

NEWS RELEASE

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Sierra Nevada Conservancy Issues Statement on The California Forest Carbon Plan

(AUBURN, Calif.) – Executive Officer for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Jim Branham issued the following statement today regarding the Forest Carbon Plan and the Governor’s executive order to combat dangerous tree mortality, increase the ability of our forests to capture carbon and systematically improve forest management:

“Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) staff have been active participants in the Forest Climate Action Team (FCAT) and in the drafting of the Forest Carbon Plan (FCP). We are delighted that the science and policy considerations in the FCP go beyond simply answering the question of ‘what is the status of California’s forest carbon’ to the true heart of the issue: ‘what actions can be taken in the forest sector to assist in meeting California’s carbon goals and protecting California’s future?’”

“We are particularly pleased that the FCP points to the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program, a large-scale restoration program designed to address ecosystem health in the Sierra Nevada, as an early implementation opportunity. In fact, the SNC and our partners have already been undertaking the kinds of projects identified in the FCP as being necessary to restore the health and resilience of our forested watersheds. For more information about the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program visit www.restorethesierra.org.”

“Bolstered by this recognition and the Governor’s focus on the issue of forest health as illustrated by his Executive Order and convening of a Forest Management Task Force, we are ready to truly increase the pace and scale of ecological restoration in our region. The failure to do so will have dire consequences to the state’s efforts to combat climate change and the stability of California’s water supply.”

About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. The SNC has awarded over \$65 million in grants for projects to protect and enhance the health of California’s primary watersheds by improving forest health, remediating mercury contamination from abandoned mines, protecting critical natural resources and reducing the risk of large, damaging wildfires. Funding for these projects came from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006 and Proposition 1 passed by voters in 2014.

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