviewed by the management team and organizational capacity and geographic distribution was taken into consideration and applied. In a few instances where the high and low scores diverged by more than 20 points the outlier score was discarded, the remaining team scores were averaged, and internal/technical team scores added to develop final recommendations of the highest benefit projects.

### **Projects Recommended for Funding**

The projects being recommended for Board consideration represent a range in score from 90 to 72.25. There are 25 projects in all, including project 489 - Campstool Ranch and Working Forest, the sole conservation easement acquisition of the Healthy Forests grant cycle. This is a high scoring project (90) and was recommended in June 2012 but pushed back to September by the Board in order to resolve outstanding appraisal questions and to address Board comments. With the removal of project 489 and minor request reductions by several grantees, the total June award was for \$4,483,507.76. The total of the recommended awards for September, including project 489, is \$2,545,140.17. Should the Board approve these projects the full funding amount for the 2011-12 Healthy Forests grant round will be \$7,028,647.93, slightly above the approved funding amount but within funds available for this award.

For the September awards SNC staff considered the question of geographic distribution and is recommending approval of Forest Health Chipper Program (SNC 480, a Category 1 project scored at 73.75, North Central Subregion) and Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection (SNC 470, a Category 2 project scored at 72.25, South Subregion). These projects “skip” five projects scored between 74 and 72.5, all from the Central Subregion. This action will more equitably distribute SNC funding across each of the various Subregions, in compliance with California Public Resources

Code (PRC) 33341 stating in part "...The board shall make every effort to ensure that, over time, conservancy funding and other efforts are spread equitably across each of the various subregions..."

Should the Board act to approve this recommendation, across both funding phases the Central Subregion will receive 14 project awards totaling \$1,427,892.17, the North Central Subregion will receive 10 project awards totaling \$1,355,793 and the South Subregion will receive 9 project awards totaling \$1,225,119.6.

Staff is also recommending that the Board conditionally approve 4 additional projects. These projects will only be awarded funding if project 489 (\$350,000) fails to obtain appraisal approval prior to November 1, 2012. These projects total \$386,430. Specific information about the projects recommended for award including applicant organization, project title, project score, project type, amount requested, county and Subregion is presented in Exhibits A through C. Exhibit D identifies all projects that were considered but fell below available funding. Exhibit E lists all Category Two projects that were disqualified. Exhibit F lists all Category Two projects that scored below 70, therefore are no longer being considered for award.

A summary of all projects recommended for award, by project type, is provided below (the county where the project is located is shown in parentheses after each project).

### **Category 1 Projects:**

#### **Fuels Reduction (4 projects totaling \$826,162)**

- 454 - targeted removal, modification and rearrangement of concentrated surface ladder fuels such as brush and suppressed trees on approximately 168 acres of forest land owned by the City of Portola (Plumas)
- 480 - links existing fuels reduction projects on federal lands, county roads and large industrial timberlands with private parcels through chipping of fire hazardous vegetation on 400 acres in Butte County watersheds (Butte)
- 533 - remove non-native plant species and revegetate with native species in 5 critical acres of meadow, riparian and upland habitat in the Deer Creek watershed preserving mixed conifer forest health (Nevada)
- 644 - provides funding for fuel treatments by means of mechanical mastication in 17 areas of Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest ranging from 20 – 185 acres (Tulare) (Note: This project was originally disqualified due to CEQA/NEPA non-compliance in June 2012. Upon further review, the SNC has determined that the project is CEQA compliant and therefore eligible for award in September.)

#### **Meadow Restoration (1 project totaling \$49,265.64)**

- 588 - restores hydrology and vegetation characteristics of a 300 acre wet meadow complex at 6,000 feet consisting entirely of United States Forest Service land surrounded by the Tahoe National forest (Nevada)

**Invasive Species Removal (1 project totaling \$237,638)**

- 521 - funds a joint effort between Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest to eradicate velvetgrass from Kern Canyon (Tulare)

**Conservation Easement Acquisitions (1 project totaling \$350,000)**

- 489 – a conservation easement on the 2,168-acre Campstool Ranch & Working Forest near the town of Mokelumne Hill to permanently protect and enhance its working timberlands and oak woodlands, well-managed cattle ranching, historic sites and important watershed resources (Calaveras)

**Category 2 Projects:**

**Pre-Project Activities (5 projects totaling \$303,393)**

- 552 - funds planning tasks required prior to implementation of a Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) project which will treat fuels and help preserve approximately 40 acres of mixed conifer forests at White Sulphur Springs Ranch (Plumas)
- 553 - assesses, designs and prepares permit and compliance information to restore 2000 acres meadow and thin 1000 acres of dense forest south of Burney (Shasta)
- 579 - pre-engineering study for a biomass-fueled district heating system in support of the Forest Health Sage Steppe restoration project in the Modoc Forest (Modoc)
- 613 - planning for stopping the spread of new invasive plants that are moving into the Sierra Nevada (Plumas, Tuolumne)
- 638 - completes project engineering plans need to develop the Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard developing local economic infrastructure capacity for sustainable utilization of biomass and small diameter tree harvesting (Calaveras)

**CEQA/NEPA Compliance (13 projects totaling \$778,681.53)**

- 460 - conduct CEQA environmental analysis entailing the environmental analysis of impacts related to the proposed Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel Break (Tehama)
- 461 - conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for the Swanson Canyon fuel reduction and riparian enhancement project (Modoc)
- 462 - develop CEQA documentation for an engineering solution that will stop head cutting and related erosion attributable to a small tributary of Gurnsey Creek at a location within Childs Meadows eliminating a source of sediment into Dear Creek (Tehama)
- 470 - supports the planning, coordination with residents and land owners and needed environmental documents such as CEQA/NEPA, surveys and permits in preparation to implement the site improvement project running from Malum Ridge Road east towards the South Fork of Willow Creek in Madera County (Madera)
- 490 - develops a comprehensive Fuels Treatments and Prescribed Fire Management Plan and subsequent environmental review document for Calaveras Big Trees State Park (Calaveras)

- 503 - completes environmental analysis (NEPA) to implement vegetative treatments through a stewardship program to improve the health of about 800 acres of National Forest System lands in a mixed conifer plant community (Nevada)
- 513 - pre-project activities that will allow for an environmental site assessment of the Gillis Hill Fuel Break which will lead to providing a defensible location to be used by fire suppression resources to gain control of oncoming fires and prevent fire spread by removing hazardous surface and ladder fuels (Placer)
- 536 - completes pre-project planning, assessment, permitting and CEQA compliance for a brush and ladder-fuels reduction project on 36.33 acres at Hirschman's Pond, adjacent to Nevada City (Nevada)
- 564 - conducts the environmental site assessment needed for a project in the Caples Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan developed as part of the Forest Service's nationwide Watershed Condition Framework (Alpine, Amador, El Dorado)
- 565 - completes major pre-development tasks including the initial CEQA study, allowing for the financing and construction of a small scale combined heat and power bioenergy facility on the North Fork Mill site (Madera)
- 580 - produces a plan and NEPA/CEQA compliance to restore wetlands in the 17-acre Cahoon Meadow, which contains severe erosion gullies as a result of historic grazing (Tulare)
- 622 - completes a project design for priority restoration areas, completes necessary surveys, completes NEPA/CEQA and required permitting for selected sites and collects baseline monitoring data to measure effectiveness of restoration activities in the Van Vleck Meadow Complex in the El Dorado National Forest (El Dorado)
- 630 - completes NEPA compliance needed to prepare a treatment plan that would result in a specific project on National Forest Land for thinning approximately 550 acres of plantations in the western Calaveras Ranger District (Calaveras)

Detailed information for these projects is included in Attachment A.

### **Conditional Approval Recommendation**

#### **Category 1 Projects:**

#### **Fuels Reduction (1 project totaling \$171,156)**

- 616 – this project will create a buffer zone on 28 acres within a high fire hazard severity zone located on private land within the headwaters of the South Fork of the American River, between National Forest Service (NFS) land and privately owned residential properties (El Dorado)

**Category 2 Projects:**

**CEQA/NEPA Compliance (3 projects totaling \$215,274)**

- 502 – pre-project activities including environmental surveys leading to vegetation treatments in forest stands to reduce fire behavior, improve forest health and increase resilience of stands to the adverse effects of insects and diseases (Placer)
- 519 – pre-project activities including completion of CEQA, NEPA and other permitting requirements leading to the enhancement and restoration of a high-elevation wet meadow system at Leek Springs Meadow (El Dorado)
- 523 – pre-project activities including CEQA review as well as environmental surveys, leading to the restoration of a meadow and a neglected stretch of South Fork Wolf Creek within the Bear River watershed (Nevada)

Detailed information for the conditional projects is included in Attachment B.

Total award for the Healthy Forests grant round, removing 489 and including these four projects would be \$7,065,077.93.

**California Environmental Quality Act Compliance**

The SNC worked with the Department of General Services' Environmental Services Section, the Deputy Attorney General assigned to assist the SNC, and RBF Consulting to review project proposals for compliance with CEQA requirements.

Several major impediments to CEQA compliance were identified during the course of environmental review, and led to 24 projects from the FY 2011-12 application submittals being disqualified from further evaluation. These barriers included:

- CEQA requirements not being addressed in the application
- Environmental documents (Negative Declarations/Findings of No Significant Impact or Environmental Impact Reports/Environmental Impact Statements) not being completed and/or submitted by the application deadline
- Submittal of outdated or incomplete information
- Lack of response to information requests
- Projects not qualifying for an exemption from CEQA and not having a valid lead agency to prepare the appropriate documentation
- Projects with a nexus to the NEPA (i.e., federal applicant, project on federal land, or project receiving federal funding) for which NEPA compliance has been completed, but that do not qualify for an exemption from CEQA

Sixteen (16) projects being recommended in September require the SNC to complete a Notice of Exemption (NOE) and file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse. The NOEs have been prepared for review and will be filed upon Board approval. Copies of all proposed NOEs are included in this report within Attachment C. (NOEs for the four (4) conditional projects will be filed with the State Clearinghouse, should project 489 fail to be awarded. The NOEs for these projects are included in Attachment B.)

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Board (a) adopt the proposed Notices of Exemption for the projects proposed to be approved or conditionally approved; (b) authorize the grants listed in Agenda Item IX, Exhibit A, including conditional authorization of project 489-Campstool Ranch and Working Forests, pending final appraisal approval; further, staff recommends that the Board conditionally authorize projects 502- Blacksmith Ecological Restoration Project, 519-Leek Springs Meadow Restoration - Baseline Monitoring, Assessment and Restoration Plan, 523- Maidu Meadow Restoration and Riparian Enhancements South Fork Wolf Creek, and 616- Mt. Ralston Community Defense Zone, with direction that these projects be funded only if project 489-Campstool Ranch and Working Forests, does not obtain appraisal approval prior to November 1; and (c) authorize staff to enter into the necessary agreements for the recommended projects and direct staff to file the appropriate CEQA documentation with the State Clearinghouse.

Agenda Item IX Exhibit A

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FOR PHASE II (SEPTEMBER 2012) AWARD

September 6, 2012

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID#	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
90.00	South Central	Calaveras	489	The Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.	<a href="#">Campstool Ranch &amp; Working Forest</a>	\$ 350,000.00
85.50	South	Tulare	580	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	<a href="#">Create a Restoration Plan for Cahoon Meadow, Sequoia National Park</a>	\$ 74,500.00
84.25	Central	El Dorado	622	Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District	<a href="#">Van Vleck Meadow Complex Assessment and Restoration Plan</a>	\$ 75,000.00
84.00	North	Modoc	461	United States Forest Service, Modoc National Forest	<a href="#">Swanson Canyon Hazardous Fuel Reduction Riparian Enhancement CE/EA</a>	\$ 73,999.00
83.83	North	Shasta	553	Fall River Resource Conservation District	<a href="#">Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project</a>	\$ 75,000.00
83.00	Central	Nevada	536	Sierra Streams Institute	<a href="#">Hirschman's Pond Healthy Forest Initiative</a>	\$ 75,000.00
82.25	South	Tulare	644	Tulare County RCD	<a href="#">Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project</a>	\$ 350,000.00
82.00	North	Modoc	579	City of Alturas	<a href="#">Pre-engineering Study: City of Alturas biomass-based district heating in support of the Forest Health Sage Steppe Project</a>	\$ 75,000.00
81.75	South Central	Calaveras	630	USDA/USFS Stanislaus National Forest – Calaveras Ranger District	<a href="#">ACCG Collaborative Project: West Calaveras Plantation Thinning NEPA</a>	\$ 74,975.00
81.50	South	Madera	565	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	<a href="#">The North Fork Community - Scale Biomass Project</a>	\$ 70,049.00
79.50	North Central	Plumas	552	Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council (MVSC)	<a href="#">White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project</a>	\$ 20,000.00
78.25	Central	Nevada	503	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	<a href="#">Bloody Run Sub-watershed Forest Improvement</a>	\$ 74,326.53

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September 6, 2012

<b>77.75</b>	North Central	Tehama	<b>460</b>	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	<a href="#">Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel Break CEQA Environmental Analysis Project</a>	\$ 23,550.00
<b>77.50</b>	Central	Nevada	<b>533</b>	Sierra Streams Institute	<a href="#">Lower Deer Creek Healthy Revegetation Project</a>	\$ 112,932.00
<b>77.33</b>	South Central	Calaveras	<b>638</b>	Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions	<a href="#">Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard Development Engineering Plans</a>	\$ 74,800.00
<b>77.25</b>	Multiple: Central; East; South Central	El Dorado, Alpine, Amador	<b>564</b>	El Dorado Irrigation District,	<a href="#">Caples Creek Watershed Fuels Reduction and Meadow Restoration: A Sierra Nevada Region water purveyor and federal land manager working together to protect water supplies within the Sierra Nevada.</a>	\$ 75,000.00
<b>77.00</b>	Central	Nevada	<b>588</b>	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	<a href="#">Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project, Phase 2</a>	\$ 49,265.64
<b>76.00</b>	North Central	Plumas	<b>454</b>	City of Portola	<a href="#">Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction</a>	\$ 263,230.00
<b>75.83</b>	Central	Placer	<b>513</b>	Placer County Resource Conservation District	<a href="#">Gillis Hill Fuel Break</a>	\$ 17,528.00
<b>75.33</b>	South	Tulare	<b>521</b>	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	<a href="#">Control Velvetgrass (Holcus lanatus) in the Kern Canyon of Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest</a>	\$ 237,638.00
<b>74.75</b>	North Central	Tehama	<b>462</b>	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	<a href="#">Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Project</a>	\$ 41,663.00
<b>74.50</b>	Multiple: North Central; South Central	Plumas; Tuolumne	<b>613</b>	California Invasive Plant Council	<a href="#">Planning High-Priority Invasive Plant Management in Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada</a>	\$ 58,593.00

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<b>74.25</b>	South Central	Calaveras, Tuolumne	<b>490</b>	California Department of Parks and Recreation	<a href="#">Calaveras Big Trees State Park Fuels Treatments</a>	\$ 33,091.00
<b>73.75</b>	North Central	Butte	<b>480</b>	Butte County Fire Safe Council	<a href="#">Forest Health Chipper Program</a>	\$ 100,000.00
<b>72.25</b>	South	Madera	<b>470</b>	Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	<a href="#">Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection</a>	\$ 70,000.00
<b>Total, All Recommended Projects September Award</b>						<b>\$ 2,545,140.17</b>

***The following projects are being conditionally recommended pending the final appraisal outcome of project 489***

<b>74.00</b>	Central	Placer	<b>502</b>	USDA Forest Service, Georgetown Ranger District	<a href="#">Blacksmith Ecological Restoration Project</a>	\$ 75,000.00
<b>73.50</b>	Central	Nevada	<b>523</b>	Wolf Creek Community Alliance (WCCA)	<a href="#">Maidu Meadow Restoration and Riparian Enhancements South Fork Wolf Creek</a>	\$ 74,900.00
<b>73.25</b>	Central	El Dorado	<b>519</b>	American River Conservancy	<a href="#">Leek Springs Meadow Restoration - Baseline Monitoring, Assessment and Restoration Plan</a>	\$ 65,374.00
<b>72.75</b>	Central	El Dorado	<b>616</b>	Lake Valley Fire Protection District	<a href="#">Mt. Ralston Community Defense Zone</a>	\$ 171,156.00
<b>Total, All Conditional Recommended Projects September Award</b>						<b>\$ 386,430.00</b>

If you would like to review the full application for any project, please go to the SNC Searchable Grants Database on the SNC Website at: <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/searchable-grants-database>. Once there go to Status and click "Application" and then identify the County and Subregion of the project you are seeking. You may then click the project name of the project you are seeking. Please note that these are large PDF files that may take awhile to load. For best performance, once you get to the "Download PDF Summary" link you may wish to right-click and choose "Save Target as." The PDF file will download to your computer and then you can open the local copy of the PDF document.

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LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS BY PROJECT TYPE - PHASE II (SEPTEMBER 2012) AWARD

September 6, 2012

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID#	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
<b>Fuels Reduction</b>						
82.25	South	Tulare	644	Tulare County RCD	Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project	\$ 350,000.00
77.50	Central	Nevada	533	Sierra Streams Institute	Lower Deer Creek Healthy Revegetation Project	\$ 112,932.00
76.00	North Central	Plumas	454	City of Portola	Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction	\$ 263,230.00
73.75	North Central	Butte	480	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Forest Health Chipper Program	\$ 100,000.00
<b>Total, 4 Fuels Reduction Projects</b>						<b>\$ 826,162.00</b>
<b>Meadow Restoration</b>						
77.00	Central	Nevada	588	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project, Phase 2	\$ 49,265.64
<b>Total, 1 Meadow Restoration Project</b>						<b>\$ 49,265.64</b>
<b>Invasive Species Removal</b>						
75.33	South	Tulare	521	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	Control Velvetgrass (Holcus lanatus) in the Kern Canyon of Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest	\$ 237,638.00
<b>Total, 1 Invasive Species Removal Project</b>						<b>\$ 237,638.00</b>
<b>Conservation Easement Acquisition</b>						
90.00	South Central	Calaveras	489	The Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.	Campstool Ranch & Working Forest	\$ 350,000.00
<b>Total, 1 Conservation Easement Acquisition</b>						<b>\$ 350,000.00</b>
<b>Pre-Project Activities</b>						
83.83	North	Shasta	553	Fall River Resource Conservation District	Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project	\$ 75,000.00
82.00	North	Modoc	579	City of Alturas	Pre-engineering Study: City of Alturas biomass-based district heating in support of the Forest Health Sage Steppe Project	\$ 75,000.00

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79.50	North Central	Plumas	552	Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council (MVSC)	White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	\$ 20,000.00
77.33	South Central	Calaveras	638	Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions	Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard Development Engineering Plans	\$ 74,800.00
74.50	Multiple: North Central; South Central	Plumas; Tuolumne	613	California Invasive Plant Council	Planning High-Priority Invasive Plant Management in Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada	\$ 58,593.00
<b>Total, 5 Pre-Project Activities</b>						<b>\$ 303,393.00</b>
<b>CEQA/NEPA Compliance</b>						
85.50	South	Tulare	580	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	Create a Restoration Plan for Cahoon Meadow, Sequoia National Park	\$ 74,500.00
84.25	Central	El Dorado	622	Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District	Van Vleck Meadow Complex Assessment and Restoration Plan	\$ 75,000.00
84.00	North	Modoc	461	United States Forest Service Modoc National Forest	Swanson Canyon Hazardous Fuel Reduction Riparian Enhancement CE/EA	\$ 73,999.00
83.00	Central	Nevada	536	Sierra Streams Institute	Hirschman's Pond Healthy Forest Initiative	\$ 75,000.00
81.75	South Central	Calaveras	630	USDA/USFS Stanislaus National Forest – Calaveras Ranger District	ACCG Collaborative Project: West Calaveras Plantation Thinning NEPA	\$ 74,975.00
81.50	South	Madera	565	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	The North Fork Community - Scale Biomass Project	\$ 70,049.00
78.25	Central	Nevada	503	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	Bloody Run Sub-watershed Forest Improvement	\$ 74,326.53
77.75	North Central	Tehama	460	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel Break CEQA Environmental Analysis Project	\$ 23,550.00

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September 6, 2012

77.25	Multiple: Central; East; South Central	El Dorado, Alpine, Amador	564	El Dorado Irrigation District,	Caples Creek Watershed Fuels Reduction and Meadow Restoration: A Sierra Nevada Region water purveyor and federal land manager working together to protect water supplies within the Sierra Nevada.	\$ 75,000.00
75.83	Central	Placer	513	Placer County Resource Conservation District	Gillis Hill Fuel Break	\$ 17,528.00
74.75	North Central	Tehama	462	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Project	\$ 41,663.00
74.25	South Central	Calaveras, Tuolumne	490	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Calaveras Big Trees State Park Fuels Treatments	\$ 33,091.00
72.25	South	Madera	470	Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection	\$ 70,000.00
<b>Total, 13 CEQA/NEPA Compliance Projects</b>						<b>\$ 778,681.53</b>
<b>Total, All Projects September Award</b>						<b>\$ 2,545,140.17</b>

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LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS BY SUBREGION - PHASE II (SEPTEMBER 2012) AWARD

September 6, 2012

County	Score	SNC ID#	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
<b>North Subregion</b>					
Modoc	84.00	461	United States Forest Service - Modoc National Forest	Swanson Canyon Hazardous Fuel Reduction Riparian Enhancement CE/EA	\$ 73,999.00
Shasta	83.83	553	Fall River Resource Conservation District	Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project	\$ 75,000.00
Modoc	82.00	579	City of Alturas	Pre-engineering Study: City of Alturas biomass-based district heating in support of the Forest Health Sage Steppe Project	\$ 75,000.00
<b>3 Projects Totaling</b>					<b>\$ 223,999.00</b>
<b>North Central Subregion</b>					
Plumas	79.50	552	Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council (MVSC)	White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	\$ 20,000.00
Tehama	77.75	460	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel Break CEQA Environmental Analysis Project	\$ 23,550.00
Tehama	74.75	462	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Project	\$ 41,663.00
Plumas	76.00	454	City of Portola	Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction	\$ 263,230.00
Butte	73.75	480	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Forest Health Chipper Program	\$ 100,000.00
<b>5 Projects Totaling</b>					<b>\$ 448,443.00</b>
<b>Central Subregion</b>					
El Dorado	84.25	622	Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District	Van Vleck Meadow Complex Assessment and Restoration Plan	\$ 75,000.00
Nevada	83.00	536	Sierra Streams Institute	Hirschman's Pond Healthy Forest Initiative	\$ 75,000.00

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LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS BY SUBREGION - PHASE II (SEPTEMBER 2012) AWARD

September 6, 2012

Nevada	78.25	503	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	Bloody Run Sub-watershed Forest Improvement	\$ 74,326.53
Placer	75.83	513	Placer County Resource Conservation District	Gillis Hill Fuel Break	\$ 17,528.00
Nevada	77.50	533	Sierra Streams Institute	Lower Deer Creek Healthy Revegetation Project	\$ 112,932.00
Nevada	77.00	588	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project, Phase 2	\$ 49,265.64
<b>6 Projects Totaling</b>					<b>\$ 404,052.17</b>
<b>South Central Subregion</b>					
Calaveras	90.00	489	The Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.	Campstool Ranch & Working Forest	\$ 350,000.00
Calaveras	81.75	630	USDA/USFS Stanislaus National Forest – Calaveras Ranger District	ACCG Collaborative Project: West Calaveras Plantation Thinning NEPA	\$ 74,975.00
Calaveras	77.33	638	Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions	Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard Development Engineering Plans	\$ 74,800.00
Calaveras, Tuolumne	74.25	490	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Calaveras Big Trees State Park Fuels Treatments	\$ 33,091.00
<b>4 Projects Totaling</b>					<b>\$ 532,866.00</b>
<b>South Subregion</b>					
Tulare	85.50	580	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	Create a Restoration Plan for Cahoon Meadow, Sequoia National Park	\$ 74,500.00
Madera	81.50	565	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	The North Fork Community - Scale Biomass Project	\$ 70,049.00
Madera	72.25	470	Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection	\$ 70,000.00
Tulare	82.25	644	Tulare County RCD	Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project	\$ 350,000.00
Tulare	75.33	521	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	Control Velvetgrass (Holcus lanatus) in the Kern Canyon of Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest	\$ 237,638.00

Agenda Item IX Exhibit C

LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS BY SUBREGION - PHASE II (SEPTEMBER 2012) AWARD

September 6, 2012

<b>5 Projects Totaling</b>					<b>\$ 802,187.00</b>
<b>Multiple Subregion Projects</b>					
El Dorado, Alpine, Amador	77.25	564	El Dorado Irrigation District,	Caples Creek Watershed Fuels Reduction and Meadow Restoration: A Sierra Nevada Region water purveyor and federal land manager working together to protect water supplies within the Sierra Nevada.	\$ 75,000.00
Plumas; Tuolumne	74.50	613	California Invasive Plant Council	Planning High-Priority Invasive Plant Management in Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada	\$ 58,593.00
<b>2 Projects Totaling</b>					<b>\$ 133,593.00</b>
<b>Total, 25 Projects September Award</b>					<b>\$ 2,545,140.17</b>

Agenda Item IX Exhibit D

LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING FOR PHASE II (SEPTEMBER 2012) AWARD

September 6, 2012

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID#	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
72.50	Central	Nevada	582	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	The Malakoff Diggins Forest Health Project	\$99,768.41
71.75	Central	Nevada	530	Sierra Streams Institute	Lower Deer Creek Meadow Restoration Project	\$63,000.00
71.00	South Central	Amador	566	Amador County Recreation Agency	Mollie Joyce Park Healthy Forest Project	\$314,640.00
71.00	North Central	Butte	518	Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council	Concow Watershed Improvements, Biomass Reutilization and Reforestation	\$350,000.00
70.75	Central	El Dorado	562	California Conservation Corps	Forest Improvement Fuel Load Reduction	\$226,230.40
70.00	Central	Nevada	649	Bear Yuba Land Trust	McDermott/Crawford Family Forest: Restoration and Reforestation	\$120,175.00
70.00	North Central	Plumas	543	Feather River Land Trust	Clover Valley Ranch Conservation and Restoration Project	\$350,000.00
<b>Total for Projects</b>						<b>\$1,523,813.81</b>

Agenda Item IX Exhibit E

LIST OF ALL DISQUALIFIED CATEGORY II PROJECTS PHASE II (SEPTEMBER 2012) AWARD

September 6, 2012

SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for Disqualification	County	Subregion
483	Thermalito Water and Sewer District	Concow Reservoir Restoration Planning Project	\$75,000.00	Ineligible application per SNC Grant Guidelines	Butte	North Central
505	Truckee River Watershed Council	Dry Creek Watershed Forest and Meadow Assessment	\$75,000.00	Ineligible application per SNC Grant Guidelines	Nevada	Central
624	Sierra Nevada Journeys	Grizzly Creek Ranch Timber Management & Harvesting Plan	\$70,090.00	Ineligible application per Prop 84 guidelines	Plumas	North Central
626	Point Reyes Bird Observatory	Avian Monitoring of Jeffrey Pine Forest Health and Fuel Reduction Project	\$70,000.00	Ineligible application per SNC Grant Guidelines	Inyo	East
<b>4 Projects Totaling</b>			<b>\$290,090.00</b>			

Agenda Item IX Exhibit F

LIST OF ALL CATEGORY II PROJECTS SCORING BELOW 70 (POST JUNE 2012 AWARD)

September 6, 2012

Score	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	Subregion
68.83	641	Western Divide Ranger District	Tule River Reservation Protection Project	\$ 37,728.00	Tulare	South
68.25	508	Bureau of Land Management-Alturas Field Office	Likely-Tablelands Sage-grouse Habitat Restoration Project	\$ 75,020.00	Modoc	North
67.75	527	Amador Fire Safe Council,	Amador Fire Safe Council High Country and Fiddletown Community Conservation Wildfire Protection Plans	\$ 75,000.00	Amador	South Central
65.25	537	Plumas Corporation	Red Clover Confluence Restoration Project Planning	\$ 75,000.00	Plumas	North Central
64.75	584	Tahoe National Forest – Sierraville Ranger District	Smithneck EA for Canada thistle treatment	\$ 55,175.00	Sierra	North Central
60.50	646	California Trout	Upper Owens Watershed Assessment Project	\$ 75,000.00	Mono	East
60.25	542	Plumas Corporation	Building the Foundation Needed for Meadow Carbon Markets	\$ 75,000.00	Plumas, Sierra	North Central
60.00	476	Stanislaus National Forest	Mi-Wok '87 Complex Ecological Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project	\$ 75,000.00	Tuolumne	South Central
59.25	558	Mariposa County Fire Safe Council	Environmental Compliance for Hazardous Fuels Reduction-Midpines	\$ 16,450.00	Mariposa	South Central
58.50	524	Conservation Biology Institute	Breaking through the Fisher-Forest conflict: Multi-scaled decision-support for Dinkey Landscape Restoration project	\$ 75,000.00	Fresno	South
57.75	628	California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection	Colfax Strategic Planning	\$ 70,150.00	Placer	Central

Agenda Item IX Exhibit F

LIST OF ALL CATEGORY II PROJECTS SCORING BELOW 70 (POST JUNE 2012 AWARD)

September 6, 2012

57.50	615	Mono County, c/o Community Development Department	Eastern Sierra Biomass Utilization Project	\$ 34,232.00	Mono	East
54.25	637	Yosemite-Alpine Community Services District	Fish Camp Town Meadow Delineation: Water Supply Protection, Wetlands and Meadow Recharge Study and Easement Appraisal	\$ 82,500.00	Mariposa	South Central
51.25	575	Economic Partners in Change (EPIC)	Biomass Facilities for the Counties of Nevada and Sierra	\$ 75,000.00	Nevada, Sierra	Multiple: Central; North Central
49.75	559	Mariposa County Fire Safe Council	Buckingham Strategic Fuels Treatment-Environmental Compliance Study	\$ 18,250.00	Mariposa	South Central
<b>15 Projects Totaling</b>				<b>\$ 914,505.00</b>		

ATTACHMENT A

**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:** Pacific Forest Trust

**Project Title:** Campstool Ranch and Working Forest

**Subregion:** South Central

**County:** Calaveras

**SNC Funding:** \$ 350,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$4,063,005

**Application Number:** 489

**Final Score:** 90

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Pacific Forest Trust will acquire a conservation easement on the 2,168 acre Campstool Ranch and Working Forest located in Calaveras County, in the Upper Calaveras Watershed. The easement will permanently protect and enhance the property's working timberlands and oak woodlands, well-managed cattle ranching, historic sites and important watershed resources. These goals will be accomplished through easement terms that specifically meet the goals and mission of Proposition 84 and SNC. The SNC grant funds would be used solely towards the purchase price of the conservation easement under option with the landowner.

The easement will limit development and subdivision of this property. Subdivision often results in landscape and habitat fragmentation, if planned development occurs. Over the last 20 years, Calaveras County has experienced significant parcel fragmentation and a loss of its large ranches. As mentioned above, the Campstool Ranch is one of the largest private forests left in Calaveras County. The Ranch sits next to a subdivision and has 37 different adjacent landowners. On the other side, the Ranch is adjacent to a 643-acre reserve owned by the BLM. This easement would have landscape level benefits by permanently protecting the connectivity of wildlife habitat between the property and the BLM reserve and providing a buffer against encroaching residential development.

The easement will also limit road building and other land uses that can increase impermeable surfaces, concentrate flows and generate sediment in riparian areas. The landowners will dedicate the property's water rights to approved uses on the ranch and in-stream flows. These terms will provide protection to the eight springs and 5.8 miles of streams on the property, including 3 miles of the North Fork of the Calaveras River,

which flows into the New Hogan Reservoir and San Joaquin River Delta, providing drinking and irrigation water to Valley farmers. Public benefits from the project include improved water quality and preservation of habitat connectivity.

In terms of allowable development, one additional home may be constructed under the easement, with the remaining two residential envelopes being null and void. This will result in no more than four homes on the property; the three existing residences in addition to the one allowed on one-of-three prospective homesites. A small sawmill is authorized for use under the easement terms as well, which is consistent with the management planning that has been put in place in partnership with the landowner, NRCS, and the Trust..

The majority of the land covered by the terms of the easement is currently under a Williamson Act Contract, with only 18.8 acres not being encumbered under the Williamson Act. The Williamson Act has, in recent years, come under threat as a result of fiscal challenges at the State and County level, and therefore future protection is less than certain. The zoning of the subject property is identified as a mix of “Ag Preserve – Mineral Extraction,” “General Ag – Mineral Extraction,” and “Residential – Ag,” all of which are consistent with the Williamson Act Contracts which encumber the property.

The grantee intends to acquire matching funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board to cover the remaining cost of the conservation easement.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Sign Grant Agreement with SNC	December 2012
Submit Project Documentation (Easement, Baseline Report, Monitoring Plan, Preliminary Title Report) to SNC and Wildlife Conservation Board for Review/Approval	December 2012 – May 2012
Submit progress report to SNC	June 2013
Complete Escrow Instructions for Closing w/ SNC and WCB review and approval	December 2013
Submit progress report to SNC	December 2013
Close and Record Conservation Easement	March 2013
Submit Final Report to SNC	April 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 1, 2014</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$350,000
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>

- \* 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
  - Senator Ted Gaines
  - Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen
  - Calaveras County Supervisor Steve Wilensky
  - Thomas Tinsley, CalFire
  - Randy Metzger Jr., County Assessor (retired)
  - Matt McNicol, NRCS
  - Will Dorrell, Registered Professional Forester

### **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 conserved (projected at 2,168 acres)
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected (projected at 30,624 linear feet)

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**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
<b>Submit Final project completion report to SNC</b>	<b>January 31, 2016</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

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

\* 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

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**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:** USDA Forest Service, El Dorado National Forest, Pacific  
Ranger District

**Project Title:** Van Vleck Meadow Complex Assessment and  
Restoration Plan

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** El Dorado

**SNC Funding:** \$ 75,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$125,000

**Application Number:** 622

**Final Score:** 84.25

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Van Vleck Meadow Complex is located on the Pacific District, El Dorado National Forest just outside of Desolation Wilderness in El Dorado County. Van Vleck Meadow Complex occupies upper Montane habitats near the headwaters of the American River Watershed and feeds the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project. The area is designated critical summer deer fawning habitat and supports sensitive species, such as northern goshawk and habitat for willow flycatcher. The El Dorado National Forest has identified problem areas that are negatively contributing to watershed condition and has drafted an action plan for restoration.

This project will complete project design for priority restoration areas, complete necessary surveys collect baseline monitoring data to measure effectiveness of future restoration activities, and complete California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and required permitting for selected sites.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop site specific restoration project designs (including engineering surveys and design)	September 2012- July 2013
Initiate internal and interagency scoping (documents)	October 2012
Initiate public scoping on preliminary action. Collaborate with interested stakeholders (documentation).	July 2013
Complete needed surveys (botany, cultural resources, aquatics, wildlife, hydrology, engineering, etc)	June 2013- September 2013
Develop monitoring plan based on specific project design	July 2013
Collect baseline monitoring data	July-October 2013
Complete Resource Specialist Reports (Botanical and Wildlife Biological Evaluations, Archaeological Reconnaissance Reports, Riparian Conservation Objectives, Cumulative Watershed Effects, etc.) based on site-specific project designs.	July- October 2013
Prepare and issue appropriate NEPA/CEQA documentation and Decision document (i.e. Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Notice, or Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision).	September - November 2013
Six Month Progress Reports (two)	March 2013, September 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>January 1, 2014</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
<b>Direct*</b>	
Project Management and Staff: Project Design	\$10,000
Project Staff: Surveys by Resource Specialists	\$12,000
Environmental Analysis	\$30,000
Monitoring Plan	\$5,000
Engineering Surveys	\$5,000
Project Materials and Supplies	\$1,000
<b>Indirect**</b>	
Baseline Monitoring	\$5,000
Performance Measure Reporting	\$2,000
<b>Administrative***</b>	\$5,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

- \* 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
  - CA State University, Sacramento- Department of Biological Sciences
  - CABY

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

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**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.

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**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:** Fall River Resource Conservation District

**Project Title:** Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project

**Subregion:** North

**County:** Shasta

**SNC Funding:** \$75,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$202,500

**Application Number:** 553

**Final Score:** 83.83

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The project will assess, design, and prepare permits and compliance information to restore 2,000 acres of mostly encroached meadows and thin 1,000 acres of dense forest adjacent to the meadow so that future thinning and burning may be used to maintain the restoration. The meadow complex is co-owned by four landowners and consists of forested (i.e. encroached lodgepole) and non-forested meadow habitat. Lodgepole pine has colonized most of the meadow area, resulting in the loss of relic aspen stands or degradation of still existing stands. In the non-forested meadow area (approximately 100 acres), past management practices have resulted in entrenchment of the stream channel.

Within the forested areas in the floodplain, nearly all conifer trees will be identified for removal. The aspen stands are expected to increase in size after conifer treatment. Snags and other trees known to be important for wildlife will be left. These remaining “wildlife” trees, and aspen trees, along with a few willows, will provide important structural habitat for migratory and resident birds and foraging habitat and cover for other vertebrates (e.g. elk, black-tailed deer, Douglas squirrel).

A plan will be developed to restore the open degraded meadow habitat (20 acres) in a south meadow and 10 acres in a north meadow. The restoration goal within the open meadow areas will be to reconnect the stream channel to the floodplain. If possible, channel(s) that are greatly larger than historical dimensions will be filled, while those that are close to historical dimensions will be reveted with trees and gravel/rock material (referred to as riffle augmentation/revetment) so they mimic a natural shape. Surface flow will be re-directed into stable existing remnant channels within the floodplain so that water and sediment can be transported from the meadow and from the upper watershed

in a natural manner. Planned restoration of the channels will improve water quality, stop degradation of adjacent open meadow habitat (90 acres), and provide wet conditions suitable for a variety of vertebrate (e.g. greater sandhill crane), invertebrate (e.g. cryptic tadpole shrimp), and plant species (long-bearded star-tulip).

Much assessment and design planning has already been conducted using partner funds in the southern meadow area. However, the project has grown in scope and nature and requires additional funds, and no assessment and design plan has yet been developed for channel work in the northern meadow. This project has \$279,142 in secured or pending match from Shasta Resource Advisory Committee, Pacific Gas and Electric, Department of Conservation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and private timber companies/land owners.

A Timber Harvest Plan will be developed for four landowners, and Cal Fire has agreed to allow the open meadow restoration plan to be included in this document so the landowners do not have to go through a separate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) permitting process (e.g. Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration). This approach is unique and novel, and has the potential to streamline permitting and compliance processes. It is also consistent with CEQA law in that the project is not segmented solely to meet the existing conflicting processes (i.e. THP and non-timber restoration planning). Finally, both the timber and water quality divisions with Department of Fish and Game and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWCQB) has agreed to this approach and are providing guidance on how to meet their permit requirements.

The eventual implementation cost associated with the proposed removal of lodgepole is expected to pay for itself through the sale of chip material.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Project Management/Coordination	November 2012 – September 2014
Grazing Management Plan	November 2012 – May 2013
Forest Management Plan	November 2012 – October 2013
North Meadow Assessment and Design	November 2012 – May 2013
THP Amendment	September 2013 – May 2014
Performance Measure Monitoring	November 2012 – September 2014
Outreach	November 2012 – September 2014
Six-Month Progress Reports	April 30, 2013; October 31, 2013; April 30, 2014
Final Report	October 31, 2014



## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$49,000
Indirect**	\$16,400
Administrative***	\$9,600
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

\* 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
  - USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
  - Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee
  - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
  - Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

## 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 planning efforts resulting in project implementation
- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments

**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:** Sierra Streams Institute

**Project Title:** Hirschmann's Pond Healthy Forest Initiative

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** Nevada

**SNC Funding:** \$75,000.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$92,250.00

**Application Number:** 536

**Final Score:** 83

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The project will complete a Land Management Plan, and additional necessary planning, assessment, CEQA documentation and permitting to implement a brush and ladder-fuels reduction project on 36.33 acres at Hirschman's Pond.

Hirschman's Pond was created as a result of extensive hydraulic mining in the 19th century. Located just across Hwy 49 from downtown Nevada City, today it is a scenic and peaceful forested retreat for area residents and a haven for wildlife. The city purchased the land around and including the pond in 2004-2007 in order to preserve it for recreational purposes in perpetuity. A trail system funded through California State Parks and Recreation has been developed in the area. The property is infested with non-native plants, primarily Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry. These non-native plants greatly increase the fire danger and their presence is contrary to the objectives of the city for management of the property, as stated in the city's Hirschmans Pond Vision and Planning Study completed in 2010. The city's long term goal is complete removal of all non-native vegetation from the site and replanting with native vegetation, in order to improve habitat for native wildlife and reduce fire risk.

Maintaining a fire safe forest in the Hirschman's Pond area will also prevent potential water quality impacts to nearby Woods Ravine, a tributary of the Deer Creek Watershed, drinking water source to Nevada City, by preventing erosion that ensues after catastrophic fires.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalized workplan and budget	September 2012
Finalized subcontracts/grants	October 2012
Finalized Report of Existing Data	December 2012
Reports to Nevada City City Council (3)	March 2013, November 2013, July 2014
Final Survey and Assessment Report	July 2013
Final Land Management Plan	December 2013
CEQA Documentation Completed	March 2014
Permits Secured	June 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (3)	March 2013, September 2013, March 2014
Final Report	August 2014
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>August 2014</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
<b>Direct*</b>	
Project Staff (management, data collection, assessments, plan development)	\$37,000.00
Project Contractor: (City of NC plan development)	\$3,600.00
CEQA and Permitting	\$25,000.00
<b>Indirect**</b>	
Outreach Materials	\$1,200.00
<b>Administrative***</b>	
Overhead	\$8,200.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>

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\*\* 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
  - City of Nevada City
  - Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
  - Bear Yuba Land Trust

## **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 Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

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**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*	<b>\$328,000</b>
Indirect**	<b>\$6,000</b>
Administrative***	<b>\$16,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>

\* 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

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**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:** City of Alturas

**Project Title:** Pre-Engineering Study/ Biomass Heating

**Subregion:** North

**County:** Modoc

**SNC Funding:** \$75,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$81,800

**Application Number:** 579

**Final Score:** 82

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The project would provide a pre-engineering study for a biomass-fueled district heating system in support of the Forest Health Sage Steppe restoration project on the National Forest to include: 1) A preliminary design of the biomass heat generation facility for district wide heating, 2) A preliminary design of a heating district distribution system with utilization of existing infrastructure, 3) A fuel cost comparison study for customer conversion, 4) Design alternatives to incorporate the use of combined biomass heat and power generation and existing geothermal wells to augment the district heating system, and 5) Identification of overall project needs for phased development: financing requirements for construction and operation, project schedule requirements, permits and licenses, safety plans, development of supplier and customer contracts, recommended ownership and management structure, initial operation and management plan requirements.

Local utilization of biomass is a key strategy in the Modoc Forest Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project Proposal for implementation of the Sage Steppe Project. (see Letters of Support BLM/USFS). The Modoc Forest and the Modoc area Bureau of Land Management and local and regional collaborators completed a nine-year planning process (FEIS) for juniper management and habitat improvement on the four million acre Sage Steppe ecosystem of dry coniferous forest lands, juniper woodlands, and sage steppe habitat. Key habitat for the sage grouse, degraded by an incursion of juniper, is currently under threat of high intensity fire. Approximately 200,000 acres of the dry forest within the Modoc National Forest project area are at significant risk of volume loss due to pests and disease over the next 15 years. (FEIS) Forest thinning, juniper removal, and fuels reduction are key forest health strategies identified in the FEIS.

The local biomass working group identified biomass thermal as the most accessible use of forest biomass in the near term. This project strategically provides the foundation of a campus for in-county energy production, and value-added processing. The build-out plan includes clustered development on the heating facility site to include combined heat and power generation, densified wood products (pellets and bricks), and other value-added products as appropriate.

Over stocked forest stands have decreased water yield, impacting flows and fisheries in both the Klamath and Sacramento drainages and into the great Basin. There is a reduction in hydrologic values due to reduction of ground cover (shrubs and grasses) and increases in erosion caused by increased juniper density. Some of the streams in the project area are impaired by excess sediment and runoff that cause physical stream channel changes, which in turn increase water temperature and decrease fish habitat. (FEIS) Juniper reduction is a key strategy to improve water quality and quantity. Having an economically feasible use of the biomass to be removed will allow more area to be treated, contributing to environmental, economic and social well-being of the community.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Prepare Solicitation for consultant engineer	September 2012
Select consultant engineer	October 2012
Review engineer report/recommendations	April 2013
Six Month Progress Report	April 2013
Present to City Council with recommendations	June 2013
Initiate Phase II	August 2013
Six Month Progress Report	October 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>December 2013</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Project Management Costs	\$ 7,500
Pre-Engineering Study	\$51,500
Reports/ Public Outreach	\$6,300
Administrative Costs	\$9,700
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

## PROJECT SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

- Modoc National Forest
- Modoc Area Bureau of Land Management
- Local business- Baird
- Local business-Niles Hotel
- County of Modoc
- Modoc Land Use Committee
- Modoc Transportation Agency
- The Watershed Center

## PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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.

### **Performance Measures—Key Performance Measure**

Percent of pre-project or planning effort resulting in plan implementation.

Data: Progress reported annually for three years following completion of grant.

Additional performance measures one to three years after project completion

#### **1. Kilowatt equivalent of renewable energy developed and produced**

Data: Engineering data from schematics

Billing Data from City of Alturas to agencies and private property owners

#### **2. Resources leveraged**

Data: Cash and in-kind collected by project manager

Financial agreements for construction

Biomass delivery contract dollar amount

#### **3. Number and type of jobs created**

Data: Employee roster from City of Alturas

Tracking by private businesses

Extrapolation based upon biomass delivery contracts to district heating facility

#### **4. Number and value of new, improved, or preserved economic activities**

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**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:** USDA/USFS Stanislaus National Forest – Calaveras  
Ranger District

**Project Title:** ACCG Collaborative Project: West Calaveras Plantation  
Thinning National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

**Subregion:** South Central

**County:** Calaveras

**SNC Funding:** \$ 74,975

**Total Project Cost:** \$103,424

**Application Number:** 630

**Final Score:** 81.75

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project area is approximately 550 acres of plantations in the Western Calaveras Ranger District in the Stanislaus National Forest. This pre-project activity will produce National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance needed to prepare a treatment plan that will result in a specific project (West Calaveras Plantation Thinning) on National Forest Land. The applicant will also implement this project so as to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as part of its involvement with the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) collaborative. As feasible, these activities will be done in a way that is consistent with principles of the ACCG collaborative partnership's All-Lands, triple-bottom-line strategy addressing environmental, social and economic dimensions.

This project will move plantations and watershed conditions in the project area towards desired resource conditions. Plantations in the project area are overstocked and roads in the project area are hydrologically connected with drainage, runoff, and erosion contributing to sediment loading. The high stocking levels in the plantations in the project area are contributing to increased tree stress due to inter tree competition for moisture and nutrients, resulting in conditions that increase the susceptibility of bark beetle infestations and other pathogens.

The West Calaveras Plantation Thinning Project area is within the area considered in the ACCG Cornerstone Project. Management goals identified in the ACCG Cornerstone

Project for ecosystem restoration that apply to the West Calaveras Plantation Thinning Project include:

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic fire and threat of wildland fire;
- Restore hydrologic processes in watersheds, meadows and streams to proper functioning condition; and
- Restore forest structure, ecological processes, and function by creating more resilient vegetation conditions.

The objectives for the West Calaveras Plantation Thinning Project are as follows:

- Enhance the general health of plantations by reducing susceptibility to insect, diseases, and drought related mortality by improving and promoting stand and individual tree growth and vigor.
- Reduce future fire intensity and severity by reducing surface fuels, increasing the height to canopy, decreasing crown density, and retaining large, fire resistant tree species.
- Improve watershed conditions, water quality and riparian and hardwood habitats by reducing the amount of sediment from the road system delivered into streams and special aquatic features.
- Maintain or restore the hydrologic, geomorphic, and biological characteristics of special aquatic features (i.e. springs, seeps, and meadows).

This project leverages a total of \$28,449 in matching funds and in-kind services from the USDA/USFS Stanislaus National Forest.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Resource Field Surveys	May 2013
IDT meetings to develop proposed action	July - August 2013
Progress Report	November 2013
Progress Report	May 2014
Resource Field Surveys	May 2014
Public Scoping	June 2014
Progress Report (including performance measures)	November 2014
Environmental Assessment Public Comment	September 2014
Decision Notice/FONSI	January 2015
Final Report (including performance measures)	March 2015
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 1, 2015</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$68,895
Indirect**	\$ 4,800
Administrative***	\$ 1,280
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,975</b>

\* 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.

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### PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

### 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 collaboratively developed plans and assessments

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**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:** Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and  
Development Council

**Project Title:** The North Fork Community - Scale Biomass Project

**Subregion:** South

**County:** Madera

**SNC Funding:** \$ 70,049

**Total Project Cost:** \$111,082

**Application Number:** 565

**Final Score:** 81.50

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project is located on the site of a former lumber mill zoned for heavy industry in the town of North Fork, just south of Bass Lake in Madera County. Required infrastructure is in place. The facility is next to a recycled lumber operation and adjacent to the Sierra National Forest where fuel will be removed, within the Upper Joaquin River and Fresno River Watersheds. This project completes major pre-development tasks allowing for the financing and construction of a small scale (1 MW) combined heat and power bioenergy facility on the North Fork Mill Site. This will lead to implementation of a clean energy facility project which provides an economic value to biomass removed from forests for restoration purposes, serving as a model for community-scale biomass in the Sierras. Phase I - feasibility analysis – has been completed, as has an Memorandum of Understanding with a bioenergy developer. This project will help move the project through Phase II – The Design and Permitting/ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Phase and will fulfill the pre-requisites to move into Phase III – construction and deployment.

The overall focus is to complete CEQA requirements, with the added advantage that the write-ups in the initial study will be targeted to be maximally useful for any further permitting needs. The proposed scope of work and activities include the completion of the initial study for the CEQA process, including utilizing the initial study for other permitting needs; and conducting a community awareness campaign geared to increase community knowledge base of such facilities. This will include hosting two public information meetings and publishing two news articles.

Development of infrastructure that utilizes and provides economic value for woody biomass is a vital element of the sustainable protection of watersheds, forests and other natural resources. Promoting such restoration work meets SNC's goals of reducing the risk of wildfires, protecting and improving water and air quality, and conserving the Region's physical resources. In addition, it addresses the SNC's triple-bottom-line by supporting economic, job-generating activities in North Fork, a low-income community that has suffered from economic dislocation due to the closure of its timber mill. This economic use of biomass was recognized as important in the recent SNC staffed Willow Creek Collaborative Forest Planning process. In addition to preventing catastrophic wildfire, fuel reduction removes excessive fuels resulting in less intense managed fires. Low intensity beneficial fires remove natural fuels, restore nutrients to soils and produce small, natural openings that allow for vegetative undergrowth, resulting in increased forest health, diversity and habitat.

This project leverages \$41,033 in matching funding and in-kind support from the Yosemite-Sequoia RC&D, Reliable Renewables, TSS Consultants and the North Fork Community Development Council.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Communications and community support - Negotiation with County completed	December 2012 – April 2013
Stakeholder informational meeting - Public Meeting #1	April 2013
CEQA process - Project Description Completed	April– June 2013
Submit 6 Month Report to SNC	June 2013
CEQA Process - Environmental Checklist Disciplines completed	June –August 2013
Stakeholder informational meeting - Public Meeting #2	September 2013
At least 2 Newspaper articles published	December 2012- November 2013
CEQA process management Project management and site visits completed	December 2012- November 2013
Response to initial study comments/Completion of CEQA	July-October 2013
Submit SNC Final report, including final studies results and CEQA documents	November 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>January 1, 2014</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$60,912
Indirect**	\$3,046
Administrative***	\$6,091
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$70,049</b>

- \* 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.
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- \*\*\* 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
  - North Fork Community Development Council
  - Bass Lake Ranger District – U.S. Forest Service
  - TSS Consultants
  - California Senator, Berryhill
  - North Fork Chamber of Commerce
  - Reliable Renewable - Vendor

### **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.

- Measurable changes in knowledge or behavior

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**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:** Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council

**Project Title:** White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction

**Subregion:** North Central

**County:** Plumas

**SNC Funding:** \$20,000.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$20,000.00

**Application Number:** 552

**Final Score:** 79.50

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council (MVSC) will complete a plan to implement Phase I of a Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) project, which will be designed to treat fuels on approximately 40 acres of mixed conifer forests at White Sulphur Springs Ranch (WSSR) and adjacent public lands. The WSSR lies at the headwaters of the Middle Fork Feather River watershed, within the Sulphur Creek sub-watershed. The Feather River watershed is located in California's northern Sierra Nevada and encompasses a broad variety of terrain, climate, historic use, and flora and fauna. The Feather River watershed has long been recognized for its recreational and aesthetic values, as well as its water resource. The anticipated high public use of WSSR for recreational purposes, coupled with its proximity to public and private wild lands and rural residential areas, results in a great need to reduce the risk and impacts of wildfire. WSSR has had no fuels treatment or thinning since the property was logged around the turn of the century.

The planning grant will allow the MVSC to develop a plan to reduce the risk and impacts of large, damaging fires and to help restore healthy forest ecosystems at WSSR. WSSR backs up to Plumas NF lands that have had some recent fuels treatments (hand work and piling). This project would complement this work as well as projects completed near-by on private lands by the Plumas County Fire Safe Council (near Whitehawk) to create a more contiguous land base and change expected fire behavior from fires that may remove the entire forest canopy to conditions where mostly surface fuels burn, reducing stand damage and spotting potential. MVSC's efforts to reduce fire occurrence and intensity would have a direct benefit to public lands and the community

of Mohawk Valley. By improving forest conditions at WSSR, the public can continue to enjoy this property as a recreation and cultural center with reduced risk of catastrophic fire.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Grant Administration	September 2012 - December 2014
6-month Progress Reports	March 2013
Resource Professional Services	September 2012 - September 2013
Monitoring	June 2012 - September 2013
Public Outreach	June 2013 - December 2014
Project Completion	December 2014
Final Report	December 2014
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>January 2015</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct Costs	\$13,500.00
Indirect Costs	\$4,000.00
Administrative Costs	\$2,500.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>

### PROJECT SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

- Plumas County BOS
- Plumas County Museum Assoc.
- Rotary Club of Portola
- Mohawk Meadows Owners Assoc.
- WhiteHawk Ranch Homeowners Assoc.
- Valley Ranch Homeowners Assoc.
- Plumas County 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.

**1. Number and Type of Jobs Created**

This project is estimated to create about 2 FTE's for resource professionals to conduct the necessary outreach, obtain agreements, develop treatment prescriptions, prepare the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption/CEQA, conduct surveys, and complete grant reporting. Implementation of Phase II may generate about 2.9 FTE's from forest products, depending on the amount of forest products which can be recovered from the final project.

**2. Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments**

This project is expected to create the following:

- A Forest Fire Prevention Exemption Plan developed by resource professionals in collaboration with Plumas County Fire Safe Council, MVSC volunteers, adjacent landowners including the U.S. Forest Service, Cal Fire or other resource management agencies, as appropriate;
- Approvals by Cal Fire;
- A Hazardous Fuel Reduction Prospectus identifying treatment methods and standards for implementation. This prospectus will be used in soliciting HFR contractors in the future;
- Establishment of pre-treatment monitoring plots and the collection of pertinent stand information such as tree stocking levels, surface fuel loadings, expected fire behavior, and photos.

**3. Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation**

Completion of this project will allow MVSC to seek additional funding for on-the-ground implementation of the needed Hazardous Fuel Reduction work at WSSR. One hundred percent of the proposed planning funds/effort will result in project implementation.

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**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, Tahoe National Forest, Pacific Ranger District

**Project Title:** Bloody Run Subwatershed Forest Health Improvement Project

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** Nevada, Sierra

**SNC Funding:** \$74,326.53

**Total Project Cost:** \$176,558.68

**Application Number:** 503

**Final Score:** 78.25

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project is located on the Tahoe National Forest northeast of Nevada City and east of Malakoff Diggins State Park, within the South Yuba River watershed. The project will complete necessary resource surveys and preparation of a NEPA environmental analysis to implement vegetative treatments on approximately 851 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands.

Project goals include reduction of wildfire risk on 851 acres, improved forest health through thinning and other fuel reduction activities, improved habitat conditions, and treatments to eliminate Scotchbroom on 10 acres. An additional goal is to improve the resilience of the forest so it is better adapted to impacts from predicted climate change. Forest health will be promoted by improving the health of trees by thinning, fuel reduction, invasive weed removal, and selection of hardwoods and other native trees as leave trees.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Project initiation letter	August 2012
Interdisciplinary team (IDT) meeting to develop draft project description and proposed action.	September 2012
Public Scoping	November 2012
Publish project in Statement of Proposed Actions (SOPA)	November 2012

IDT meeting to go over scoping comments and develop alternatives	December 2012
Archaeology surveys	November 2012
Completion of biological evaluations for wildlife and rare plants	January 2013
Completion of weed risk assessment	January 2013
IDT meeting to review proposed mitigations including best management practices	March 2013
Publish EA	April 2013
Final decision	May 2013
Six month progress reports (1)	January 2013
<b>Final Report/Final Payment Request</b>	<b>May 2013</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
<b>Direct*</b>	
Project Management/Staff- NEPA	\$40,664.38
Project Management/Staff- Layout/Cruise and Marking	\$31,887.15
Monitoring- Bio/Arch/Hydro	\$1,775.00
<b>Administrative***</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,326.53</b>

\* 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.

\*\*\* 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

N/A

### 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.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

**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)**

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Tehama County Resource Conservation District</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel break CEQA Environmental Analysis Project</b>
<b>Subregion:</b>	<b>North-Central</b>
<b>County:</b>	<b>Tehama</b>
<b>SNC Funding:</b>	<b>\$23,550</b>
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$23,550</b>
<b>Application Number:</b>	<b>460</b>
<b>Final Score:</b>	<b>77.75</b>

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Tramway Road / A-Line Road Shaded Fuel Break California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Analysis Project will provide environmental analysis leading to a Notice of Determination in preparation of fuels reduction work along a 10 mile segment of county and private timberland roads in Tehama County. This analysis will be described and discussed in a CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration document (IS/MND) prepared by the TCRCD who will act as the project's lead agency. Project work to be analyzed in the IS/MND will entail cutting and chipping or piling and burning mixed confer species 8"DBH and under along with related understory vegetation to 100' on both sides of the roadway. The vegetation treatments conducted during initial project work will be maintained through the use of an appropriate herbicide licensed for use within forested landscape.

The project site is contained within the Tehama East Community Wildfire Protection Plan developed between the Tehama County RCD and Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council. The project ties into the soon to be completed C-Line Shaded Fuel Break which is being developed cooperatively between Cal Fire and Sierra Pacific Industries. Combined, the two ridge top fuel breaks will provide approximately 22 miles of fire protection to the Antelope Creek and Battle Creek Watersheds.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Consultations with responsible agencies for CEQA scoping	December 2012 – January 2013
Obtain access agreements from landowners in project area	December 2012 – February 2013
Community meeting and newspaper request for comments	January 2013
Contracts with required specialists (biological, archeological) for the Initial Study leading to a Mitigated Negative Declaration	February 2013
Progress Report	April 2013
Prepare CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration	January 2013 – July 2013
Preparation of an Adoption Resolution for ratification by the Tehama County RCD Board of Directors	July 2013
Prepare and post Notice of Determination	August 2013
Prepare and submit Final Report	September 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 30, 2014</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$18,639
Indirect**	\$1,840
Administrative***	\$3,071
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,550</b>

\* 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
  - Sierra Pacific Industries
  - Turner Ranch
  - O'Sullivan Cattle Company
  - Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy
  - Cal Fire – Tehama-Glenn Unit
  - California Department of Fish and Game

## **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 planning efforts resulting in project implementation

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**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:** Sierra Streams Institute

**Project Title:** Lower Deer Creek Healthy Revegetation Project

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** Nevada

**SNC Funding:** \$112,932

**Total Project Cost:** \$117,683

**Application Number:** 533

**Final Score:** 77.50

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The project will remove non-native plant species and revegetate with natives in 5 critical acres of meadow, riparian and upland habitat in the Deer Creek Watershed. The project will also implement a monitoring program that includes pre- mid- and post-project hydrological, biological, physical, and chemical monitoring and reporting within, upstream and downstream of the project sites.

The project site is located on private land at the confluence of Deer and Squirrel Creeks in Nevada County, approximately 2 miles downstream of the township of Lake Wildwood. Habitat features at the site include meadow, chaparral and mixed oak/pine woodland which are severely impacted by non-native invasive vegetation, especially Yellow Star thistle and Scotch broom. This land includes the only meadow in the lower watershed.

This project will: 1) Preserve mixed conifer forest health; 2) Restore native vegetative communities in a degraded meadow; 3) Reduce the fire risk for the communities of Penn Valley, Smartsville, and Lake Wildwood; 4) Improve water quality in Lower Deer Creek; 5) Increase carbon sequestration capacity by increasing plant biomass; 6) Increase habitat diversity to increase resilience to climate change and development pressures.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalized workplan and budget	September 2012
Monitoring Plan	February 2013
Revegetation Plan	July 2013
Removal of invasive plants; revegetation (photo points)	January 2013-July 2014
Monitoring and Assessment Report	July 2015
Six Month Progress Reports (5)	March 2013, September 2013, March 2014, September 2014, March 2015
Final Report	August 2015
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>August 2015</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
<b>Direct*</b>	
Project Management: Staff	\$9,000
Complete Revegetation Plan	\$5,000
Contract work: invasive removal/revegetation	\$42,500
<b>Indirect**</b>	
Monitoring	\$30,000
Outreach and Education	\$3,000
Adaptive Management (follow-up activities)	\$10,000
<b>Administrative***</b>	\$13,432
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$112,932</b>

\* 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.

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\*\*\* 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 (letters reference the “proposed Deer Creek Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Restoration Project”, and address “restoring native riparian vegetation”)

- William Sheatsly (project site landowner)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Charter School
- Nevada County Sanitation District #1
- ENV-vision Development, Inc (Brian Bisnett)
- Yuba River Land and Water Conservancy (Shaun Garvey)
- Wild Moon Ranch (neighboring landowner)

## **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

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**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)**

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard Development Engineering Plans</b>
<b>Subregion:</b>	<b>South Central</b>
<b>County:</b>	<b>Calaveras</b>
<b>SNC Funding:</b>	<b>\$74,800</b>
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$78,310</b>
<b>Application Number:</b>	<b>638</b>
<b>Final Score:</b>	<b>77.33</b>

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Wilseyville Product Yard site is located on a closed and abandoned mill site adjacent to the Calaveras County Water District spray field to the northwest, and near the community of Wilseyville to the southeast. It has private ranchland to the west. The environmental setting lends itself well to revitalizing this site, which is centrally located to the operating area of the Mokelumne and Calaveras River Watersheds. This pre-project work will allow the development of key project engineering plans needed to develop the Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard. This qualified civil engineering work includes the following:

- Encroachment permit plans for Blizzard Mine Road access for Calaveras County Public Works;
- Access plans for commercial driveway from Blizzard Mine Road to the product site;
- Water main line extension plan;
- Grading plan; and,
- A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP).

The cooperative product yard operation currently has local small businesses interested in developing opportunities on the site such as small scale biomass fueled power and heat cogeneration, small sawmill and wood kiln operation, firewood processing and kiln operation, hog fuel chipping for forest material and green waste, native plant green house and post and pole fabrication for both agricultural and architectural uses. The

outcome of this pre-project activity will be the engineered plans required for developing the woody biomass product yard site for such value added activities as those listed above.

This project is directly related to developing local economic infrastructure capacity for sustainable utilization of biomass and small diameter tree harvesting. The infrastructure is for a range of forest products in activities associated with improving forest health and watershed protection for the Mokelumne River and Calaveras River Watersheds, and for fire fuel reduction to protect local communities with a wildland urban interface. There is currently no local infrastructure for providing diverse, market based value added products using harvested biomass and small diameter trees to their highest and best value. The establishment of this infrastructure is critical to making needs forest health activities economically feasible.

The Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions (CHIPS) is facilitating a cooperative community economic development project to create local sustainable biomass utilization. CHIPS is a member of the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) and its practices are consistent with cooperating in partnerships to realize the triple-bottom-line approach consistent with ACCG principles. This collaborative approach seeks a healthy equilibrium between the environment, community, and economy.

A total of \$3,510 is being leveraged in this project through matching funds and in-kind services from the project steering committee and the grantee.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Begin project	December 2012
Initial Steering Committee meeting with engineers for scoping dialogue	January 2013
Draft engineering plans ready for review by Steering Committee	February 2013
Steering Committee engineering plans review input to engineers	March 2013
Final civil engineering work completed and delivered	April 2013
Final project report delivered to Sierra Nevada Conservancy	May 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>August 1, 2013</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$72,000
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	\$2,800
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,800</b>

\* 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.

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\*\*\* 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
  - Amador Calaveras Consensus Group
  - Cal Fire-Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit

## 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 collaboratively developed plans or assessments
- Measurable changes in knowledge or behavior

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**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:** El Dorado Irrigation District

**Project Title:** Caples Creek Watershed Fuels Reduction and Meadow Restoration

**Subregion:** Central, South Central and East

**County:** El Dorado, Alpine, Amador

**SNC Funding:** \$ 75,000.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$252,407.34

**Application Number:** 564

**Final Score:** 77.25

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The project outcome will be a NEPA document and decision that will include measures for fuels reduction and meadow restoration on 4,000 acres of forest land within the Caples Creek Watershed on the Eldorado National Forest. Deliverables will also include surveys, inventories, public involvement planning and scoping meetings and a wide range of specialist reports. This watershed has been identified as a restoration priority by earlier U.S. Forest Service (USFS) analysis. The watershed is 30 miles east of Placerville and is comprised of 92 percent USFS managed land including Schneider Camp Meadow, Jake Schneider Meadow, Government Meadows, Convict Meadow and a number of unnamed meadows.

It is a primary watershed for 110,000 residents and businesses in the Region and provides high quality back country recreation and fisheries. Efforts will focus on the reintroduction of fire and management of fire adapted ecosystems and meadow restoration. This project is a joint effort between the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) and the Eldorado National Forest (ENF), with the ENF contributing additional funding and support to complete the NEPA process. EID and ENF will refine areas of the watershed for restoration, develop appropriate restoration actions for each area and identify an implementation schedule for actions determined in the NEPA decision.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Work Begins	November 2012
Survey/inventory	November 30, 2014
Progress Reports	April 28, 2013 October 31, 2013 April 29, 2014 October 31, 2014
Begin NEPA – Proposed Action, Purpose and Need	January 2, 2015
Public Involvement Plan and Scoping	March 31, 2015
6 Month Progress Report	April 29, 2015
Issues and Alternatives	May 31, 2015
Specialist Reports	July 31, 2015
6 Month Progress Report	October 31, 2015
NEPA Document Written	October 31, 2015
Comment Period and Analysis	January 30, 2016
Written Decision Document	May 31, 2016
Project Completed	June 30, 2016
<b>Final Report</b>	<b>June 30, 2016</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$74,315.12
Indirect**	\$1,369.76
Administrative***	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>

\* 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.

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\*\*\* 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
  - El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
  - El Dorado County Water Agency
  - El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
  - Sierra Forest Legacy

## **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 Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

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**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:** South Yuba River Citizens League

**Project Title:** Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project, Phase 2

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** Nevada

**SNC Funding:** \$ 49,265.44

**Total Project Cost:** \$133,825.64

**Application Number:** 588

**Final Score:** 77

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Loney Meadow is a 300 acre wet meadow complex at 6000 feet elevation, entirely on Tahoe National Forest (TNF) lands. Loney Meadow provides unique recreational and educational opportunities near Interstate 80. Current uses include grazing and an interpretive trail. In collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), SYRCL completed Phase 1 of the Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Program in 2011. Staff and volunteers used hand tools to remove small conifers and enhance two acres for aspen regeneration using USFS Best Management Practices, which have been successfully employed in other Sierra mountain meadows. Of the prioritized and mapped areas, four acres remain untreated.

With funding from the SNC, SYRCL and the USFS will survey and map aspen stands using the USFS "Aspen Location and Condition" protocol, purchase all necessary tools and lead a trained team of volunteers to treat areas with methods similar to those used in 2011. Once removed, the conifers will be piled as grazing barriers or removed if deemed a fire hazard. Once treated, aspen stands can act as natural firebreaks.

Interpretive signs will be designed and installed to educate the public about the need to preserve critical aspen habitat. Aspen habitat is the single most species-rich avian habitat in the Sierra Nevada, and also provides habitat for rare species, and diverse wetland vegetation. Removal of conifers in Loney Meadow will help preserve unique features of mountain meadows, including vegetation, soils, hydrology, biodiversity, and provide a supporting role in watershed health.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Start Date (after spring snow melt)	April 2013
Complete Baseline Aspen Location and Condition Forms Sites 1 & 2 (Years 1 & 2)	July 2013, 2014
Volunteer Recruitment and Training/ Materials (Years 1 & 2)	April-July 2013, 2014
Site surveying and mapping (Years 1 & 2)	June-July 2013, 2014
Final Site Workplans (Years 1 & 2)	July 2013, 2014
4 acres of enhanced aspen habitat work completed (photos)	
Signs completed and installed	September 2014
Outreach materials	September 2014
Monitoring/results report	July 2014, 2015
Six month progress reports (2)	October 2013, April 2014
Final Report	August 2015
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>August 2015</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
<b>Direct*</b>	
Project Management/Staff coordination, training, work days and materials development and installation	\$17,244.48
USFS Contract (planning, oversight, fieldwork)	\$6,717.00
Maps and Surveys	\$2,428.80
Travel	\$850.00
Signs Design	\$1,500.00
Signs Materials	\$4,520.00
Signs Installation	\$2,750.88
Equipment	\$500.00
<b>Indirect**</b>	
Signs- color drafts	\$50.00
Outreach materials	\$607.20
Performance Measures	\$2,165.24
Reporting	\$2,455.20
printing and materials	\$450.00
<b>Administrative***</b>	\$7,026.84
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,265.64</b>

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- \*\* 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
  - USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest
  - American Rivers, Inc.

## **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.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

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**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:** City of Portola

**Project Title:** Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction

**Subregion:** North Central

**County:** Plumas

**SNC Funding:** \$263,230

**Total Project Cost:** \$263,230

**Application Number:** 454

**Final Score:** 76

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Approximately 168 acres of forest will receive hazardous fuel reduction treatments. The site is a Sierra mixed-conifer young growth forest with sagebrush and riparian inclusion habitat. The site is adjacent (on 3 sides) to the existing 3,100 acre U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Humbug Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ). Treatment of the City parcels will directly benefit the efficacy of the USFS DFPZ.

Activities will target removal, modification, and rearrangement of concentrated surface fuels and ladder fuels. Treatment will use biomass removal/thinning from below, mechanical mastication, and hand thinning methods, including prescribed fire, in accordance with the CA Forest Practices Act and the Cal Fire permit. Treatment will include 100 acres of biomass removal, 25 acres of hand thinning and 30 acres of mastication. The project is estimated to produce biomass chips and sawlogs with the potential to generate revenue of up to \$30,600. Any revenue will go back into maintenance of the property.

The project will encourage watershed restoration. Willow Creek springs are on the project site and provide water to the City of Portola. Undeveloped springs flow to Willow Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork of the Feather River and ultimately, Lake Oroville. Implementation of the project will reduce current issues of trespassing to cut firewood and improve the watershed and overall site.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Establish pre & post photo-monitoring points.	November 2012
Prepare and solicit Request for Proposals	November- December 2012
Retain contractors perform the necessary treatments following California Forest Practice Rules, required by the Board of Forestry.	January 2013
Treatment – Biomass harvesting on 100 acres with follow-up surface fuel treatment where needed.	January –December 2013
Treatment – Mechanical mastication or hand treatments on 55 acres.	January – December 2013
Six Month Progress Reports (three)	January 2013, June 2013, January 2014
Final Report	January 2014
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 30, 2014</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$239,300
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	\$23,930
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$263,230</b>

\* 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.

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\*\*\* 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
  - Board of Supervisors, Plumas County
  - Plumas County Fire Safe Council
  - U.S. Forest Service, Beckwourth Ranger District, Plumas National Forest

## **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 Jobs Created
- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production
- Acres of Land Improved

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

**Applicant:** Placer County Resource Conservation District

**Project Title:** Gillis Hill Fuel Break

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** Placer

**SNC Funding:** \$17,528.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$72,278.00

**Application Number:** 513

**Final Score:** 75.83

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project will conduct surveys and outreach necessary to complete California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for an approximately 114 acre shaded fuel break on private lands between the North Fork of the American River and the communities of Colfax and Weimar. Steps to be completed include:

- Archaeological, nesting bird, rare plant, and threatened and endangered species surveys;
- Project area mapping and layout; and,
- Landowner outreach meetings.

Construction of this fuel break will help to protect portions of the North Fork of the American River watershed and homes of more than 7,000 residents. The fuel break would likewise reduce the spread of wildfire between adjacent Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation Lands, and connect an existing network of fuel breaks along the North Fork of the American River Canyon from Foresthill to Colfax.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Archaeological surveys and nesting bird surveys	October – November 2012
Nesting bird, rare plant, and threatened and endangered species surveys	April – May 2013
Progress Report	June 30, 2013
Field site visits to layout shaded fuel break, GPS work and mapping	May – June 2013
<b>FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>July 31, 2013</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$13,950
Indirect**	\$1,700
Administrative***	\$1,878
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,528</b>

\* 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
  - Placer County Resource Conservation District
  - Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
  - Bureau of Land Management Mother Lode Field Office
  - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
  - Pacific Gas and Electric Company
  - Edwards Family Farm

## 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 collaboratively developed plans and assessments
- Measureable changes in knowledge or behavior

**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

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
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
<b>Final Project Report to SNC</b>	<b>December 31, 2015</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

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

\* 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

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

**Applicant:** Tehama County Resource Conservation District

**Project Title:** Childs Meadow Head Cut Repair Project

**Subregion:** North-Central

**County:** Tehama

**SNC Funding:** \$41,663

**Total Project Cost:** \$41,663

**Application Number:** 462

**Final Score:** 74.75

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The project area is located within the 1,272 acre Childs Meadows owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy (the acquisition was partially funded by the SNC), and is a key property in TNC's Lassen Foothills Project.

The Childs Meadow Head Cut Repair Project will develop an engineering solution that will stop head cutting and related erosion attributable to a small tributary of Gurnsey Creek at a location within Childs Meadow. This project will also eliminate a source of sediment into Deer Creek as Gurnsey Creek is a significant tributary to that stream. Deer Creek is a major tributary to the Sacramento River and provides significant anadromous fish habitat for the State and Federally listed Spring Run Chinook Salmon. The Childs Meadows area has also been found to contain colonies of the State Listed (endangered) Cascades Frog.

Tehama County RCD will contract for the services of an engineer who would prepare construction drawings and develop cost estimates for a structure that would stop head cutting and related erosion. Tehama County RCD will prepare necessary California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis and Notice of Determination for the project.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalize access agreement form The Nature Conservancy	December 2012
Develop RFP for engineering consulting services for repair design	December 2012
Select consultant to provide design services	January 2013
Consultant to provide geomorphologic analysis and hydrologic assessment of site, and conduct longitudinal profile survey	January 2013 – February 2013
Conduct public meeting to introduce headcut project and seek public input on environmental issues	February 2013
Consultant to produce headcut stabilization mitigation plan	March 2013
Consultant to describe Best Management Practices to minimize sedimentation in stream during repair	April 2013
Consultant to produce final design report/schematics	May 2013
TCRCD to consult with responsible agencies on CEQA scoping	January 2013 – February 2013
TCRCD to contract with required specialists (biological, archeological) for the Initial Study	March 2013 – May 2013
TCRCD to prepare CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration	January 2013 – July 2013
Progress Report	April 2013
TCRCD to prepare of an Adoption Resolution for ratification by the Tehama County RCD Board of Directors	August 2013
Prepare and post Notice of Determination	September 2013
Prepare and submit Final Report	October 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 30, 2014</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$35,479
Indirect**	\$750
Administrative***	\$5,434
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,663</b>

\* 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
  - The Nature Conservancy, Northern Central Valley Office
  - California Department of Fish and Game

## **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 planning efforts resulting in project implementation

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**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:** California Invasive Plant Council

**Project Title:** Planning High Priority Invasive Plant Management in Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada

**Subregion:** Regional

**County:** Multi-County

**SNC Funding:** \$58,593.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$65,000.00

**Application Number:** 613

**Final Score:** 74.50

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This planning project protects Sierra Nevada watersheds and mixed conifer forests by preparing high-priority invasive plant removal projects for implementation. With regional partners we will complete site assessments, environmental compliance, and management plans for key “rapid response” sites in Plumas and Tuolumne Counties. Collaborators will use the new CalWeedMapper tool to determine other top sites across the region and how they can be served by a similar planning approach.

Invasive plants can seriously alter mixed conifer forests and meadow habitats in the Sierra Nevada. Some plants alter undergrowth communities that support wildlife, some contribute to wildfire fuels, and others are strong fire-followers that can inhibit reforestation after wildfire. Controlling invasive plant populations before they spread is a cost-effective way to protect watershed and forest health. Some invasive plant species are just now moving into the region, and responding promptly is critical for avoiding large scale impacts.

This project engages regional stakeholders from Plumas and Tuolumne Counties, working through each county’s collaborative Weed Management Area (WMA) group. WMAs engage virtually all stakeholders involved in land management in each county, including the U.S. Forest Service, National Parks, UC Cooperative Extension, county agricultural departments, Caltrans, local Resource Conservation Districts, (RCDs), as well as private industry. These partners work together to stop the spread of new invasive plants that are moving into the Sierra Nevada. Recently established high-priority populations have been identified but cannot be controlled without additional

planning, primarily environmental compliance. These are cost-effective “early detection/rapid response” opportunities focused on small populations of known weeds with high potential for spread.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete site assessment for Plumas and Tuolumne sites	August-October 2012
Form project team for environmental compliance work	September 2012
Begin environmental compliance work	October 2012
Progress Report	February 2013
Final Report	June 2013
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>June 30, 2013</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct Costs	\$44,150.00
Indirect Costs	\$6,800.00
Administrative Costs	\$7,643.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$58,593.00</b>

### PROJECT SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

Support:

- Keith Mahan, Plumas County Agricultural Commissioner, Chair of Plumas-Sierra WMA
- Wendy West, Extension Agent, University of California Cooperative Extension Chair of El Dorado WMA
- Scott Oneto, Extension Agent, University of California Cooperative Extension, Chair of Central Sierra WMA (Tuolumne and Calaveras counties)
- Joanna Clines, Forest Botanist, Sierra National Forest, Chair of Sierra-San Joaquin WMA (Madera, Mariposa and Fresno counties)

### PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance measures will include:

- The number of sites for which we complete planning.
- The number of acres that will be improved.
- The estimated number of acres protected by preventing spread of pioneer invasive plant populations.
- The number of additional sites identified to be addressed in future planning.
- The number of occurrence reports identified for field verification.

**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:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**Project Title:** Calaveras Big Trees State Park Fuels Treatments & Prescribed Fire Management Plan

**Subregion:** South Central

**County:** Calaveras

**SNC Funding:** \$33,091.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$51,200.60

**Application Number:** 490

**Final Score:** 74.25

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The main deliverable of this project will be the development of a Fuels Treatments & Prescribed Fire Management Plan for the Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBT). This plan will provide specific direction to the Natural Resources program at CBT relative to defining on-the-ground projects and their respective prescriptions. The plan will also establish overall resource management goals and provide analysis on program constraints and guidelines for implementation.

Prescriptions to be validated under the plan include mechanical and manual thinning of overstocked stands, application of prescribed fire, and limited commercial thinning in overstocked stands. These prescriptions will be applied in specific locations to be determined as part of the planning process.

The vision for the plan will be forest restoration while protecting natural resources, preserving biological diversity, promoting natural processes and restoring vegetation composition and structure to pre-settlement conditions.

The second deliverable under this project is a comprehensive California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document which will incorporate the specific sites for restoration stemming from the management plan and identify any impacts from the prescriptions that will be used.

The North Fork Stanislaus River, Big Trees Creek, Big Tree Creek and Beaver Creek are the four main hydrologic drainage systems that will benefit from implementation of the plan when complete.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Research Fuels Treatment Methods, Prepare Draft Plan, Arch Survey and Recommendations	November -December 2012
District Management Review of Draft	December 2, 2012 – February 2, 2013
Edit and Prepare Final Draft	February 2, 2013 - March 30, 2013
6 Month Progress Report	May 7, 2013
CEQA Review Process	June 1, 2013 – December 1, 2013
6 Month Progress Report	November 7, 2013
6 Month Progress Report	May 7, 2014
<b>Final Report</b>	<b>August 7, 2014</b>
<b>Performance Measures Reporting</b>	<b>August 15, 2014 and August 15, 2015</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$26, 493
Indirect**	\$2,499
Administrative***	\$4,099
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,091</b>

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\*\*\* 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 Letters
  - Marilyn Regan, Calaveras Big Trees Association
  - Merita Callaway, Calaveras County Supervisor District 3
  - Bertha Underhill, Greater Arnold Business Association

## **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 and Diversity of People Reached
- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

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**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)**

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Butte County Fire Safe Council</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Forest Health Chipper Program</b>
<b>Subregion:</b>	<b>North Central</b>
<b>County:</b>	<b>Butte</b>
<b>SNC Funding:</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>
<b>Application Number:</b>	<b>480</b>
<b>Final Score:</b>	<b>72.75</b>

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project will provide on-site chipper service to landowners to assist them with disposal of material from their efforts to reduce hazardous fuels on their properties. The chipper program provides an alternative for homeowners to pile burning or hauling waste material to a landfill.

The program is available to the 23 communities at risk to wildfire within Butte County's major watersheds: Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, Butte Creek, Cherokee, Upper Feather River and Lower Feather River/Honcut Watersheds. These communities have a total population of about 67,000 people.

Between 560 and 600 landowners will be served through agreements to conduct chipping on their properties, utilizing 70 days of chipping service yielding about 400 acres of treated land. The Butte County Fire Safe Council is providing \$10,000 in in-kind services to the grant.

The Forest Health Chipper Program is a critical tool for watershed protection that assists homeowners in reducing hazardous vegetation on their property thereby reducing the risk of intense wildfires in their communities and watersheds which could result in post-fire sedimentation into local streams, rivers, and lakes.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Contractor agreements prepared and signed	October 2012 – November 2013
Landowner requests compiled	October 2012 – November 2013
Volunteer training	October 2012 – November 2013
Chipping services provided	October 2012 – June 2014
Monitoring, tracking, and documentation	October 2012 – June 2014
Maintenance education	October 2012 – June 2014
Progress Reports	March 2013, Sep. 2013, March 2014
Final Report	September 2014
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>December 31, 2014</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$88,000
Indirect**	\$6,000
Administrative***	\$6,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

\* 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.

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\*\*\* 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
  - Butte County Board of Supervisors Resolution
  - Jeremy Strait, Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist, Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office
  - U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Feather River Ranger District
  - Cal Fire/Butte County Fire Department
  - Butte County Office of Emergency Management
  - Butte County Air Quality Management District
  - Butte County Resource Conservation District
  - Paradise Irrigation District

## **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

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**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:** Eastern Sierra Fire Safe Council

**Project Title:** Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection Project

**Subregion:** South

**County:** Madera

**SNC Funding:** \$70,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$74,500

**Application Number:** 470

**Final Score:** 72.25

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council proposes to support the planning, coordination with residents and land owners, needed environmental documents such as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), surveys and permits in preparation to implement the the Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection site improvement project, a part of the Madera County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The project area is considered a very high wildland fire risk in the Wildland Urban Interface along a major route for travel and is critical for evacuation safety and protection for both residents and recreational visitors. It covers a zone approximately five miles long, where Sierra National Forest and private lands form a checkerboard of land ownership from Malum Ridge Road (RD 274) east towards the South Fork of Willow Creek in the Sierra Nevada Foothills of Madera County. This area is just south of Bass Lake beginning at Browns Creek Ditch (flumes) and continues south between the North and South Forks of Willow Creek. The planning area includes Bass Lake and the 4WD trails on U.S Forest Service lands involving 30 percent of this project's footprint or 55 acres out of 182 acres.

The terrain is conducive to mechanical treatment utilizing hand crews with chain saws, wood chippers, and a masticator to mulch the woody biomass broadcasting it on the landscape. This will reduce regrowth and assist with maintaining a park-like look. Debris will be removed and rip rap utilized to provide erosion control.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Property permission forms signed	February 2013
Photo documentation	February 2013 – February 2015
Six-month report to SNC	June 2013
Completed Environmental Compliance CEQA Document-Negative Declaration NEPA Document Surveys Permits	July 2013 – July 2014
Six-month report to SNC	December 2013
Six-month report to SNC	June 2014
Six-month report to SNC	December 2014
Performance Measures	February 2015
<b>Final Project Report to SNC</b>	<b>June 30, 2015</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	<b>\$64,255</b>
Indirect**	<b>\$4,445</b>
Administrative***	<b>\$1,300</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>

\* 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
  - Central Sierra Watershed Committee

## 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 and Diversity of People Reached
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
- Number and Type of Jobs Created
- Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

ATTACHMENT B

**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:** USDA Forest Service, Georgetown Ranger District

**Project Title:** Blacksmith Ecological Restoration Project

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** Placer

**SNC Funding:** \$ 75,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$400,000

**Application Number:** 502

**Final Score:** 74

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project will complete the necessary surveys and planning to develop appropriate treatment design for fuels reduction on approximately 6,000 acres in the Eldorado National Forest. The project area is located in Placer County, north of the Rubicon River and south of the Middle Fork American River; primarily on Ralston and Nevada Point ridges. Surveys and plans to be completed include:

- Project surveys (Wildlife, botany, fisheries, silviculture, soils, hydrology, and archaeology);
- Treatment area layout;
- Project design; and,
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis.

Completion of these plans and surveys will result in application of a variety of vegetation treatments in forest stands to reduce fire behavior, improve forest health and increase resilience of stands to the adverse affects of insects and disease, while improving conditions for wildlife and enhancing watershed conditions.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Development of treatment prescriptions	May 2013 – October 2014
Survey for archaeological sites and prescription development	May 2013 – October 2014
Wildlife surveys for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species	May 2013 – August 2015

Progress report	July 31, 2013
Stand examinations for proposed treatment areas	July 2013 – October 2013
Stream surveys	October 2013 – November 2013
Soil surveys	October 2013 – October 2014
Project preparation/marketing	November 2013 – November 2015
Progress Report	December 31, 2013
Survey for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species	May 2014 – September 2015
Riparian conservation objectives assessment and design	May 2014 – July 2014
Project design/proposal Project scoping for NEPA	July 2014
Progress Report	July 31, 2014
Progress Report	December 31, 2014
Draft project reports for hydrology, fuels, silviculture, wildlife, archaeology, botany, and transportation	March 2015
Draft NEPA document	April 2015
Progress Report	July 31, 2015
Conditional waiver for timber harvest activities on USFS lands from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	November 2015
<b>FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>March 1, 2016</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$75,000
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

\* 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
  - Mason, Bruce, & Girard, Inc.
  - California Forestry Association

## **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 collaboratively developed plans and assessments
- Percent of pre-project planning efforts resulting in project implementation

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# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Blacksmith Ecological Restoration Project (SNC 502)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the Eldorado National Forest, north of the Rubicon River and south of the Middle Fork American River, approximately nine miles southeast of Foresthill and ten miles northeast of Georgetown, Placer County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Georgetown and Foresthill

**Project Location – County:** Placer

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Eldorado National Forest, Georgetown Ranger District is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete surveys and planning to develop appropriate treatment design for hazardous fuels reduction and riparian conservation. Project activities include completing data collection and field surveys, designing vegetation treatments to reduce crown fire potential, designing post-fire treatments to keep flame lengths at four feet or less, evaluating and designing appropriate treatment of riparian areas, developing silviculture prescriptions to support forest health, and preparing project-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation leading to NEPA and project approval. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to identify appropriate fuel treatments and riparian conservation activities for the project area, to prepare environmental documents for NEPA compliance and obtain all necessary permits.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Eldorado National Forest, Georgetown Ranger District

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Blacksmith Ecological Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation for the identification of appropriate treatment design for hazardous fuels reduction and riparian conservation, the preparation of technical documents for NEPA compliance and necessary permits. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

*Revised 2005*

**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:** American River Conservancy

**Project Title:** Leek Springs Meadow Restoration- Baseline Monitoring, Assessment and Restoration Plan

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** El Dorado

**SNC Funding:** \$65,364

**Total Project Cost:** \$108,693

**Application Number:** 519

**Final Score:** 73.25

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project will complete biological and hydrological site assessments and use remote-sensing data and historical aerial imagery to complete a conceptual restoration design plan, necessary permitting, and CEQA/NEPA documentation to implement the restoration of a high-elevation wet meadow system at Leek Springs in El Dorado County, California.

The project area is located at the headwaters of the North Fork Cosumnes River, located in El Dorado and Amador Counties and includes 614 square miles of forested land base that drains west from the crest of the central Sierra Nevada.

Preliminary site visits have identified areas of degradation, including an incised stream channel, the encroachment on the meadow by xeric vegetation types (pine and fir) and the disconnection of channel from the meadow floodplain, hindering the meadow's ability to function properly.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Convene Stakeholder Meeting; create MOU	October 2012
Base map	December 2012
Convene Stakeholder Management Meeting	July 2013
Conduct Biological Surveys (amphibians, mammals, birds) Collect BMI samples	August – September 2013
Convene a Technical Workshop	July 2014

Surface water model	September 2014
Ground water model	September 2014
Hydrology Report	September 2014
Design Workshop Conclusions Report	October 2014
Preliminary restoration plan	December 2014
CEQA Documentation	December 2014
NEPA Documentation (if required)	December 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (4)	March 2013, September 2013, March 2014, September 2014
Final Report	January 2015
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>January 2015</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
<b>Direct*</b>	
Project Management and Coordination	\$13,735
Equipment: wildlife, groundwater and streamgage monitoring	\$5,500
Contract: aerial survey	\$5,500
Contract: GIS work	\$2,500
Contract: Biological Surveys	\$3,600
Contract: BMI collections and lab work	\$12,000
Contract: Engineering and Hydrology Model/ Planning Rpt Development	\$12,000
Contract: Preliminary Restoration Plan Development	\$3,000
Travel Expenses	\$1,650
Clerical Support/bookkeeper	\$840
<b>Indirect**</b>	
Printing	\$600
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$714
Performance Measures Reporting	\$540
Outreach materials	\$300
<b>Administrative***</b>	\$2,895
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$65,374</b>

\* 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**

- CA Department of Fish and Game
- PRBO Conservation Science

## **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 Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

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# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Leek Springs Meadow Restoration – Baseline Monitoring, Assessment and Restoration Plan Project (SNC 519)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located at the headwaters of the North Fork Cosumnes River, surrounded by the Eldorado National Forest, eight miles west of Kit Carson and Silver Lake, 10 miles southwest of Kirkwood Mountain Resort, and 20 miles southeast of Pollock Pines, El Dorado County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Kit Carson

**Project Location – County:** El Dorado

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The American River Conservancy is requesting \$65,374 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to develop a management and monitoring plan, develop a conceptual restoration design plan, and complete environmental documentation and permitting necessary to protect, restore and enhance 160 acres owned by the Department of Fish and Game in Leek Springs Meadow, the headwaters of the North Fork of the Cosumnes River. The meadow has been degraded by past use, conifer encroachment and channel erosion. Project activities include conducting biological and hydrological surveys, habitat and hydrology assessments, and surface and groundwater modeling; developing a conceptual restoration design plan; preparing appropriate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and possibly National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documents; and preparing necessary permit applications. The purpose of this project is to gather information and prepare technical documents for compliance with CEQA and NEPA, as necessary, and prepare technical documents needed to secure permit approvals.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** American River Conservancy

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption.** State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions.** State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Leek Springs Meadow Restoration – Baseline Monitoring, Assessment and Restoration Plan Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation for the preparation of conceptual restoration design plans, technical documents for CEQA compliance, and possibly NEPA compliance, and technical documents for necessary permits. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

*Revised 2005*

**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:** Wolf Creek Community Alliance

**Project Title:** Maidu Meadow Restoration and Riparian Enhancements  
South Fork Wolf Creek

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** Nevada

**SNC Funding:** \$74,900

**Total Project Cost:** \$78,650

**Application Number:** 523

**Final Score:** 73.50

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Maidu Meadow is located on a stretch of the South Fork of Wolf Creek within the upper Bear River Watershed. The meadow and creek are just upstream of the town of Grass Valley, and adjacent to the former Empire Mine and located within Empire Mine State Historic Park. The creek and meadow consist of a 43 acre complex in an area that once supported very productive and diverse ecosystems because of its elevation, sun exposure, and diversity of soils.

This project will complete Phase 1 of a larger plan to restore hydrologic and ecosystem functions to the meadow and South Fork Wolf Creek that flows through it. Phase 1 includes the following tasks: a) obtain soils analysis; b) obtain a wetland delineation; c) conduct wildlife surveys; d) begin geomorphic analysis as part of a stream watershed study including disturbance history, current function, impairments and conditions, surveying of profile, cross section and flows, and opportunities/constraints for future projects; e) obtain relevant permits.

The project will leverage additional non-SNC funding to help implement projects identified in Phase 1 that will likely include the following elements: a) establish a native vegetation riparian buffer zone along the creek banks to halt erosional down-cutting and prevent further lateral erosion and sedimentation into the creek; b) remove non-native invasive plants and grasses in the meadow in accordance with recommended best practices; c) replant with appropriate local native vegetation; d) improve native wildlife habitat; and e) move public access trails and facilities away from protected habitat.

With the help of State Park volunteer docents, children and adults will be educated about conservation and stewardship of the public land.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Soil Sampling and Analysis report	December 2012
Wetland Delineation report	August 2013
Wildlife Surveys	September 2013
Permits: Groundwater monitoring wells	June 2014
Baseline geomorphology assessment: (stream gauging, monitoring well installation, ground water monitoring)	June 2014
Recommend 3 alternative restoration approaches and conceptual designs; baseline report	July 2014
GIS Support	August 2014
CEQA Document	October 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (4)	April 2013, October 2013, April 2014, October 2014
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>January 31, 2015</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
<b>Direct*</b>	
Project Management	\$6,000
Soil Sampling and Analysis	\$8,000
Wetland Delineation	\$7,200
Wildlife Surveys	\$4,250
Baseline Geomorphology Assessment	\$34,000
GIS Support	\$4,900
Permit: Groundwater Monitoring Wells	\$2,000
CEQA Documentation	\$5,000
<b>Indirect**</b>	0
<b>Administrative***</b>	\$3,550
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,900</b>

\*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
  - Matt Green, Sierra District Supervisor, California Department of Parks and Recreation
  - Alex Ezzell, Service and Adventure Teacher, Grass Valley Charter School
  - Gary Griffith, Faculty, Nevada City School of the Arts
  - Bruce Herring, Principal, Bitney College Prep
  - Joanne Hild, Executive Director, Sierra Streams Institute
  - Elizabeth Martin, Chief Executive Officer, The Sierra Fund

## **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.

- Collaboratively Developed Plans/Assessments
- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Implementation
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

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# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Grass Valley (Maidu Meadow) Restoration, Riparian Enhancements South Fork Wolf Creek Project (SNC 523)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located near the City of Grass Valley, adjacent to the former Empire Mine, within the Bear River Watershed, Nevada County, California.

**Project Location – City:** near Grass Valley

**Project Location – County:** Nevada

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Wolf Creek Community Alliance is requesting \$74,900 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete environmental site assessment and resource analyses to support environmental document preparation and permit applications needed for future restoration activities on 43 acres of State Park property in the Maidu Meadow and a stretch of South Fork Wolf Creek. Activities under this project include data collection, resource evaluation, and the preparation environmental studies. Specifically, the project would: a) obtain soils analysis; b) obtain a wetland delineation; c) conduct wildlife surveys; d) begin geomorphic analysis as part of a stream watershed study including disturbance history, current function, impairments and conditions, surveying of profile, cross section and flows, and opportunities/constraints for future projects; and e) obtain relevant permits. The purpose of this project is to provide essential baseline data and prepare environmental analyses prior to preparing environmental documents, securing permits and implementing future restoration/riparian enhancement activities.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Wolf Creek Community Alliance

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, “Information Collection”

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Grass Valley (Maidu Meadow) Restoration, Riparian Enhancements South Fork Wolf Creek Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation for the preparation of environmental studies in order to prepare necessary CEQA documents for approval and obtain all appropriate permits. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

*Revised 2005*

**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
<b>Final Report</b>	<b>July 31, 2014</b>
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>July 31, 2014</b>

\* *Timeline depends upon winter/spring access*

### PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
<b>Direct*</b>	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
<b>Indirect**</b>	0
Implementation: monitoring	\$1,420
Publications, printing, PR	\$600
<b>Administrative***</b>	\$15,560
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$171,156</b>

- \* 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

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# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Mount Ralston Community Defense Zone Project (SNC 616)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located within the headwaters of the South Fork American River, adjacent to U.S. Highway 50, east of Twin Bridges, El Dorado County, California, Section 16 or Township 11 North Range 17 East.

**Project Location – City:** Twin Bridges

**Project Location – County:** El Dorado

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Lake Valley Fire Protection District is requesting \$171,156 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 28 acres of private land adjacent to National Forest lands, bisected by Highway 50 and near the headwaters of the South Fork of the American River. This project includes fuel reduction by hand-thinning of dead, dying, and diseased trees six inches or less, understory ladder fuels, non-riparian brush, and downed woody debris within 100 feet of structures near Tamarack Creek. Tree felling will be conducted by a hand crew with chainsaws and the slash will be piled and left for spring or fall burning, in accordance with an approved smoke management plan filed with the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District. Where accessible, a truck-pulled chipper or track chipper may broadcast cut material on site. Best Management Practices (BMPs), erosion control measures, and monitoring are incorporated into the project to avoid impacts to any sensitive resources (i.e., biological or cultural). The purpose of the fuel reduction is to reduce the risk of high-intensity fire in the area, provide greater safety during fire events, complement U.S. Forest Service (USFS) fuel reduction in the area, and protect water quality in Tamarack Creek, a tributary for the headwaters of the South Fork American River.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Lake Valley Fire Protection District

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Mount Ralston Community Defense Zone Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (hand thinning vegetation and fuel reduction activities that will protect structures) to reduce the risk of high-intensity forest fires and to protect the health and function of the watershed. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

*Revised 2005*

ATTACHMENT C

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT APPLICATIONS  
NOT SUBJECT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

## **Introduction**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), a Conservancy within the Natural Resources Agency of the State of California, initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California. SNC jurisdiction encompasses all or portions of 22 counties in the mountains and foothills of the Sierra Nevada; certain neighboring areas, including the Mono Basin, Owens Valley, and the Modoc Plateau; and a part of the southern Cascade region, including the Pit River Watershed.

The SNC Strategic Plan states that it will:

- ▶ Support efforts that advance environmental preservation and the economic and social well-being of Sierra residents in a complementary manner;
- ▶ Work in collaboration and cooperation with local governments and interested parties in carrying out the SNC mission;
- ▶ Make every effort to ensure that, over time, SNC funding and other efforts are spread equitably across each of the various Subregions and among the program areas, with adequate allowance for the variability of costs associated with individual regions and types of projects; and
- ▶ Inform and educate all Californians as to the substantial benefits they enjoy from the Region and the importance of the environmental and economic well-being of the Region.

The statute creating the SNC (Public Resources Code 33300 et seq.) provides for seven specific program objectives:

- ▶ Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation;
- ▶ Protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources;
- ▶ Aid in the preservation of working landscapes;
- ▶ Reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires;
- ▶ Protect and improve water and air quality;
- ▶ Assist the regional economy through the operation of the Conservancy's program; and
- ▶ Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

## **2011 Grant Applications**

One of the tools used by SNC to accomplish the seven program objectives is the issuance of grants. As part of SNC review of FY 2011 Grant applications received by January 23, 2012, SNC considered whether or not the action to be funded by the grant is considered a "project" subject to the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); whether or not the action would be exempt from CEQA; and if the action is not exempt from CEQA, what the appropriate CEQA documentation would be.

The grant applications listed in Table 1 below were determined to involve activities that are not considered a “project” subject to CEQA.

<b>Table 1 Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grant Applications Not Subject to CEQA</b>					
<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Determination</b>
SNC 460	Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel Break CEQA Environmental Analysis Project	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	Tehama	Pre-Project Activities: CEQA/NEPA Compliance	Site surveys and environmental review are not projects subject to CEQA. (The environmental documents will assess the potential effects of project implementation.)
SNC 470	Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection	Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Madera	Pre-Project Activities: CEQA/NEPA Compliance	Project planning, surveys, and environmental review are not projects subject to CEQA. (The environmental documents will assess the potential effects of project implementation.)
SNC 490	Calaveras Big Trees State Park Fuels Treatments	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Calaveras, Tuolumne	Pre-Project Activities: CEQA/NEPA Compliance	Project planning and environmental review are not projects subject to CEQA. (The environmental documents will assess the potential effects of project implementation.)
SNC 503	Bloody Run Sub-watershed Forest Improvement	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	Nevada	Pre-Project Activities: CEQA/NEPA Compliance	Project planning and environmental review are not projects subject to CEQA. (The environmental documents will assess the potential effects of project implementation.)
SNC 564	Caples Creek Watershed Fuels Reduction and Meadow Restoration: A Sierra Nevada Region water purveyor and federal land manager working together to protect water supplies within the Sierra Nevada.	El Dorado Irrigation District	El Dorado, Alpine, Amador	Pre-Project Activities: CEQA/NEPA Compliance	Project planning, surveys, and environmental review are not projects subject to CEQA. (The environmental documents will assess the potential effects of project implementation.)
SNC 565	The North Fork Community – Scale Biomass Project	Yosemite – Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Madera	Pre-Project Activities: CEQA/NEPA Compliance	Project planning, outreach, and environmental review are not projects subject to CEQA. (The environmental documents will assess the potential effects of project implementation.)
SNC 579	Pre-engineering Study: City of Alturas biomass-	City of Alturas	Modoc	Pre-Project Activities: Design/permit	Engineering studies and project design are not projects subject to

**Table 1  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grant Applications  
Not Subject to CEQA**

Application Number	Project Name	Applicant	County	Activity	Determination
	based district heating in support of the Forest Health Sage Steppe Project				CEQA.
SNC 580	Create a Restoration Plan for Cahoon Meadow, Sequoia National Park	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	Tulare	Pre-Project Activities: CEQA/NEPA Compliance,	Site assessment, restoration design, and environmental review are not projects subject to CEQA. (The environmental documents will assess the potential effects of project implementation.)
SNC 638	Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard Development Engineering Plans	Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions	Calaveras	Pre-Project Activities: Plan	Development of engineering plans is not a project subject to CEQA.

**Grant Application Activities Listed in Table 1 are not “Projects” Subject to CEQA**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(a) defines “project” as “the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and that is any of the following:

- (1) An activity directly undertaken by any public agency including but not limited to public works construction and related activities, clearing or grading of land, improvements to existing public structures, enactment and amendment of zoning ordinances, and the adoption and amendment of local General Plans or elements thereof pursuant to Government Code Sections 65100-65700.
- (2) An activity undertaken by a person which is supported in whole or in part through public agency contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies.
- (3) An activity involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.”

The activities proposed in the grant applications listed in Table 1 involve preparing and completing plans for a specific project design; environmental review/acquiring permits; performing necessary studies, surveys, and assessments related to a specific project; or preparing plans or supplementing existing plans that will result in a specific project or set of projects. Although SNC will provide public assistance in the form of a grant for the activities listed in Table 1, the proposed activities have no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment. Therefore, the activities proposed in the grant applications listed in Table 1 are not “projects” subject to CEQA.

## **CEQA Does Not Apply to Table 1 Grant Application Activities**

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), a project is exempt from CEQA if “the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.” As described above, the activities proposed in the grant applications listed in Table 1 have no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and are not subject to CEQA.

## **Potential Future Actions**

By funding the grants listed in Table 1, SNC does not authorize, or commit to authorizing, any action that has potential to result in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. As defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(a), described above, any other action that would potentially result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and that would either (1) be directly undertaken by a public agency; (2) be undertaken by a person and supported in whole or in part through a public agency; or (3) that would involve the issuance of an entitlement from a public agency shall be considered a “project” and shall be subject to CEQA. In such cases, the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project (the “lead agency” per CEQA Guidelines Section 15367) shall determine the appropriate CEQA documentation and shall ensure that such documentation is prepared.

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction (SNC 454)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located on City owned land surrounded by Plumas National Forest Land, near Willow Creek, on Assessor Parcel Numbers 025-050-017 and 025-050-033, northwest of the City of Portola, in Plumas County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Portola

**Project Location – County:** Plumas

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The City of Portola is requesting \$263,230 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for hazardous fuels reduction on 168 acres of City owned land northwest of the City of Portola in Plumas County to reduce fire risk, improve forest health and restore ecosystem function. The project involves biomass removal/fuel reduction utilizing thinning from below, mechanical mastication, and hand thinning methods, including prescribed fire. Biomass removal/fuel reduction activities would be completed in accordance with the THP exemption issued for the project and applicable rules adopted under the California Forest Practices Act. Burning activities would be completed in accordance with the California Forest Practices Act, Air Quality Management District, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire permit. Harvesting would be permitted in amounts less than 10 percent of the average volume per acre, under the supervision of a Registered Professional Forester. These activities would target removal or reduction of concentrated surface ladder fuels such as brush and suppressed trees, and the project includes 25 acres of hand thinning. Revenue from the biomass/sawlog activity would go back into maintenance of the proposed project property. The purpose of the project is to preserve and improve forest health, reduce fire risks, protect water quality and reduce sedimentation to creeks, preserve and restore ecosystem function, and improve the watershed.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** City of Portola

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed hazardous fuel reduction project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project will provide fuel reduction activities that will control invasive species, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, and reduce sediment release into the streams, thereby promoting a healthier forest and watershed. The project also includes equipment exclusion zones along water courses in accordance with Forest Practice Rules to protect water quality. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
                    Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Swanson Canyon Hazardous Fuels Reduction Riparian Enhancement CE/EA Project (SNC 461)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located in Modoc National Forest, Swanson Canyon, approximately four miles north of Alturas, Modoc County, California, Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Township 43 North, Range 12 East.

**Project Location – City:** Alturas

**Project Location – County:** Modoc

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Modoc National Forest is requesting \$73,999 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete the environmental analysis for proposed fuel reduction treatment on 485 acres. This project includes California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for the Swanson Canyon Fuel Reduction and Riparian Enhancement Project. Activities under this project include data collection, resource evaluation, and preparation of CEQA and NEPA environmental documents. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare technical documentation for CEQA and NEPA compliance and for agency approval of proposed actions.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Modoc National Forest

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Swanson Canyon Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Riparian Enhancement CE/EA Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation for the preparation of technical documents in order to prepare CEQA and NEPA documents and to seek agency approval of proposed actions. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Design and Environmental Analysis Project  
(SNC 462)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on property owned by The Nature Conservancy, in Childs Meadows, along Gurnsey Creek, 2.5 miles east of Mill Creek, six miles south of Lassen Volcanic National Park, 13 miles west of Chester and Lake Almanor, and 40 miles northeast of Red Bluff, Tehama County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Mill Creek

**Project Location – County:** Tehama

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Tehama County Resource Conservation District (RCD) is requesting \$41,663 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete head cut repair design, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, and permitting for a structure that would stop head cutting on Gurnsey Creek. Project activities include designing a head-cut structure, preparing cost estimates, data collection, field surveys, evaluating resources, preparing appropriate permits, and filing appropriate CEQA documents. Permits and/or consultation would likely be required from, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and State Office of Historic Preservation. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare construction drawings and develop a cost estimate, and to provide data to Tehama County RCD to prepare technical documentation for CEQA compliance and to obtain all necessary permits.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Tehama County Resource Conservation District

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Design and Environmental Analysis Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation for the preparation of head cut structure engineering design, cost estimates, technical documentation for CEQA compliance, and for obtaining permits. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Forest Health Chipper Program Project (SNC 480)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located within 23 communities, in the six major watershed areas in the foothills and forested areas of Butte County that make up the wildlife urban interface, Butte County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Paradise

**Project Location – County:** Butte

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Butte County Fire Safe Council is requesting \$100,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for thinning and chipping overstocked brush and trees on about 400 acres in Butte County. The project involves providing chipping services to 23 communities within the County's six major watersheds for landowners in areas identified as wildlife urban interface, conducting pre- and post-treatment monitoring, and reporting treated acres to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for mapping. Chipping the fuels that have been removed by landowners from around homes and putting them back on the ground, reduces the fire carrying capacity of the fuel and serves to help protect the watershed. The chips will prevent soil erosion and provide soil nutrients, and can reduce unwanted weeds and vegetative regrowth. Chipping activities will be conducted on existing roadways and driveways.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Butte County Fire Safe Council

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Forest Health Chipper Program Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project will provide wood chipping treatments on 400 acres in Butte County, thereby reducing fire risk and promoting healthier forests and watersheds. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Campstool Ranch and Working Forest (SNC 489)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project site, identified as Calaveras County APNs 020-001-004; 020-001-005; 020-001-031; 020-001-066; 020-001-055; 020-001-065; 020-012-026; 014-005-011; and 014-005-009 is located within the Campstool Ranch area in Calaveras County, California.

**Project Location – City:** San Andreas

**Project Location – County:** Calaveras

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Pacific Forest Trust is requesting \$350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to apply to the acquisition of a conservation easement on the 2,168-acre Campstool Ranch and Working Forest in the Upper Calaveras Watershed. The easement will provide protection to the eight springs and 5.8 miles of streams on the property, including three miles of the North Fork of the Calaveras River. The easement will allow for continued use of the existing cattle ranch and prevent subdivision and development. The purpose of the easement is to permanently protect and enhance the property's working timberlands and oak woodlands, well-managed cattle ranching, historic sites and important watershed resources. The project will ensure protection of the timberland and meadows and prevent forestland from being converted to other uses.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Pacific Forest Trust

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15325 "Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Campstool Ranch and Working Forest conservation easement is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA Section 15325, Class 25, which consists of the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources, including natural conditions and agricultural uses. The project will place a conservation easement over an existing 2,168-acre cattle grazing operation and timberlands. The project will ensure protection of the timberland and streams, and will prevent forestland from being converted to other uses. No changes in land use and no significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Gillis Hill Fuel Break Project (SNC 513)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located west of, and parallel to, the North Fork American River, on private land located adjacent to multiple public land holdings managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and the United State Forest Service and immediately north of the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA), east of Colfax, Placer County, California, in the northwest corner of the northeast corner of Section 12, Township 14 North, Range 9 East.

**Project Location – City:** Colfax

**Project Location – County:** Placer

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Placer County Resource Conservation District is requesting \$17,528 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation and permitting for a fuel break on 114 acres. The fuel break proposed on private land would tie into the network of fuel breaks existing and proposed on the public lands within the immediate vicinity of the project site effectively augmenting fire hazard reduction efforts currently underway. Project activities include data collection, field surveys, evaluating resources, preparing necessary permit applications, filing appropriate CEQA documents, flagging the project boundary and areas of sensitivity, and providing a map of the project area. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare technical documentation in order to obtain CEQA approval and all appropriate permits.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Placer County Resource Conservation District

### Exempt Status: (check one)

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Gillis Hill Fuel Break Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation for the preparation of technical documents for CEQA compliance, for agency consultations and the preparation of necessary permit applications. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Control Velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*) in the Kern Canyon of Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest Project (SNC 521)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the Kern Canyon area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon (SEKI) National Park and Sequoia National Forest, in designated wilderness, 26 miles southwest of Lone Pine, in Tulare and Fresno counties, California.

**Project Location – City:** 26 miles southwest of Lone Pine

**Project Location – County:** Tulare and Fresno

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sequoia and Kings Canyon (SEKI) National Park is requesting \$237,638 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for maintenance treatment (invasive species eradication) for a joint effort of SEKI and the United States Forest Service (USFS) on 4.75 acres in the Kern Canyon Area of SEKI and Sequoia National Forest. The proposed project includes removing invasive and non-native plants, mainly velvetgrass, installing tarping materials over the velvetgrass infestations and then using hand pulling and mowing methods, and potential herbicide application. The proposed project also includes revegetation of native plants, where appropriate, and monitoring treatment areas to ensure velvetgrass does not re-establish in the treatment areas. If herbicides are used, application of the herbicide will be done in accordance with the National Park Service Pesticide Use Permit. The project will be consistent with the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic River Act requirements, and weed prevention best management practices are incorporated into the proposed project, as indicated in the NEPA documentation. The purpose of the project is to eradicate the velvetgrass to allow for revegetation of native plants in the area. By restoring 4.75 acres infested with velvetgrass the project would improve ecological function and habitat quality on approximately 200 acres, including montane meadows and riparian wetlands, which are considered rare vegetation types in SEKI; restore native vegetative communities; and increase habitat diversity.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Control Velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*) in the Kern Canyon of Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15333, Class 33, which permits maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife on projects not to exceed five acres. The project would preserve montane meadow health, riparian wetland health, restore native vegetative communities to the meadow and riparian areas, and increase habitat diversity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Lower Deer Creek Revegetation Project (SNC 533)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on private land at the confluence of Deer and Squirrel Creeks, approximately 2 miles downstream of Lake Wildwood, 2 miles west of the community of Lake Wildwood, Nevada County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Near Lake Wildwood

**Project Location – County:** Nevada

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Streams Institute is requesting \$112,932 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for meadow restoration on no more than five acres. The proposed project includes removing non-native plants using hand pulling and mowing methods, piling the vegetation for removal or burning, and replanting the area with the native palette. If the vegetation piles are burned, the material will be burned in accordance with burn day regulations of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. Vegetation piles would be covered with tarps in order to kill the seeds and avoid seed dispersal until the appropriate burn dates. The purpose of the project is to provide fuels management, remove invasive species, and to revegetate the area with native plants. The project would preserve mixed conifer forest health, restore native vegetative communities to the meadow area, reduce fire risk, improve water quality, increase carbon sequestration capacity, and increase habitat diversity.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sierra Streams Institute

### Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Lower Deer Creek Healthy Revegetation Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15333, Class 33, which permits maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife on projects not to exceed five acres. The project would preserve mixed conifer forest health, restore native vegetative communities to the meadow area, reduce fire risk, improve water quality, increase carbon sequestration capacity, and increase habitat diversity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

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Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Hirschman's Pond Healthy Forest Initiative Project (SNC 536)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located along State Route 49, between Indian Flat Road and Cement Hill Road, adjacent to downtown Nevada City, Nevada County, California, Sections 11 and 12 of Township 16 North, Range 8 East.

**Project Location – City:** Nevada City

**Project Location – County:** Nevada

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Sierra Streams Institute is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete the Land Management Plan for the 85.24-acre wildlife habitat area surrounding Hirschman's Pond. Project activities include data collection, development of a land management plan, environmental document preparation, and permitting for brush and ladder fuel reduction activities on the project area. The purpose of this project is to gather information, prepare a land management plan, and prepare CEQA compliance documentation and permit applications to secure approval to implement fuel reduction activities. Future project implementation would result in a healthier forest, improved wildlife habitat, improved recreation opportunities, reduced fire risk, and protection of water quality in Woods Ravine, a tributary to Deer Creek.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sierra Streams Institute

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Hirschman's Pond Healthy Forest Initiative Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering, resource assessment, development of a land management plan, preparation of technical documents for CEQA compliance, and preparation of permit applications. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Plan  
(SNC 552)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located at the White Sulphur Springs Ranch, 2200 Highway 89, in Mohawk Valley, Clito, Plumas County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Clito

**Project Location – County:** Plumas

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council is requesting \$20,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete the planning tasks needed to prepare a hazardous fuels reduction plan on 40 acres. Project activities include data collection, resource evaluation, designation of trees and vegetation to be removed, forest product assessment, preparation of appropriate technical documents for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and timber harvesting permits, and filing of a Forest Fire Prevention Exemption/CEQA document for CEQA compliance. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare a hazardous fuels reduction plan, prepare appropriate environmental documents and prepare necessary permit applications in order to obtain approvals.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Plan is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation for the preparation of technical documents for CEQA compliance and necessary permit applications in order to obtain agency approval. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project (SNC 553)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located near Lassen National Forest, east of Redding and south of Burney, along Tamarack Road, Shasta County, California, Sections 13, 14, 23, and 24 of Township (T) 34 North (N), Range (R) 2 East (E), Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, and 15 of T33N R2E, and Sections 18 and 19 of T33N R3E.

**Project Location – City:** Redding and Burney

**Project Location – County:** Shasta

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Fall River Resource Conservation District is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to develop a grazing and forest management and monitoring plan, and complete environmental documentation and permitting to restore 2000 acres of meadow and thin 1000 acres of dense forest in the Burney Gardens area. The project area includes four separate land owners who currently lease different grazing permits. Project activities will include developing design approaches for stream restoration on one section of Burney Creek in the project area that is severely entrenched.. A Timber Harvest Plan (THP), which satisfied the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for many of the anticipated restoration and management activities, has been approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The development of the grazing and forest management plan and the completion of the assessment and design for stream restoration may necessitate an amendment to the approved THP. The purpose of this project is to gather information, prepare management plans within the project area to aid in watershed restoration and forest /meadow management, and to develop an assessment and design plan for the northern stream section.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Fall River Resource Conservation District

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation for the preparation of resource management plans. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

*Revised 2005*

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project: Phase 2 Project (SNC 588)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located in Loney Meadow, on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land surrounded by the Tahoe National Forest, five miles southeast of Graniteville, in Nevada County, California.

**Project Location – City:** 5 miles southeast of Graniteville

**Project Location – County:** Nevada

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The South Yuba Citizens League is requesting \$49,265.64 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Grant Program for four acres of meadow restoration in the Tahoe National Forest. The proposed project includes using hand tools to remove small conifers (less than 10 inches in diameter at breast height) from the existing aspen groves, piling conifers to be used as grazing barriers (or removing if deemed a fire hazard), enhancing two of the four acres for aspen regeneration complying with USFS Best Management Practices specified in the applicable Forest Plan, removing old interpretive signs and designing and installing 15 new interpretive signs. The purpose of the project is to provide a healthy, native forest, reduce fire risks, improve habitat, and accomplish meadow restoration. The project would enhance aspen grove and meadow health, and reduce the risk of fire.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** South Yuba Citizens River League

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects"; Section 15303, construction of small structures; Section 15301 repair of existing facilities.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Groundhog Meadow Watershed Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15333, Class 33, which permits maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife on projects not to exceed five acres, Section 15303, which exempts the construction of small structures, such as interpretive signs, and Section 15301, which exempts the repair of existing facilities, including signs. The project would restore and enhance aspen grove and meadow health, reduce the risk of fire using hand tools for fuel reduction and meadow restoration on four acres, and includes the repair of existing signs and the installation of some new signs.. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

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**From:** (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Planning High-Priority Invasive Plant Management in Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada Project (SNC 613)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project would address two sites. Site 1 is located on 3.5 acres in Plumas National Forest, seven miles northeast of Greenville, seven miles north of Taylorsville, 12.5 miles east of Lake Almanor, Plumas County, California. Site 2 is located along Old Priest Grade, near the intersection of Highway 120 and Priest Coulterville Road, on California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties, 2.5 miles southwest of Groveland, 22 miles west of Yosemite National Park, Tuolumne County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Site 1 – Greenville; Site 2 - Groveland

**Project Location – County:** Site 1 – Plumas; Site 2 - Tuolumne

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Invasive Plant Council is requesting \$58,593 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete invasive plant management plans and environmental compliance documents for two key "rapid response" sites in Plumas and Tuolumne Counties. Key stakeholders for the project include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Forest Service, National Parks, BLM, University of California Cooperative Extension, Plumas and Tuolumne County Agricultural Departments, Caltrans, Plumas and Tuolumne Resource Conservation Districts, and Sierra Pacific Industries. The project involves data collection, field surveys, evaluating resources, preparing project-specific California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documents, completing invasive species management plans for each site, and preparing appropriate permit applications. The purpose of this project is to gather information and to prepare a rapid response invasive species management plan, as well as technical documentation for CEQA and NEPA compliance and all appropriate permits.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Invasive Plant Council

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Planning High-Priority Invasive Plant Management in Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering and resource evaluation, preparation of invasive plant management plans and technical documents for CEQA and NEPA compliance,

and preparation of application materials for appropriate permits. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Van Vleck Meadow Complex Assessment and Restoration Plan Project  
(SNC 622)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the El Dorado National Forest, outside of Desolation Wilderness, north of Union Valley Reservoir, along Cheese Camp Road, which is accessed via Ice House Road, approximately 16 miles northeast of Pollock Pines, El Dorado County, California, Township 13 North, Range 15 East.

**Project Location – City:** Pollock Pines

**Project Location – County:** El Dorado

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The El Dorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to design and complete the environmental analysis for four future priority projects within the Van Vleck Meadow Complex: Van Vleck Bunkhouse road reconstruction, Van Vleck Meadow Berm Removal, Trail reconstruction and maintenance, and Calf Pasture Meadow Restoration. Project activities include preparing project designs, completing required surveys, completing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documentation, collecting baseline monitoring data, and completing permitting for sites selected. The priority projects are based on the Rapid Watershed Condition Assessment and identified in the 5-year restoration plan prepared by El Dorado National Forest for the Van Vleck Meadow Complex. The purpose of the project is to complete the design and environmental documentation so the El Dorado National Forest Pacific Ranger District will be prepared to compete for implementation funding for these projects.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** El Dorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Van Vleck Meadow Complex Assessment and Restoration Plan Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering, resource evaluation, preparation of technical documents for CEQA and NEPA compliance, and preparation of necessary permit applications. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
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**From:** (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
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Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** ACCG Collaborative Project: West Calaveras Plantation Thinning NEPA Project (SNC 630)

### Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in Stanislaus National Forest, along Winton Road, east of West Point, Calaveras County, California, Townships 6 and 7 North, Ranges 14, 15, and 16 East.

**Project Location – City:** West Point

**Project Location – County:** Calaveras

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture/U.S. Forest Service (USDA/USFS) Stanislaus National Forest (NF) – Calaveras Ranger District is requesting \$74,975 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to complete the environmental documentation needed for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance regarding forest thinning on 550 acres in the Stanislaus NF. Project activities include data collection, including field surveys, resource evaluation, and preparation of appropriate environmental documentation for compliance with NEPA and CEQA. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare technical documents in order to provide NEPA and CEQA compliance and obtain approval for forest thinning activities that will ultimately enhance forest health, reduce fire intensity and severity, and improve watershed conditions.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** USDA/USFS Stanislaus National Forest – Calaveras Ranger District

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed ACCG Collaborative Project: West Calaveras Plantation Thinning NEPA Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data gathering, including field surveys, and resource evaluation for the preparation of technical documents for NEPA and CEQA compliance and agency approvals. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Project Title:** Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project (SNC 644)

**Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located in Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, surrounded by Sequoia National Monument land, 22 miles east of Porterville, Tulare County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Porterville

**Project Location – County:** Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Tulare County Resource Conservation District is requesting \$350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 310 acres within a 671-acre project area. This project includes fuel reduction by using mechanical mastication equipment (small bobcat) on 17 areas ranging in size from 20 to 185 acres, totaling 310 acres, within the Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. The masticator will use benches and existing skid trails to access the areas in order to avoid sensitive species. Treated material will be left as is or piled and scheduled to broadcast burning at a later date. Any burning, although done outside the funding of this project, would only occur with appropriate permitting on designated burn days. No special status plant species are anticipated to occur within the 17 project areas identified. Project activities would avoid any nesting birds, including raptors, and seasonal restriction on the removal of vegetation would be enforced. No known archaeological resources within the project’s 17 areas would be affected. Pre-construction surveys are required for biological and cultural resources prior to commencement of any project activities. The purpose of the fuel load reduction is to reduce wildfire severity and protect the watersheds and forest by connecting existing fuel breaks within the Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. This will provide for increased forest and watershed health, as well as increased safety for the public utilizing the five campgrounds, three fishing ponds, and associated trails.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Tulare County Resource Conservation District

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (mechanical mastication for fuel reduction to connect fuel breaks) that will reduce the severity of forest fires. Thus, the project would

ultimately improve forest and watershed health and provide a safer area for recreational users. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Marji Feliz  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4679

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

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