

June 6-7, 2012
Boulder Creek RV Resort
2550 U.S. 395
Lone Pine, CA 93545



June 6, 2012

Board Tour

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Members of the Board and staff will participate in a field trip to explore issues and activities relevant to the Conservancy's mission in the East Subregion. Members of the public are invited to participate in the field tour but are responsible for their own transportation and lunch. The tour will start in the main parking lot of the Best Western Frontier, 1008 South Main Street, Lone Pine, CA.

Reception

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Following the Board tour, Boardmembers and staff will attend a reception open to the public. The reception will be held at Lone Pine Film Museum, 701 South Main Street, Lone Pine, CA.

June 7, 2012

Board Meeting

9:00 – 1:00 PM

(End time of the meeting is approximate)

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Approval of March 2012 Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**
- IV. **Public Comments**
Provide an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items.
- V. **Board Chair's Report**
The Chair of the Board may update the Board on policy issues or other informational items of interest.
- VI. **Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
 - a. Administrative Update
 - b. Update on Various SNC Activities
 - c. East Subregion Report
- VII. **Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
- VIII. **2011-12 Proposition 84 Grant Awards (ACTION)**
The Board may act to authorize grant awards for the 2011-12 Proposition 84 Healthy Forests grants program.

**June 6-7, 2012
Board Meeting Agenda**

IX. 2012-13 Proposition 84 Grant Guidelines (ACTION)

The Board may act to approve Grants Guidelines for the Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program FY 2012-13.

X. Pacific Watershed and Forest Stewardship Council (ACTION)

The Board may act to approve modifications to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the SNC and the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council regarding future roles for the SNC.

XI. Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery (ACTION)

The Board may act to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the SNC, the California Department of Fish and Game and Inyo County regarding the future ownership and use of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery, located in Inyo County.

XII. Resolution in support of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (ACTION)

The Board may act to approve a resolution in support of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

XIII. Boardmembers' Comments

Provide an opportunity for members of the Board to make comments on items not on the agenda.

XIV. Public Comments

Provide an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting Materials are available on the SNC Web site at www.sierranevada.ca.gov. For additional information or to submit written comment on any agenda item, please contact Mrs. Burgess at (530) 823-4672, toll free at (877) 257-1212; or via email at tburgess@sierranevada.ca.gov. 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn CA 95603. If you need reasonable accommodations please contact Mrs. Burgess at least **five** working days in advance, including documents in alternative formats.

Closed Session: Following, or at any time during the meeting, the SNC may recess or adjourn to closed session to consider pending or potential litigation; property negotiations; or personnel-related matters. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(a), (c) (7), or (e).

Board Meeting Minutes
March 7-8, 2012
Red Bluff Community/Senior Center
1500 South Jackson Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080



I. Call to Order

Board Chair Kirwan called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

II. Swearing in of New Boardmembers (ACTION)

Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul administered the oath of office to incoming Boardmembers Lee Stetson and Nancy Haug. Stetson and Haug both said they were very happy to be a part of the Board.

III. Roll Call

Present: Nancy Haug, John Brissenden, Todd Ferrara, Bob Kirkwood, Brain Dahle, Bill Nunes, BJ Kirwan, Linda Arcularius, Tom Wheeler, Ted Owens, Lee Stetson, David Graber, Mike Chapel

Absent: Bob Johnston

IV. Approval of December 8, 2011 Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

There were no changes to the meeting minutes.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Wheeler seconded a motion to approve the December 8, 2011 Meeting Minutes. Boardmember Owens abstained from voting. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comments

Ron Warner, Tehama County Supervisor, welcomed and thanked the Board for coming to Red Bluff.

VI. Board Chair's Report

Board Chair Kirwan announced Boardmember Jiron, has moved on to the Rocky Mountain Forest, thanking him for his service and wishing him success in his future endeavors.

VII. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Administrative Update

SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham pointed out to the Board the SNC is nearing the end of its bond-funded phase for projects, and will be looking for new sources of funding to carry out its programs. The SNC will also continue to evaluate the ways in which it carries out its mission without the availability of bond funds and will be bringing forward staff proposals to the Board in the future.

Staff Report: SNC Administrative Services Chief Theresa Parsley reported the SNC's new Web site, which uses the latest State approved template, is up and

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running. She credited SNC Senior IT Analyst David Madrigal and the web migration team for a job well done.

Parsley updated the Board on the status of the grant projects awarded by the SNC in the 2007-08 grant round. She said 146 projects were awarded and 66 have been completed and closed out. These represent \$7 million (a little more than 40 percent) of the \$17 million awarded from that grant round. There were 12 short extensions granted, worth about \$1.8 million, and four projects were terminated. The final 63 projects from the 2007-08 grant round were just recently closed (as of March 1), and the SNC expects to be receiving final reports for final payouts on those projects very soon. Final totals will be available at the SNC's June Board meeting.

b. Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery Report

Branham said the SNC is continuing to work with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Inyo County regarding the future of the facility. There are still some unanswered questions about what role, if any, there will be for SNC. Branham said the June Board meeting in nearby Lone Pine may provide an opportunity for the Board to visit the facility, which Inyo County wants to see maintained as a community resource.

Boardmember Arcularius said the former fish hatchery is a special place with great interest and historical value, and that it hosts a number of important community events each year. She thanked Branham for facilitating discussion with DFG and Inyo County.

c. Board Receptions Policy

As mentioned at the last meeting, SNC is proposing a policy to the Board to document guidelines for the Board's public receptions, held the evening before each Board meeting. The intent of the policy is to be clear and transparent about who sponsors these events and to make sure everyone understands there is no connection between sponsorship and any action by the Board. The proposed policy would eliminate sponsors who have a grant application being reviewed or considered at the time of sponsorship. Branham thanked Mill Creek Conservancy for its role in sponsoring the previous night's reception.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Stetson seconded a motion to approve the Receptions Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

d. North Central Subregion Report

Mt. Lassen Area Representative Chris Dallas presented an overview of the North Central Subregion. This Subregion includes all of Plumas and Sierra Counties as well as the eastern portions of Butte and Tehama Counties. Fifty percent of

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the land is publicly owned, mostly managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The Subregion has about 89,000 residents.

In the last grant round the Subregion was awarded five grants for \$1.76 million dollars. To date, the SNC has awarded 41 grants in this Subregion for \$11.25 million. Reducing overstocked fire fuels continues to be one of the biggest issues facing the Subregion, and this is reflected in the grants awarded.

The Subregion has a great deal of working landscapes. Approximately 109,000 acres in Plumas and Sierra Counties alone are under Williamson Act contracts. Loss of State funding for these contracts is a hardship in the Subregion.

Boardmember Dahle commented that there have been two biomass plants in this area, which have shut down, and two more are awaiting contract verification from Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The Lassen County Board of Supervisors has sent a letter to the PUC urging approval, because if those two plants do not come on line, there will be no place to take woody biomass from fuel reduction activities in the forest. Dahle noted that once a biomass plant closes the process to get it back up and running can be quite difficult.

Boardmember Arcularius said she recently attended a meeting of the National Association of Counties in Washington D.C., and the message is clear from federal partners that a need for more biomass facilities exists. She said that to see biomass plants get this far along in the permitting process and then be held up by PUC would be a real disservice.

Boardmember Wheeler stated Madera County has been working for over 10 years to get a biomass plant established on the former North Fork mill site. Since the mill was shut down in 1993, Wheeler said the undergrowth in the forest has grown to dangerous levels. He emphasized the importance of biomass facilities in reducing the threat of wildfire. He asked whether the Board should take any action on the Lassen County projects; general consensus was the issue is moving forward but if there were still a need, SNC could submit a letter of support.

Branham introduced Laurie Wayburn with Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), which has launched an initiative in the Klamath-Cascade area that is complementary to the SNC's SNFCI initiative. Wayburn thanked SNC for its work in the Region and pointed out that it often takes synergy between groups to accomplish big things. She noted that the Klamath/Cascade region of the state is a primary watershed for California. She said PFT is helping to provide an identity for the area so decision-makers can better understand the benefits of the region and take action to protect them.

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Wayburn said PFT works to ensure the future of the area to sustain economy, ecology, and people. She said this is the most bio-diverse conifer forest in the world. While the timber industry was once the backbone of the economy, it is no longer in a vibrant or resilient condition, nor is the forest. Since the public owns 50 percent of the land, the public/private collaboration is critical in working on a large “landscape” level with forest management projects. Wayburn provided a comprehensive overview of PFT’s initiative.

Boardmember Kirkwood asked about the focus of AB 32 and whether emission reductions were still limited to activities on private lands. Wayburn responded that the rules are not clear yet. Emission reductions do not include actions on federal lands for purposes of the offset market; but rules governing the expenditure of funds created through the cap and trade program have not been finalized yet.

Boardmember Dahle said that help is needed with the Legislature because the permitting process for a five-megawatt plant is just as difficult as for a 40 megawatt plant, and the private sector won’t take the investment risk unless fuel sources can be guaranteed for 20 years. Dahle added the need exists to make the connection—in the eye of the public—between the upper watershed areas that fill the dams, and the downstream users—and to educate people that fire is the number one threat to our watersheds, water yield, and our air quality. He said the Sierra needs a continuous source of funding, that many pieces of this puzzle are coming together, and the SNC can act as a conduit.

Boardmember Owens asked what it would take to benchmark the jobs created, and the impact to the local economy.

Wayburn said it is hard to be precise, but looking at changes in job categories and modeling outcomes over time is the key. She said no one wants to repeat the pattern of boom and bust job cycles. But by creating power locally, the jobs stay closer to home and more in the local community’s control.

Boardmember Arcularius said it is important to analyze the health care and social assistance issues because during the collapse of the timber industry, those factors have been affected the most, and have not recovered.

VIII. Deputy Attorney General’s Report (INFORMATIONAL)

Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul reminded the new Boardmembers to file a form 700, Statement of Economic Interest within 30 days. She also reminded staff that their Form 700 updates are due, and that bi-annual ethics training should be completed at this time.

IX. 2012-13 Action Plan (ACTION)

Assistant Executive Officer Joan Keegan presented the FY 2012-13 Action Plan. Keegan noted, a lot of input was sought through meetings with stakeholders and internal resource planning has been done to evaluate workload and priorities.

Keegan referred to the staff report outlining the projects and initiatives in the Action Plan. Some of the new initiatives include:

- The SNC's role with the State Water Plan, including support for IRWMPs;
- Regional Agriculture and Ranching Initiative, which will initially focus on the upcoming grant program;
- Identifying gaps in research; and ,
- Grazing on federal land.

Boardmember Arcularius said the grazing issues on federal lands are key in maintaining the economic viability of working ranches.

Keegan said many of these activities involve working with a consultant to help identify the funding sources that are available.

Action: Boardmember Wheeler moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve the 2012-13 Action Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

X. 2011-12 Health Forests Grant Program Update (ACTION)

Branham said the struggle continues with some of the CEQA issues, in particular for the federal agency partners, and some good projects had to be eliminated as a result. He said Boardmember Chapel has agreed to pull together a team of federal partners to work with Deputy Attorney General Sproul on developing some solutions.

Branham said this grant round focused on projects to create healthy forests. He reminded the Board this grant round did not have a guaranteed pot of money for each Subregion.

Mt. Lassen Area Manager, Bob Kingman reported 122 applications were received. Noting more Category One applications, than Category Two, with a total of \$17.2 million requested throughout the Region.

Kingman requested Board action on the following recommendations related to processing this grant round:

- Request approval to increase the allocation for the FY 2011-12 Healthy Forests grant program from \$5 to \$7 million, money made available from unused funds out of the FY 2007-08 grants close-outs.
- Based on the high volume of applications received, the SNC recommends sequencing the awards to allow more time for staff review. Under this

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recommendation, SNC would bring forward \$5 million in Category 1 projects for the Board's approval at the June board meeting, and if necessary, bring the remaining \$2 million in projects to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

- Formal establishment of the SNC Board grant review subcommittees.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Nunes seconded a motion to approve staff recommended changes to the 2011-12 Healthy Forests Grant Program. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. 2012-13 Proposition 84 Grant Guidelines (INFORMATIONAL)

Branham thanked Mt. Whitney Area manager Julie Bear for her work as the lead on developing the 2012-13 Grant Guidelines, which cover the second year of a two-year program for distributing the SNC's remaining Proposition 84 funds. The guidelines are now out for public review until April 6. They will come before the Board at the June meeting for approval. He said there would likely be at least \$5 million available for the next round of Proposition 84 Grants, which will focus on agricultural and ranch land. All SNC program staff will be working on outreach efforts with partners in the Region, as there has not been as strong participation in SNC grant programs from the ranching and agricultural community as some others.

Branham noted a few clarifications that will be incorporated into the 2012-13 guidelines, including the fact that, according to Prop. 84 rules, grant dollars can be spent on private land so long as there is a demonstrated public benefit.

Boardmember Arcularius asked if work could be done on leased property, stating that this is huge issue in the Eastern Sierra. Branham said he believed that was allowable, but would research that question further and let the Board know if this was not the case.

Boardmember Kirkwood asked about the nexus between restoration of meadows and grazing, suggesting that it might not be clear in the guidelines. Branham said staff will review definitions to be sure it is clear.

On the issue of CEQA vs. NEPA compliance, Branham said the guidelines attempt to further clarify that if a project is "categorically exempt" under CEQA or is not a project under CEQA, then the SNC can serve as the lead agency. The SNC cannot serve as the lead agency under the current program for those projects that require further documentation.

Boardmember Graber asked what level of technical review is used so that the SNC knows if what is proposed by a project is actually possible. Branham explained SNC brings together subject matter technical experts based on the focus area. For example, we have a number of registered professional foresters who are now looking at proposed projects for this year's healthy forests program, and we are

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always looking for recommendations on more evaluators. He welcomed any additional thoughts and suggestions by the Board, either directly or through the public comment period.

XII. Updates on Various SNC Activities (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative

Branham said the SNFCI Coordinating Council work is continuing and everyone is getting a better feel on how that Coordinating Council can add value. A working group from the Coordinating Council met with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) recently to collaborate on the Regional Forester's "Leadership Intent for Ecological Restoration" plan.

The SNC is also looking at developing criteria and then selecting some successful demonstration projects to show what progress looks like on the ground. The hope is to resolve issues like the NEPA-CEQA crosswalk, longer term stewardship contracts, and get a better understanding of the socioeconomic predicaments in which the Sierra Counties find themselves.

Boardmember Wheeler said Madera County has four projects that are SNFCI related; Willow Creek, Whiskey Creek, Dinkey Creek, and North Fork Biomass projects. They are also working with the USFS on the NEPA-CEQA issues.

Boardmember Arcularius stated she is on the Design Team for the State Water Plan representing the Lahontan District, and would like to be of service to Kerri Timmer and the SNC's work on the Water Plan.

Branham noted that the USFS recently awarded its Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act (CFLRA) funding and two of the 10 project selected for funding were in the Sierra Nevada: The Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group and the Burney-Hat Creek Collaborative in Lassen County. Branham said these collaborative efforts and others like may be small in scale, but they demonstrate a positive model for something more sustainable funding over time. Branham thanked the SNC's Kim Carr, Brandon Sanders and Mark Stanley for their work with these collaborative groups.

The ACCG has approached the SNC about a possible role in developing a master stewardship agreement with their CFLRA grant. The SNC is also assisting the North Fork collaborative in a variety of ways.

b. Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project Update

SNC Mt. Lassen Area Representative Lynn Campbell updated the Board on the completion of the project, which is a partnership between the Sierra Business Council, SNC and National Geographic.

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She handed out copies of the Sierra Nevada map, and demonstrated the online version of Sierra MapGuide. The mobile phone “app” is nearly developed for Android and I-Phone devices. If desired, the app will track the user’s location, providing notifications and access to the MapGuide as they travel. Campbell pointed out that the points of interest on the MapGuide are uploaded by the local residents themselves. The Sierra Nevada Geotourism project is also linked to others that National Geographic has completed, so that persons interested in this type of travel will have more opportunities available to them.

Campbell said the SNC has presented information on the project to all 22 counties, and has been enthusiastically supported. In addition, there are some 70 partners providing support. There are now more than 1,300 destination pages on the Web site.

Campbell said a celebration event for the completion of the MapGuide will be held at the California Railroad Museum in Old Town Sacramento on May 18.

Boardmember Graber asked if more points of interest can be added to the Web site, and Campbell said yes, more are being added all the time, including all 247 historical landmarks.

c. Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council Update

SNC Mt. Lassen Senior Area Representative Linda Hansen said progress is being made with PG&E Stewardship Council staff on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for working with the SNC. Hansen said she is working on three fronts:

- Christine Sproul and SNC attorney John Gussman are working on the legal aspects of the conservation covenant piece with the attorneys from the US Forest Service and the Stewardship Council.
- The Scope of Work for the “third-party” role that the SNC might play is just about completed and will come back to the Board for approval in June.
- The third area still being looked at is finding a way for the Council to fund the SNC in its role. Department of Finance is suggesting that a reimbursement process is the best way in the long term, so the Council is working on developing a “trustee” to handle those funds.

The last item is a potential amendment to the MOU. The amendment will address SNC’s third party roles on PG&E held lands and a new task of completing a Plan to Monitor the Effectiveness of PG&E’s LCCP. Hansen is working with the Stewardship Council to put together a Scope of Work to prepare a plan to monitor the impacts and benefits of PG&E’s land conservation plan.

Hansen said the next steps are to continue to finalize these items with the Council and update the MOU as needed, and then present these changes to the Board in June.

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Boardmember Ferrara said that PG&E has to keep some of the lands due to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) responsibilities, and some other parcels have generated no interest from potential donees. Therefore, it is looking like it is more appropriate for PG&E to retain these parcels of land. Branham said it was a complex matter involving the Public Utilities Commission, the courts, PG&E and FERC, and several issues were still unclear relative to land values and outcomes from the court settlement.

XIII. Boardmembers' Comments

There were no comments from the Board.

XIV. Public Comments

There were no comments from the Public.

XV. Adjournment

Board Chair Kirwan adjourned the meeting at 11:34AM.

Background

It's been a bustling spring in the admin world of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), especially in the areas of Grants Administration, budget planning and close-out, and media services.

Current Status – Grants Administration

Close-outs of Grants Awarded in 07-08: In 2007-2008 SNC awarded its first round of Proposition 84 grants, executing 146 agreements totaling \$16.9 million of work throughout the Sierra Nevada Region. As we bring this round of grants to closure, we are happy to report that 118 of those projects have been fully completed. Many of our grantees were able to complete their work at a cost lower than expected, saving nearly \$500,000. SNC approved short contract extensions for 11 of the remaining 28 projects to allow them to complete their projects if the additional time is needed due to circumstances largely beyond the control of the grantee. Six projects have been or are in the process of being terminated in full due to the inability of the grantee to complete the project. Five projects are being terminated partially completed due to various problems. The remaining 6 projects are waiting for final reporting and/or invoices and are expected to close with all deliverables completed.

As shown in the table below, these project close-outs have resulted in the release of some funds that were previously awarded. While these numbers are a somewhat moving target, we currently estimate that a total of approximately \$2.5 million will be disencumbered from 2007-08 grant awards and made available for use in current and future grant rounds. Per prior Board direction, \$2 million of these funds is being added to the \$5 million already allocated for the 2011-12 Healthy Forests grant awards.

	Number of Grants	Disposition	Funding Released
	118	Completed	\$476,000
	11	Short contract extensions	Not yet known
	6	Termination in full – no work completed	\$1,868,000
	5	Partial termination	\$107,000
	6	Awaiting final reports/invoices	Not yet known
Total	146		\$2,451,000

Audits: SNC responded to the audit of 4 grantee organizations by the Department of Finance (DOF). After consideration of DOF recommendations and considerable additional investigation on its own, the SNC has taken the following actions:

- Requested the recovery of \$10,548 associated with one double-billing error.
- Communicated directly to audited grantees the SNC's support of DOF findings regarding compliance with grant agreement terms and conditions related to recordkeeping and distribution of administrative charges.
- Updated the 12-13 grant guidelines and grant application package to clarify and highlight audit and recordkeeping expectations of grantees.

- Created a helpful “Managing Your Grant” booklet that includes a sample cost allocation plan that grantees may use to help guide them toward a successful project and audit outcome in the future. This booklet will be posted on the SNC web site and will be used by SNC staff as they work with grantees.

The SNC has yet to respond to one of the audits, pending receipt of information requested from the grantee.

Current Status – Staffing

The Grants Administration team has been joined by a new staff person, Matthew Daley. Matthew comes to the SNC with significant project planning and technology experience and is working on becoming a Certified Associate in Project Management (CPAM) in June. Matthew is a graduate of the University of Nebraska with a Major in Economics (specializing in Agricultural Policy) and a Minor in Spanish.

Current Status – Budget

The Governor released the May Revise, identifying an additional \$6.5 billion budget shortfall in the general fund, above the \$9.2 billion projected in January. This resulted in the proposal of a variety of additional cuts to be implemented as of July 1, 2012. The changes that affect SNC include the proposal to reduce state employees pay by 5% with a commensurate cut in hours worked. Under this proposal state offices such as the SNC’s would be closed on Fridays and employees would work a 9.5 hour/day, 4 day work week. This cut is for the 2012-13 fiscal year and is the subject of negotiations with the various union organizations. Staff is assessing the impact of other policy proposals dealing with the use of external personal services contracts and the hiring of temporary help. The Governor also reported the permanent elimination of an additional 11,000 positions. SNC budget staff participated in the finance drill that identified historic vacancies for reduction; no SNC positions were affected as a result of this action.

General year-end activities are also underway, preparing for the new fiscal year and closing out the old. SNC is on track with its expenditures pending final execution of several interagency agreements. Final fiscal year 2011-12 budget close-out numbers will be reported in the September 2012 board report.

Current Status – Media Activities

Media activities continue to expand including:

- Local media outlets have been prepped about the projects which are being presented to the Board for funding today, so that should they be approved for funding, reporters can immediately begin contacting the awardees to develop stories.
- The LA Times has been working with SNC and The Nature Conservancy on a major story about how protecting wildlife corridors and working landscapes is part of a “new land ethic” that values ranching heritage and fragile ecosystems. This story, published by the Times May 5, and picked up by several other newspapers, is highlighting the Rudnick Ranch acquisition, a project the Board approved in the first grant round, as the final piece of a 179,000 acre puzzle connecting the coastal

range with the Sierra Nevada range for plant and wildlife migration protection, and including a partnership of private, state, and federal agencies.

- Several editorial board meetings have been held with Executive Officer Branham and the Redding Record Searchlight and the Chico Enterprise Record, respectively, to ensure they are aware of our programs and plans for the Sierra Nevada Region.
- The Geotourism MapGuide Project with National Geographic and the Sierra Business Council, has received favorable news media coverage leading up to the summer travel season.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Board members are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

2011-12 SNC EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES					
April 30, 2012					
State Operations					
<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	
SALARIES AND WAGES	1,756,215	1,453,471	302,744	83%	
STAFF BENEFITS	559,031	501,888	57,143	90%	
<i>Personal Services, Totals</i>	\$2,315,246	\$1,955,359	\$359,887	84%	
Operating Expenses & Equipment					
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	
GENERAL EXPENSE	204,638	120,298	84,339	59%	
TRAVEL - IS	51,000	25,126	25,874	49%	
TRAVEL - OS	-	-	0	0%	
TRAINING	37,500	14,052	23,448	37%	
FACILITIES	259,723	209,211	50,512	81%	
UTILITIES	10,222	8,928	1,294	87%	
CONTRACTS- INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT	1,218,247	1,087,992	130,255	89%	
CONTRACTS- EXTERNAL	163,968	151,810	12,159	93%	
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	104,620	76,947	27,673	74%	
CONSOLIDATED DATA CENTER	-	-	-	0%	
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	0%	
OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENSE	16,850	15,243	1,607	90%	
PRO RATA (control agency costs)	159,658	159,658	0	100%	
<i>Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals</i>	\$2,226,426	\$1,869,265	\$357,161	84%	
Local Assistance					
<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	
2007 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	15,176,251	1,823,749	89%	
2008 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	12,935,921	4,064,079	76%	
2009 Original Appropriation * (3rd yr/3 yr enc)	15,448,000	9,008,490	6,439,510	58%	
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	
<i>State Operations</i>	4,541,672	3,824,624	717,048	84%	
<i>Local Assistance</i>	49,448,000	37,120,662	12,327,338	75%	
SNC EXPENDITURES, TOTALS	\$53,989,672	\$40,945,286	\$13,044,386	76%	

* Of the \$10 million awarded during the 10/11 fiscal year and funded by the 09/10 fiscal year appropriation, one project remains to be encumbered at \$1,000,000. It is pending completion of appraisal activities.

Background

The East Subregion of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) includes three counties- Alpine, Mono and Inyo counties. The Subregion is currently served by one SNC representative from a satellite office in Bishop, with support from Mt. Whitney Area staff in Mariposa and Auburn.

The East Subregion is primarily rural, with the sparse population of approximately 32,000 residents spread over just less than 7,300 square miles within the SNC boundary. Ninety-six (96) percent of the land in this Subregion is under public ownership and management primarily by the U.S. Forest Service (Humboldt-Toiyabe and Inyo National Forests), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The Subregion contains many iconic national treasures including Mt. Whitney, the Ancient Bristlecone Pines, Mono Lake and Devils Postpile National Monument, as well as a multitude of soaring peaks and vast open spaces all offering diverse experiences for residents and visitors alike.

The Region's economic sustainability centers on tourism and agricultural exports. The diversity of recreation activities drives over 4 million annual visitors into this Subregion to experience fishing, hiking, camping, skiing, biking and motorized excursions. Ranching on lands leased from the public land management agencies allows for cattle and alfalfa to lead the area's agriculture production. The East Subregion has close ties with Southern California due to being a main water supply source and recreation playground for its residents.

There is a need to maintain and, in some cases, restore watersheds to ensure healthy landscapes that provide clean water, well-functioning ecosystems and attractive places for the multitude of recreation activities accessible throughout the area. At the same time, preserving and supporting working landscapes is critical for the economic and societal well-being of the area. The Subregion is remote with limited resources and there is a strong need for a high level of collaboration and shared resources among the private and public sector. Partnerships are a must in the Subregion.

Current Status

To date, the East Subregion has received 24 SNC Grants, for a total of just over \$2,200,000. Some of those projects are highlighted below.

The Eastern Sierra Land Tenure project was a joint project developed by Inyo and Mono Counties and the Sierra Business Council. This project was completed in March of this year and presented to the respective Board of Supervisors in each county. The report provided a detailed description of current land tenure status within the Subregion and outlined the steps required by each land management agency for potentially changing land tenure status. This report will become a significant resource tool for a multitude of planning efforts in the region relating to affordable housing and development opportunities.

Inyo County was funded to develop the Lower Owens River Recreational Use Plan (LORP) to address recreational and environmental issues on that 62 mile portion of the river which LADWP began rewatering in 2006. A draft was presented by the County to the Inyo/LA Standing Committee in February of this year. The Standing Committee, established under the Inyo/Los Angeles Long Term Water Agreement is comprised of representatives from Inyo County and Los Angeles (LADWP and City Council). The draft provided three levels of recreation use alternatives that will be used to develop a final plan for future approval and adoption by Inyo County and LADWP. The LORP is viewed as a significant project for the economic sustainability of Inyo County's southern region while protecting the natural resources.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes, in partnership with Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA), the Inyo National Forest and Friends of the Inyo completed the Lakes Basin Special Study (LABSS). This study included potential management alternatives relating to the Mammoth Lakes Basin which were developed through data collection, analysis, and public input. The Lakes Basin is a significant draw for visitors to Mammoth Lakes and the ability to enhance the visitor experience through alternative transportation, efficient parking, improved signage and wayfinding, fully utilized trails and campgrounds will help grow the region's recreation-based economy while protecting the natural resources.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes also completed the CEQA process for their Trail System Master Plan, which allowed the plan to be adopted by the Town last fall. The adoption of the plan triggered several actions in the community including the formation of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Council (MLTSCC) which is pursuing a formal relationship with the Inyo National Forest for the further implementation and management of the trail system. This summer there will be over 100 wayfinding signs installed throughout the trail system as part of the implementation of the adopted master plan.

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD) and the Inyo National Forest are continuing to provide fuel reduction treatments to high risk forested parcels in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. This effort has resulted in protection of critical wildlife habitat and a vital watershed and has spurred the ongoing discussion in this region to explore the feasibility of developing biomass products and energy from future fuel reduction programs.

The Alpine Watershed Group received funding in Category Two FY 2010-11 to re-establish the natural form of the Markleeville Creek by restoring the streambed configuration. This will improve the geomorphic function of the creek and restore the flood plain. The funding for this project will cover the completion of the final planning, design and the necessary environmental review and permitting process.

Next Steps

Staff has been meeting with interested parties to begin identifying specific projects for possible grant applications for the FY 2012-13 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program. There are several potential projects in the East Subregion that may align well with the upcoming grant round. Staff is working with Inyo County, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery on discussions relating to the future use and management of the facility. DFG has indicated its interest in transferring ownership of the property and the County is interested in utilizing it for potential economic activity while preserving the historical, cultural and biological resources (additional information is included with Agenda Item XI of this Board packet).

SNC staff will continue to follow local issues and engage as needed in key Regional initiatives while assisting in the development of strategies to better assist local efforts.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

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. To date the SNC has awarded 175 projects worth approximately \$40 million.

With \$10 million remaining in unallocated Proposition 84 grant funds, the Board directed staff to expend \$5 million in 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, 25 Category One projects (32%) were disqualified due to various California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) non-compliance problems and one Category Two project (2%) was deemed ineligible, resulting in a total of 95 applications requesting \$12,165,319.

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, are being presented at this Board meeting. Phase II recommendations will consist of the highest ranking \$2 million worth of remaining projects, both Category One projects and Category Two projects, and will be considered at the September 2012 Board meeting.

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 was taken into consideration and applied. In a few instances 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. SNC staff considered the question of geographic distribution, but given the rankings, is not recommending any changes based on this factor.

Projects Recommended for Funding

The projects being recommended today represent a range in score from 91 to 77.75 and total \$4,923,008. Staff is recommending that projects below 70 not be funded, due to various problems identified during evaluations that affect the overall quality of the projects and the potential outcome of the activities. Should the Board accept this recommendation, there would be 12 additional Category One projects representing \$2.4 million in funding requests, available to consider along with the highest scoring Category Two projects in September.

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 provides a ranked list of all projects evaluated but not recommended in Phase I. Exhibit E lists all Category One projects that were disqualified due to CEQA non-compliance.

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).

Fuels Reduction (12 projects totaling \$2,541,218)

- 453 – fuel load reduction along 14 miles of road segments in the Yuba River watershed at high risk for catastrophic wildfires because of limited access by fire fighters (Yuba)
- 467 – reduce downed fuel loads in the Nelder Redwood Grove Historical Site area in the Sierra National Forest, thereby protecting California and Nelder Creeks from the negative impacts of a catastrophic fire (Madera)
- 471 – treatment of 190 acres, completing a firebreak near the community of Forbestown in the Feather River Watershed (Butte)
- 474 – hand cutting of 30 acres of dense chaparral and overstocked ponderosa pines near the town of Magalia and located within a collection area for the drinking water supply for the town of Paradise (Butte)
- 488 – understory thinning and revegetation of stream banks on 90 strategic acres in the Harvego Bear River Preserve west of Auburn (Placer)
- 494 – meadow restoration and fuels thinning activities on 677 acres around the Little Valley community (Lassen)
- 497 – fuels reduction activities on 700 acres, improving water quality and quantity of streams and springs by restoring the forest (Lassen and Plumas)
- 520 – fuels reduction on 89 acres of land critical to the Grant Lake-Rush Creek Municipal Watershed, decreasing the likelihood of a large-scale, high-intensity wildland fire causing catastrophic effects on the water supply and quality. It is part of a much larger project to be implemented in the watershed in 2012 (Mono)
- 567 – hand removal of fuel loads on 60 acres to develop a shaded fuel break in the American River Canyon State Recreation area that will reduce negative impacts to the American River in the event of a catastrophic wildfire (Placer)
- 578 – combination fuelbreak and biomass thinning project on 303 acres in the La Tour Demonstration State Forest (Shasta)
- 619 – stream bank and riparian restoration and removal of overstocked white fir and lodgepole pine on a total of 57 acres within the Martis Valley groundwater basin, the source of domestic water for the community of Northstar (Placer)
- 656 – removal of brush, invasive species and a dense understory of conifer seedlings and saplings on 81 acres within Empire Mine State Historic Park boundaries near the town of Grass Valley and in the South Wolf Creek and Little Wolf Creek Watersheds (Nevada)

Forest Health/Restoration (7 projects totaling \$1,484,500)

- 458 – protection of the water quality of Thompson Creek, a tributary to the North Fork of the Feather River by conducting strategic thinning on 172 acres (Plumas)
- 463 – a project near the town of Bieber to restore watershed functions and health to 700 acres by thinning overstocked forest stands (Lassen)
- 510 – forest and meadow restoration on 477 acres that contain the headwaters of Lassen, Sand Slough and Baxter Creeks (Shasta)
- 535 – removal of competing understory vegetation to improve forest regeneration and suppress wildfire potential on a total of 20 acres in the upper regions of the Truckee, Yuba, Bear and American River Watersheds (Placer)

- 556 – the improvement in water quality and riparian habitat by planting cottonwood and willow along ¼ mile of Indian Creek, and the reduction of wildfire risk by hand-thinning 100-120 forested acres, employing local indigenous people (Plumas)
- 631 – removal of brush, felling of excess snags, and hand-thinning to decrease overall stand density on the 28 acre Woodpecker Preserve near Nevada City (Nevada)
- 651 – a forest restoration project that will reduce biomass densities in the North Grove in Calaveras Big Trees State Park, lessening the potential for post-wildfire effects such as sediment delivery into the Big Tree Creek Watershed. Big Tree Creek flows into White Pines Lake, a public water source (Calaveras)

Meadow Restoration (4 projects totaling \$473,422)

- 509 – hand thinning fuel loads on 120 acres and 4 stream/meadow restoration sites which will improve approximately 30 acres of riparian habitat and 1.1 miles of stream within the Middle Fork of the Feather River drainage near the town of Calpine (Plumas and Sierra)
- 607 – restoration of degraded stream banks and protection of 8 acres of montane meadowlands in the Bass Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest (Madera)
- 608 – stabilization of 31 acres of montane meadows, removal of encroaching conifers, and repair of headcuts in the Chiquito Creek watershed south of Yosemite National Park (Madera)
- 614 – restoration of degraded ecosystem functions by repairing headcuts and incisions and re-vegetating 50 acres of Groundhog Meadow, located on a tributary of the North Fork Kern River (Tulare)

Invasive Species Removal (2 projects totaling \$73,867)

- 500 – removal of invasive species at 25 strategic locations totaling 120 acres on the westside of the Tahoe National Forest, reducing the threat of the effects of catastrophic fires by removing ladder fuels and improving one mile of streambank habitat (Placer, Nevada, and Sierra)
- 512 – removal of invasive musk thistle along the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers and around the Stampede and Boca Reservoir areas resulting in improved water quality and ecological function of the soil and adjacent forests (Nevada)

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)

California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

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 27 projects 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 National Environmental Policy Act (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

Twenty-three (23) projects being recommended require the SNC to complete a Notice of Exemption (NOE) and file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse. NOEs have been prepared for review and will be filed upon Board approval. Copies of all proposed NOEs are included in this report within Exhibit F.

Notices of Determination (NODs) have been prepared for the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 510), the LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass Project (SNC 578), and the Completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5 (SNC 471) as described below. Copies of all proposed NODs are also included in this report within Exhibit F.

Before approving the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 510), the SNC must consider the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans N-2-95-012-LAS(2) and 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2) prepared and adopted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and adopt necessary CEQA findings. If the Board approves the project after adopting the CEQA findings, it will also authorize the Executive Officer to file a NOD with the State Clearinghouse.

Before approving the LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass Project (SNC 578), the SNC must consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) prepared and adopted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and adopt necessary CEQA findings. If the Board approves the project after adopting the CEQA findings, it will also authorize the Executive Officer to file a NOD with the State Clearinghouse.

Before approving the Completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5 (SNC 471), the SNC must consider the MND and MMP prepared and adopted by the Butte County Resource Conservation District, and adopt necessary CEQA findings. If the Board approves the project after adopting the CEQA findings, it will also authorize the Executive Officer to file a NOD with the State Clearinghouse.

For all three of these projects the SNC is serving as a Responsible Agency in accordance with CEQA Guidelines. The environmental documents are on file at the offices of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board (a) adopt necessary California Environmental Quality Act findings and authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination for project SNC 510, the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project; (b) adopt necessary California Environmental Quality Act findings and file a Notice of Determination for project SNC 578, the LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass Project; (c) adopt necessary California Environmental Quality Act findings and file a Notice of Determination for project SNC 471, the Completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5, (d) adopt the proposed Notice of Exemptions for approved projects; (e) authorize the grants listed in Agenda Item VIII, Exhibit A, and (f) direct staff to consider only projects scored at 70 and above for September 2012 funding considerations. Staff additionally recommends that the Board authorize staff to enter into the necessary agreements for the recommended projects and direct staff to file the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act documentation with the State Clearinghouse.

Agenda Item VIII Exhibit A

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS UP TO \$5 MILLION - PHASE I JUNE AWARD

June 7, 2012

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
91.00	North	Lassen	510	Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD)	Diamond Mountain Forest & Meadow Restoration	\$273,735.00
90.25	North	Shasta	578	California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection	LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass	\$90,000.00
90.00	South Central	Calaveras	489	The Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.	Campstool Ranch & Working Forest	\$350,000.00
89.50	North	Lassen	494	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Little Valley Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,800.00
88.25	Central	Nevada	631	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project	\$76,315.00
87.25	South Central	Calaveras	651	California Department of Parks and Recreation	North Grove Forest Restoration Project	\$349,008.00
85.50	North Central	Butte	471	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Forbestown Fuel Break – Phases 3 & 5	\$187,100.00
85.50	North Central	Plumas	458	Plumas County Fire Safe Council	La Porte Rd II HFR	\$143,000.00
85.00	North Central	Plumas	556	Feather River Resource Conservation District	Heart K Forest Health Project	\$232,750.00
84.00	North Central	Butte	474	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project	\$84,000.00
84.00	North Central	Plumas Sierra	509	Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District	Carman Creek Watershed Forest Ecosystem Health Improvement Project	\$350,000.00
83.75	East	Mono	520	USDA - Forest Service, Inyo National Forest	June Loop Fuels Reduction Project	\$327,500.00
82.75	North	Lassen	463	Pit Resource Conservation District	Kramer Ranch Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,692.00
82.50	North; North Central	Lassen, Plumas	497	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Clear Creek Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,650.00
82.35	Central	Placer	619	Northstar Fire Dept	Northstar Fuels Site Management/Maintenance 2	\$112,967.56
82.25	Central	Yuba	453	Yuba County Public Works Department	Fuel Reduction Along County Roads	\$144,000.00

Agenda Item VIII Exhibit A

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS UP TO \$5 MILLION - PHASE I JUNE AWARD

June 7, 2012

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
81.33	South	Madera	608	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration Project	\$40,147.42
81.00	Central	Nevada	512	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest – Truckee Ranger District	Truckee – Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project	\$33,867.44
80.75	Central; North Central	Placer, Nevada, Sierra	500	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	Weed Treatment on the Westside of the Tahoe NF	\$40,000.00
80.25	South	Madera	467	Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District	Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	\$299,510.34
80.00	South	Tulare	614	Inyo National Forest	Ground Hog Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$71,500.00
80.00	Central	Placer	488	Placer Land Trust	Harvego Bear River Preserve Improved Forest Management Implementation Project	\$300,000.00
78.75	Central	Placer	567	City of Auburn Fire Department	American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break	\$146,690.00
78.50	South	Madera	607	Sierra Freepackers Unit- Backcountry Horsemen of California	Kelty Meadow Campground Restoration and Facilities Improvement Project	\$11,775.00
77.75	Central	Placer	535	Placer County Department of Agriculture	Placer County Department of Agriculture A-Rated Noxious Weed Eradication in the Sierra Nevada	\$60,000.00
77.75	Central	Nevada	656	CA State Parks, Sierra District	Union Hill Fuels Reduction Project	\$150,000.00
Total, All Projects June Award						\$4,923,007.76

Clicking the hyperlinks on the project title will open the Project Summary description (Exhibit A) in a pdf document. If you would like to review more of 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.

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
Fuels Reduction						
90.25	North	Shasta	578	California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection	LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass	\$90,000.00
89.50	North	Lassen	494	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Little Valley Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,800.00
85.50	North Central	Butte	471	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Forbestown Fuel Break – Phases 3 & 5	\$187,100.00
84.00	North Central	Butte	474	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project	\$84,000.00
83.75	East	Mono	520	USDA - Forest Service, Inyo National Forest	June Loop Fuels Reduction Project	\$327,500.00
82.35	Central	Placer	619	Northstar Fire Dept	Northstar Fuels Site Mngmt/Maintenance 2	\$112,967.56
82.50	North; North Central	Lassen, Plumas	497	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Clear Creek Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,650.00
82.25	Central	Yuba	453	Yuba County Public Works Department	Fuel Reduction Along County Roads	\$144,000.00
80.25	South	Madera	467	Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District	Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	\$299,510.34
80.00	Central	Placer	488	Placer Land Trust	Harvego Bear River Preserve Improved Forest Management Implementation Project	\$300,000.00
78.75	Central	Placer	567	City of Auburn Fire Department	American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break	\$146,690.00
77.75	Central	Nevada	656	CA State Parks, Sierra District	Union Hill Fuels Reduction Project	\$150,000.00
Total, 12 Fuels Reduction Projects						\$2,541,217.90
Forest Health/Restoration						
91.00	North	Lassen	510	Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD)	Diamond Mountain Forest & Meadow Restoration	\$273,735.00
88.25	Central	Nevada	631	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project	\$76,315.00
87.25	South Central	Calaveras	651	California Department of Parks and Recreation	North Grove Forest Restoration Project	\$349,008.00
85.50	North Central	Plumas	458	Plumas County Fire Safe Council	La Porte Rd II HFR	\$143,000.00

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
85.00	North Central	Plumas	556	Feather River Resource Conservation District	Heart K Forest Health Project	\$232,750.00
82.75	North	Lassen	463	Pit Resource Conservation District	Kramer Ranch Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,692.00
77.75	Central	Placer	535	Placer County Department of Agriculture	Placer County Department of Agriculture A-Rated Noxious Weed Eradication in the Sierra Nevada	\$60,000.00
Total, 7 Forest Health/Restoration Projects						\$1,484,500.00
Meadow Restoration						
81.33	South	Madera	608	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration Project	\$40,147.42
78.50	South	Madera	607	Sierra Freepackers Unit-Backcountry Horsemen of California	Kelty Meadow Campground Restoration and Facilities Improvement Project	\$11,775.00
84.00	North Central	Plumas Sierra	509	Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District	Carman Creek Watershed Forest Ecosystem Health Improvement Project	\$350,000.00
80.00	South	Tulare	614	Inyo National Forest	Ground Hog Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$71,500.00
Total, 4 Meadow Restoration Projects						\$473,422.42
Invasive Species Removal						
81.00	Central	Nevada	512	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest – Truckee Ranger District	Truckee – Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project	\$33,867.44
80.75	Central; North Central	Placer, Nevada, Sierra	500	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	Weed Treatment on the Westside of the Tahoe NF	\$40,000.00
Total, 2 Invasive Species Removal Projects						\$73,867.44
Conservation Easement Acquisition						
90.00	South Central	Calaveras	489	The Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.	Campstool Ranch & Working Forest	\$350,000.00
Total, 1 Conservation Easement						\$350,000.00
Total, All Projects June Award						\$4,923,007.76

County	Score	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
North Subregion					
Lassen	91.00	510	Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD)	Diamond Mountain Forest & Meadow Restoration	\$273,735.00
Shasta	90.25	578	California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection	LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass	\$90,000.00
Lassen	89.50	494	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Little Valley Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,800.00
Lassen	82.75	463	Pit Resource Conservation District	Kramer Ranch Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,692.00
4 Projects Totaling					\$1,063,227.00
North Central Subregion					
Butte	85.50	471	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Forbestown Fuel Break – Phases 3 & 5	\$187,100.00
Plumas	85.50	458	Plumas County Fire Safe Council	La Porte Rd II HFR	\$143,000.00
Plumas	85.00	556	Feather River Resource Conservation District	Heart K Forest Health Project	\$232,750.00
Butte	84.00	474	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project	\$84,000.00
Plumas	84.00	509	Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District	Carman Creek Watershed Forest Ecosystem Health Improvement Project	\$350,000.00
Sierra					
5 Projects Totaling					\$996,850.00
Central Subregion					
Nevada	88.25	631	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project	\$76,315.00
Placer	82.35	619	Northstar Fire Dept	Northstar Fuels Site Mngmt/Maintenance 2	\$112,967.56
Yuba	82.25	453	Yuba County Public Works Department	Fuel Reduction Along County Roads	\$144,000.00
Nevada	81.00	512	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest – Truckee Ranger District	Truckee – Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project	\$33,867.44
Placer	80.00	488	Placer Land Trust	Harvego Bear River Preserve Improved Forest Management Implementation Project	\$300,000.00
Placer	78.75	567	City of Auburn Fire Department	American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break	\$146,690.00
Nevada	77.75	656	CA State Parks, Sierra District	Union Hill Fuels Reduction Project	\$150,000.00
Placer	77.75	535	Placer County Department of Agriculture	Placer County Department of Agriculture A-Rated Noxious Weed Eradication in the Sierra Nevada	\$60,000.00
8 Projects Totaling					\$1,023,840.00

County	Score	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
South Central Subregion					
Calaveras	90.00	489	The Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.	Campstool Ranch & Working Forest	\$350,000.00
Calaveras	87.25	651	California Department of Parks and Recreation	North Grove Forest Restoration Project	\$349,008.00
2 Projects Totaling					\$699,008.00
South Subregion					
Madera	81.33	608	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration Project	\$40,147.42
Madera	80.25	467	Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District	Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	\$299,510.34
Tulare	80.00	614	Inyo National Forest	Ground Hog Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$71,500.00
Madera	78.50	607	Sierra Freepackers Unit- Backcountry Horsemen of California	Kelty Meadow Campground Restoration and Fuel Reduction	\$11,775.00
4 Projects Totaling					\$422,932.76
East Subregion					
Mono	83.75	520	USDA - Forest Service, Inyo National Forest	June Loop Fuels Reduction Project	\$327,500.00
1 Project Totaling					\$327,500.00
Multiple Subregion Projects					
Lassen, Plumas	82.5	497	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Clear Creek Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,650.00
Placer, Nevada, Sierra	80.75	500	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	Weed Treatment on the Westside of the Tahoe NF	\$40,000.00
2 Projects Totaling					\$389,650.00
Total, 26 Projects June Award					\$4,923,007.76

LIST OF ALL PHASE II PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2012 AWARD

June 7, 2012

Rank	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
1	Central	Nevada	533	Sierra Streams Institute	Lower Deer Creek Healthy Revegetation Project	\$112,932.00
2	Central	Nevada	588	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project, Phase 2	\$53,872.44
3	Central	Plumas	454	City of Portola	Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction	\$263,230.00
4	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
5	North Central	Butte	480	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Forest Health Chipper Program	\$100,000.00
5	Central	El Dorado	616	Lake Valley Fire Protection District	Mt. Ralston Community Defense Zone	\$171,156.00
6	Central	Nevada	582	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	The Malakoff Diggins Forest Health Project	\$99,768.41
7	South Central	Amador	566	Amador County Recreation Agency	Mollie Joyce Park Healthy Forest Project	\$314,640.00
7	North Central	Butte	518	Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council	Concow Watershed Improvement, Biomass Reutilization, and Reforestation	\$350,000.00
8	Central	El Dorado	562	California Conservation Corps	Forest Improvement Fuel load Reduction	\$226,230.40
9	Central	Nevada	649	Bear Yuba Land Trust	McDermott/Crawford Family Forest: Restoration and Reforestation	\$120,175.00
9	North Central	Plumas	543	Feather River Land Trust	Clover Valley Ranch Conservation and Restoration Project	\$350,000.00

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.

LIST OF ALL PHASE II PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2012 AWARD

June 7, 2012

Rank	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
Projects Scoring Below 70.00 Not Being Recommended for Award						
10	Central	Placer	625	Placer County Planning Services	Watershed Improvement Zone - American River	\$350,000.00
11	Central	Nevada	549	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	Defensible Space Chipping Prgm	\$75,000.00
12	Central	El Dorado	531	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District	Camp Sacramento Erosion Control & Habitat Improvement Project	\$196,100.00
12	Central	El Dorado, Placer	583	USDA Forest Service, Georgetown Ranger District/Pacific Ranger District	Roundabout Mastication Project	\$110,000.00
13	North Central	Sierra	610	Sierra County Land Trust	Sierra Buttes: Lusk Meadow (Wode parcel) Conservation Easement	\$36,000.00
14	Central	El Dorado	515	El Dorado Irrigation District,	Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration Implementation	\$300,000.00
15	North Central	Sierra	482	Sierra County Land Trust	Sierra Buttes: Lusk Meadow (Keeley parcel) Conservation Easement	\$36,000.00
16	South	Fresno	612	Sierra National Forest, Central California Consortium	Generation Green Stewardship Crew	\$405,403.21
17	South Central	Mariposa	554	Mariposa County Fire Safe Council	Chipping of Defensible Space Material	\$122,472.00
18	South Central	Tuolumne, Mariposa	572	The Regents of the University of California, ANR Office of Contracts and Grants	Tuolumne River Watershed & Yosemite Corridor Invasive Weed Abatement	\$56,953.75
19	South Central	Mariposa	557	Mariposa County Fire Safe Council	Wildland Fire Home Protection Assistance Program	\$75,947.00
20	South Central	Amador	528	Amador Fire Safe Council,	Amador Fire Safe Council Ingress/Egress; Community Roadside Chipper; Low Income Senior Assistance 2011	\$150,000.00
21	North Central	Plumas	456	Plumas County Fire Safe Council	Senior/ Disabled Defensible Space Assistance	\$70,000.00
22	North Central	Plumas	587	Lassen National Forest	Warner DFPZ Project	\$61,800.00
23	South	Madera	538	Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians	Big Sandy Rancheria Fire Protection Plan	\$50,000.00
Total, 27 Projects Pending Phase II						\$4,495,318.21

Agenda Item VIII Exhibit E

LIST OF ALL DISQUALIFIED CATEGORY I PROJECTS THROUGH PHASE I JUNE AWARD

June 7, 2012

SNC ID		Reason for				
#	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested	Disqualification	County	Subregion
457	The Nature Conservancy	Independence Lake Forest Restoration and Fuels Treatment Project	\$349,382.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Sierra, Nevada	Central; North Central
464	California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection, LaTour Demonstration State Forest	LDSF Rim Road Brush Conversion	\$64,850.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Shasta	North
477	Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council	Big Long Fuel Reduction Project	\$38,665.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Mariposa	South Central
495	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Janesville 2012 WUI Fuel Treatments	\$349,650.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Lassen	North
496	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Milford WUI Landscape Scale Fuel Treatments and Risk Assessments	\$349,650.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Lassen	North
514	Tuolumne County RCD	Middle Yankee Hill Rd Shaded Fuel Break	\$63,635.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Tuolumne	South Central
525	Sierra Streams Institute	Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuel Reduction	\$103,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Nevada	Central
526	Mariposa Public Utility District	Stockton Creek Preserve Management Project	\$165,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Mariposa	South Central
532	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	Haslett Basin Restoration, Phase 2	\$131,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Fresno	South
534	Sierra Streams Institute	Deer Creek Healthy Forest Initiative	\$175,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Nevada	Central
539	Plumas Corporation, Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group	Upper Dotta Canyon Restoration Project	\$143,750.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Plumas	North Central
560	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	Deer Creek Community Fuel Break	\$98,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Nevada	Central
569	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District	Raintree Forest Health Project	\$344,668.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	El Dorado	Central

LIST OF ALL DISQUALIFIED CATEGORY I PROJECTS THROUGH PHASE I JUNE AWARD

June 7, 2012

SNC ID		Reason for				
#	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested	Disqualification	County	Subregion
573	USDA, Sequoia National Forest, Kern River Ranger District	Piute Mountain Meadows Restoration Project	\$20,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Kern	South
574	American Rivers	Indian Valley Restoration Project	\$195,500.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Alpine	East
595	Sierra County Fire Safe & Watershed Council	2012 Western Sierra County Watershed Protection & Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project ¹	\$354,863.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Sierra	North Central
618	Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council	Alta Sierra Community Forest Health Fuels Reduction Project	\$135,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Kern	South
620	California Invasive Plant Council	Sustaining Forest Health by Preventing Yellow Starthistle Spread into the Sierra Nevada	\$313,950.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare	Central; East; North Central; South; South Central
627	University of California Cooperative Extension-Tulare County,	TULARE COUNTY-WMA NOXIOUS WEED AND INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL WITHIN MINES	\$51,700.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Tulare	South
636	North Tahoe Fire Protection District	Alpine Meadows/Squaw Valley Hazardous Fuel and Green Waste Reduction Program	\$56,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Placer	Central

¹Disqualification pending final documentation review.

LIST OF ALL DISQUALIFIED CATEGORY I PROJECTS THROUGH PHASE I JUNE AWARD

June 7, 2012

SNC ID						Reason for	
#	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested	Disqualification	County	Subregion	
640	El Dorado County Department of Agriculture	Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties	\$250,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non- Compliance	El Dorado, Alpine	Central; East	
644	Tulare County RCD	Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project ¹	\$350,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non- Compliance	Tulare	South	
647	USDA/USFS Stanislaus National Forest – Calaveras Ranger District	ACCG Collaborative Project: Bailey Plantation Health Improvement and Ecosystem Restoration	\$246,100.00	CEQA/NEPA Non- Compliance	Calaveras	South Central	
648	Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Mother Lode Field Office	Big Lily Gap Forest Health Project, Phase 2	\$185,000.00	CEQA/NEPA Non- Compliance	Calaveras	South Central	
652	High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew	Central Sierra Reclamation Project	\$325,110.00	Disqualified due to CEQA/NEPA Non- Compliance	Alpine, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern	East; South; South Central	
25 Projects Totaling			\$4,859,473.00				

¹Disqualification pending final documentation review.

**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: Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$273,735.00

Total Project Cost: \$394,235.00

Application Number: 510

Final Score: 91

PROJECT SCOPE

Vegetation treatment in this project will include mechanical thinning on approximately 420 acres; hand thin, prune, and slash disposal on +/- 48 acres; and removal of conifers under 12" in diameter from +/- 9 acres on two meadows. Woody debris and biomass generated will be utilized to the maximum extent feasible for chips to be delivered to a waste generation facility or for fuelwood with revenue offsetting project costs.

Individual prescriptions will be designed on a stand-by-stand basis. Tree thinning will be designed to reduce crown bulk density, and increase spacing between leave trees so that tree crowns are not touching with variable spacing between 6 to 20 feet between tree boles. The focus will be trees less than 12" diameter at breast height. Pockets will be left untreated to provide habitat variety.

Tree pruning is designed near residences and along access corridors to further reduce the potential ladder fuel effect of branches close to the forest floor. Trees of any size will be pruned. Larger trees will be pruned up to 12" in height above the ground. Smaller pine trees will be pruned to a height not greater than one half of their total height. Slash in hand treated areas will be piled and burned, removed, chipped or masticated.

Mechanical thinning will utilize a "commercial thinning" prescription under the NTMPs to increase the average tree size as a result of harvesting. Woody material from mechanical operations will be converted to chips and delivered to a local power plant. All mechanized operations will comply with the Northern Forest District Rules under the California Forest Practices Act. Piling and burning will comply with the rules and

standards of the local Air Quality Control District and Lahontan Water Quality Control Board.

Aspen and oak enhancement will involve harvesting small conifer trees developing in the understory of the hardwood species and will be accomplished as part of tree thinning. Most invading conifers will be removed from three meadows to maintain native grass/meadow habitat.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete Memo of Understanding between HLVRCD & landowners	August 30, 2012
Begin field work – project layout	September 2012
Advertise project work	September 30, 2012
Receive bids & negotiate forest & meadow restoration contracts	October 15, 2012
Begin project work	October 22, 2012- December 21, 2012
Six Month Progress Reports	January 30, 2013 and July 30, 2013
Complete mechanical operations	October 15, 2013
Complete pile burning	November 15, 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT	December 30, 2013

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$248,850
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	24,885
GRAND TOTAL	\$273,735

* 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
 - Eagle Lake District, Lassen National Forest
 - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
 - Cal Fire, Lassen-Modoc Cal Fire Unit
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Susan River Fire Protection District
 - W.M. Beatty & Associates

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
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
- Number and Type of Jobs Created
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities
- 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: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Project Title: LDSF Fuel Break/Flat Top Biomass

Subregion: North

County: Shasta

SNC Funding: \$ 90,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$104,000.00

Application Number: 578

Final Score: 90.25

PROJECT SCOPE

The LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF) Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass project site is located on LaTour Demonstration State Forest, which is located approximately 45 miles east of Redding, in Shasta County and managed by the CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The project consists of creating a 400 foot wide fuelbreak (200 feet on each side of four road segments) located on LDSF covering 199 acres. In addition, a biomass thinning operation is planned on Table Top Mountain which encompasses 104 acres. In total, the Fuelbreak/ Table Top Biomass operation covers 303 acres on LDSF.

One fuelbreak segment is located along a portion of the McMullen Mountain Road which is located on a main ridgeline that transects from east to west near the center of LDSF. This segment is 12,500 feet long and covers 100 acres. Another segment is located on the Cutter Road which is located in the northeastern portion of LDSF. This segment is 6,178 feet long and covers 57 acres. The last two fuelbreak segments are located on the Rim Road, another main ridgeline located in the southeastern portion of LDSF. The combined Rim Road segments are 4,544 feet long and will create 42 acres of fuelbreak. The 104 acre Table Top Biomass thinning operation is located on the eastern Forest boundary, covering the area from the south side of Flat Top Mountain west to the Rim Road and south to the Huckleberry Road.

Each treatment area will consist of harvesting small trees 3 to 12 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) to achieve a desired spacing of approximately twenty feet between retained residuals. Harvesting will take place by means of mechanical sheers, skidding the resulting raw material referred to as "doodles" to nearby landings, chipping and blowing the material into chip vans, and transporting the chips to a co-generation plant located either in Redding or Burney.

The areas surrounding LDSF have a long history of devastating fires occurring on a regular basis, with significant fires occurring most recently in 1968, 1978, 1987, and 2003. The project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and potential for post-fire sediment runoff into area waterways, while improving stand vigor and tree growth by thinning overstocked and/or Cytospora infected trees. LDSF is the headwater source of two major streams, Old Cow Creek and South Cow Creek. A tributary to the North Fork of Battle Creek and South Fork of Bear Creek drain small portions of the south side of LDSF.

Cal Fire is providing \$14,000 worth of in-kind support to the project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Prepare CAL FIRE contract and bid package	July 30, 2012
Prepare and submit harvest exemption	October 31, 2012
Solicit bids for work	October 31, 2012
Flag/sample mark project areas	Summer/Fall 2012
Award bid	December, 2012
Project work, monitoring, documentation	June 1, 2013 – October 31, 2013
Progress Report	December 2013
Final Report	May 31, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$90,000.00
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$90,000.00

* 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
 - Cow Creek Watershed Management 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.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created

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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: Pacific Forest Trust

Project Title: Campstool Ranch and Working Forest

Subregion: South Central

County: Calaveras

SNC Funding: \$ 350,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$4,063,005.00

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, 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.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Sign Grant Agreement with SNC	August 2012
Submit Project Documentation (Easement, Baseline Report, Monitoring Plan, Preliminary Title Report) to SNC and Wildlife Conservation Board for Review/Approval	August 2012 – December 2012
Submit progress report to SNC	January 2013

Complete Escrow Instructions for Closing w/ SNC and WCB review and approval	June 2013
Submit progress report to SNC	June 2013
Close and Record Conservation Easement	October 2013
Submit Final Report to SNC	November 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 1, 2013

PROJECT COSTS

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

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - 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)

**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: Lassen County Fire Safe council

Project Title: Little Valley Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$349,800.00

Total Project Cost: \$579,800.00

Application Number: 494

Final Score: 89.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The goal of this project is to restore watershed function and health to the forests surrounding the Little Valley community in Lassen County as well as reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

The restoration treatments will reverse the current conditions that are contributing to an increase in soil erosion; reduced stream flows; reduced forage production; altered wildlife habitat; changed plant community composition, structure, and biodiversity, and increased hazardous fuel loads. The Project area supports critical wildlife habitat and includes up to 697 acres of land in different private ownerships. Restoration of the habitat will provide enhanced opportunities for hunting and non-take wildlife activities such as bird and wildlife watching.

The project includes landscape scale and residential/community treatments, each consisting of the thinning of small and suppressed trees, and the removal of juniper through shearing, chipping and mastication in order to return the forest to its historic climax condition. This project will involve a variety of large and small parcels resulting in a holistic treatment approach. Additional project funding is being provided by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, revenue from the sale of chips, and in-kind forestry services provided by Sierra Pacific Industries.

The landscape scale treatment prescriptions will be identified in the field by Registered Professional Foresters.

Photo monitoring points will be set-up prior to treatment commencement and repeated when treatments are completed. After all treatments have been completed GIS layers

of the completed work areas will be prepared for the Lassen County CWPP Base Map and for submittal to SNC.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Landscape Treatment Layout & Prescriptions	August - November 2012
Complete Newsletter / sign-ups	September - November 2012
Complete Bid Solicitation	November 2012
Setup Photo Monitoring Points	November 2012 - January 2014
Contractor Selection	December 2012
Landowner Consultations/ risk assessments	December 2012- December 2013
Conduct Treatments	January 2013-July 2014
Six Month Progress Reports	January 30, 2013, June 30, 2013 and January 30, 2014
Post Treatment Monitoring	June 2013- June 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$313,000
Indirect**	5,000
Administrative***	31,800
GRAND TOTAL	\$349,800

* 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
 - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
 - Lassen National Forest
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Honey Lake Power
 - Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
 - Susanville Indian Rancheria

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.

- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created
- Number of forest and meadow acres 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: Bear Yuba Land Trust

Project Title: Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada

SNC Funding: \$ 76,315.00

Total Project Cost: \$126,315.00

Application Number: 631

Final Score: 88.25

PROJECT SCOPE

Woodpecker Preserve, owned in fee title by the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT), is a heavily forested 28.23 acre parcel of land in the Little Deer Creek watershed. The land acts as a forested buffer to a densely populated residential neighborhood on Banner Mountain in Nevada City.

The project encompasses initial fuels reduction treatment of the forest, invasive species removal, and limited re-vegetation in a highly eroded area. Restoration efforts will include the removal or modification of surface fuels, the felling of excess snags, and hand-thinning to decrease overall stand density.

Project outcomes include a healthy forest habitat for wildlife and improved water quality in Little Deer Creek, improved recreational opportunities for trail access and bird-watching, and prevention of catastrophic wildfires. Project activities are guided by the Woodpecker Ravine Management Plan, developed in 2004 by BYLT.

Additional in-kind support for the project is being provided by community donations and volunteer work.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Fuel Load Reduction pre-project monitoring	August 2012-November 2012
Selective i nvasive sp ecies removal and f orest fuel load reductions.	April –May and September – October 2012, 2013, 2014
Revegetation layout and planting	August- September 2012, December 2012-February 2013
Mid and post project monitoring	September 2013, October 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (four)	November 2012, May 2013, November 2013, May 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 1, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$50,475
Indirect**	16,175
Administrative***	9,665
GRAND TOTAL	\$76,315

* 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
 - Banner Mt. Homeowners Association
 - Firesafe Council of Nevada County
 - Sierra Streams Institute
 - Under the Trees
- Oppose
 - Nevada 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.

Common to Site Improvement & Acquisition Categories

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored:
- Number of New Recreation Access Points:
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored:
- Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or 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
Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Project Title: North Grove Forest Restoration Project

Subregion: South Central

County: Calaveras

SNC Funding: \$349,008.00

Total Project Cost: \$358,408.00

Application Number: 651

Final Score: 87.25

PROJECT SCOPE

The North Grove Forest Restoration Project (NGP) at Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBT) will restore the North Grove giant sequoia forest into a crown fire resistant forest with an open stand structure. By selectively thinning the understory and removing surface and ladder fuels, this restoration project will reduce the high fuel loads in the North Grove that may lead to stand-replacing post-wildfire effects such as sediment delivery into the Big Tree Creek (BTC) watershed. Big Tree Creek flows into White Pines Lake, a public water source. This project will additionally enhance native wildlife, fish and plant habitat and improve visitor enjoyment.

Specifically, this project will:

- In general, thinning from below to reduce ladder and canopy fuels, and to reduce overall stand density; reduce basal area from >270 to <150; reduce stems per acre from up to 400 per acre to 50-70 stems per acre (including pacific dogwoods).
- Retain all giant sequoia, black oak, pacific yew and sugar pines. Retain quality downed logs and snags for wildlife habitat.
- Retain all live trees > 8" diameter at breast height. Larger snags and trees may be removed if selected as hazardous to project work or future prescribed burning operations.
- Remove or pile to burn, 60-90 percent of total surface fuel load. Reduce surface woody debris from 35-80 tons/acre to less than 10 tons/acre.

- Clear all heavy fuels away from the trunks of giant sequoia, pacific yews and large diameter pines to reduce possibility of bark scorch or heat mortality.
- Burn piles in the appropriate season and weather conditions with burn permits and smoke management permit from Cal Fire and Calaveras Air Pollution Control District.

All work will be accomplished by hand crews using chainsaws, loppers and other hand tools from both the California Conservation Corp (CCC) and inmates from the California Department of Corrections (CDC) Vallecito Conservation Camp. A State Park Environmental Scientist will be on site during all work hours for project coordination, daily oversight and public education.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Make, staff, volunteer, community and media contacts and inform public about the project. Post signs and print handouts for community boards. Select photo points of forest and historic sites. Take photos of forest and historic sites from selected photo points. Train staff and volunteers on public interpretation of project and how to tally numbers of public contacts.	August 2012
Flag boundaries of project, flag trees, snags, logs and shrubs for protection and mark trees for removal. Flag cultural and historic resources to be retained and protected. Set up fixed-radius plots and take measurements on fuels, stand density and species composition.	August -September, 2012
Set up CCC crews and train crews on work specifications for project.	August -September 2012
Conduct raptor surveys. Begin North Grove Forest Restoration Project field work. Have staff present for operations, interpretation and count of visitors contacted during operations.	August, 2012- November, 2012
Complete 1st six-month report	February, 2013
Conduct raptor surveys. Resume North Grove Forest Restoration Project field work. Have staff present for operations, interpretation, and count of visitors contacted during operations. Burn piles when conditions are appropriate.	May-November, 2013
Complete 2nd six-month report	August, 2013
Complete 3rd six-month report	February, 2014
Conduct raptor surveys. Resume North Grove Forest Restoration Project field work. Have staff present for operations, interpretation, and count of visitors contacted during operations. Burn piles when conditions are appropriate.	May-November, 2014
Complete 4th six-month report	August, 2014

Conduct raptor surveys. Resume North Grove Forest Restoration Project field work. Have staff present for operations, interpretation and count of visitors contacted during operations. Burn piles when conditions are appropriate. Re-exam fixed-radius plots and take measurements on fuels, stand density and species composition after completion of field work. Take final photos from photo points.	May – November, 2015
Submit final report	December 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 1, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$313,000
Indirect**	1,050
Administrative***	34,958
GRAND TOTAL	\$349,008

* 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
 - Marilyn Regan, Calaveras Big Trees Association
 - Merita Callaway, Calaveras County Supervisor
 - Al Orozco, California Conservation Corps
 - Vivian De La Rosa, Cal Fire
 - Tim Tate, Sierra Pacific Industries
 - Terry Woodrow, Calaveras Foothills Firesafe Council
 - Laura Kindsvater, Save the Redwoods League
 - Tom Parrington, Central Sierra Audubon Society

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 (projected at 125 acres)

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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: Butte County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 & 5

Subregion: North Central

County: Butte

SNC Funding: \$187,100

Total Project Cost: \$236,200

Application Number: 471

Final Score: 85.5

PROJECT SCOPE

The Forbestown Road Community Fuel Break has been designed and implemented through a collaborative community process over the past three years. Phases 1, 2 and 4 of the 5-phase project have been completed. Phases 3 and 5 will complete the entire community fuel break and provide a continuous landscape scale fuel break. The fuel break will reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire and help protect watershed and water quality while also providing improved fire fighting access and safer evacuation opportunity for local residents.

The completed Forbestown Fuel Break will provide an extensive line of protection and firefighting access along the south side of the Lake Oroville Watershed. Even more significantly, it will help protect the greater Yuba Watershed and its communities from wildfire that would generally be expected to be pushed by prevailing winds from north to south.

Phase 3 consists of 32 acres of steep-sloped private timberland along Forbestown Road and Lower Forbestown Road. Vegetation will be treated with mastication through a contract with the landowner. Phase 5 encompasses 158 acres of heavy ridge top vegetation to be treated using dozer push & crush method through a contract with the landowners.

Additional funding or in-kind support to the project totaling \$49,000 will be provided by the landowners, University of California, Butte County Fire Safe Council, and Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council.

Landowner agreements will require that the project be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete agreements with landowners for vegetation treatments	August 2012
Complete archeological/biological protection measures	August – October 2012
Landowners vegetation treatments	October 2012 – December 2013
Treatment compliance review, monitoring	October 2012 – December 2013
Progress Reports (three)	January 2013, July 2013, Jan. 2014
Final Report	June 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$163,400
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	23,700
GRAND TOTAL	\$187,100

* 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
 - Butte County Board of Supervisors' Resolution
 - Butte County Office of Emergency Management
 - South Feather Water and Power Agency
 - CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department
 - Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council
 - Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council
 - U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Feather River Ranger District
 - Jeremy Strait, Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist, BLM Redding Field Office
 - Butte County Resource Conservation District
 - Butte County Air Quality Management 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

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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: Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: La Porte Road II HFR

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: \$143,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$267,795.00

Application Number: 458

Final Score: 85.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PCFSC) will complete Hazardous Fuel Reduction on private lands to create a fire resilient forest and community for 20 landowners on 172 acres.

This project is immediately adjacent to Thompson Valley and Thompson Creek, in Central Plumas County. The treatment will compliment 120 acres of hazardous fuels reduction work completed in April of 2010. When this phase is completed there will be 350 acres of forested lands and 41 contiguous parcels treated to a fire resilient condition, for approximately 2.5 miles along La Porte Road.

Treatments will include biomass harvesting on 62 acres, which is estimated to generate 31 Thousand Board Feet (MBF) of sawlogs and 372 Bone Dry Tons (BDT) of biomass chips, mastication on 43 acres and hand thinning, piling & burning on 67 acres. Revenues from forest products and landowner cash contributions will be used as matching funds to accomplish treatments.

Thompson Creek is a third order, Class I perennial watercourse that is tributary to the North Fork of the Feather River, and ultimately into Lake Oroville, a key component of the California State Water Project. All lands to be treated are private. There will be no change in land use, only a change in the potential for less damage to the watersheds, forests and habitats following treatment from a wildfire.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Obtain signed landowner agreements, finalize prescriptions, and prepare treatment prospectuses.	August 2012 – December 2014
Biomass harvesting of 62 acres.	September 2012 – December 2014
Mechanical mastication of 43 acres and hand thinning/piling burning on 69 acres.	September 2012 – December 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (four)	January 2013, June 2013, December 2013, June 2014
Perform photo monitoring of treatment areas before, during & after treatment; prepare appropriate monitoring packages.	August 2012 – December 2014
Final Report	December 30, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$128,400
Indirect**	1,600
Administrative***	13,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$143,000

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - Plumas County Board of Supervisors- Resolution in Support of Application
 - Plumas Corporation who by Memorandum of Understanding manages PC FSC fiscal matters.
 - Table of project participants – Landowners (20)

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
Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: Feather River Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Heart K Forest Health Project

Subregion: North-Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: \$232,750.00

Total Project Cost: \$399,750.00

Application Number: 556

Final Score: 85

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Resource Conservation District (FR-RCD) and Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) are partnering to restore the Heart K Ranch forest and riparian habitats.

This project will restore 100-120 acres of oak woodland and pine forest by hand-thinning conifers less than 14 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) to increase sunlight for black oaks, provide firewood to low income residents, and reduce threat of catastrophic fire. The work will complement fuels reduction efforts on immediately adjacent lands managed by the Plumas National Forest (PNF) (200 acres) and private landowners (160 acres).

The project will also improve water quality and riparian habitat on Indian Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Feather River at the headwaters of the State Water Project. This project will plant cottonwood and willow along ¼-mile of the creek to stabilize damaged areas, provide resources for traditional uses, provide wildlife habitat, and improve water quality. Restoring riparian habitat along Indian Creek will compliment other efforts in the Feather River Watershed to improve water quality.

Mountain Maidu historically influenced the ecology of the Heart K Ranch by managing forests, riparian areas, and meadows with fire. Traditional practices resulted in increased diversity and reduced potential for catastrophic wildfire. To restore indigenous management on the Heart K Ranch, local Genesee Valley Maidu and the Greenville Rancheria Wildland Fire Crew will be employed in restoration efforts.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Riparian Restoration Natural & Cultural Resource Protection Measures Willow & Cottonwood Planting	August 2012 – July 2013 July – December 2013
Forest Restoration – Stands 4-6 Planning, Layout, Permitting Natural & Cultural Resource Protection Measures Hand-thin, Limb, and Pile Burn Piles	January - December 2013
Forest Restoration – Stands 2-3 Hand-thin, Limb, and Pile Burn Piles	June – December 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (four)	January 2013, June 2013, December 2013, June 2014
Final Report	January 30, 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct Costs	\$207,775
Indirect Costs	1,700
Administrative Costs	23,275
GRAND TOTAL	\$232,750

* 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 SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

- Support
 - Michael Yost, Indian Valley Community District Board
 - Plumas County Fire Safe Council
 - Feather River Coordinated Resource Management
 - Dan Martynn, District Conservationist, NRCS
 - Genesee Valley Landowners (2)
 - Michael Donald, Mt. Hough Ranger District, Plumas National Forest
 - Feather River College Environmental Studies Department

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.

- Improve Water Quality
- Reduce Risk of Catastrophic Fire
- Number and Type of Jobs Created

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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: Butte County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project

Subregion: North Central

County: Butte

SNC Funding: \$84,000

Total Project Cost: \$94,000

Application Number: 474

Final Score: 84.0

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will implement hand thinning with pile burning or chipping to thin 30 acres of overgrown forest vegetation on Paradise Irrigation District land along Little Butte Creek just up-stream of Magalia Reservoir. A fuel break will be created by removing overgrown brush and trees 8" in diameter or less.

The project ties in with forest thinning work previously completed along the creek and adjacent residential area. Completion of this forest thinning will create a fuel break on the moderate-to-steep sloped interface between the residential community and Little Butte Creek which will greatly decrease the threat of catastrophic wildfire, and protect the watershed health and water quality of the creek, reservoir, and community water supply from the potential impacts of fire and subsequent erosion.

Butte County Fire Safe Council (FSC) will provide fire wise education through a field trip, an education newsletter and web site posting in conjunction with the project work. The FSC will contribute \$10,000 value in staff and volunteer match to the project.

Paradise Irrigation District will maintain the fuel break after project completion for a minimum of 10 years.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Work contracts signed	October 2012
Forest thinning work and pile burning/chipping	November 2012 – June 2014

Monitor and document treatment progress and review treatment standards	November 2012 – June 2014
Newsletter, educational site tour, and fire wise educational outreach	November 2012 – June 2014
Progress Reports (four)	January 2013, July 2013, January 2014, July 2014
Final Report	December 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$66,000
Indirect**	9,600
Administrative***	8,400
GRAND TOTAL	\$84,000

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - Butte County Board of Supervisors Resolution
 - Jeremy Strait, Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist, BLM 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

**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 Valley Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Carman Creek Watershed/Forest Ecosystem Health Improvement Project

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas/Sierra

SNC Funding: \$350,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$450,000.00

Application Number: 509

Final Score: 84

PROJECT SCOPE

The Carman Creek watershed is located in Plumas and Sierra Counties, within the Upper Middle Fork of the Feather River Watershed approximately 2 miles northeast of the town of Calpine, CA. Current land uses on National Forest lands are recreation, forest management, and grazing. Private lands adjacent to the National Forest are managed for timber, grazing and other agricultural uses.

The proposed project includes 120 acres of hand thinning/fuels reduction which will improve forest health and resilience. Four stream/meadow restoration sites will improve approximately 30 acres of riparian habitat and 1.1 miles of stream within the West Fork drainage of Carman Creek. These projects are subsets of Carman Watershed Restoration Project Phase II and the Saddle Vegetation Treatment Project. Phase II of the restoration project includes ten identified restoration sites within the Carman Creek watershed's complex of meadows and streams identified in the U.S. Forest Service Watershed Assessment (USFS 2007) as high priority for restoration. The Carman Creek Watershed Restoration Project Phase I was completed in 2005 and addressed active erosion (down cut channels and active head cuts) in Knuthson Meadow, Three Cornered Meadow and several other unnamed small down-cut meadows.

Fuels Reduction

Approximately 120 acres of fuels reduction have been identified as high priority fuels reduction work within the West Fork Drainage of Carman Creek. The treatment identified is hand thinning and hand piling within the Carman Valley/Calpine Defensible Fuel Profile Zone. The project area has also been identified as a high priority for

treatment within the Sierra County Fire Management Plan and is near the community of Calpine, CA.

Meadow Restoration

Site #4 has been disturbed by old railroad grade construction and actively erodes during large storms. The project will remove sections of railroad grade that are diverting the natural stream flow, relocate the flow into remnant channels on the old meadow surface and obliterate the eroded channel using native soil plugs. Approximately 1,500 feet of existing degraded channel and 500 feet of railroad grade would be obliterated.

Site #5 is where an old road grade has captured the natural flow for a few hundred feet resulting in down-cutting and meadow dewatering. The project will remove the existing road grade and associated ditch and return the flow to the natural meadow channel system.

Site #6 is where an old railroad grade has created a significant cut in a hillside and captured the stream causing erosion of the area. The project will reconnect the flow into the original channel and remove the through cut area (approximately 500 feet long).

Site #7 is where railroad grade construction and subsequent culvert placement has caused a stream segment to down-cut and widen through the meadow area above and below the road. The project will remove the existing culvert, create a rocked low water crossing, and divert the stream (upper portion of the West Fork of Carman Creek) out of the gully and into remnant channels on the meadow surface. The 2,000 foot down-cut channel section would be closed off using native soil plugs.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Pre project monitoring	August 2012-June 2013
Project layout, contracting, and implementation.	August 2012-October 2013
Contracting preparation and contractor selection	May 2013-July 2014
Implement timber treatments	June 2013-Sep. 2014
Implement site restoration at sites 4-7	June 2013-Oct. 2014
Project Monitoring – during and after	July 2013 – November 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (four)	February 2013, August 2013, February 2014, August 2014
Final project report	December 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$293,650
Indirect**	10,698
Administrative***	45,652
GRAND TOTAL	\$350,000

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - California Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - Feather River Coordinated Resource Management
 - Tribal Liaison Statewide Tribal
 - District Conservationist, Plumas/Sierra Co, NRCS
 - Feather River Resource Conservation District
 - District Ranger, Sierraville Ranger District, TNF

- “No Position”
 - Sierra County Board of Supervisors

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
- Number and type of jobs created
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities
- Lineal Feet of stream bank protected or restored
- 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: Inyo National Forest

Project Title: June Loop Fuels Reduction Project

Subregion: East Subregion

County: Mono County

SNC Funding: \$327,500.00

Total Project Cost: \$372,000.00

Application Number: 520

Final Score: 83.75

PROJECT SCOPE

The June Loop Fuels Reduction Project will implement fuels reduction treatments on four land units equaling 89 acres in the June Lake Loop area. These treatments will create 100-foot defensible space zones around developed facilities on U.S. Forest Service land and at the boundaries with private properties, where there are homes or other facilities.

The work, which will be completed over a two-year period, will decrease the likelihood of a large-scale, high intensity wildland fire and preserve the overall health and resilience of the Grant Lake-Rush Creek 6th level sub-watershed, which is the municipal watershed that directly supplies water to the June Lake Public Utility District.

The fuels reduction treatment activities will include tree thinning and pruning to reduce stand density, shrub cutting, wood hauling, slash chipping, piling and burning. A variety of techniques and equipment will be used to implement the fuels reduction work while also protecting the sensitive hydrologic features of the area and natural habitats.

This project will reduce the risk of wildfire, improve forest health, protect important natural resources and habitat and preserve and enhance the Grant Lake-Rush Creek Watershed resulting in improved water quality.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Year One- Unit Mapping, Layout, Hydrology & Vegetation Baseline Monitoring (2 units DZ-08 + DZ-09)	September – October 2012
Contract Preparation	January – February 2013
6-Month Progress Report #1	March 2013
Contract Award	May – June 2013
6-Month Progress Report #2	September 2013
On-Ground Contract Implementation	September – October 2013
Contract Inspection, Administration, Monitoring	September – October 2013
Year Two- Unit Mapping, Layout, Hydrology & Vegetation Baseline Monitoring (2 units A-01 + DZ-07)	September – October 2013
Contract Preparation	January – February 2014
6-Month Progress Report #3	March 2014
Contract Award	May – June 2014
6-Month Progress Report #4	September 2014
On- the-Ground Contract Implementation	September– October 2014
Contract Inspection, Administration, Monitoring	September – October 2014
Slash Pile Burning (Year One 2 units DZ-08 + DZ-09)	November – December 2014
6-Month Progress Report #5	March 2015
6-Month Progress Report #6	September 2015
Slash Pile Burning (Year Two 2 units A-01 + DZ-07)	November – December 2015
Final Report	February 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	February 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$ 305,300
Indirect**	6,200
Administrative***	16,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$327,500

- * Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.
- ** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.
- *** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - June Lake Fire Protection District
 - June Lake 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.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored
This project will result in 9,504 feet (1.8 miles) of stream bank protection and/or restoration along Reverse Creek, Yost Creek, Fern Creek and other un-named creeks. The project will reduce excessive runoff, erosion and sedimentation associated with a high-intensity wildfire by removing some of the heavy conifer encroachment.
- Acres of Land Improved and/or Restored
Four land units totaling 89 acres will be directly improved and restored. Hazardous fuels will be significantly reduced; forest health and resilience will be improved through reduced inter-tree competition. Aspen and other native riparian vegetation will be enhanced through reduced conifer encroachment.

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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: Pit Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Kramer Ranch Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$349,692

Total Project Cost: \$629,692

Application Number: 463

Final Score: 82.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will restore watershed functions and health to 700 acres (SNC portion) of forest at the base of Big Valley Mountain near the community of Bieber, California, as well as reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire within the identified area of Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI). Other partner funds will be used to complete the project.

This project area encompasses private timber and range lands consisting of mixed conifer, black oak, sagebrush steppe, and riparian/meadow habitats. It is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed land.

The project work consists of thinning of overstocked pine stands, targeting small and suppressed trees, and the removal of invasive western juniper. Material will be removed by mechanical shears and then chipped and hauled to a biomass fuel facility where it will be used in the production of clean renewable energy. Proceeds from the chip sales will be used to partially pay for the treatments. Cal Fire Conservation Crews will provide follow-up hand treatments in areas where mechanical equipment cannot operate.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Treatment Area Layout	August 2012-October 2012
Preparation of Bid Solicitation	October 2012
Set-up Monitoring	October 2012-December 2013
Contractor Selection	November 2012
Implement Treatments	June 2013-June 2014
Post-Treatment Monitoring	October 2014
Six Month Progress Reports (four)	February 2013, August 2013, February 2014, August 2014
Complete GIS Files	December 2014
Six Month Progress/Final Report	January 30, 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$319,000
Indirect**	3,000
Administrative***	27,692
GRAND TOTAL	\$349,692

* 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

- Letters of Support
 - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
 - Modoc National Forest
 - Bureau of Land Management, Alturas Field Office
 - Honey Lake Power
 - Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
 - Susanville Indian Rancheria
 - US 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.

- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created
- Number of forest and meadow acres 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: Lassen County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Clear Creek Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project

Subregion: North

County: Lassen/Plumas

SNC Funding: \$349,650

Total Project Cost: \$588,092

Application Number: 497

Final Score: 82.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The primary actions of this project will be to restore the forest and adjacent meadows and reduce fuel loads by mechanical methods on 700 acres of private land within a 1,850 acre project area. It is estimated that the SNC portion of the project will restore 700 acres. Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) has \$156,000 in additional funding from a Western States WUI Grant that will treat up to an additional 300 acres.

The project will assist willing landowners with landscape scale treatments to restore the forest to healthy historic climax conditions; improve water quality and quantity of streams and springs by restoring the surrounding forest health; and create a Firewise/Fire Safe Community. The project involves homeowners, community leaders, planners, public agencies, and others in an effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire - before a fire starts.

The hazardous fuel loads will be reduced through thinning and mastication in brush areas. The project will also contribute to production of renewable energy through the delivery of biomass fuel.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Landscape Treatment layout/prescriptions	August 2012- October 2012
Project Newsletter/landowner sign-ups	October 2012
Prepare Bid Solicitations	October 2012
Set up Photo Monitoring Points	November 30,2012
Contractor Selection	November 30,2012
Landowner Consultation /risk assessments	October 2012- November 2013
Six Month Progress Report	January 30, 2013
Conduct Treatments	January 2013- November 2013
Six Month Progress Report	June 30, 2013
Complete Treatments/Post Treatment Monitoring	December 30, 2013
Six month Progress Report/Final Report	December 30, 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$310,000
Indirect**	5,000
Administrative***	34,650
GRAND TOTAL	\$349,650

- * 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

- Letters of Support
 - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
 - Plumas County Board of Supervisors
 - U.S. Forest Service, Lassen NF
 - Susanville Indian Rancheria
 - Honey Lake Valley RCD
 - Clear Creek Community Services Dist.
 - Greenleaf Power – Honey Lake Power Facility

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
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
- Number and Type of Jobs Created
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities
- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created
- Number of forest and meadow acres 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: Northstar Fire Department

Project Title: Northstar Fuels Management Maintenance 2

Subregion: Central

County: Placer

SNC Funding: \$112,967.56

Total Project Cost: \$130,533.19

Application Number: 619

Final Score: 82.35

PROJECT SCOPE

The Northstar Fuels Management Maintenance 2 project will complete hand-thinning, chipping, and pile burning work on eight project sites totaling approximately 57 acres within the Martis Valley groundwater basin. Fuel reduction work on these eight sites in the Northstar community of Placer County will complete the following objectives:

- Promote fuels management, thereby reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.
- Implement forest health by reducing stand density, which in turn will reduce insect attacks and disease, improving soil conditions and the ability for natural water infiltration.
- Implement forest and riparian restoration by promoting native species component mix, and stand density where historically appropriate.
- Provide protection of the Martis Creek Watershed by improving ground water infiltration, flow, and water quality. The Martis Creek Watershed provides for wildlife habitat and is a source of domestic water for over 1,400 homes, 400 businesses, and a broad range of recreational activities.

SNC funds will be leveraged by in-kind contributions from the Northstar Fire Department.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Project permits and field surveys, Cal Fire project review, performance measures	July 2012
Hand-thinning on approximately 57 acres	July – September 2012
Post-treatment records, partial reporting on performance measures	September – November 2012
6 Month Progress Report	December 31, 2012
Pile burning	November – December 2012, January 2013
FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 31, 2013

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$112,967.56
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$112,967.56

* 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
 - Northstar Property Owners 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.

- Linear feet of stream bank protected or restored
- Number of special significance sites protected or preserved
- Acres of land improved or restored

**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: Yuba County Public Works

Project Title: Fuel Reduction Along County Roads

Subregion: Central

County: Yuba

SNC Funding: \$144,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$215,000.00

Application Number: 453

Final Score: 82.25

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will complete fuels reduction along 14.4 miles of county-maintained roads in Eastern Yuba County in the Yuba River Watershed. The Yuba River provides drinking water supplies for the communities downstream and is considered critical habitat for salmon and steelhead. It will also protect forest working landscapes (i.e. timber production) that are important to the local economy. Specific deliverables include:

- Hand cutting and chipping along 6.8 miles of LaPorte Road.
- Hand cutting and chipping along 3.6 miles of Pendola Extension Road.
- Hand cutting and chipping along 4.0 miles of Weeds Point Road.
- Pre and post treatment monitoring photos for each site.

Reduction of fuels along these roads will protect against the spread of fires from the road corridor into the forest, provide improved access for evacuation and fire fighting, and will connect fuel treatment work already completed to establish fuel breaks around nearby communities and reservoirs.

Additional funding and in-kind support for this project is being provided by Yuba Watershed and Fire Safe Council, Yuba County Public Works, and the University of California.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Pre-treatment monitoring	December 2012
6 Month Progress Report	December 31, 2012
Completion of hand thinning and chipping along 6.8 miles of LaPorte Road, 3.6 miles of Pendoal Extension Road, and 4 miles of Weeds Point Road.	April 2013
Post-treatment monitoring	June 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2013

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$144,000
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$144,000

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - Yuba County Water Agency
 - U.S. Forest Service, Yuba River Ranger District
 - U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Feather River Ranger District
 - Yuba Watershed Protection and 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.

- Miles of Road Easement Improved

**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: Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration Project

Subregion: South

County: Madera

SNC Funding: \$40,147.42

Total Project Cost: \$72,373.95

Application Number: 608

Final Score: 81.33

PROJECT SCOPE

The overall goal of this project is to completely restore and/or preserve the hydrologic function of four degraded meadow systems on the Sierra National Forest within the Upper and Lower Chiquito Creek Watersheds. The outcomes would include water quality impacts from accelerated erosion being eliminated and water storage and residence time being maximized, increasing annual water availability to riparian-aquatic systems, wildlife, and livestock.

Long Meadow (near lower Chiquito Creek campground), Cold Springs Meadow, Cold Springs West Meadow, and un-named meadow 506M91 have been identified as high priority sites for restoration. All of these meadows have compromised hydrologic function, with vertically and laterally unstable streams at the downstream end of each meadow. If left untreated, these "headcuts" will migrate upstream, creating deeply incised gullies, which will introduce excessive amounts of sediment into the stream (compromising water quality) and, eventually, dewater the meadows. Restoration of Long Meadow is particularly important because it currently supports a community of mountain yellow legged frogs, a U.S. Forest Service sensitive species. Impacts from roads and/or OHV tracks in the vicinity of these meadows will also be addressed by either 1) bringing the road or track up to maintenance standards or 2) closing/obliterating the OHV tracks if they are not well sited.

This will be a collaborative effort between the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council (YSRCDC) and the U.S. Forest Service. The YSRCDC will organize and offer two field trips to stakeholders and, with the assistance

of the U.S. Forest Service, help educate the public on meadow function as an important component of healthy forest watersheds.

Project Summary and Deliverables

The Project will entail the stabilization and/or restoration of four meadows on the Sierra National Forest, within the upper Chiquito Creek Watershed. The desired condition (outcome) for the restoration projects include:

- Stabilization and preservation of 31 acres of montane meadow;
- 1 mile of improved and stabilized stream channel;
- Cessation of erosion and impacts to water quality from the meadows;
- Protection of 0.3 stream miles of mountain yellow legged frog habitat;
- 2 acre reduction in encroaching conifers within the project meadows;
- 0.5 acre reduction of invasive noxious weeds;
- Approximately 0.3 miles of tracks and system roads will be closed and/or restored to prevent impacts to adjacent meadows;
- Two field trips to educate the community and surrounding stakeholders on the direct and indirect benefits of meadow restoration and the potential risks associated with climate change; and,
- Involve stakeholders with restoration work as appropriate.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop Collection Agreement with U.S. Forest Service.	September 2012
Six month progress report SNC.	January, 2013
Hiring of Forest Service crews and first field trip (USFS/YSRCDC).	February-June, 2013
Twelve month progress report to SNC.	July 2013
Procure and deliver restoration materials (USFS).	July-September, 2013
Removal encroaching conifers (USFS).	July- September, 2013
Field Trip #1 (pre-restoration tour)	August, 2013
Begin meadow restoration (Long Meadow, Cold Springs Meadow including noxious weed eradication)	August –October, 2013
Harvest and live-stake planting of native willow at restoration sites and installation of exclosure.	October, 2013
Eighteen month progress report SNC.	January, 2014
Hiring of Forest Service crews and second field trip (USFS/YSRCDC).	February-June, 2014
Twenty-four month progress report to SNC.	July, 2014
Complete meadow restoration (Cold Springs West and 506M91)	July-September, 2014
Field Trip #2 (post-restoration tour)	September, 2014
Continued harvest and live-stake planting of native willow at restoration sites. Construction of exclosures.	October, 2014
Thirty-month progress report to SNC.	January, 2015

Thirty six-month progress report to SNC.	July, 2015
Inspection of restoration sites.	July, 2015
Repair (if necessary) of restoration sites and additional live stake willow plantings.	September-October, 2015
Final Report to SNC.	December, 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 10, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$23,549.79
Indirect**	13,097.63
Administrative***	3,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$40,147.42

* 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
 - USFS Bass Lake Ranger 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.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected
- Acres of Meadow Preserved
- Mass Pollutant Reduced Per Year

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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, Tahoe National Forest- Truckee Ranger District

Project Title: Truckee- Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada

SNC Funding: \$33,867.44

Total Project Cost: \$52,661.00

Application Number: 512

Final Score: 81

PROJECT SCOPE

The Truckee-Boca Musk Thistle Attack project goal is eradication of musk thistle and star thistle on up to 320 acres of National Forest System Lands within Nevada and Sierra Counties on the Truckee and Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest. The removal of musk thistle and seeding opened ground with native grass seed would increase the efficiency of the floodplain to filter out sedimentation because the tap root structure of the musk thistle would be replaced by the fine fibrous roots of native grasses that would hold soil fines in place. On dry upland sites, the removal of weeds and replacement of bitterbrush from seed would restore native vegetation that would be available for deer forage and other wildlife. The removal of musk thistle is focused around the Stampede and Boca Reservoir areas. The star thistle infestation deserves immediate attention since it is relatively small and disjunct from the main infestation on the west side of the Sierra Nevada mountains. This project is part of a larger effort to control the spread of musk thistle within Nevada County. This project complements musk thistle treatments in neighboring Sierra County funded by the Sierra County Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

Additional funds and in-kind service to support the project are being contributed by the Sierra County Resource Advisory Council, Tahoe National Forest, and America's Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Hire 3 temporary workers	March - May 2013 and 2014
Native Seed Contract awarded	May 1, 2013
Establish permanent monitoring photo points	June 2013 and June 2014
Invasive species removal	June 2013 and June 2014
Workers finish pulling weeds in Tahoe NF in Nevada County	July 2013 and July 2014
Native Seed Collection starts	June 2013
Native Seed Planted	June and July 2014
6 month progress reports (three)	August 2013, February 2014, August 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	February 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$27,254.00
Indirect**	3,500.00
Administrative***	3,113.44
GRAND TOTAL	\$33,867.44

- * 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
 - Truckee Ranger District/Tahoe National Forest
 - Truckee River Weed Warriors
 - County of Sierra Board of Supervisors

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

**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, Tahoe National Forest

Project Title: Weed Treatment on the Westside of the Tahoe National Forest

Subregion: Multiple

County: Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer

SNC Funding: \$40,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$64,325.00

Application Number: 500

Final Score: 81.50

PROJECT SCOPE

This project is located on the westside of the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) in about twenty five different locations. Invasive weed treatment sites are located on two different ranger districts in 4 counties. All treatment sites are high priority because they have high public visitation (trailhead parking areas) and a high risk spreading weeds to new areas. All weed treatment sites are considered outliers –small patches of weeds that are in areas considered generally weed free. All sites are considered small enough to treat using hand removal. The project will manually treat non-native invasive plant occurrences to keep them from expanding within forest areas and/or into adjacent forest and reducing the health of the forest.

Project goals include reduction of fuels on 120 acres, increased resilience of the forest through elimination of weeds, and improved habitat conditions for native plants and animals in terrestrial and riparian areas.

Forest health will be promoted by improving the health of trees through site specific reduction of ladder and surface fuels, promoting biodiversity through improving rare plant/fungi habitat, and weed removal.

Outcomes include improved forest health and increased biodiversity through reduction of non-native invasive plants. Outcomes also include reduced fire hazard through reduction of highly famable surface fuels and/or ladder fuels within and adjacent to forested areas.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Hire 5 temporary workers.	January -April 2013
Develop and post weed treatment information .	Develop in July-August 2012 with posting in May-June 2013
Manually treat 120 acres of weeds. Establish photo points and document treatment.	August 2012 and April- August 2013
5 acres of habitat improvement for rare plants completed.	April through July 2013
10 acres of habitat improvement for rare fungi completed.	August 2012 and April - August 2013
1 mile of streambank habitat improvement completed.	August 2012 and April - June 2013
Enter weed treatments and habitat improvement into public databases.	September of 2012 and 2013
6 month progress report.	June 2013
Final report	October 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	November 2013

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$37,480
Indirect**	2,520
Administrative***	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$40,000

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - Placer County Agricultural Commissioner
 - Sierra County Board of Supervisors

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 special significance sites protected
- Tons of carbon sequestered or emissions avoided
- Acres of land improved or restored
- 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: United States Forest Service, Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District

Project Title: Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Subregion: South

County: Madera

SNC Funding: \$299,510.34

Total Project Cost: \$320,456.34

Application Number: 467

Final Score: 80.25

PROJECT SCOPE

The Bass Lake Ranger District will reduce hazardous fuel accumulation of dead and down fuels within 100 ft of the trail system in and around the Nelder Grove Historical Site Area, including around specimen giant sequoia trees associated with the trail systems. The Project is located in Madera County, east of Highway 41, south of the Wawona Entrance to Yosemite National Park and north of the town of Oakhurst.

The 6.5 miles of trails, and 167 acres of fuels reduction work include The Chimney Tree Trail, Shadow of the Giants Trail, The Bull Buck Trail and road system leading to the Graveyard of the Giants. A crew of ten to thirteen people and forest volunteers will be used to feed dead and down fuels into a piles and burn. Downed sequoias will be repurposed in and around Nelder Grove trail system and campground as building materials. The logs will also be used to repair trail fencing, fencing around the specimen trees and as needed in the campground. Local camps near Nelder Grove include Camp Adahi, and Calvin Crest.

The overall project objectives are to return the grove to a healthier and natural state by accomplishing three goals:

- Reduction of fuel loading, such that fire would not have severe affects to large specimen trees, trail systems, and wildlife habitat.
- Protection and improvement of the watershed.
- Improvement of visual aesthetics and safety for visitors by cleaning up in and around the trail systems.

Reducing fuel loading will not only reduce fire intensity from a wildfire, and will also aide in achieving the long term goal of reintroducing fire to lands outside of the trail systems of Nelder Grove. Soil movement into streams, lakes, and riparian zones may degrade water quality and change the geomorphic and hydrologic characteristics of these systems and soil loss from hillsopes may alter future site productivity. Reducing fuels also aids in protecting sensitive botanical and wildlife habitat from complete devastation.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Chimney Tree Trail: 1.25 mile trail system/30.25 acres of work, 10-20 acres of pile burning	September 2012 - December 2012
Chimney Tree Trail: 10.25-20.25 acres of work, 6.0-10.0 acres of pile burning	January 2013 - May 2013
6-month Report	February, 2013
Complete Chimney Tree Trail: 4.25-10.25 acres of pile burning, reducing fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre	September 2013 – December 2013
6-month Report	August, 2013
Archeology & Botany Input - Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn on Bull Buck trail.	Input completed by Labor Day 2013
Complete Bull Buck Trail : 0.5 miles of trail system/12.09 acres of work, 6-12.09 acres of pile burning, reducing fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre	September 2013 - December 2013
6-month Report	February 2014
Archeology & Botany Input - Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn on Shadow of the Giants trail	Input completed by November 2014
6-month Report	August 2014
Shadow of the Giants: 2 miles of trail system/48.38 acres of work, 5-15 acres of pile burning	January– May 2014
Shadow of the Giants: 33.38-43.38 acres of work, 20-30 acres of pile burning	September – December 2014
Complete Shadow of the Giants: 10-15 - acres of work/10-15 acres of pile burning, reducing fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre	January - May 2015
6-month Report	February 2015
Archeology Surveys - Flag appropriate sites to pile and burn on Graveyard of the Giants trail	Survey beginning and completed by Labor Day 2015
6-month Report	August 2015
Graveyard of the Giants: 3 miles/72.57 acres, 20-30 acres of pile burning.	September – December 2015
Graveyard of the Giants: 42.57-52.57 acres of work, 20-30 acres of pile burning and 27.57-37.57- acres of work, 20-30 acres of pile burning reducing fuel loading to 10-20 tons per acre.	January – March 2016
Final Report	February 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 1, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$269,432.65
Indirect**	18,703.19
Administrative***	11,374.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$299,510.34

* 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
 - Calvin Crest Conferences Center
 - Heart of California Council of Campfire USA
 - Friends of Nelder Grove

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 Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved
- 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: Inyo National Forest

Project Title: Groundhog Meadow Watershed Restoration Project

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: \$71,500.00

Total Project Cost: \$93,500.00

Application Number: 614

Final Score: 80.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The project would complete headcut restoration in Groundhog Meadow, on a tributary to the North Fork Kern River. The meadow currently has adverse impacts due to stream downcutting and lowering of the meadow's water table. Crews would construct 3-4 new large grade control structures in the upper portion of the meadow and 10 smaller structures in the lower reaches. In addition, they would revegetate bare banks and complete minor repairs to existing structures. The ultimate goal of the project is to restore the degraded ecosystem function of Groundhog Meadow a roughly 50 acre meadow within the Golden Trout Wilderness.

The meadow is only accessible by horse or foot, and is about 11 miles from the nearest road. The meadow is surrounded by mixed conifer forest. It contains a main, unnamed stream channel with multiple perennial and intermittent tributaries.

Groundhog Meadow contains streams with adverse impacts due to past stream alteration (diversions, irrigation, grading), grazing, recreational uses, and possible other causes. This has resulted in stream headcutting, incision and widening that remains to this day, although there is an upward trend in most of the meadow. Although there is an upward trend, recovery is at a point where it needs some active restoration to continue the upward trend. The stream alteration has affected the hydrologic function of the surrounding meadow by lowering the water table. This has affected golden trout and other aquatic and riparian habitat by reducing channel complexity, reducing bank cover and altering vegetative composition, and increasing fine sedimentation.

Volunteers and partners for this project include California Trout and the Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Group (IRWMG). These groups will provide volunteer help, technical assistance, and in-kind contributions.

Meadow restoration work has been ongoing sporadically since the 1950's within the Kern Plateau and in Groundhog Meadow itself. In the past 3 years, meadow restoration projects on the Kern Plateau have been a focus of the Inyo National Forest. This project is part of an ongoing effort by the Inyo National Forest to improve meadow conditions across the Kern Plateau area, mainly within the Golden Trout Wilderness. Efforts include not only restoration efforts, but grazing and recreation management designed to improve stream and meadow condition within this area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
401/404 permit application submittal	October, 2012
Final Project Design	December-January, 2013
Submit 1st 6 month report	February 28, 2013
Recruit work crews / hire crews	February - March 2013
Begin 1st work season	July, 2013
Submit 2nd 6 month report	August 31, 2013
Finish 1st work season	September 30, 2013
Submit 3rd 6 month report	February 28, 2014
Begin 2nd work season	July, 2014
Submit 4th 6 month report	August 31, 2014
Finish work season and project implementation, including monitoring previous season's work	September 30, 2014
Submit 5th 6 month report	February 28, 2015
Complete monitoring of project, submit 6th 6 month report	August 31, 2015
Submit final report to SNC	February 28, 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	February 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$60,000
Indirect**	7,000
Administrative***	4,500
GRAND TOTAL	\$71,500

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- None

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 restored and protected
- Number and type of jobs created
- Number and Diversity of people reached
- Number and value of preserved economic activities
- Resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada

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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:	Placer Land Trust
Project Title:	Harvego Bear River Preserve Improved Forest Management Implementation Project
Subregion:	Central
County:	Placer
SNC Funding:	\$300,000.00
Total Project Cost:	\$385,000.00
Application Number:	488
Final Score:	80

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will complete 90 acres of fuels thinning on the Harvego Bear River Preserve, owned and managed by the Placer County Land Trust. The 1,773 acre Preserve is a working landscape and managed for several objectives, including: enhanced forest health and habitat improvement, rotational grazing and invasive species management and the development of future recreational opportunities. These examples all have an overall goal of protecting water quality by improving the forest health to enhance stream function, reduce erosion and sedimentation. The Preserve has 21 acres of wetlands including ponds, streams and 3 miles of Bear River frontage. It is the largest intact working cattle ranch in the Placer foothills. The initial 90 acres identified for treatment, located along the canyon rim, have been identified as the highest risk areas on the Preserve and will complete Phase I of a 300 acre shaded fuel break. Benefits of this project include:

- Protection of water quality in the Bear River watershed through prevention of catastrophic wildfire and associate sediment flow.
- Improved access for wildlife mobility and increased forage and grazing habitat.
- And protection of the cultural and historical resources on the Preserve.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Project preparation – Field site visits, GPS work, and mapping	August – September 2012
Field Work – Remove vegetation, brushing, piling	October – December 2012
6 Month Progress Report	December 31, 2012
Field Work - Pile burning and pile monitoring	January – May 2013
Post-implementation monitoring	March – June 2013
FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	July 31, 2013

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$274,800
Indirect**	17,700
Administrative***	7,500
GRAND TOTAL	\$300,000

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - Placer County
 - Placer County Air Pollution Control District
 - Sierra Business Council
 - Sierra College

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
- Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved
- Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided

**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 Auburn Fire Department

Project Title: American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break

Subregion: Central

County: Placer

SNC Funding: \$146,690.00

Total Project Cost: \$286,610.00

Application Number: 567

Final Score: 78.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will complete fuels thinning on 60 acres of an 11 mile shaded fuel break along forested lands separating the City of Auburn from the Middle Fork American River. The project will result in the reduction of risk for catastrophic wildfire to spread between the community of Auburn to the adjacent Auburn State Recreation Area. Vegetation will be removed by hand; cutting and sawing, using hand saws, shears, and chainsaws. Cut materials will be hauled by hand, stacked in piles, and chipped with a mechanical chipper. Chipped materials will be scattered within the project area and left on site for natural decomposition. This shaded fuel break will also result in protection of water quality in the American River Watershed through prevention of catastrophic wildfire and associate sediment flow.

Additional funding and in-kind support for this project is being provided by the Auburn Fire Department and Cal Fire CDCR Hand Crews.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Pre-implementation field work and coordination: Establish operations plan (times of work, work locations, and resource needs) with project partners; mark and flag project area, project boundaries, hazards, mitigation areas, and access locations; coordinate with project partners on treatment prescription, work/safety/mitigation procedures, conduct training and review emergency procedures; conduct public outreach; secure	July – November 2012

vendor/contractor for specialized equipment and chipping equipment	
Fuels thinning and chipping	September 2012 – June 2014
6 Month Progress Reports	December 31, 2012 June 30, 2013 December 31, 2013
FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	July 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$135,330
Indirect**	6,200
Administrative***	5,160
GRAND TOTAL	\$146,690

* 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
 - Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council
 - California State Parks, Auburn State Recreation Area
 - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 - U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
 - City of Auburn
 - California State Senator Doug LaMalfa
 - California State Senator Ted Gaines
 - California State Assemblywoman Beth Gaines

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

**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 Freepackers Unit-Backcountry Horsemen of California

Project Title: Kelty Meadow Campground Restoration and Facilities Improvement Project

Subregion: South

County: Madera

SNC Funding: \$11,775.00

Total Project Cost: \$40,425.00

Application Number: 607

Final Score: 78.5

PROJECT SCOPE

The Kelty Meadow Campground Restoration and Facilities Improvement Project is located on the Bass Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest (SNF) within the Willow Creek watershed, a SNF priority watershed for ecological restoration. The project encompasses an unnamed tributary to the North Fork of Willow Creek, a side channel within Kelty Meadow and Kelty Meadow Campground, a designated horse camp administered under concessionaire contract with California Land Management (CLM). The project goals are to restore and mitigate riding stock and cattle grazing impacts to aquatic and riparian habitat, improve meadow hydrologic condition at Kelty Meadow and upgrade the campground infrastructure.

Repeated trampling of the channel from riding stock and cattle has caused resource damage. The proposal includes channel stabilization to restore the riparian habitat, development of off-site water structures to reduce water quality impacts, and construction of hitching rails and installation of bear boxes to improve the facilities at the campground. A permanent buck-and-pole fence approximately 100 feet wide by 300 feet long will be constructed to restrict access to the restored section of channel from riding stock, cattle and other visitor use and allow the channel to fully recover from restoration activities. The bare banks of the channel will be planted with native riparian vegetation sod plugs and willow from on site sources and one-rock grade control structures to stabilize and protect the stream banks. A metal spring box will be placed in the channel to capture water plumbed to a 235 gallon trough. Labor for project implementation will be provided by volunteers from the applicant and the grazing permittee in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service.

The project scope includes:

- Conserving 8.7 acres of montane wet meadow at Kelty Meadow, maintaining desired conditions for Kelty Meadow with upward trend in ecological status;
- Restoring 350 linear feet of stream bank;
- Improvement of 0.6 miles of stream channel (starting at project site to confluence with North Fork of Willow Creek);
- Preventing impacts to water quality degradation from riding stock and cattle use;
- Conserving and maintaining 0.6 miles of suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*);
- Conserving and maintaining 8.7 acres of suitable habitat for Great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*);
- Increasing annual water availability to riparian-aquatic dependent systems, wildlife, and livestock;
- Improving infrastructure and safety (e.g. bear awareness and riding stock handling) at 12 campsites;
- Increasing public awareness through interpretive signage and outreach events focused on restoration goals and practices (e.g. *Leave No Trace (LNT)*) to minimize impacts to water quality and other resources; and,
- Hosting two outreach events to educate participants on low impact use and Leave No Trace practices and benefits of meadow restoration.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Schedule work with permittee and BCHCSFP	August, 2012
Field Trip #1 (Pre-restoration tour)	August, 2012
Procure and deliver materials	August - September, 2012
Order and install interpretive signs	August, 2012
Construct off-site water development (e.g. place spring box, trench/plumbing and trough)	August - September, 2012
Outreach Event	Mid-September, 2012
Install hitching rails	September - October, 2012
Complete stream channel restoration (e.g. harvest and plant sod plugs, native willow and place rock structures)	September - October, 2012
6-month Report	January, 2013
Schedule work with permittee and BCHCSFP	May, 2013
Field review of project status	May - June, 2013
Construct fence enclosure	May - June, 2013
Install bear boxes	July, 2013
Six month progress report SNC	July, 2013
Conduct meadow condition and ecological status monitoring at plot in Kelty Meadow	August, 2013

Outreach Event	September, 2013
Field Trip #2 (Post-restoration tour).	October, 2013
Final Report to SNC	December, 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	February, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$11,475
Indirect**	300
Administrative***	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$11,775.00

* 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
 - Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway Association
 - Yosemite-Sierra Visitor's Bureau
 - Mariposa Mountain Riders
 - Backcountry Horseman of California
 - Central Sierra Watershed Committee
 - California Land Management

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
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored
- 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: Placer County Agriculture Department

Project Title: Placer County Agriculture Department A-Rated Noxious Weed Eradication in the Sierra Nevada

Subregion: Central

County: Placer

SNC Funding: \$ 60,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$208,000.00

Application Number: 535

Final Score: 77.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will improve forest and meadow health by eradicating previously identified infestations of California Department of Food and Agriculture A-rated noxious weeds in Placer County. Specific areas to be targeted include sites along Little Squaw Creek, the Truckee River, the headwaters of the Bear River at Bear Valley, West Martis Creek, Martis Creek, and Cabin Creek. An integrated pest management approach will be used to eliminate approximately 20 acres of spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, Scotch thistle, and musk thistle and reduce the spread of these species into other regions of the Truckee, Yuba, Bear, and American River Watersheds. Infestations will be mapped and surveys will be conducted to detect and eradicate new infestations before they become established and begin to spread.

Additional funding and in-kind support for this project is being contributed by the Placer County Agriculture Department, Pacific Gas & Electric, Nevada County Agriculture Department, and the Truckee River Watershed Council.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Coordinate with project co operators and obtain annual permissions and permits	July 2013 and April 2013, 2014, and 2015
Conduct treatments of known infestation sites, conduct surveys throughout project area for new infestations, and monitor project progress	August – October 2012 and June – October 2013, 2014, and 2015
6 Month Progress Report	December 31, 2012 June 30, 2013 December 31, 2013 June 30, 2014 December 31, 2014 June 30, 2015
FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	November 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$60,000.00
Indirect**	0.00
Administrative***	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$60,000.00

* 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
 - Pacific Gas & Electric
 - Northstar Resort
 - Northstar Community Services District
 - University of California Cooperative Extension Placer and Nevada Counties
 - Truckee River Watershed Council
 - U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, American River Ranger 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: California State Parks, Sierra District

Project Title: Union Hill Fuels Reduction Project

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada

SNC Funding: \$150,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$152,792.00

Application Number: 656

Final Score: 77.75

PROJECT SCOPE

The Union Hill Fuels Reduction Project completes fuels reduction and non-native plant species control and removal, treating up to 81 acres of the Union Hill area of Empire Mine State Historic Park, adjacent to the community of Grass Valley in Nevada County. This project creates a defensible fuel zone along 100 feet on either side of trails and fire road corridors, and 200 feet along park boundaries adjacent to private residences. The project also controls invasive plants such as Scotch Broom and Himalayan Blackberry that are creating fuel ladders into the mixed conifer stands that are present throughout the site.

The project will help to protect the watersheds of South Wolf Creek and Little Wolf Creek from the destructive effects of a catastrophic wildfire. Reduction of fire danger in this area also protects local homeowners, prevents soil and mineral/nutrient erosion, protects wildlife habitat, and promotes a healthier forest.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Cultural Resources Protection Measures	August 2012
Invasive Plant Control Begins	September 2012-June 2014
Wildlife/Botany Protection Measures	March 2013 – September 2013
Mastication Contract Out to Bid	March 2013
Hazard Tree Removal	September 2013- November 2013

Fuels Mastication work completed	November 2013-June 2014
6 month progress reports (Three)	February 2013, August 2013, February 2014
Post-Project Forestry - Invasive Plant monitoring	June 2014
Final Report	June 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$124,382
Indirect**	11,980
Administrative***	13,638
GRAND TOTAL	\$150,000

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - Fire Safe Council of Nevada County

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 for the Sierra Nevada

The following Exhibits are for Phase II Projects that the Board may bring forward from the September meeting.

**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 Revegetation Project
Subregion:	Central
County:	Nevada
SNC Funding:	\$112,932.00
Total Project Cost:	\$230,615.00
Application Number:	533
Final Score:	78.50

PROJECT SCOPE

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, and is subject to a conservation easement. Habitat features at the site include meadow, chaparral and some mixed oak woodland which are severely impacted by non-native invasive vegetation, especially Yellow Star thistle and Scotch broom. The project will implement forest management techniques to remove non-native plant species and revegetate with native species within 5 critical acres of meadow, riparian and upland habitat in the Deer Creek watershed. This project will:

- Preserve mixed conifer forest health;
- Restore native vegetative communities in a degraded meadow;
- Reduce the fire risk for the communities of Penn Valley, Smartsville, and Lake Wildwood;
- Improve water quality in Lower Deer Creek;
- Increase carbon sequestration capacity by increasing plant biomass;
- Increase habitat diversity and resilience to climate change.

Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Bella Vista Foundation, the Wick Kenney Foundation and in-kind contributions from Sierra Streams Institute and the Sierra Nevada Americorp Program.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalize workplan and budget	September 2012
Finalize subcontracts/grants	October 2012
Monitoring Plan	February 2013
Invasive Plant Eradication and Replanting	May 2014
Photo documentation at six month intervals	January 2013 – July 2015
Six month progress reports (six)	January 2013 – July 2015
Monitoring and Assessment Report	July 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	August 31, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$87,500
Indirect**	12,000
Administrative***	13,432
GRAND TOTAL	\$112,932

- * 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
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Forest Charter School
 - Nevada County Sanitation District #1
 - ENV Vision
 - Wild Moon Ranch
 - Yuba River Land and Water Conservancy

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
- Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided
- Number of People Reached
- Number and Types of Jobs Created

**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 Citizen's League (SYRCL)
Project Title:	Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project, Phase 2
Subregion:	Central
County:	Nevada
SNC Funding:	\$ 53,872.44
Total Project Cost:	\$138,432.00
Application Number:	588
Final Score:	77

PROJECT SCOPE

Loney Meadow is a 300 acre wet meadow complex at 6000' elevation, consisting entirely of, and surrounded by, Tahoe National Forest (TNF) land. Loney Meadow provides unique recreational and educational opportunities near Interstate 80.

As a popular recreation destination, Loney Meadow is one of the most visited and visible wet meadows in the Sierra Nevada and presents a tremendous opportunity to educate the public about the values of healthy mountain meadows. Current uses include grazing and an interpretive trail.

Conifer encroachment is a principal threat to remnant aspen stands in Loney meadow. There is an immediate need to remove conifers as they out-compete aspen for sunlight, water and nutrients, resulting in decreased vigor and attack by pathogens which increase mortality. Conifer encroachment has been shown to alter soil properties, impacting water holding capacity and changing meadow vegetation. Removal of conifers will partially emulate natural disturbance regimes allowing aspen regeneration.

Project partners will:

- Assess aspen stands on 4 acres using the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) "Aspen Location and Condition" protocol, purchase all necessary tools and lead a trained team of volunteers to treat areas using USFS Best Management Practices. Once removed, the conifers will be piled as grazing barriers or removed if deemed a fire hazard.
- Partners will design and install 15 interpretive signs with information including the importance of meadows for ecological biodiversity, increased late season water

storage and improved downstream water quality, as well as other important meadow features.

Additional funding for the project will be provided by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (application pending) and in-kind service provided by SYRCL and the Sierra Nevada Americorp Program.

This project will protect the Yuba River Watershed through improvements in meadow and forest health, water storage and water quality.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Year 1: Volunteer Recruitment and Training Materials	April – July 2013
Year 2: Volunteer Recruitment and Training Materials	April – July 2014
Year 1: Site surveying and mapping	June – July 2013
Year 2: Site surveying and mapping	June – July 2014
Year 1: Final Site Workplan	July 2013
Year 2: Final Site Workplan	July 2014
List of tools purchased	July 2013 and July 2014
Year 1: Completed Baseline Aspen Location and Condition form	July 2013
Year 1: 2 acres of enhanced aspen habitat	July – September 2013
Year 1: Trained Volunteer List and Hours Completed	September 2013
Year 2: Completed Baseline Aspen Location and Condition form	July 2014
Year 2: 2 acres of enhanced aspen habitat	July – September 2014
Year 2: Trained Volunteer List and Hours Completed	September 2014
Volunteer Project Evaluations	September 2013 and 2014
Year 1: Monitoring Results	July 2014
Year 2: Monitoring Results	July 2015
15 Interpretive Signs Installed	August - September 2014
Outreach Materials	August – September 2014
SNC Performance Monitoring Results	August 2015
Six Month Progress Reports (Six)	January 2013 – July 2015
Final Report	1/2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$40,617.96
Indirect**	6,227.64
Administrative***	7,026.84
GRAND TOTAL	\$53,872.44

* 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
 - USDA- Yuba River Ranger District
 - 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

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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
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

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

* 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

- Letters of 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
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: \$237,638.00

Total Project Cost: \$647,738.00

Application Number: 521

Final Score: 75.33

PROJECT SCOPE

This is a joint effort between Sequoia National Park (NPS) and Sequoia National Forest with work on lands throughout the Kern drainage necessary to successfully eradicate velvetgrass from the Kern Canyon. Large scale efforts have been implemented from 2009-11, and have been successful at reducing populations of velvetgrass. Combining continued treatment efforts with the prior three years of work that has been conducted, will allow the eradication of velvetgrass from the Kern Canyon. Velvetgrass is currently restricted to the Kern drainage and small populations in Grant Grove, which are also being eradicated. Elimination of velvetgrass populations will be a major accomplishment toward protecting the southern Sierra's highly-valued meadow ecosystems.

The project is located in the Kern Canyon area of Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest, in designated wilderness that allows only non-motorized access to visitors. Pack stock animals are allowed to graze the meadows, prior to the onset of velvetgrass flowering.

Velvetgrass is a perennial grass, native to Europe, which was brought into California as forage. It escaped from cultivation and has become a weed species, that is a prolific seed producer, can exist in the seed bank in large numbers, and can become dominant if not controlled. It is easily spread by hikers and stock users visiting the area. The presence of velvetgrass has required restricting grazing in the area prior to the onset of flowering to limit potential spread. 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. These actions will eliminate the need

for future large-scale eradication efforts. Velvetgrass is listed as “moderate” by Cal-IPC, and it is noted that “impacts can be more severe locally, especially in wetland areas.” Montane meadows and riparian wetlands are rare vegetation types in Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park that occupy less than 2 percent of the land area, and are critical for habitat protection, native species diversity, biomass, and productivity.

In years 4-6 of the project, which is covered under this grant, crews will install tarping materials on large U.S. Forest Service (USFS) velvetgrass infestations and use hand-pulling and herbicide application on other populations on National Park Service (NPS) and USFS lands. Four seasonal NPS personnel will oversee work crews of 12 people to hand-pull velvetgrass and install tarping materials. A GS-11 Ecologist and GS-7 Biological Technician will provide logistical support to the project and oversee all herbicide applications.

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. Crews will continue to monitor treated areas and conduct searches to identify any potential new infestations of velvetgrass throughout the Kern Canyon and surrounding areas. Monitoring of the area will also reduce potential disturbances that would allow new velvetgrass seedlings to establish.

Results of this project will be shared with outside land managers by presentation at the California Invasive Plant Council meeting and potential preparation of a manuscript for publication in their proceedings. Results of the project will also be presented to the public through meetings with interested parties (i.e. Backcountry Horseman).

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Field Crews Conducting Restoration Activities	September 2012
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	September 2012
Year-end Report to SNC	December 31, 2012
Public Presentation of Project Results (At least 1 per year)	October –December 2012
Field Crews Conducting Restoration Activities	June-September 2013
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	June-September 2013
Year-end 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
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	June-September 2014
Final Project Report to SNC	December 31, 2014
Public Presentation of Project Results (At least 1 per year)	October –December 2014

PROJECT COSTS

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

* 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 Backcountry Horsemen

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: Butte County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Forest Health Chipper Program

Subregion: North Central

County: Butte

SNC Funding: \$100,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$110,000.00

Application Number: 480

Final Score: 72.75

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

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS

- Support
 - 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

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: Fuel Reduction Along County Roads (SNC 453)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in Brownsville along La Porte Road (from Southwest of Bean Clipper Road to Strawberry Valley), and in Camptonville along Pendola Extension Road (from Hwy 49 to South of Craigmont Way) to Weeds Point Road, in Yuba County, California.

Project Location – City: Brownsville and Camptonville

Project Location – County: Yuba

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Yuba County Department of Public Works is requesting \$144,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment along 14.4 miles of roadway. This project includes fuel reduction (hand cutting and chipping vegetation) within County Road right of way along 6.8 miles of La Porte Road from Bean Clipper Road to Strawberry Valley, 3.6 miles of Pendola Extension Road, and all 4.0 miles of Weeds Point Road. The purpose of the fuel reduction is to create a shaded fuel break within the existing road easement. This will provide for greater safety during a fire for the community evacuation and improve fire prevention to protect the Yuba River watersheds.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Yuba County Dept. of Public Works

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Fuel Reduction Along County Roads 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), providing fuel management activities that will protect structures, emergency access, and reduce potential forest fires from roadside car fires. The project will meet California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shaded fuel break standards. 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:

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: La Porte Rd. II Hazardous Fuel Reduction (SNC 458)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located immediately adjacent to Thompson Valley and Thompson Creek, in Plumas County, California.

Project Location – City: Near Quincy

Project Location – County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is requesting \$143,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 174 net acres. The project involves completing fuel reduction activities on 174 net acres on 21 parcels abutting La Porte Road near Quincy. Fuel reduction treatments will include biomass harvesting on 62 acres; mastication on 43 acres; and hand thinning, piling, and burning on 69 acres. The project area is ranked Very High according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Hazard Severity Zoning Map. Prior to any burning, fuel treatment contractors will obtain an appropriate Air Quality Permit from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. The purpose of the fuel reduction is to reduce hazardous fuels, create fire-resilient forests and reduce future wildfire impacts to the community and the watersheds.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 La Porte Rd. II 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 protect structures and provide fire-resilient conditions. The fuel reduction activities will also improve forest health and reduce fire risk using methods that will protect water quality and improve habitat values. 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:

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: Kramer Ranch Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project (SNC 463)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located approximately five miles north of Nubieber, near the community of Bieber, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Near Nubieber / Bieber

Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting \$ 349,692 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for watershed restoration and fuel reduction treatment on 700-acres of working cattle ranch. Project work consists of the thinning of overstocked pine stands, targeting small and suppressed trees, and the removal of invasive western juniper on a 700-acre portion of the 1,045-acre Kramer cattle ranch. Material will be removed by tree shears and then chipped and hauled to a biomass fuel facility where it will be used in the production of renewable energy. The boundaries of identified prehistoric locales, which are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, will be flagged for avoidance as the first step in the project implementation activities. Pre-treatment surveys will be conducted prior to the implementation of project activities, and special-status plant species will be flagged for avoidance. A five-acre buffer will be established around any identified Northern Goshawk nests. Work within the buffer will be limited between March 15 and August 15, or until the young have fledged. Snags will be retained in the project area in order to provide wildlife habitat for a variety of species. The purpose of the project is to restore watershed functions and health at the base of Big Valley Mountain by returning the area to pre-settlement conditions. The project will reduce fire risk on the Kramer Ranch, protect wildlife habitat, and promote a healthier forest and meadow.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pit Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Kramer Ranch Forest and Meadow Restoration 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 which will protect existing forest and watershed areas by thinning overstocked pine stands, targeting small and suppressed trees, and removing invasive western juniper. All activities will be completed by tree shears. 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: Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (SNC 467)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located within the Bass Lake Ranger District, in the vicinity of Nelder Grove, just south of Yosemite Park, in Madera County, California.

Project Location – City: East of Oakhurst

Project Location – County: Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra National Forest-Bass Lake Ranger District is requesting \$299,510.34 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 167-acres. The project proposes to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation of dead and down vegetation within 100 feet of the trail system in and around the Nelder Grove Historical Site, including around specimen trees (trees featured specifically for the enjoyment of trail users) associated with the trail systems, for a total of 6.5 miles of trails and 167-acres. The purpose of the project is to return the grove to a healthier and more-natural state. Project benefits include protection and improvement of the watershed and an improvement of visual aesthetics and safety for visitors to the Nelder Grove Area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Forest Service

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels 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 include fuel management activities using hand tools, chain saws, and drip torches, which will reduce fuel loads for forest fire prevention, increase public safety, and increase the protection of the surrounding watershed from the effects of wildfires. The project incorporates measures to protect wildlife, sensitive plant species, and stream zones. 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:

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: **FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OR 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

Project Title: Completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5 (SNC 471)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH# 2011122002

Project Location: Along Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, and Black Bart Road between Oroville and the community of Forbestown, Butte County, California, Township 19 North, Range 6 East, Sections 17, 19, 20, and 30.

County: Butte County

Project Description: The Butte County Fire Safe Council has requested \$187,100 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to fund fuel breaks and fuel reduction treatments along roadways within 249 acres. The proposed project would construct fuel breaks and fuel modification zones along portions of Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, and Black Bart Road using a combination of mastication, dozer crushing and some hand cutting of small trees and brush in the understory of privately owned timberland located along the roads mentioned above within a 249-acre area identified as Phases 3 and 5. Trees with diameters of 10 inches and smaller will be processed with a masticator or chipped as appropriate. Pushed material will remain on-site until dried over the summer season, then crushed by the dozer and incorporated into the soil profile.

As Lead Agency a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on June 7 2012, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Impact Report (EIR) accompanied by an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration, with attached Initial Study, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

(530) 823-4670
Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:
Completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5 (SNC 471)
2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Marji Feliz, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4679
4. Project Location:
The project is located along Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, and Black Bart Road between Oroville and the community of Forbestown, Butte County, California, Township 19 North, Range 6 East, Sections 17, 19, 20, and 30.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
Butte County Fire Safe Council
5619 Black Olive Drive
Paradise, CA 95969
6. General Plan Designation:
Foothill Residential, Timber Mountain
7. Zoning:
Agriculture Rural Residential, Timber Preserve Zone
8. Description of Project:
The Butte County Fire Safe Council will construct fuel breaks and fuel modification zones along portions of Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, and Black Bart Road. Project work consists of mastication, dozer crushing and some hand cutting of small trees and brush in the understory of privately owned timberland located along the roads mentioned above within a 249-acre area identified as Phases 3 and 5. Vegetation treatments will be completed on both sides of the roadway; however, the width of treatments will be greater on the roads downhill and steeper sides in order to reduce the intensity of upslope-moving wildfires.

Phase 3 work will be completed on 91-acres and includes mastication of brush and trees 10 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and under in order to reduce understory fuels. Oaks with diameters greater than six inches will be retained. Phase 5 work is located along a southeast to northeast trending ridge that parallels Black Bart Road and will involve dozer pushing and crushing brush on 158 acres. Pushed material will remain on-site until dried over the summer season, then crushed by the dozer and incorporated into the soil profile. Portions of the Phase 5 project area are located on ridge tops that are typically rockier than other portions of the project area, thus making dozer work very difficult. Consequently, a portion of the Phase 5 project

area will be pretreated through hand cutting and removal of standing vegetation that will similarly be dried and crushed. Hand treatments will also be conducted immediately adjacent to large trees and other sensitive areas that could be impacted during crushing and push operations. Such hand thinning will be limited around trees exhibiting characteristics suitable for wildlife, such as broken tops, deformities, and those individuals showing evidence of wildlife use.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Land uses at and surrounding the project area include rural residential, agriculture, single-family residential, and multi-family residential.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

California Department of Fish and Game*

Butte County Public Works Department*

Butte County Resource Conservation District**

*Not Anticipated

**Approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2009, the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council, Butte County Fire Safe Council, Cal Fire, local fire departments, Plumas National Forest, and other interested stakeholders collaborated in the development of a comprehensive network of Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZs) in southeastern Butte County and northeastern Yuba County. This fire control infrastructure was designed around communities and individual homes located along major rural roads that are at a significant risk from catastrophic wildfire. A number of the area's large landowners and other stakeholders are participating as well. The Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break project was developed out of this collaborative process and once completed will tie together fuel treatments on various properties along 5 miles of road, to the existing Plumas National Forest's Slapjack Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) project.

The communities that would directly benefit from fuel break treatments are Brownsville, Robinson Mills, Forbestown, Challenge, and Rackerby. Combined, these population centers and the developed areas in between them contain a population of approximately 2,820 and 962 homes that have a property value of approximately \$78,327,289. The fuel treatments proposed under the project would also help to protect the main evacuation routes for these communities, which include Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, Black Bart Road, Ponderosa Way, and Robinson Mill Road which intersects Forbestown Road. Through the control of wildfires moving upslope from developed areas and fire-prone chaparral landscapes, public and private timberlands would be protected from impacts related to wildfire. In addition, the array of watershed resources of the Feather River's South Fork, and various small tributaries including McCabe Creek, New York Creek, and Natchez Creek would be protected from wildfire impacts as well. The connectivity of private land treatments completed under this project to the U.S. Forest Services' (USFS) extensive Slapjack fuels project would result in a landscape approach to changing fire behavior. This fuel break along with proposed future underburns on adjacent USFS lands would work in tandem to create a more natural mosaic of fuel types that would help prevent the development of large, catastrophic wildfires and thus better protect communities and wildland resources.

PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project Initial Study/Negative Declaration
Butte County Resource Conservation District, *Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. SCH 2011122002. December 2011.

Basic Features of the Project

The goal of the proposed project is to protect the Feather River watershed in both Butte and Yuba Counties and increase forest health around the communities of Forbestown, Feather Falls, and Brownsville by completing the Forbestown fuel break and reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire. The purpose of the proposed project is to: 1) restore the forest from overstocked dense stands of brush and trees to a natural mosaic of forest ecosystems through thinning of brush and trees so that wildfire would not have a devastating effect on the environment; 2) improve wildlife habitat and movement within the watershed and protect water quality; and 3) provide firefighters areas to fight wildfire and contribute to a safer evacuation road for residents of Butte and Yuba Counties.

Portions of the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break analyzed in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) include Phase 3 (91-acres) and Phase 5 (158-acres) of a larger six-phase project. In addition to treatments already planned, completed or currently in progress, a significant number of acres within the overall area have been identified for future fuel break project consideration under Phase 6. The environmental impact analysis described in the proposed project's IS/MND includes the initial 5 phases of project work. Areas under consideration for future project work were not analyzed given the lack of firm commitment to continue efforts in those areas. The completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5 has been designed and implemented through a collaborative community process over the past three years. This proposed project completes the entire private portion of the larger project.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council would construct fuel breaks and fuel modification zones along portions of Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, and Black Bart Road. Project work consists of mastication, dozer crushing and some hand cutting of small trees and brush in the understory of privately-owned timberland located along the roads mentioned above within a 249-acre area identified as Phases 3 and 5. Vegetation treatments will be completed on both sides of the roadway; however, the width of treatments will be greater on the roads downhill and steeper sides in order to reduce the intensity of upslope-moving wildfires.

Phase 3 would help to link work on private lands in the Robinson Mill area below the Forbestown community to planned UFS treatments necessary to complete DFPZs outside the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break project area. Phase 3 work will be completed on 91-acres and includes mastication of brush and trees 10 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and under in order to reduce understory fuels. In order to maximize habitat diversity and reduce the potential for stump sprouting, oaks with diameters greater than six inches will be retained. As a result of these actions, fire behavior will be changed on the lower flank of Forbestown. Through treatments on the downslope side of Forbestown Road and Lower Forbestown Road, not only will there be a reduction in the intensity of upslope-moving fires; but access and egress will be improved and made safer during wildfire events.

Completion of Phase 5 project work will require contracting with four landowners on whose property project work will be completed in order to dozer push and crush brush on 158-acres.

Phase 5 work is located along a southeast to northeast trending ridge that parallels Black Bart Road. Slopes on the ridgetop area are very moderate, typically less than 20 percent. Proposed project activities involve dozer pushing and crushing brush on 158-acres. Pushed material will remain on-site until dried over the summer season, then crushed by the dozer and incorporated into the soil profile. This treatment effectively reduces the volume of standing brush vegetation and significantly improves the structure of these woody fuels. Over time this crushed material will be further reduced through decomposition and natural incorporation into the soil surface. Portions of the Phase 5 project area are located on ridgetops containing stands of hardwoods and brush with a relatively scattered conifer overstory. These ridgetops are typically rockier than other portions of the project area, thus making dozer work very difficult. Consequently, a portion of the Phase 5 project area will be pretreated through hand cutting and removal of standing vegetation that will similarly be dried and crushed. Hand treatments will also be conducted immediately adjacent to large trees and other sensitive areas that could be impacted during crushing and push operations. Such hand thinning will be limited around trees exhibiting characteristics suitable for wildlife, such as broken tops and deformities, and those individuals showing evidence of wildlife use. A cover of vegetative debris would be left on the soil surface to cushion dozer operations. The resulting woody material left at the surface will later provide protective soil cover that will reduce the potential for accelerated erosion during the wet season.

Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing \$187,100 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to fund fuel breaks and fuel reduction treatments along roadway within 249 acres. The proposed project's IS/MND identifies potential resource impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and hydrology and water quality. Specifically, the proposed project may result in the disturbance of streams and man-made water courses; temporary habitat fragmentation; disturbance of special-status plant and animal species; the potential to inadvertently disturb unknown cultural resources or human remains during ground-disturbing activities; soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or release of hazardous materials into the environment; and violation of water quality standards. Based on the proposed project's IS/MND, the project would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project IS/MND. The project proponent will implement measures identified in the IS/MND, and described below, to lessen potential impacts to biological and cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous and hazardous materials, and hydrology and water quality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact."

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards / Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)

On the basis of this evaluation:

The SNC Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent. An **INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** was prepared that adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The Butte County Resource Conservation District as the lead agency also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Date

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

Printed Name

Title

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Responsible Agency

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

Project Title: Completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5 (SNC 471)

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH# 2011122002

Project Location: Along Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, and Black Bart Road between Oroville and the community of Forbestown, Butte County, California, Township 19 North, Range 6 East, Sections 17, 19, 20, and 30.

Description of Project: The Butte County Fire Safe Council has requested \$187,100 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grants Program to fund fuel breaks and fuel reduction treatments along roadways within 249-acres. The proposed project would construct fuel breaks and fuel modification zones along portions of Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, and Black Bart Road using a combination of mastication, dozer crushing and some hand cutting of small trees and brush in the understory of privately-owned timberland located along the roads mentioned above within a 249-acre area identified as Phases 3 and 5. Trees with diameters of 10 inches and smaller will be processed with a masticator or chipped as appropriate. Pushed material will remain on-site until dried over the summer season, then crushed by the dozer and incorporated into the soil profile.

Findings: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

Butte County Resource Conservation District, *Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. December 2011.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed document: a) adequately addresses the potential impacts of the project, and b) is adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the significant effects of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project may cause indirect impacts to streams and man-made water courses (i.e., canals and ditches) in the area, temporary impacts regarding habitat fragmentation, and temporary impacts on special-status animal and plant species as follows: bat species (western red bat), avian species (California black rail, osprey, and tricolored blackbird), amphibian species (California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and western spadefoot toad), reptile species (western pond turtle), insects (valley elderberry longhorn beetle), plants (Ahart's buckwheat, big-scale balsamroot, brownish beak rush, Butte County fritillary, Cantelow's lewisia, minute pocket moss, Mosquin's clarkia, obtuse starwort, Quincy lupine, and Sanford's arrow). Impacts are considered potentially significant. The

IS/MND for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project covers biological resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

- MM-1** All wet and dry stream courses will be protected by a 75-foot or to break in slope "No Treatment Zone" unless the slope within the inner riparian zone and core riparian zone have slopes of greater than 50 percent. In such instances all wet and dry stream courses will be protected by a 100-foot or to break in slope "No Treatment Zone". Ditches, canals and other man-made water conveyance structures will be protected by a 25-foot "No Treatment Zone". All buffers will be established on both sides of stream channels and flow structures. All springs will be enclosed by a 75' "No Treatment Zone". "No Treatment Zones" will be established and flagged as directed by the Project Manager prior to the implementation of any project work. Monitoring photographs will be taken by the Project Manager before and after completion of project work in order to document compliance with MM-1 and these will be incorporated into the project file.
- MM-2** Personnel specifically trained in the identification of List 1, List 2 and List 3 species or a professional botanist will be required to evaluate potential habitat for these species prior to implementation of work within the project area during the appropriate blooming or identification period. Such personnel will also evaluate potential findings of any such plants within treatment areas during the execution of project work. If any Federal or State listed threatened or endangered species are detected in the project area that may be impacted by the project work, then all project-related activities will immediately stop within that area which will be flagged with a 25-foot "No Treatment Zone". All sightings will be documented using the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) field survey form, a copy of which will be submitted to the CNDDDB and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A copy will also be incorporated into the project files. Qualifications for personnel who will make evaluations of sites include those found in the California Department of Fish and Game's 2009 document entitled "Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities."
- MM-3** USFWS 1999 guidelines will be followed if valley elderberry is encountered outside the "No Treatment Zone" described in MM-1 during the implementation of project work.
- MM-4** In order to protect any species covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), no fuels treatment work will occur between March to August, unless the following is implemented: 1. A survey is conducted by a biologist or a person with knowledge of, and ability to recognize, species protected by the MBTA and it is determined that there are no occupied nests within the proposed activity area. 2. If an occupied nest is found, then a biologist or a person with knowledge of, and ability to recognize, species protected by the MBTA will determine if the birds present are

those protected by the MBTA. 3. If an MBTA species is located, then no activities will occur within 100 feet of the nest during the breeding season.

- MM-5** In order to prevent the spread of invasive plant species, all heavy equipment to be used in the execution of project work will be cleaned off-site prior to use within the project area. The Project Manager will assure and document equipment cleaning. Documentation of cleaning will be incorporated into the project file.

2. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Although no known archaeological, cultural, or paleontological resources occur on-site, ground disturbance has the potential to disturb previously unknown cultural resources or human remains. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project covers cultural resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

- MM-6** An individual knowledgeable in identifying cultural resources will be on-site prior to all ground-disturbing activities in order to assure that all archeological, prehistoric, historic or paleontological resource sites along the path of the fuel break or within 30 feet beyond the project boundary have been flagged and that equipment operators and others working in the project areas are informed about their locations. Such individuals may be a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) with Cal Fire archeological certification, a professional archeologist or other individuals with appropriate training as determined by a professional archeologist.

- MM-7** Within areas of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities, if project work appears to expose any previously unknown archeological, prehistoric, historic or paleontological resource sites along the path of the fuel break or within 30 feet beyond the project boundary, the site will be avoided. Work may continue elsewhere within the overall project area. Exposed cultural or paleontological resources will be appropriately flagged in order to immediately establish an exclusion buffer of at least 100 feet. A professional archeologist will examine the site, evaluate found objects and make a finding of their significance. The archeologist will also develop recommendations for the permanent protection of objects and site treatments as necessary. Identified sites will be permanently protected through avoidance. These sites will be made off-limits to both personnel and equipment. A professional archeologist will determine an appropriate permanent flagged exclusion zone once the site has been adequately assessed for significance. Findings of significance will be prepared and submitted to appropriate agencies as well as appropriate Native American groups at the discretion of the professional archeologist. As appropriate, findings will be recorded in the project files.

MM-8 If during the execution of project work human remains are found, the Project Manager will halt work at that location until a professional archaeologist visits the site in order to assess their significance and process the remains and the County coroner will be immediately notified. If the remains are determined by the County coroner to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and Native American groups at the discretion of the professional archeologist will be notified within 24 hours and the guidelines of the NAHC will be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. Findings of significance will be prepared and submitted to appropriate agencies at the discretion of the professional archeologist. Findings will also be recorded in the project files by the Project Manager. Project work may continue on other non-impacted portions of the project area.

3. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The proposed project may result in substantial soil erosion; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project covers geological and soils impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

MM-9 No equipment operations will occur on slopes exceeding 50 percent and will not occur on any unstable areas, regardless of slope percentage. Slope and suitability for equipment operations will be determined by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or the Project Manager.

MM-10 During the implementation of project work, dozer blades will be maintained at least 2 to 3 inches above ground throughout the project area. Periodic inspection of blade height will be made by the Project Manager during the execution of project work in order to insure dozer operator adherence.

MM-11 Waterbars will be installed on slopes of 30% or greater where 500 square feet or more of soil has been exposed by project activities. Waterbars are to be installed where vegetation treatments lead into or have access to a watercourse. An adequate number of waterbars as determined by an RPF, other suitably trained personnel, or the Project Manager will be installed per the provisions of California Forest Practices Act 934.6 in order to prevent the degradation of water quality. Waterbar installation will be inspected by the Project Manager during subsequent precipitation events throughout the following winter season in order to assure their adequacy. Condition and operation of waterbars will be recorded in the project files.

MM-12 Any newly-exposed soil of over 100 square feet in area will be mulched with brush to minimize the potential for erosion. Hand water bars will be installed to divert water onto stable vegetation and away from watercourses, as needed. Verification

of proper installation and sufficiency of both mulching and waterbars will be made by the Project Manager prior to and following the season's first precipitation event and recorded in the project file.

4. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Although not anticipated, the transport of fuel and lubricants may occur during project implementation and there is the potential for a spill to occur if equipment overturns or during equipment fueling and maintenance operations; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project covers hazards and hazardous materials impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

MM-13 The Project Manager will select refueling and maintenance areas for heavy equipment, chainsaws and other combustion powered hand tools on flat sites that are away from dry or wet waterways as well as areas that could potentially flow into a stream in the event of an accidental spill. Fuel containment equipment (i.e., absorbent sheets and wattles) will be made available and used at refueling and maintenance areas. Fuel spillage will be minimized by conducting these operations in flat areas. Equipment will be stored and maintained within properly cleared areas. The Project Manager will inspect refueling areas to assure compliance with this Mitigation Measure. These inspections will also verify the sites' adequacy in protecting riparian and terrestrial resources as well as the use and availability of containment equipment.

MM-14 Contractors or landowners providing operations equipment (dozers, etc.) will make daily inspection of equipment for leaks, correcting and repairing any such leaks prior to resuming their use. The inspection reports will be submitted to the Project Manager along with evidence of any repairs required and completed before returning equipment to project work sites. Inspection reports will be incorporated into the project files. In the event that equipment will need to cross live streams, a California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement may be required at the discretion of that agency.

MM-15 Contractors or landowners providing equipment will provide adequate fire protection equipment. This will include a water wagon located at equipment operation areas as well as fire extinguishers attached to all mechanized equipment. In addition, fire-fighting hand tools will be made available at all areas where equipment is operated.

5. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

During construction, there would be short-term soil disturbances within the project site which could result in the violation of water quality standards; therefore, impacts are considered

potentially significant. The I S/MND for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project covers hazards and hazardous materials impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

MM-16 Any existing drainage features will be protected from project-related impacts and will remain free of obstruction.

MM-17 Prior to any project activities, the lead agency will provide the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for review and comment. The project proponent will comply with any resulting requirements and the project proponent will consult with all requirements of the RWQCB.

The SNC Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name Jim Branham

Title Executive Officer

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed Completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5 (SNC 471) (State Clearinghouse No. 2011122002), located along Forbestown Road, Lower Forbestown Road, and Black Bart Road between Oroville and the community of Forbestown, Butte County, California. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion, and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project. It is intended to be used by Butte County Fire Safe Council staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by *CEQA Guidelines* §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2009, the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council, Butte County Fire Safe Council, Cal Fire, local fire departments, Plumas National Forest, and other interested stakeholders collaborated in the development of a comprehensive network of Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZs) in southeastern Butte County and

northeastern Yuba County. In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared in August 2011 to provide evaluation for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project. This IS/MND identified the previous phases of the project and further evaluated the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5. The Butte County Resource Conservation District is the lead agency for CEQA. The IS/MND identified potentially significant impacts and provided mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant. The mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND would apply to the proposed Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5 and are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following pages.

1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the Forbestown Fuel Break Project – Phases 3 and 5. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project, and conditions of approval for the project. The table has the following columns:

Mitigation Measure/Summary: Lists the mitigation measures identified within the IS/MND for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure enumerated in the IS/MND.

Implementation Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be completed.

Monitoring Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be monitored.

Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party: References the Butte County Resource Conservation District department or any other public agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

Verification of Compliance: Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.

1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to the Butte County Resource Conservation District in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The Butte County Resource Conservation District shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, the Butte County Resource Conservation District shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.

TABLE 1-1: FORBESTOWN FUEL BREAK PROJECT – PHASES 3 AND 5

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance			
				Initials	Date	Remarks	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES							
MM-1	All wet and dry stream courses will be protected by a 75-foot or to break in slope "No Treatment Zone" unless the slope within the inner riparian zone and core riparian zone have slopes of greater than 50 percent. In such instances all wet and dry stream courses will be protected by a 100-foot or to break in slope "No Treatment Zone". Ditches, canals and other man made water conveyance structures will be protected by a 25-foot "No Treatment Zone". All buffers will be established on both sides of stream channels and flow structures. All springs will be encircled by a 75' "No Treatment Zone". "No Treatment Zones" will be established and flagged as directed by the Project Manager prior to the implementation of any project work. Monitoring photographs will be taken by the Project Manager before and after completion of project work in order to document compliance with MM-1 and these will be incorporated into the project file.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-Construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-2	Personnel specifically trained in the identification of List 1, List 2 and List 3 species or a professional botanist will be required to evaluate potential habitat for these species prior to implementation of work within the project area during the appropriate blooming or identification period. Such personnel will also evaluate potential findings of any such plants within treatment areas during the execution of project work. If any Federal or State listed threatened or endangered species are detected in the project area that may be impacted by the project work, then all project related activities will immediately stop within that area which will be flagged with a 25-foot "No Treatment Zone". All sightings will be documented using the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) field survey form, a copy of which will be submitted to the CNDDDB and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A copy will also be incorporated into the project files. Qualifications for personnel who will make evaluations of sites include those found in the California Department of Fish and Game's 2009 document entitled "Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities."	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction	Butte County Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Game, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: FORBESTOWN FUEL BREAK PROJECT – PHASES 3 AND 5

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
MM-3	USFWS 1999 guidelines will be followed if valley elderberry is encountered outside the "No Treatment Zone" described in MM-1 during the implementation of project work.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction / During construction	Butte County Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Game, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Project Manager			
MM-4	In order to protect any species covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), no fuels treatment work will occur between March to August, unless the following is implemented: 1. A survey is conducted by a biologist or a person with knowledge of, and ability to recognize, species protected by the MBTA and it is determined that there are no occupied nests within the proposed activity area. 2. If an occupied nest is found, then a biologist or a person with knowledge of, and ability to recognize, species protected by the MBTA will determine if the birds present are those protected by the MBTA. 3. If an MBTA species is located, then no activities will occur within 100 feet of the nest during the breeding season.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction / During construction	Butte County Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Game, and Project Manager			
MM-5	In order to prevent the spread of invasive plant species all heavy equipment to be used in the execution of project work will be cleaned off site prior to use within the project area. The Project Manager will assure and document equipment cleaning. Documentation of cleaning will be incorporated into the project file.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction / During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
CULTURAL RESOURCES							
MM-6	An individual knowledgeable in identifying cultural resources will be on site prior to all ground disturbing activities in order to assure that all archeological, prehistoric, historic or paleontological resource sites along the path of the fuel break or within 30 feet beyond the project boundary have been flagged and that equipment operators and others working in the project areas are informed about their locations. Such individuals may be a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) with California archeological certification, a professional archeologist or other individuals with appropriate training as determined by a professional archeologist.	Prior to ground disturbing activities	Pre-construction / During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: FORBESTOWN FUEL BREAK PROJECT – PHASES 3 AND 5

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
MM-7	<p>Within areas of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities, if project work appears to expose any previously unknown archeological, prehistoric, historic or paleontological resource sites along the path of the fuel break or within 30 feet beyond the project boundary, the site will be avoided. Work may continue elsewhere within the overall project area. Exposed cultural or paleontological resources will be appropriately flagged in order to immediately establish an exclusion buffer of at least 100 feet. A professional archeologist will examine the site, evaluate found objects and make a finding of their significance. The archeologist will also develop recommendations for the permanent protection of objects and site treatments as necessary. Identified sites will be permanently protected through avoidance. These sites will be made off-limits to both personnel and equipment. A professional archeologist will determine an appropriate permanent flagged exclusion zone once the site has been adequately assessed for significance. Findings of significance will be prepared and submitted to appropriate agencies as well as appropriate Native American groups at the discretion of the professional archeologist. As appropriate, findings will be recorded in the project files.</p>	During construction	During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-8	<p>If during the execution of project work human remains are found, the Project Manager will halt work at that location until a professional archaeologist visits the site in order to assess their significance and process the remains and the County coroner will be immediately notified. If the remains are determined by the County coroner to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and Native American groups at the discretion of the professional archeologist will be notified within 24 hours and the guidelines of the NAHC will be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. Findings of significance will be prepared and submitted to appropriate agencies at the discretion of the professional archeologist. Findings will also be recorded in the project files by the Project Manager. Project work may continue on other non-impacted portions of the project area.</p>	During construction	During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, Butte County Coroner, Native American Heritage Commission, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: FORBESTOWN FUEL BREAK PROJECT – PHASES 3 AND 5

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
GEOLOGY/SOILS							
MM-9	No equipment operations will occur on slopes exceeding 50 per cent and will not occur on any unstable areas, regardless of slope percentage. Slope and suitability for equipment operations will be determined by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or the Project Manager.	During construction	During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-10	During the implementation of project work, dozer blades will be maintained at least 2 to 3 inches above ground throughout the project area. Periodic inspection of blade height will be made by the Project Manager during the execution of project work in order to insure dozer operator adherence.	During construction	During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-11	Waterbars will be installed on slopes of 30% or greater where 500 square feet or more of soil has been exposed by project activities. Waterbars are to be installed where vegetation treatments lead into or have access to a watercourse. An adequate number of waterbars as determined by an RPF, other suitably trained personnel, or the Project Manager will be installed per the provisions of California Forest Practices Act 934.6 in order to prevent the degradation of water quality. Waterbar installation will be inspected by the Project Manager during subsequent precipitation events throughout the following winter season in order to assure their adequacy. Condition and operation of waterbars will be recorded in the project files.	Prior to Project implementation / During construction	Pre-Construction / During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-12	Any newly-exposed soil of over 100 square feet in area will be mulched with brush to minimize the potential for erosion. Hand water bars will be installed to divert water onto stable vegetation and away from watercourses, as needed. Verification of proper installation and efficiency of both mulching and waterbars will be made by the Project Manager prior to and following the season's first precipitation event and recorded in the project file.	During construction	During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS							
MM-13	The Project Manager will select refueling and maintenance areas for heavy equipment, chainsaws and other combustion powered hand tools on flat sites that are away from dry or wet waterways as well as areas that	Prior to Project implementation / During construction	Pre-construction / During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project			

TABLE 1-1: FORBESTOWN FUEL BREAK PROJECT – PHASES 3 AND 5

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	could potentially flow into a stream in the event of an accidental spill. Fuel containment equipment (i.e., absorbent sheets and wattles) will be made available and used at refueling and maintenance areas. Fuel spillage will be minimized by conducting these operations in flat areas. Equipment will be stored and maintained within properly cleared areas. The Project Manager will inspect refueling areas to assure compliance with this Mitigation Measure. These inspections will also verify the sites' adequacy in protecting riparian and terrestrial resources as well as the use and availability of containment equipment.			Manager			
MM-14	Contractors or landowners providing operations equipment (dozers, et c.) will make daily inspection of equipment for leaks, correcting and repairing any such leaks prior to resuming their use. The inspection reports will be submitted to the Project Manager along with evidence of any repairs required and completed before returning equipment to project work sites. Inspection reports will be incorporated into the project files. In the event that equipment will need to cross live streams, a California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement may be required at the discretion of that agency.	During construction	During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-15	Contractors or landowners providing equipment will provide adequate fire protection equipment. This will include a water wagon located at equipment operation areas as well as fire extinguishers attached to all mechanized equipment. In addition, fire fighting hand tools will be made available at all areas where equipment is operated.	During construction	During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY							
MM-16	Any existing drainage features will be protected from project-related impacts and will remain free of obstruction.	Prior to Project implementation / During construction	Pre-construction / During construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: FORBESTOWN FUEL BREAK PROJECT – PHASES 3 AND 5

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
MM-17	Prior to any project activities, the lead agency will provide the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for review and comment. The project proponent will comply with any resulting requirements and the project proponent will consult with all requirements of the RWQCB.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction	Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Resource Conservation District, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Project Manager			

LEAD AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

If you would like to view the supporting environmental documentation prepared for this project by the lead agency, click on the following links:

[Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration](#)

Note: this is a large PDF file that may take a while to load. For best performance, 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.

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: Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project (SNC 474)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located along the eastern edge of the community of Magalia, within the Little Butte Creek watershed adjacent to the Feather River Watershed in Butte County, California.

Project Location – City: Magalia

Project Location – County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Butte County Fire Safe Council is requesting \$84,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 30 acres. The project involves vegetation removal and thinning of densely overstocked trees and brush in the Little Butte Creek watershed. 30-acres of vegetation will be treated by hand cutting and pile burning/chipping overstocked brush and small trees eight inches in diameter or less. The project is a partnership between Paradise Irrigation District, Butte County Fire Safe Council and the U.S. Forest Service. The purpose of the project is to restore the forest from overstocked dense stands of brush and trees to a natural mosaic of forest ecosystems through thinning of brush and trees. The project will also improve wildlife habitat and movement within the watershed. Paradise Irrigation District approval (Notice of Exemption) includes the following measures in the project: 1) Snags are to be retained for wildlife habitat; 2) Wetland and riparian areas are to be avoided; 3) Trees of 10" diameter at breast height or more are to be retained; and 4) Operating periods are limited for species protection.

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); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Little Butte Creek Forest Health 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 which will help restore the forest from overstocked dense stands of brush and trees through thinning, and all activities will be completed by hand. 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: Harvego Bear River Preserve Improved Forest Management Implementation
Project (SNC 488)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located northwest of Auburn, near Auburn Valley Road and Curtola Ranch Road, within the Harvego Bear River Preserve, in Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Near Auburn

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Placer Land Trust is requesting \$300,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 90-acres. The project will enhance the Bear River watershed by protecting water quality through improved forest management practices aimed at limiting erosion and sedimentation, reducing wildfire intensity and severity, and creating a healthier ecosystem. Specifically, funding would go towards Step 1 of the Improved Forest Management Plan to create a shaded fuel break by thinning 90-acres (approximately 300 feet wide) on the portions of the Harvego Bear River Preserve at highest risk of catastrophic fire. The shaded fuel break will help prevent catastrophic fires, remove diseased trees, and improve the overall health of the forest.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer Land Trust

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Harvego Bear River Preserve Improved Forest Management Implementation 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 (thinning) which will reduce wildfire risk through removal of encroaching vegetation, and all activities will be completed by hand. 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: 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); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

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: Little Valley Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project (SNC 494)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located along Little Valley Road in the community of Little Valley, approximately 15 miles southeast of Fall River Mills, Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Little Valley

Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) is requesting \$ 349,800 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for watershed restoration and fuel reduction treatment on 697 acres. The project involves fuel reduction by mechanical (shearing, thinning, and mastication) and hand methods, and skidding materials to a processing area for chipping. Filled trucks will haul chips to a biomass fuel facility. The LCFSC will also work with area homeowners regarding defensible space and the removal of trees and shrubs adjacent to structures. The boundaries of one historic site and five prehistoric locales, which are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, will be flagged for avoidance as the first step in the project implementation activities. Pre-treatment surveys will be conducted prior to the implementation of project activities, and a five-acre buffer will be established around any Northern Goshawk nests identified. Work within the buffer will be limited between March 15 and August 15, unless it is determined that young have fledged. Snags will be retained in the project area in order to provide wildlife habitat for a variety of species. The purpose of the project is to create a fire safe/firewise community, protect habitat through restoring forest and rangeland health, and protect the watershed and restore the forest by reducing the fuel load, thus lessening the risk of catastrophic wildfire and reducing the effects fire has on soil and water quality.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Little Valley Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration 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 use mechanical and hand methods to implement landscape fuel reduction treatments in order to make residential areas of the project "fire adaptive," to enhance and protect wildlife habitat, and to promote a healthier forest and 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

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: Clear Creek Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project (SNC 497)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the community of Clear Creek along State Route 147, approximately two miles northeast of Lake Almanor between the communities of Hamilton Beach and Westwood in Lassen and Plumas Counties, California.

Project Location – City: Clear Creek

Project Location – County: Lassen and Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) is requesting \$ 349,650 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for forest and meadow restoration and fuel reduction treatment on 700 acres within a 1,850-acre area. The project involves fuel reduction by mechanical (shearing, thinning, and mastication) and hand methods on 700 acres of private land, and skidding materials to a processing area for chipping. Filled trucks will haul chips to a biomass fuel facility. The LCFSC will also work with area homeowners regarding defensible space and the removal of trees and shrubs adjacent to structures. The boundaries of known cultural resources within or immediately adjacent to treatment areas will be flagged for avoidance as the first step in the project implementation activities. Pre-treatment surveys will be conducted prior to the implementation of project activities, and a five-acre buffer will be established around any Northern Goshawk nests identified. Work within the buffer will be limited between March 15 and August 15, unless it is determined that young have fledged. Prior to treatment activities, Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones will be established in accordance with the California Forest Practice Rules. Snags will be retained in the project area in accordance with 14 CCR Section 939.1 in order to provide wildlife habitat for a variety of species. The purpose of the project is to create a fire safe/firewise community, protect habitat through restoring forest and riparian health, and protect the watershed and restore the forest by reducing the fuel load, thus lessening the risk of catastrophic wildfire and reducing the effects fire has on soil and water quality.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Clear Creek Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration 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 use mechanical and hand methods to accomplish fuel reduction treatments to reduce community fire risk, enhance and protect wildlife habitat, and promote a healthier forest and 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

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: Weed Treatment on the Westside of the Tahoe National Forest (SNC 500)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on the Westside of the Tahoe National Forest within the Yuba River Ranger District and American River Ranger District; the largest towns in the vicinity are Downieville and Nevada City. The project spans El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties, California, within Township (T) 15 North (N), Range (R) 12 East (E), Section(s) 4 and 7; T 15N/R13E, Section 6; T 14N/R11E Section(s) 12, 30, 33 and 34; T 14N/R10E Section 35; and T 13N/R11E Section 3. (Westville, Duncan Peak, Michigan Bluff and Foresthill United States Geological Survey quadrangles.)

Project Location – City: Near Downieville and Nevada City

Project Location – County: El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, is requesting \$40,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for weed treatment and fuels reduction on 120 -acres at up to 25 sites on the Westside of the Tahoe National Forest within two National Forest Ranger Districts and four counties. The proposed project involves hand pulling non-native invasive plant occurrences (weeds), piling for burning and/or scattering weeds in place if not in seed or able to resprout, posting information about weed infestation impacts at five sites on existing posting boards, and documenting and cataloging in a database. Three sites contain rare plants: *Clarkia biloba* ssp. *brandegeae*, *Allium sanbornii* ssp. *sanbornii* and/or *Fritillaria eastwoodiae* -- Region 5 Regional Forester's sensitive plants and/or Tahoe National Forest watchlist species, which will be avoided during the hand pulling of weeds. These special-status species have been surveyed and hand-pulling activities would occur during blooming season so as to avoid any impact to these species. Weeds will be pulled along one mile of stream bank, being careful to avoid disturbance of native riparian vegetation at these sites. Weeds are considered surface or ladder fuels and the removal of weeds will result in 120-acres of fuel reduction. Burning activities would be included in Districts' burn plans. The purpose of the project is to manually treat weeds in order to protect surrounding forestland from invasive species, thus preserving and improving forest health, reducing fire risks, and preserving and improving special-status species habitat.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Forest Service

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15301, "Existing Facilities"; and Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Weed Treatment on the Westside of the Tahoe National Forest Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, which permits operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the

time of the lead agency's determination. The types of projects listed under Class 1 include maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and stream channels. The proposed project is also 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 a reduction of fuels on 120 acres using hand-pulling activities, increased resilience of the forest through elimination of weeds, improved habitat conditions for native plants and animals in terrestrial and riparian areas, and increased health of the forest so it is more resilient in light of predicted climate change. 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: Carman Creek Watershed Forest Ecosystem Health Improvement Project
(SNC 509)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the northern Sierra Nevada within the Upper Middle Fork of the Feather River watershed, in the Carman Creek watershed two miles northeast of the town of Calpine, in Plumas County, California.

Project Location – City: Near Calpine

Project Location – County: Plumas and Sierra Counties

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District is requesting \$350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for a combination of fuel reduction treatment and stream/meadow restoration. The purpose of the project is to improve forest health and resilience on 120-acres by hand thinning/fuels reduction. The project will also improve a total of 30-acres of riparian habitat and 1.1 miles of stream within the West Fork drainage to reduce the risk of wildfire and to protect, conserve and restore physical, cultural, archaeological, and living resources. Meadow restoration activities will occur on 4.4 acres. The project will protect against catastrophic wildfire, and contains measures to enhance and protect wildlife habitat, and to promote a healthier forest and watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"; Section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Carman Creek Watershed Forest Ecosystem Health Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor alterations to land, water, or vegetation which do not remove healthy scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project is also 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 will protect against catastrophic wildfire, enhance and protect wildlife habitat, and promote a healthier forest and watershed. The project will not adversely impact any state or federally protected plant or animal species or adversely affect sensitive wetland habitats. The project will not adversely impact any cultural resources. 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 DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: **FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OR 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

Project Title: Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 510)

State Clearinghouse No.: Not Applicable. The project is covered by the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2) approved in June 1996 and the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan No. 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2) approved in February 2002 by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) as part of its Certified Regulatory Program, which is considered a CEQA functional equivalent process (California Public Resources Code §21080.5).

Project Location: On the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the James and Gladys Nagel Forest Property lands, within the Susanville Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone, immediately north of the Lassen National Forest boundary, south of Wingfield Road, east of Lassen Creek, and west of Baxter Creek, four miles south of Susanville, Lassen County, California, Township 29 North, Range 12 East Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

County: Lassen County

Project Description: The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District has requested \$273,735 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to fund fuel reduction treatments on 477 acres within the Diamond Mountains. The proposed project would implement fuels reduction treatment through a combination of mechanical thinning on approximately 420-acres; hand thinning, pruning, and slash disposal on approximately 48-acres; and removal of conifers less than 12 inches in diameter at breast height from approximately nine acres on two meadows. Woody debris and biomass generated would be utilized to the maximum extent feasible for chips to be delivered to a waste generation facility or for fuelwood. Slash would be piled and burned or removed, chipped, or masticated, as appropriate.

As Lead Agency a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on June 7, 2012, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Functional Equivalent Environmental Document was prepared for this project. (*Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans were approved by the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection [Cal Fire] as part of its Certified Regulatory Program, which is considered a CEQA functional equivalent process.*)
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans and record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

(530) 823-4670
Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:
Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 510)
2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Marji Feliz, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4679
4. Project Location:
On the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the James and Gladys Nagel Forest Property Lands, within the Susanville Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone, immediately north of the Lassen National Forest boundary, south of Wingfield Road, east of Lassen Creek, and west of Baxter Creek, four miles south of Susanville, Lassen County, California, Township 29 North, Range 12 East Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
170 Russell Avenue, Suite C
Susanville, CA 96130
6. General Plan Designation:
Richmond/Gold Run Plan Area, portion of Johnstonville Plan Area
7. Zoning:
Agriculture, Wildland Urban Interface Zone
8. Description of Project:
The proposed project would implement fuels reduction treatment through a combination of mechanical thinning on approximately 420 acres; hand thinning, pruning, and slash disposal on approximately 48 acres; and removal of conifers less than 12 inches in diameter from approximately nine acres on two meadows. Woody debris and biomass generated would be utilized to the maximum extent feasible for chips to be delivered to a waste generation facility or for fuelwood. Slash would be piled and burned or removed, chipped, or masticated, as appropriate.

Individual prescriptions would be designed on a stand-by-stand basis recognizing that different vegetation communities require individualized treatment regimes. Tree thinning would be designed to reduce crown bulk density, and increase spacing between trees so that tree crowns are not touching, with variable spacing between 6 to 20 feet between tree boles. The focus will be trees less than 12 inches in diameter at breast height. Pockets will be left untreated to provide habitat variety. Tree pruning

is designed near residences and along access corridors to further reduce the potential ladder fuel effect of branches close to the forest floor. Trees of any size would be pruned. Larger trees would be pruned up to 12 feet in height above the ground. Smaller pine trees would be pruned to a height not greater than one-half of their total height. Slash in hand treated areas would be piled and burned, removed, chipped or masticated. Mechanical thinning would utilize a "commercial thinning" prescription under the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs) so as to increase the average tree size as a result of harvesting. Woody material from mechanical operations would be converted to chips and delivered to a local power plant. All mechanized operations would comply with the Northern Forest District Rules under the California Forest Practices Act. Piling and burning would comply with the rules and standards of the Local Air Quality Control District and Lahontan Water Quality Control Board.

Aspen and oak enhancement would involve harvesting small conifer trees developing in the understory of the hardwood species and would be accomplished as part of tree thinning. Most invading conifers would be removed from three meadows so as to maintain native grass/meadow habitat.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Land uses at and surrounding the project area include rural residential, agriculture, National Forest, and single family residential.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection:

Approved NTMPs in 1996 and 2002

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board:

Approved "Timber Waiver Application" for both properties

California Department of Fish and Game:

Approved Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2010-0232-R,
N-2-95-012-LAS(2)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In June 1996, the Hulsman Ranch Partnership obtained an approved NTMP from Cal Fire to conduct timber harvesting. The Hulsman Ranch Partnership property has had ongoing selective harvesting programs since 1984. In 2002, the James and Gladys Nagel Property obtained an approved NTMP from Cal Fire to conduct timber harvesting. The Nagel Property has had ongoing timber harvesting programs since 1984. These two property owners, along with the Red River Forest Partnership, the U.S. Forest Service, and Lassen National Forest, utilize forestland north of the residences for timber production and watershed protection.

Fuel reduction projects to date have focused near residences in the Old Archery/Children's Road area west of Lassen Creek, brush mastication along Wingfield Road, and some mechanical and hand thinning in the Baxter Creek watershed. Both private owners voluntarily treated by commercial thinning approximately 200 acres near Wingfield Road in 2000. For the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project, the Honey Lake RCD and the landowners are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding responsibilities between the parties.

PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Hulsman Ranch Partnership Property Non-Industrial Timber Harvest Plan

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Hulsman Ranch Partnership Property Non-Industrial Timber Harvest Plan*. No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2). June 1996.

James and Gladys Nagel Property Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Frederic & Barbara Nagel Revocable Family Trust Property and James F. & Gladys A. Nagel Property Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan*. No. 2-01NTMP-4-LAS(2). February 2002.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) Environmental Checklist

Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District. *California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) Project Review Environmental Checklist*. January 2012. Pending California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Certification.

Basic Features of the Project

The goal of the proposed project is to protect the watershed, increase forest and watershed health, reduce risk of insect infestation, improve flora and fauna habitat, and reduce the risk of fire to protect surrounding residences. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve forest health, reduce the risk of fire, enhance ponderosa pine, Sierran mixed conifer, quaking aspen, California black oak, and riparian/meadow ecosystems.

The Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project is analyzed in both Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans (1996 and 2002) as well as a California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) Project Review Environmental Checklist Prepared by the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District in January 2012, which is pending certification by Cal Fire. Pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 1090.5, in addition to addressing timber harvest prescriptions by individual management units, NTMPs are required to include provisions to protect stream courses and water quality, known cultural and historical resources, and key habitat for or individuals representing listed plant and animal species, and must also address erosion control and slash treatment. The Hulsman Ranch Partnership obtained a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2010-0232-R, N-2-95-012-LAS(2) from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for the installation of a permanent 20-foot, 24-inch culvert on a Class II watercourse tributary of Lassen Creek at Crossing #28 needed for the NTMP, but is not part of this proposed project. No new watercourse crossings are required for the Nagel property.

The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District would be responsible for grant administration, fiscal management, and progress reports to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and would provide public press releases. A solicitation for Licensed Timber Operators will be conducted to obtain crew to help the property owners implement fuels reduction treatment through a combination of mechanical thinning on approximately 420-acres; hand thinning, pruning, and slash disposal on approximately 48 acres; and removal of conifers less than 12 inches in diameter from approximately nine acres on two meadows. Treatments would be completed on both the Nagel property and the Hulsman property during the 2013 season; however, if needed, burning could occur in 2014.

Woody debris and biomass generated would be utilized to the maximum extent feasible for chips to be delivered to a waste generation facility or for fuelwood. Slash would be piled and burned or removed, chipped, or masticated, as appropriate.

Individual prescriptions would be designed on a stand-by-stand basis, recognizing that different vegetation communities require individualized treatment regimes. Tree thinning would be designed to reduce crown bulk density and increase spacing between trees so that tree crowns are not touching, with variable spacing between 6 to 20 feet between tree boles. The focus will be trees less than 12 inches in diameter at breast height. Pockets will be left untreated to provide habitat variety. Tree pruning is designed near residences and along access corridors to further reduce the potential ladder fuel effect of branches close to the forest floor. Trees of any size would be pruned. Larger trees would be pruned up to 12 feet in height above the ground. Smaller pine trees would be pruned to a height not greater than one-half of their total height. Slash in hand treated areas would be piled and burned, removed, chipped or masticated. Mechanical thinning would utilize a “commercial thinning” prescription under the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs) so as to increase the average tree size as a result of harvesting. Woody material from mechanical operations would be converted to chips and delivered to a local power plant. All mechanized operations would comply with the Northern Forest District Rules under the California Forest Practices Act. Piling and burning would comply with the rules and standards of the Local Air Quality Control District and Lahontan Water Quality Control Board.

Aspen and oak enhancement would involve harvesting small conifer trees developing in the understory of the hardwood species and would be accomplished as part of tree thinning. Most invading conifers would be removed from three meadows so as to maintain native grass/meadow habitat.

The intended results of the proposed project include:

- Restore conifer forest ecosystems to a more open condition while providing for a diverse array of habitat niches;
- Improve conifer tree health and growth by thinning overly dense young trees that will enhance the long-term productivity of the forest for the production of sawlogs;
- Improve wildlife habitat diversity for hardwood species (quaking aspen and CA black oak) by reducing competition from conifers;
- Restore native meadow habitat to improve biodiversity and natural functions through the removal of encroaching conifer trees;
- Increase water availability and storage through the reduction of living plants in overstocked conifer stands, and removal of encroaching young conifer trees in native grass meadows;
- Reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire through the reduction of woody biomass and ladder fuels;
- Protect soil resources;
- Utilize woody biomass for energy production;
- Reduce the risk of insect infestation;
- Reduce the risk to, and improve safety for, residences and emergency personnel in the event of a wildfire within a portion of the Susanville Wildland Urban Interface; and

- Reduce the wildfire threat to a designated Spotted Owl Habitat Area adjacent to the project area on the Lassen National Forest in the upper Baxter Creek Watershed.

The NTMPs provide for sustainable production of timber and other resources over the long term. Harvesting is limited to uneven-aged silvicultural techniques with the further requirement that the volume of timber cut may not exceed growth over a 20 or 30-year time frame as specific in the NTMPs.

Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing \$273,735 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to fund fuel reduction treatments on 477-acres within the Diamond Mountains. The proposed project's Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans and Draft CFIP Project Review Environmental Checklist prepared by the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District in January 2012, which is pending certification by Cal Fire, identify potential resource impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and hydrology and water quality. Specifically, the proposed project may result in the disturbance of water courses, temporary disturbance of special-status plant and animal species; the potential to inadvertently disturb unknown cultural resources or human remains during ground-disturbing activities; soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; and violation of water quality standards. Based on the proposed project's Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs) and CFIP Project Review Environmental Checklist, the project would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in the NTMPs for the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the Nagel properties and the CFIP Environmental Checklist. The project proponent will implement measures identified in the NTMPs and comply with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapters 4, 4.5, and 10 to assure no significant adverse impacts to biological and cultural resources, geology and soils, and hydrology and water quality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact."

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards / Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)

On the basis of this evaluation:

The SNC Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent. Two **Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2) and No. 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2)** were prepared that adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has included Mitigation Measures within the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans. In addition, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District has incorporated mitigation measures into the project to avoid, reduce, or minimize impacts. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Date

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

Printed Name

Title

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Responsible Agency

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

Project Title: Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 510)

State Clearinghouse Number: Not Applicable. The project is covered by the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2) approved in June 1996 and the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan No. 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2) approved in February 2002 by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) as part of its Certified Regulatory Program, which is considered a CEQA functional equivalent process (California Public Resources Code §21080.5).

Project Location: On the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the James and Gladys Nagel Forest Property lands, within the Susanville Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone, immediately north of the Lassen National Forest boundary, south of Wingfield Road, east of Lassen Creek, and west of Baxter Creek, four miles south of Susanville, Lassen County, California, Township 29 North, Range 12 East Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Description of Project: The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District has requested \$273,735 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to fund fuel reduction treatments on 477-acres within the Diamond Mountains. The proposed project would implement fuels reduction treatment through a combination of mechanical thinning on approximately 420-acres; hand thinning, pruning, and slash disposal on approximately 48 -acres; and removal of conifers less than 12 inches in diameter from approximately nine acres on two meadows. Woody debris and biomass generated would be utilized to the maximum extent feasible for chips to be delivered to a waste generation facility or for fuelwood. Slash would be piled and burned or removed, chipped, or masticated, as appropriate.

Findings: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Hulsman Ranch Partnership Property Non-Industrial Timber Harvest Plan*. No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2). June 1996.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Frederic & Barbara Nagel Revocable Family Trust Property and James F. & Gladys A. Nagel Property Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan*. No. 2-01NTMP-4-LAS(2). February 2002.

Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District. *California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) Project Review Environmental Checklist*. January 2012. Pending California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Certification.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed documents: a) adequately address the potential impacts of the project, and b) are adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the significant effects of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project may cause indirect impacts to streams in the area and temporary impacts on special-status animal and plant species in the area (including the northern spotted owl). Impacts are considered potentially significant. The NTMPs for the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the Nagel properties and the C FIP E nvironmental C hecklist cover biological resources impacts for the proposed project and provide mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

- MM-1** During fuel reduction treatment activities, snags will be retained to provide wildlife habitat except where the following occurs:
- Snags over 20 feet in height and 16 inches dbh shall be felled in the following locations:
 - Within 100 feet of main ridgetops that are suitable for fire suppression and delineated on a THP map.
 - For hazard reduction within 100 feet of all public roads, permanent roads, seasonal roads, landings, and railroads.
 - Where federal and state safety laws and regulations require the felling of snags.
 - Within 100 feet of structures maintained for human habitation.
 - Merchantable snags in any location as provided for in the plan, or
 - Snags whose falling is required for insect or disease control.
 - When proposed by the RPF; where it is explained and justified that there will not be a significant impact to wildlife habitat needs or there is a threat to human health or safety, including fire, where the Director determines a high hazard exists.
- MM-2** Maintain the cover of large trees while harvesting more of the understory which is unhealthy and dying, and thinning the least healthy of the overstory trees.
- MM-3** Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will flag boundaries of 25-foot Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone, where applicable, around Class II wet areas and springs to identify areas of heavy equipment exclusions on the Nagel property and appropriate portions of the Hulsman Ranch Partnership Property.
- MM-4** The Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will identify any sensitive plants prior to the start of fuels reduction treatment, during the identification of trees 12 inches dbh or less to be removed. The RPF will designate the appropriate avoidance buffer for the species.

MM-5 Prior to fuel reduction treatment activities, a pre-harvest inspection will be conducted. During treatment activities, trees with active nests, perches, or screens will be left standing. Any occupied nest tree will have a zone identified by the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and the Timber Operator shall protect the nest tree.

MM-6 Prior to any fuel reduction treatment activity, a survey will be conducted by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for the northern spotted owl within 1.3 miles of a known spotted owl activity center and habitat shall be documented.

If an activity center is located within 1.3 miles of the treatment boundary, the RPF shall determine and document: (i) activity center-specific protection measures to be applied during treatment activities and (ii) owl habitat that will be retained after the proposed operations are completed.

2. CULTURAL RESOURCES

No known archaeological, cultural, or paleontological resources occur on-site. Ground disturbance has the potential to disturb previously unknown cultural resources or human remains. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The NTMPs for the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the Nagel properties and the CFIP Environmental Checklist cover cultural resources impacts for the proposed project and provide mitigation measures in the compliance of the California Forest Practice Rules. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

MM-7 The project proponent shall comply with the California Forest Practice Rules Sections 929.2, 949.2, and 969.2, Protection Measures for Plans and Emergency Notices 3 Acres and Larger. Prior to the start of the fuel reduction treatment activities, the Registered Professional Forester (RPF), or a supervised designee familiar with the project site, will conduct an on-site meeting with the Licensed Timber Operator to discuss the potential for archaeological and cultural resources in the area and apprise the Timber Operator of the confidentiality requirements regarding cultural resources information.

MM-8 During fuel reduction treatment activities, if a potentially significant cultural resources site is discovered, the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) shall be notified, and all work shall stop within 100 feet of the find. A professional archeologist will examine the site, evaluate found objects and make a finding of their significance. The archeologist will also develop recommendations for the permanent protection of objects and site treatments as necessary. Identified sites will be permanently protected through avoidance. These sites will be made off-limits to both personnel and equipment. A professional archeologist will determine an appropriate permanent flagged exclusion zone once the site has been

adequately assessed for significance. Findings of significance will be prepared and submitted to appropriate agencies as well as appropriate Native American groups at the discretion of the professional archeologist. As appropriate, findings will be recorded in the project files.

- MM-9** If during the execution of project work human remains are found, the Project Manager will halt work at that location until a professional archaeologist visits the site in order to assess their significance and process the remains and the County coroner will be immediately notified. If the remains are determined by the County coroner to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and Native American groups at the discretion of the professional archeologist will be notified within 24 hours and the guidelines of the NAHC will be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. Findings of significance will be prepared and submitted to appropriate agencies at the discretion of the professional archeologist. Findings will also be recorded in the project files by the Project Manager. Project work may continue on other non-impacted portions of the project area.

3. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The proposed project may result in substantial soil erosion; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The NTMPs for the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the Nagel properties and the CFIP Environmental Checklist cover geology and soils impacts for the proposed project and provide mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

- MM-10** Waterbars will be installed on slopes of 30% or greater where 500 square feet or more of soil has been exposed by project activities. Waterbars are to be installed where vegetation treatments lead into or have access to a watercourse. An adequate number of waterbars as determined by an RPF, other suitably trained personnel, or the Project Manager will be installed per the provisions of California Forest Practices Act 934.6 in order to prevent the degradation of water quality. Waterbar installation will be inspected by the Project Manager during subsequent precipitation events throughout the following winter season in order to assure their adequacy. Condition and operation of waterbars will be recorded in the project files.

- MM-11** For trees that will be felled across the Equipment Limitation Zone (ELZ) or the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ), the trees shall be marked by the Registered Professional Forester (RPF). The RPF will make a determination that felling the tree across the watercourse will produce less total ground disturbance than if the tree were felled away from the watercourse and the tree can be felled without limbs entering the watercourse. This will reduce the potential for soil erosion into the watercourse. The felling is only proposed along Class III

watercourses on the Nagel property and Class II, III, and IV open watercourses on the Hulsman Ranch Partnership property. This mitigation does not apply to the Class I watercourse or the Class IV watercourse which is the buried domestic waterline on the Hulsman Ranch Partnership property, and any Class I and II on the Nagel property.

- MM-12** No equipment operations will occur on slopes exceeding 50 percent and will not occur on any unstable areas, regardless of slope percentage. Slope and suitability for equipment operations will be determined by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or the Project Manager.
- MM-13** Any newly-exposed soil of over 100 square feet in area will be mulched with brush to minimize the potential for erosion. Hand-made water bars will be installed to divert water onto stable vegetation and away from watercourses, as needed. Verification of proper installation and efficiency of both mulching and waterbars will be made by the Project Manager prior to and following the season's first precipitation event and recorded in the project file.

4. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

The proposed project may cause impacts to water quality by increasing water temperature due to removal of watercourse shading. During construction, there would be short-term soil disturbances within the project site which could result in the violation of water quality standards; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The NTMPs for the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the Nagel properties and the CFIP Environmental Checklist cover hydrology and water quality impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

- MM-14** During fuel reduction treatment activities, no riparian vegetation will be removed and other vegetation will be left as necessary to maintain stream temperature.
- MM-15** During fuel reduction treatment activities, all areas below the stream and lake transition line of Class I, II and III watercourses as described in the Forest Practice Rules will be kept free of slash and debris, except as intended for woody debris enhancement for fisheries and wildlife.
- MM-16** During fuel reduction treatment activities, accidental deposits will be immediately removed. Removal will be consistent with the requirements found in California Forest Practice Rules.
- MM-17** During fuel reduction treatment activities, no soils, slash or logging debris shall be deposited between the edge of the landings and the watercourse. Any material accidentally deposited in this area shall be removed prior to the winter period and/or the conclusion of logging.

MM-18 During fuel reduction treatment activities, existing landings within the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) may only be used during the early part of the winter period when soils are dry and when there is no predicted (30% or more) chance of rain. RPF shall make determination to discontinue operations on these landings after first significant winter precipitation.

The SNC Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name Jim Branham

Title Executive Officer

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 510). The project is covered by the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2) approved in June 1996 and the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan No. 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2) approved in February 2002 by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) as part of its Certified Regulatory Program, which is considered a CEQA functional equivalent process. The project site is located on the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the James and Gladys Nagel Forest Property lands, within the Susanville Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone, immediately north of the Lassen National Forest boundary, south of Wingfield Road, east of Lassen Creek and west of Baxter Creek, four miles south of Susanville, Lassen County, California, Township 29 North, Range 12 East Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. California Public Resources Code §21080.5 provides that a regulatory program of a state agency shall be certified by the Secretary for Resources as being exempt from the requirements for preparing Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, and Initial Studies if the Secretary finds that the program meets the criteria contained in that code section. A certified program remains subject to other provisions in CEQA such as the policy of avoiding significant adverse effects on the environment where feasible. This article provides information concerning certified programs. The Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2) and the NTMP No. 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2) were approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) as part of its Certified Regulatory Program, which is considered a CEQA functional equivalent process under California Public Resources Code §21080.5.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the NTMP No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2) prepared for the Hulsman Ranch Partnership and the NTMP No. 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2) prepared for the Frederic & Barbara Nagel Revocable Family Trust, James F. & Gladys A. Nagel, which together encompass the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project. It is intended to be used by Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by *CEQA Guidelines* §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

In June 1996, the Hulsman Ranch Partnership obtained an approved NTMP from Cal Fire to conduct timber harvesting. The Hulsman Ranch Partnership property has had ongoing selective harvesting programs since 1984. In 2002, the James and Gladys Nagel Property obtained an approved NTMP from Cal Fire to conduct timber harvesting. The Nagel Property has had ongoing timber harvesting programs since 1984. These two property owners, along with the Red River Forest Partnership, the U.S. Forest Service, and Lassen National Forest, utilize forestland north of the residences for timber production and watershed protection. In accordance with the requirements of Title 14 California Code of Regulations Chapter 3, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, NTMP No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2) and the NTMP No. 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2) were prepared in 1996 and 2002, respectively, to provide evaluation for the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project. These NTMPs and the CFIP Environmental Checklist identified and evaluated the timber management activities, including the fuels reduction activities associated with this proposed project. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is the lead agency for the Forest Practice Act and thus for CEQA. The NTMPs identified potentially significant impacts and provided mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant. The mitigation measures identified in the NTMPs would apply to the proposed Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project and are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following pages.

1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the NTMP No. N-2-95-012-LAS(2) and the NTMP No. 2-01NTMP-4 LAS(2) and conditions of approval for the project. The table has the following columns:

Mitigation Measure/Summary: Lists the mitigation measures identified within the NTMPs for a specific impact. The numbers are given in the order they appear within the Notice of Determination for the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project.

Implementation Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be completed.

Monitoring Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be monitored.

Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party: References the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District or any other public agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

Verification of Compliance: Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.

1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.

TABLE 1-1: DIAMOND MOUNTAIN FOREST AND MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES							
MM-1	<p>During fuel reduction treatment activities, snags will be retained to provide wildlife habitat except where the following occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snags over 20 feet in height and 16 in. dbh shall be felled in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Within 100 feet of main ridge tops that are suitable for fire suppression and delineated on a THP map. ○ For hazard reduction within 100 feet of all public roads, permanent roads, seasonal roads, landings, and railroads. • Where federal and state safety laws and regulations require the felling of snags. • Within 100 feet of structures maintained for human habitation. • Merchantable snags in any location as provided for in the plan, or • Snags whose falling is required for insect or disease control. • When proposed by the RPF; where it is explained and justified that there will not be a significant impact to wildlife habitat needs or there is a threat to human health or safety, including fire where the Director determines a high hazard exists. 	During Construction	During construction	California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection (Cal Fire), Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, Registered Professional Forester (RPF), and Project Manager			
MM-2	Maintain the cover of large trees while harvesting more of the understory which is unhealthy and dying, and thinning the least healthy of the overstory trees.	During Construction	During construction	Cal Fire, RPF, and Project Manager			
MM-3	Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will flag boundaries of 25-foot Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone, where applicable, around Class II wet areas and springs to identify areas of heavy equipment exclusions on the Nagel property and appropriate portions of the Hulsman Ranch Partnership Property.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction / During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, RPF, and Project Manager			
MM-4	The Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will identify any sensitive plants prior to the start of fuel reduction treatment, during the identification of trees 12-inches dbh or less to be removed. The RPF will designate the	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction / During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, RPF, California			

TABLE 1-1: DIAMOND MOUNTAIN FOREST AND MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	appropriate avoidance buffer for the species.			Department of Fish and Game, and Project Manager			
MM-5	Prior to fuel reduction treatment activities, a pre-harvest inspection will be conducted. During treatment activities, trees with active nests, perches, or screens will be left standing. Any occupied nest tree will have a zone identified by the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and the Timber Operator shall protect the nest tree.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction / During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, RPF, and Project Manager			
MM-6	Prior to any fuel reduction treatment activity, a survey will be conducted by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for the northern spotted owl within 1.3 miles of a known spotted owl activity center and habitat shall be documented. If an activity center is located within 1.3 miles of the treatment boundary, the RPF shall determine and document: (i) activity center-specific protection measures to be applied during treatment activities and (ii) owl habitat that will be retained after the proposed operations are completed.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction / During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, RPF, California Department of Fish and Game, and Project Manager			
CULTURAL RESOURCES							
MM-7	The project proponent shall comply with the California Forest Practice Rules Sections 929.2, 949.2, and 969.2, Protection Measures for Plans and Emergency Notices 3 Acres and Larger. Prior to the start of the fuel reduction treatment activities, the Registered Professional Forester (RPF), or a supervised designee familiar with the project site, will conduct an on-site meeting with the Licensed Timber Operator to discuss the potential for archaeological and cultural resources in the area and apprise the Timber Operator of the confidentiality requirements regarding cultural resources information.	Prior to ground disturbing activities	Pre-construction / During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, RPF, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: DIAMOND MOUNTAIN FOREST AND MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
MM-8	During fuel reduction treatment activities, if a potentially significant cultural resource site is discovered, the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) shall be notified, all work shall stop within 100 feet of the find. A professional archeologist will examine the site, evaluate found objects and make a finding of their significance. The archeologist will also develop recommendations for the permanent protection of objects and site treatments as necessary. Identified sites will be permanently protected through avoidance. These sites will be made off limits to both personnel and equipment. A professional archeologist will determine an appropriate permanent flagged exclusion zone once the site has been adequately assessed for significance. Findings of significance will be prepared and submitted to appropriate agencies as well as appropriate Native American groups at the discretion of the professional archeologist. As appropriate, findings will be recorded in the project files.	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-9	If during the execution of project work human remains are found, the Project Manager will halt work at that location until a professional archaeologist visits the site in order to assess their significance and process the remains and the County coroner will be immediately notified. If the remains are determined by the County coroner to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and Native American groups at the discretion of the professional archeologist will be notified within 24 hours and the guidelines of the NAHC will be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. Findings of significance will be prepared and submitted to appropriate agencies at the discretion of the professional archeologist. Findings will also be recorded in the project files by the Project Manager. Project work may continue on other non-impacted portions of the project area.	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, Lassen County Coroner, Native American Heritage Commission, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: DIAMOND MOUNTAIN FOREST AND MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
GEOLOGY/SOILS							
MM-10	Waterbars will be installed on slopes of 30% or greater where 500 square feet or more of soil has been exposed by project activities. Waterbars are to be installed where vegetation treatments lead into or have access to a watercourse. An adequate number of waterbars as determined by an RPF, other suitably trained personnel, or the Project Manager will be installed per the provisions of California Forest Practices Act 934.6 in order to prevent the degradation of water quality. Waterbar installation will be inspected by the Project Manager during subsequent precipitation events throughout the following winter season in order to assure their adequacy. Condition and operation of waterbars will be recorded in the project files.	Prior to Project implementation / During construction	Pre-Construction / During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-11	For trees that will be felled across the ELZ, the trees shall be marked by the Registered Professional Forester (RPF). The RPF will make a determination that felling the tree across the watercourse will produce less total ground disturbance than if the tree were felled away from the watercourse and the tree can be felled without limbs entering the watercourse. This will reduce the potential for soil erosion into the watercourse. The felling is only proposed along Class III watercourses on the Nagel property and Class II, III, and IV open watercourses on the Hulsman Ranch Partnership property. This mitigation does not apply to the Class I watercourse or the Class IV watercourse which is the buried domestic waterline on the Hulsman Ranch Partnership property and, any Class I and II on the Nagel property.	Prior to Project implementation / During construction	Pre-Construction / During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, RPF, and Project Manager			
MM-12	No equipment operations will occur on slopes exceeding 50 percent and will not occur on any unstable areas, regardless of slope percentage. Slope and suitability for equipment operations will be determined by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or the Project Manager.	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-13	Any newly-exposed soil of over 100 square feet in area will be mulched with brush to minimize the potential for erosion. Hand-made water bars will be installed to divert water onto stable vegetation and away from watercourses, as needed. Verification of proper installation and sufficiency of both mulching and waterbars will be made	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: DIAMOND MOUNTAIN FOREST AND MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
	by the Project Manager prior to and following the season's first precipitation event and recorded in the project file.						
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY							
MM-14	During fuel reduction treatment activities, no riparian vegetation will be removed and other vegetation will be left as necessary to maintain stream temperature.	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-15	During fuel reduction treatment activities, all areas below the stream and lake transition line of Class I, II and III watercourses as described in the Forest Practice Rules will be kept free of slash and debris, except as intended for woody debris enhancement for fisheries and wildlife.	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-16	During fuel reduction treatment activities, accidental deposits will be immediately removed. Removal will be consistent with the requirements found in California Forest Practice Rules.	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-17	During fuel reduction treatment activities, no soils, slash or logging debris shall be deposited between the edge of the landings and the watercourse. Any material accidentally deposited in this area shall be removed prior to the winter period and/or the conclusion of logging.	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			
MM-18	During fuel reduction treatment activities, existing landings within the WLPZ may only be used during the early part of the winter period when soils are dry and when there is no predicted (30% or more) chance of rain. RPF shall make a determination to shut down operations on these landings after first significant winter precipitation.	During construction	During construction	Cal Fire, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Project Manager			

LEAD AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

If you would like to view the supporting environmental documentation prepared for this project by the lead agency, click on the following links:

[California Forest Improvement Program \(CFIP\) Environmental Checklist](#)

[Hulsman Ranch Partnership Property Non-Industrial Timber Harvest Plan](#)

[James and Gladys Nagel Property Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan](#)

Note: these are large PDF files that may take a while to load. For best performance, 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.

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: Truckee-Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project (SNC 512)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on National Forest System lands within Nevada and Sierra Counties, on the Sierraville and Truckee Ranger Districts of the Tahoe National Forest, around the Truckee River and Boca Reservoirs, in Nevada and Sierra Counties, California.

Project Location – City: Near Truckee

Project Location – County: Nevada and Sierra Counties

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Truckee District of the Tahoe National Forest is requesting \$33,867.44 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for noxious weed removal. The project involves the eradication of the occurrences of musk thistle and starthistle on 320-acres within the Tahoe National Forest. The removal of musk thistle would be centered around the Stampede and Boca Reservoir areas. The project will improve and maintain native vegetation communities and habitats for wildlife by hand removal of noxious weeds that are competing with native vegetation. In addition, treated areas will be reseeded with native seed where needed to minimize weed re-introduction. The project will protect and/or restore water quality, aquatic habitat, and riparian habitat by allowing the re-establishment of native plants, which minimizes sediment movement to streams and protects the riparian corridor.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Forest Service

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Truckee-Boca Musk Thistle Attack 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 which will remove noxious weeds that are competing with native vegetation, and all activities will be completed by hand. The project does not involve actions such as incidental take of an endangered species or impacts to cultural resources. 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:

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: June Loop Fuels Reduction Project (SNC 520)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the Highway 395 and Highway 158 corridor around June Lake Loop, in the Inyo National Forest in Mono County, California.

Project Location – City: Lee Vining/Mammoth Lakes

Project Location – County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The USDA Forest Service (USFS), Inyo National Forest, is requesting \$327,500 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 89 acres in 4 units known as A-01 (15-acres), DZ-07 (36-acres), DZ-08 (14-acres), and DZ-09 (24-acres). The project involves fuels reduction treatment activities that would include tree thinning and pruning to reduce stand density and ladder fuels, shrub cutting, wood hauling, and slash chipping and piling. The USFS approval of the project is based on detailed environmental review and substantial design features incorporated as part of the project to assure no significant adverse effects and support a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Treatments would create 100 foot defensible space zones around recreation facilities and other developments on USFS lands, and at the boundary with private properties where there are homes or other private developments. The purpose and overall goal of the June Loop Fuels Reduction Project is to decrease the likelihood of a large-scale, high-intensity wildland fire having catastrophic effects to the Grant Lake – Rush Creek municipal watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Forest Service

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 June Loop Fuels 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 proposed project would strategically reduce hazardous fuels by removing brush and trees around communities and recreational sites in the June Lake Loop. Vegetation management actions would be focused on reducing the risk of crown fires by decreasing vegetation density to break up the horizontal continuity of fuels, and by removing "ladder" fuels to break up the vertical continuity of fuels. Treatments would create 100 foot defensible space zones around recreation facilities and other developments on USFS lands, and at the boundary with private properties where there are homes or other private developments. 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
CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15304

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Proposition 84 Grant Application Number 520
June Loop Fuels Reduction Project

Description of Activities

The USDA Forest Service (USFS), Inyo National Forest, is requesting \$327,500 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 89 acres in 4 units known as A-01 (15-acres), DZ-07 (36-acres), DZ-08 (14-acres), and DZ-09 (24-acres). Fuel reduction treatment activities would include tree thinning and pruning to reduce stand density and ladder fuels, shrub cutting, wood hauling, and slash chipping and piling.

Treatment Specifications for Units DZ-07, 08, and 09

Within units DZ-07, 08, and 09, urban core fuel reduction treatments would create 100 foot defensible space zones around recreation facilities and other developments on USFS lands, and at the boundary with private properties where there are homes or other developments. These fuel reduction treatments are specifically intended to comply with requirements for wildfire defensible space specified in CA Code 4291.

The 100 foot defensible space treatments would include:

- Select removal of small-diameter conifers (e.g., generally less than 16" dbh) where they are colonizing in the understory of aspen stands and from below the canopy of larger trees (e.g., ladder fuels).
- Prune tree limbs on residual conifer trees to a height of 8 to 12 feet.
- Select removal of shrubs by hand cutting.
- Disposal of slash, as well as existing dead and down material, by chipping or piling and burning.

Urban core fuel reduction treatments would be accomplished using chainsaws and hand labor to selectively remove small-diameter conifers and shrubs, and to prune limbs on residual conifers. Shrub mowing would be accomplished using mechanical equipment, such as a Bobcat or All-Season Vehicle. Shrubs would be mowed and mulched in select locations around recreational site facilities. No mowing would occur in areas with riparian vegetation.

For the portions of units DZ-07, DZ-08, and DZ-09 that are beyond the 100 foot defensible space treatment zones described above, fuels reduction treatments would include:

- Tree thinning to an average leave basal area of 80 to 120 square feet per acre, depending on site quality. Thinning would occur from below, removing suppressed, intermediate, and a sufficient number of co-dominant trees to achieve the desired leave basal area. Treatments will favor retaining shade-intolerant conifer species, such as Jeffrey pine or large-diameter Sierra juniper, and retain and/or recruit for stands dominated by larger, older Jeffrey pine trees by thinning excess trees to reduce inter-tree competition. The project proponent will protect remaining old-growth Jeffrey pine by removing all trees under and within at least 15 feet of the drip line of the old-growth tree(s), which may act as a fuel ladder.
- Construction of 4 to 7 temporary bridges would be required for equipment to access and remove biomass from proposed treatment units DZ-07 and DZ-08 because there are multiple braided stream channels in these units which create "islands" of dense, overstocked conifers. Temporary bridges would be constructed using down logs to span the stream, with decking material laid across the log spans. In addition, decking material

may be used as the foundation for skid trails to operate equipment in areas of moist soil within these two units, to avoid soil rutting and compaction. These temporary bridges would be removed if a high flow event is predicted or before winter, in order to prevent obstruction of flow or diverting water out of the channel.

Treatment Specifications for Unit A-01

Conifer removal from the overstory of Unit A-01 would be conducted according to the following specifications:

- Cutting of all conifer <24" dbh within the aspen stand, and the stand perimeter up to: 1) 1-½ times the height of aspen trees in the stand, 2) distance required to prevent remaining, adjacent conifers from carrying a crown fire, or 3) up to 100 feet (to conduct treatments or process treatment by-products), whichever is greater.
- Conifers 24" dbh or greater may be retained if they are not in a position to carry a crown fire into adjacent forested areas. Only single trees of this size would be retained (i.e., no clumps).
- All conifers greater than 30" dbh would be retained.
- Removal of conifers would be conducted using mechanical equipment where feasible. Cut trees would be removed from the treatment unit perimeter by operating equipment on the drier areas at the edge of the stand, and cabling or lifting logs out of the stand. In addition, decking material may be used as the foundation for skid trails to operate equipment in areas of moist soil within these two units, to avoid soil rutting and compaction. Equipment would access the stand via existing roads, and no new roads would be constructed.
- In aspen treatment unit A-01, equipment access would require construction of approximately 4 temporary bridges to cross braided segments of stream.

This is an on-the-ground project to mechanically and hand treat accumulated forest fuels build-ups to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The proposed project would strategically reduce hazardous fuels by removing brush and trees around communities and recreational sites in the June Lake Loop. Treatments are intended to slow the rate of fire spread, reduce fire intensity, and modify fire behavior. Three thinning would be accomplished using chainsaws and hand labor to cut trees. In most areas, removal of cut trees would be accomplished using mechanical equipment, such as an excavator or skid-steer. Some specific areas would include tree removal by hand. These specific areas include sites with steeper slopes or areas with loose volcanic ash or pumice on the soil surface. Slash would be disposed through chipping, piling and burning, and/or through sale of fuelwood.

Reasons Why the Project is Exempt

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a categorical exemption provides for an exemption from CEQA environmental documentation requirements for a class of projects determined not to have a significant effect on the environment. Categorical Exemptions are addressed in Article 19 of the CEQA Guidelines, where a list of 33 classes of projects has been identified. Projects falling within one of these classes of projects are generally exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15304: Minor Alterations to Land

The June Loop Fuels Reduction Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which is defined as follows:

Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. Examples include but are not limited to:

- (a) Grading on land with a slope of less than ten (10) percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard, such as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist;
- (b) New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping;
- (c) Filling of earth into previously excavated land with material compatible with the natural features of the site;
- (d) Minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production;
- (e) Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, including carnivals, sales of Christmas trees, etc;
- (f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored;
- (g) Maintenance dredging where the spoil is deposited in a spoil area authorized by all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies;
- (h) The creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way.
- (i) Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined in writing, or by written policy or ordinance, that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions. (Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code; Reference: Section 21084, Public Resources Code).

The June Loop Fuels Reduction Project consists of minor land alterations involving the thinning and removal of surface vegetation for improved forest health and fire risk reduction. Hazardous fuels would be significantly reduced, forest health and resilience would be improved through reduced inter-tree competition, and aspen and other native riparian vegetation would be enhanced via reduced conifer encroachment. The Cal Fire Hazard Severity Zoning Map and the Mono County Community Wildfire Protection Plan indicate the communities in closest proximity to the project area are generally ranked as High to Very High, with one community ranked Moderate and one ranked Extreme. The site improvement/restoration work will not result in significant adverse impacts. This project is similar in nature to the examples listed in Guidelines Section 15304.

No Exceptions to a Categorical Exemption

Categorical exemptions represent activities that generally do not result in significant environmental impacts. However, there are six exceptions to categorical exemptions, defined in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. Generally, a categorical exemption does not apply if a project would occur in certain specified sensitive environments, would affect scenic resources within an official state scenic highway, or would be located on a designated hazardous waste site. In addition, a categorical exemption would not apply if the project causes substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource or would be considered significant within the cumulative context. Table 1 identifies the exceptions from CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 and a brief discussion of why each exception does not apply to the June Loop Fuels Reduction Project.

**Table 1
Categorical Exemption Exceptions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2)**

Exception	Applicability
<p>(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.</p>	<p>The main goal of this 89-acre project within June Lake Loop is to thin and remove surface vegetation for improved forest health and fire risk reduction. This is an on-the-ground project to mechanically and hand treat accumulated forest fuels build-ups to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. This project work consists of minor land alterations involving the removal of surface vegetation and trees. This project is needed because over 70 years of fire exclusion has resulted in excessively dense forested stands. In 2006, 35-acres of fuels reduction treatments were implemented in the June Lake Loop area. This project expands on that initial effort. These 89-acres are part of the much larger June Loop Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project to be implemented by the USFS beginning in 2012.</p> <p>The purpose and overall goal of the June Loop Fuels Reduction Project is to decrease the likelihood of a large-scale, high-intensity wildland fire having catastrophic effects to the Grant Lake – Rush Creek 6th level sub-watershed, and the forests and human communities within this watershed. This municipal watershed directly supplies water to the June Lake Public Utility District. In addition, the City of Los Angeles diverts water for municipal use downstream of the project area.</p> <p>The major components of implementation include: unit mapping and layout, contract preparation and award, on-the-ground implementation (temporary bridge construction, tree and shrub cutting, tree pruning, yarding, slash chipping or piling, and site restoration) with concurrent contract inspection and administration, slash pile burning, and required accomplishment reporting to SNC. Work is anticipated to begin in September/October 2012, ending before March 2, 2016.</p>

<p>(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.</p>	<p>The project activities will not adversely affect environmental resources and will therefore not contribute to any cumulative environmental impact in relation to other restoration projects in the region. The site improvement/restoration will result in beneficial effects to the region's forests, creeks, watersheds, and associated lands by providing wildfire risk reduction, and natural resource management and protection.</p>
<p>(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.</p>	<p>The site improvement/restoration project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.</p> <p>Aesthetics. The project will result in a minor change in the appearance of the project area due to thinning and the removal of surface vegetation. However, there are no parks, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas within the project area. The project is located outside of designated wilderness, as well as Inventoried Roadless Areas.</p> <p>In addition, the project will require low stumps (less than 8 inches, measured on the uphill side of stump) to be concealed with dirt/duff if prominent within 75 feet of potential viewpoints such as main arterial roads. Trees will be marked in advance with paint on the side away from potential viewpoints, such as arterial roads and campgrounds, or repainted in dark brown/gray (to match existing tree bark color) after project activities. Isolated clumps of smaller-diameter trees or shrubs will be retained for visual screening (i.e., those that are not ladder fuels into the canopy of larger trees or shrubs) near private land. Impacts would be less than significant.</p> <p>Agriculture. The project will have no impact on agricultural resources. The project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire on approximately 89-acres of brush/hazardous fuels. There will be no impact to agricultural lands.</p>

Air Quality/GHGs. Smoke and air quality effects have been minimized using design features to ensure dissipation and transport of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) guidelines for daily PM10 emissions. The project will comply with California Air Resources Board rules and local ordinances. The following design features will be incorporated into the project:

- Prior to prescribed fire operations (e.g., pile burning, shrubland prescribed burning, and forest understory burning), appropriate permits would be obtained from the GBUAPCB.
- "Burn" or "No Burn" day conditions would be adhered to, as determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).
- Conduct prescribed fire operations when meteorological conditions favor smoke dispersal away from smoke-sensitive areas, such as the Ansel Adams Wilderness Class 1 airshed, and the communities of June Lake or Lee Vining.
- Limit emissions with prescribed burning to no more than 10 tons of PM₁₀ per day, in accordance with GBUAPCD guidelines.

Greenhouse Gas emissions were calculated in January 2012 using the First Order Fire Effects Model and conversion factors based on estimated fossil fuel usage during the project. It was assumed that 30 percent of the total volume present in each vegetation type was consumed by burning, and that 75 percent of the fuel reduction, across the project, was accomplished by burning and 25 percent by mechanical means. Based on calculations, it was determined that a total of 2,953 tons of carbon dioxide would be released during the course of the project. Given that the project, or the burning of material, will likely occur over a 60-day period for an average of 49.2 tons per day, the net carbon dioxide effect will be less than significant.

Biological Resources. Biological surveys were performed within the project area in 2011, and a search of the California Natural Diversity Database was completed. Habitat within the proposed project area was analyzed for suitability for all threatened and/or endangered species potentially occurring on the Inyo National Forest. Four species were found to have potential habitat in the project area: the northern goshawk, bald eagle, greater sage-grouse, and American marten. A special treatment area was designated and no forest improvement practices will be performed that will impact these species. Specific project measures are further described below. In addition, riparian vegetation will not be removed.

Northern Goshawk and Other Bird Species Protection Measures

No mechanical treatments would occur within northern goshawk Protected Activity Centers (PACs). For all proposed treatment areas, a goshawk nest survey will be conducted before any tree thinning/cutting operations commence. The survey would be conducted by a Forest Service Wildlife Biologist. If tree thinning/cutting operations are not complete within three years of the initial survey, the stand would be re-surveyed.

A Limited Operating Period (LOP) would be maintained prohibiting vegetation treatments within approximately ¼-mile of any northern goshawk nest site during the breeding season (February 15 through September 15), unless surveys confirm that northern goshawks are not nesting. If the nest stand within a PAC is unknown, the LOP would either be applied to a ¼-mile area surrounding the PAC, or surveys would be conducted to determine the nest stand location.

No mechanical operations would occur during the primary nesting period for resident and neotropical migratory birds (May 15 through July 30). The LOP may be adjusted during any year if a USFS Wildlife Biologist determines that the breeding chronology does not coincide

with these dates. Where operationally feasible, the project will attempt to retain up to three of the largest existing snags per acre. Where few snags exist, up to three snags will be created per acre throughout each treatment area. Snags would be created by topping and limbing, and/or girdling residual trees.

Bald Eagle

The bald eagle was listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a federally endangered species in 1978. On July 12, 1995, this species was reclassified to Threatened status in the lower 48 states. On August 9, 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. Even though they are delisted, bald eagles are still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. These Acts require some measures to continue to prevent “take” of bald eagles resulting from human disturbance. Forest-wide standards and guidelines for bald eagle include:

1. Maintain the integrity of existing wintering areas. Do not establish new winter uses or recreation developments within one-quarter mile of such areas.
2. Maintain and enhance fish, waterfowl, and other prey-based populations within winter foraging areas where opportunities exist.

Sage-Grouse

Forest-wide standards and guidelines for sage-grouse are:

1. Maintain a shrub canopy cover of at least 20 percent on at least 30 percent of vegetation treatment areas within six miles of known strutting grounds (leks).
2. Allow no vegetative treatment in sage-grouse habitat that would have a significant negative impact on this species.
3. Recognize the sensitivity of sage-grouse leks during the period from

March 1 to April 30. Resolve conflicts in favor of sage-grouse.

4. Cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game in reintroduction efforts.

American marten

Forest-wide standards and guidelines for American marten are:

1. Marten den sites are 100-acre buffers consisting of the highest quality habitat in a compact arrangement surrounding the den site. CWHR types 6, 5D, 5M, 4D, and 4M in descending order of priority, based on availability, provide the highest quality habitat for the marten.
2. Protect marten den site buffers from disturbance from vegetation treatments with a limited operating period from May 1 through July 31 as long as habitat remains suitable or until another regionally-approved management strategy is implemented. The LOP may be waived for individual projects of limited scope and duration, when a biological evaluation documents that such projects are unlikely to result in breeding disturbance considering their intensity, duration, timing, and specific location.

Cultural Resources. See (f), below.

Geology/Soils. The proposed site improvement/restoration activities will not expose people or structures to loss, injury, or death due to seismic activity or unstable soils. Also refer to Hydrology/Water Quality, below.

Hazards/Hazardous Materials. See (e), below.

Hydrology/Water Quality. With implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and design criteria, the proposed project would have only minor, local, short-term effects to water quality, hydrology, stream morphology and soil

productivity. These effects would be of low intensity and short-term, and would not affect any of the stream's beneficial uses within the project area.

Project equipment may operate on wet ground by traveling on decking, slash or other material, as an "in lieu" practice for protection of soil and water resources. The specific "in lieu" practices would be identified by a Forest Service Natural Resource Professional to avoid adverse soil rutting and compaction, and to protect water quality from sedimentation. Large amounts of biomass and density of stream channels may require the use of higher ground pressure mechanized equipment within Waterbody Buffer Zones (WBZs), as an "in lieu" practice. In these cases, a Forest Service Natural Resource Professional would help design access points, skid trails, and operation guidelines for the "in lieu" practices to prevent adverse effects to water quality.

Other additional practices that will be used to protect from the deposition of soils into watercourses include, but are not limited to the following:

- Use of low ground pressure equipment.
- Placement of slash or other material on soils exposed during operations.
- Construction of temporary bridges across stream channels using local natural materials such as downed logs. Bridges would be removed prior to any high flow events, prior to winter.
- Only use equipment on slopes less than 30 percent.
- Only use equipment on slopes averaging less than 20 percent where surface soils are at the surface.
- Skid trail pattern and placement will be identified prior to operations to minimize soil disturbance.
- A watershed specialist will be consulted on the location and spacing of burn piles.
- Chip material will not be deposited

in areas where it may discharge into a watercourse.

- All areas disturbed during operations will be stabilized prior to winter season or predicted high flows.
- Areas receiving detrimental soil compaction will be sub-soiled as determined by a USFS watershed specialist.
- Skid trails will be treated to discourage their use by off-road vehicles.

The project area contains wetlands and riparian areas, and a small area would be within the 100 year floodplain of small perennial streams, but the project would not affect the hydrologic functioning of any wetlands and would not alter any flooding processes. All effects would be within Federal, State, or Local standards and would meet all applicable laws pertaining to water quality, hydrology, stream morphology, and soil quality.

Noise. Proposed project activities will generate temporary noise. However, given that restoration activities will be limited to day time business hours (the least sensitive hours of the day), and the limited extent to which these activities could expose sensitive receptors to increased noise levels, the project will not cause significant noise effects.

Transportation. There will be limited additional trips on local roadways during project implementation. Nonvehicular transportation over sensitive habitat will occur. The vehicles will not block traffic and no traffic delays will occur due to restoration activities.

Recreation. The USFS would not issue permits when fuels reduction work would be implemented around developments which are located on National Forest System Lands, such as recreation residences, resorts, marinas, campgrounds, and other businesses or facilities. Where classified trails are located within fuels treatment units, these trails would either be protected during fuels

	<p>project implementation or rehabilitated if affected by implementation. Impacts will be less than significant.</p> <p>Other CEQA Issues. The project will have no effect on land use, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, or utilities and service systems.</p>
<p>(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.</p>	<p>The proposed project will not result in the removal of, or damage to, any trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings or other resources within the viewshed of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.</p>
<p>(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.</p>	<p>The site is not located on toxic sites listed pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.</p>
<p>(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.</p>	<p>Cultural and archaeological inventories for the project were completed between October 2009 and July 2010. The investigations included a record search incorporating a 1/2-mile buffer of the proposed project area. The USFS initiated tribal consultation with five Tribes for the June Loop Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project through personal phone calls in the preliminary phase of project development. This early consultation resulted in a field visit to the project area on November 8, 2010, with a representative from one of these Tribes. In addition, formal tribal consultation letters were mailed on December 16, 2010, to those five Tribes. A representative from another Tribe provided their thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed fuels reduction activities in response to the consultation letter. It was determined that the proposed project would not impact cultural or historical resources. Precautionary site protection measures were developed in conjunction with a Cultural Fire Archaeologist and the Federal Agency Archaeologist.</p> <p>Fuels treatment actions are designed for protection of all cultural resources, including flagging and avoiding of sites, and non-mechanical manual handwork to remove fuels within site boundaries.</p>

	<p>These measures also include Cal Fire's procedures for discovery of cultural materials and human remains, should they be encountered. The proposed project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.</p>
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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: Placer County Department of Agriculture A-Rated Noxious Weed Eradication in the Sierra Nevada Project (SNC 535)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the forests of eastern Placer County, extending from the City of Auburn east to the California-Nevada state line (excluding the Tahoe Basin), in Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Auburn

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Placer County Agricultural Department is requesting \$60,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for weed eradication treatment on 20 net acres, focusing on the Interstate 80 (I-80) and Bear River corridors. The proposed project involves an integrated pest management approach of hand pulling followed by proper disposal and herbicide application on noxious weed infestations, surveys for incipient infestations, mapping infestations with GPS/GIS, and quantitatively monitoring progress. Infestations and appropriate treatment methods will be assessed on a site-specific basis (i.e., hand removal versus herbicide application). For herbicide use, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's Endangered Species Custom Realtime Internet Bulletin Engine (PRESCRIBE) will be used to identify sensitive areas where herbicide use is limited or where hand removal is the preferred treatment. Pesticide toxicology follows the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) standards, as well as advice from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Pesticide Investigations Unit. Habitat protection measures will be used in accordance with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinions and local plans developed through the cooperation of the County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, CDFG, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This program is implemented by the Department of Pesticide Regulation on behalf of the U.S. EPA under section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act. A California Department of Transportation Encroachment Permit will be obtained for the treatment areas within State right-of-way along I-80. The purpose of the project is to eradicate noxious weeds, thus preserving and improving forest and watershed health, reducing fire risks, protecting existing forest uses such as recreational opportunities, and promoting biodiversity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County Agriculture Department

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15308, "Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Placer County Agriculture Department A-Rated Noxious Weed Eradication in the Sierra Nevada Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308, Class 8, which permits actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of

the environment. The project will provide a reduction of fuels on 20-acres, increased resilience of the forest through elimination of weeds, improved habitat conditions for native plants and animals in terrestrial and riparian areas, and increased health of the forest 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

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: Heart K Forest Health Project (SNC 556)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located along Genesee Road and is bisected by Indian Creek in Genesee Valley, near the community of Taylorsville in Plumas County, California.

Project Location – City: Near Taylorsville

Project Location – County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Feather River Resource Conservation District is requesting \$232,750 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on up to 120-acres and restoration on 4.5-acres and 2.5 river miles. The Feather River Resource Conservation District and the Feather River Land Trust propose to partner to restore the Heart K Ranch's forest and riparian habitats in a project that includes: 1) improving water quality and riparian habitat by hand planting cottonwood and willow along ¼ mile (4.5 acres) of Indian Creek, 2) reducing wildfire risk by hand-thinning up to 120 forested acres, and 3) employing local indigenous people. The project would be completed in 2 phases over 3 years. The purpose of the project is to restore the oak, pine, and riparian forests of the Heart K Ranch using Traditional Ecological Knowledge and contemporary land management practices to: 1) improve watershed health and water quality; 2) reduce the risk of catastrophic fire; 3) employ indigenous people; and 4) protect natural and cultural resources. The project will protect historic ranch structures, enhance and protect wildlife habitat, enhance and protect water quality in Indian Creek, and promote a healthier forest and watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"; Section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Heart K Forest Health 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 is also 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 will protect historic ranch structures, enhance and protect wildlife habitat, enhance and protect water quality in Indian Creek, and promote a healthier forest and watershed. The project will not adversely impact any state or federally protected plant or animal species or adversely affect sensitive wetland habitats. The project will not adversely impact any cultural resources. 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: American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break (SNC 567)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the American River Canyon, adjacent to the City of Auburn in Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Auburn

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The City of Auburn Fire Department is requesting \$146,690 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment on 60 acres. The project involves implementation of a shaded fuel break (strategic and planned thinning and removal of flammable vegetation by hand) for 60-acres in locations throughout the American River Canyon (adjacent to the City of Auburn) in keeping with and including the measures contained in the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break prescription developed collaboratively by Cal Fire, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California State Parks, and Auburn City Fire Department. The project area is a "very high fire" risk area because of the proximity of residential, commercial, recreational, and natural resources, known as the Wildland Urban Interface. The intent of the shaded fuel break is to provide protection through removal of flammable fuels prior to a wildfire, in order to lessen fire intensity in an effort to allow fire resources an increased probability of success during fire suppression activities. This is a collaborative project with the City of Auburn, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California State Parks, Cal Fire, The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council, and several citizen groups organized for wildfire prevention. The goal of this project is to minimize destruction to the City of Auburn from wildfire, preserve natural and cultural resources, enhance the watershed, support wildlife habitat, and maintain recreational opportunities for the American River Canyon and Auburn State Recreation Area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Auburn Fire Department

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break 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 (strategic vegetation thinning and fuel reduction by hand) to wildfire risk. This reduction of flammable fuels by strategic removal of vegetation will not displace soil or impact 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

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: **FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OR 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

Project Title: LaTour Demonstration State Forest Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass (SNC 578)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH #2008062009

Project Location: LaTour Demonstration State Forest, Shasta County, approximately 11 miles east of the town of Whitmore. Legal Description, Township 33N, R3E, Section 31; Township 32N, Range 2E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24; Township 32N, Range 3E, Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, MDBM.

County: Shasta County

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) has requested \$90,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to fund the creation of a 400-foot wide fuel break, 200 feet on each side, covering 199 acres along a series of four road segments located on LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF). In addition, a 104-acre biomass thinning operation is planned on Table Top Mountain. In total, the firebreak/Flat Top Biomass operation covers 303-acres on LDSF. The project includes harvesting of small trees 3 to 12 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) by means of mechanical shears, skidding and chipping, then transporting chips to a co-generation plant in Redding or Burney.

As Lead Agency a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on June 7, 2012, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Impact Report (EIR) accompanied by an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final environmental document, comments and responses, and the record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

(530) 823-4670
Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:
LaTour Demonstration State Forest Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass
2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Marji Feliz, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4679
4. Project Location:
The project is located within LaTour Demonstration State Forest, in Shasta County, approximately 11 miles east of the town of Whitmore. Legal Description, Township 33N, R3E, Section 31; Township 32N, Range 2E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24; Township 32N, Range 3E, Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, MDBM.

One fuel break segment is located along a portion of McMullen Mountain Road, which is located on a main ridgeline that transects from east to west near the center of LDSF. This segment is 12,500 feet long and covers 100-acres. Another segment is located on Cutter Road, which is located in the northeastern portion of LDSF. This segment is 6,178 feet long and covers 57-acres. The last two fuel break segments are located on Rim Road, another main ridgeline located in the southeastern portion of LDSF. The combined Rim Road segments are 4,544 feet long and will create 42 acres of fuel break. The 104-acre Flat Top Biomass thinning operation is located on the eastern Forest boundary, covering the area from the south side of Flat Top Mountain west to Rim Road and south to Huckleberry Road.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
875 Cypress Avenue
Redding, CA 96001
6. General Plan Designation:
Public Land
7. Zoning:
TPZ – Timberland Production
8. Description of Project:
The Project consists of creating a 400 foot wide fuel break, 200 feet on each side, covering 199 acres along a series of four road segments located on LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF). In addition, a 104-acre biomass thinning operation is planned on Table Top Mountain. In total, the firebreak/Flat Top Biomass operation covers 303-acres on LDSF. The project includes harvesting of small trees 3-12 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) by means of mechanical shears,

skidding and chipping, then transporting chips to a co-generation plant in Redding or Burney. The number of trees is unknown at this point.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF), a 9,033-acre mixed conifer forest located in the northern Sierra Nevada/southern Cascades, is the second largest demonstration state forest. LDSF is located in eastern Shasta County in Townships 32 and 33 North, Ranges 2 and 3 East, M.D.B & M. It ranges in elevation from 3,800 feet to over 6,700 feet with 80 per cent of LDSF above 5,000 feet. The nearest community is Whitmore, eleven miles to the west.

LDSF is the headwater source of two major streams, Old Cow Creek and South Cow Creek. A tributary to the North Fork of Battle Creek and South Fork of Bear Creek drains small portions of the south side of LDSF.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection establishes policy which governs LDSF and other State Forests. Board policy states that the primary purpose of the state forest program is to conduct innovative demonstrations, experiments, and education in forest management. The entire LDSF has been zoned as a Timberland Production Zone (TPZ). This means the land is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses. Compatible use is defined as any use that does not significantly detract from the use of the land for, or inhibit growing and harvesting timber. Compatible uses include watershed management, fish and wildlife habitat management, hunting and fishing, and grazing.

The areas surrounding LDSF have a long history of devastating fires occurring on a regular basis, with significant fires occurring most recently in 1968, 1978, 1987, and 2003. The LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass Project would create 303 acres of fuelbreak on LDSF (deliverable), which would reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire while improving stand vigor and tree growth by thinning overstocked and/or Cytospora-infected trees. In the event of fire on or approaching LDSF, these strategic fuelbreaks would act as natural barriers that would reduce the fire intensity, the potential for crown fire, and the rate of spread, and provide logistical areas from which fire suppression efforts may more safely and successfully be undertaken. Additionally, the Flat Top biomass operation would improve the current and future stand health by removing much of the existing source of the ongoing Cytospora infection.

PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

LaTour Demonstration State Forest 2008 Management Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for LaTour
Demonstration State Forest Management Plan Update, SCH No. 2008062009, August 6, 2008.

Buck Butte Timber Harvesting Plan

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Buck Butte Timber Management Plan*. No. 2-09-059-SHA(5).
November 12, 2009.

Rim Road Timber Harvest Plan

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Rim Road Timber Management Plan*. No. 2-09-084-SHA(4). December 11, 2009.

North McMullen Mountain Timber Harvest Plan

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *North McMullen Mountain Timber Management Plan*. No. 2-10-049-SHA(4). May 24, 2011.

Basic Features of the Project

The goals of the project in each treatment area include:

- 1) Resource protection by reducing the fuel loading in strategic areas, and thereby reducing the risk of and from catastrophic fire. This will be accomplished by reducing the number of conifer stems per acre in the smaller DBH classes. This will also reduce the ladder fuels that can allow ground fires to climb into the tree canopies, resulting in catastrophic crown fires.
- 2) While a secondary by-product of the fuels reduction/biomass thinning, the operation will also serve to improve forest health and tree vigor by expanding growing space and reducing inter-tree competition for nutrients, moisture and sunlight.
- 3) Specific to the Flat Top Biomass treatment area, an additional goal is to reduce the prevalence, impact and spread of the *Cytospora* fungus infection in the current and future crop of trees.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve forest health and tree vigor, reduce inter-tree competition, improve flora and fauna habitat, reduce risk of fungus infestation, and reduce the risk of fire.

The LaTour Demonstration State Forest Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass Project is analyzed in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for LaTour Demonstration State Forest Management Plan Update as well as the three Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) prepared by Cal Fire. Pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 1090.5, in addition to addressing timber harvest prescriptions by individual management units, THPs are required to include provisions to protect stream courses and water quality, known cultural and historical resources, and key habitat for, or individuals representing, listed plant and animal species. THPs must also address erosion control and slash treatment.

Cal Fire would create a 400-foot wide fuel break, 200 feet on each side, covering 199-acres along a series of four road segments located on LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF). In addition, a 104-acre biomass thinning operation is planned on Table Top Mountain. In total, the firebreak/Flat Top Biomass operation covers 303-acres on LDSF. The project includes harvesting of small trees 3-12 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) by means of mechanical shears, skidding and chipping, then transporting chips to a co-generation plant in Redding or Burney. The number of trees is unknown at this point.

Both the fuelbreak and the biomass thinning operations have similar treatment criteria. Harvesting would take place by means of mechanical shears, skidding the resulting raw material to nearby landings, chipping and blowing the material into chip vans, and transporting the chips to a co-generation plant located either in Redding or Burney.

All treatment area boundaries would be designated with fluorescent orange flagging. Sample treatment areas would be leave-tree marked in order to key equipment operators into tree selection and spacing criteria to allow completion of the operation using operator selection. With the exception of lodgepole pine and those infected trees, both criteria described below, those live trees that are larger than 12 inches DBH shall be retained. Those trees that are smaller than 14 inches to be retained to meet stocking and spacing criteria shall be those dominant trees that exhibit the best phenotype (physical characteristics) based on the immediately surrounding trees. Retained species in order of preference shall be Douglas fir, sugar pine, ponderosa pine, western white pine, white fir and red fir. Where sufficient stocking exists in the preferred species to meet the twenty-foot spacing criteria, lodgepole pine smaller than 18 inches at DBH, based on ocular estimate, shall not be retained.

While similar in treatment criteria and objectives, the Table Top biomass thinning treatment is also targeted and intended to provide more than a fuelbreak and expanded growing space. The red fir in this area is infected with *Cytospora abietis*, a fungus widely found in California's true fir stands and commonly found in association with dwarf mistletoe. Therefore, this planned treatment covers a broader geographic area than those treatment areas specifically designed to create fuelbreaks. While this fungus can attack white fir and other tree species, it is more specific to and prominent in the red fir in this stand and elsewhere on LDSF. Typical visible symptoms include increasing brick-red to brown flagging (needle die-back) in the crowns of infected trees, eventually leading to branch death and eventual tree mortality. Infected overstory trees also spread the disease to the understory, which perpetuates the infection cycle. In this area, those trees larger than 12 inches at DBH whose crowns exhibit *Cytospora* flagging greater than 50 percent and those trees that have succumbed to this disease shall be removed. Snags to be saved for wildlife purposes shall be marked (painted) with a "W" at DBH prior to operations. Trees in the 3- to 12-inch DBH range would be selected for removal based on spacing, species and the above described visible signs of infestation. The desired residual spacing for this area is also twenty feet.

Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing \$90,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to fund the creation of a 400 foot-wide fuel break, 200 feet on each side, covering 199-acres along a series of four road segments located on LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF). The proposed project's IS/MND and THPs identify potential resource impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials. Specifically, the proposed project may result in the accidental spill of materials. Based on the proposed project's IS/MND and THPs, the project would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in these reports. The project proponent will implement measures identified in the IS/MND and THPs to lessen potential impacts associated with hazardous materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact."

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards / Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)

On the basis of this evaluation:

The SNC Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent. An **INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** was prepared that adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as the lead agency also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Executive Officer

Responsible Agency

Title

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Responsible Agency

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

Project Title: LaTour Demonstration State Forest Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH #2008062009

Project Location: The project is located within LaTour Demonstration State Forest, in Shasta County, approximately 11 miles east of the town of Whitmore. Legal Description, Township 33N, R3E, Section 31; Township 32N, Range 2E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24; Township 32N, Range 3E, Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, MDBM.

Description of Project: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) has requested \$90,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program to fund the creation of a 400 foot wide fuel break, 200 feet on each side, covering 199-acres along a series of four road segments located on LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF). In addition, a 104-acre biomass thinning operation is planned on Table Top Mountain. In total, the firebreak/Flat Top Biomass operation covers 303-acres on LDSF. The project includes harvesting of small trees 3 to 12 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) by means of mechanical shears, skidding and chipping, then transporting chips to a cogeneration plant in Redding or Burney.

Findings: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, *Mitigated Negative Declaration for LaTour Demonstration State Forest Management Plan*, SCH No. 2008062009, August 6, 2008.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Buck Butte Timber Management Plan*. No. 2-09-059-SHA(5). November 12, 2009.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Rim Road Timber Management Plan*. No. 2-09-084-SHA(4). December 11, 2009.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *North McMullen Mountain Timber Management Plan*. No. 2-10-049-SHA(4). May 24, 2011.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed documents: a) adequately address the potential impacts of the project, and b) are adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the significant effects of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the LaTour Demonstration State Forest Management Plan and the three Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) identify potential resource impacts related to the accidental release of hazardous materials. Potential significant impacts could occur by accidental spilling of the materials. Mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below. Implementation of these mitigation measures will reduce the environmental impacts of the proposed project to a less than significant level.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures to Avoid Accidental Spilling

- MM 1:** To insure that all hazardous materials are properly used, stored, and transported, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), material labels, and any additional handling and emergency instruction for the materials are kept on file at LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF) Headquarters.
- MM 2:** Any state employee handling these materials is made aware of the potential hazards, given proper training and instruction, and also made aware of the location of the MSDS, and other documentation for the material.
- MM 3:** All contractors used in the application or use of these hazardous materials shall have the appropriate licenses and be able to read and understand the MSDS, labels, appropriate recommendations and application instructions.
- MM 4:** The storage of potential hazardous materials on LDSF is in accordance with the MSDS and any buildings that are used for storage will display appropriate placards.

The SNC Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name Jim Branham

Title Executive Officer

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF) Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2008062009), located in the La Tour Demonstration State Forest, Shasta County, approximately 11 miles east of the town of Whitmore. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion, direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the LaTour Demonstration State Forest Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass Project. It is intended to be used by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by *CEQA Guidelines* §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2008, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) approved the Management Plan for the LaTour Demonstration State Forest. The LDSF staff operate under a Board of Forestry approved Management Plan. This plan provides general objectives and goals, and lays out the planned on-the-ground management on LDSF for the next five to ten years with an emphasis on forest

demonstration, research, recreation, maintenance of wildlife habitat, and water quality protection. It serves as a guide to Forest managers as well as a public disclosure of the management direction at LDSF. The plan is required pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) §4645 and Article 8 of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) policy.

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was adopted in August 2008 to evaluate effects of the LDSF Management Plan. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection determined that the project would not have a significant impact on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures. A review of the proposed Project determined that it would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in the MND. The specific mitigation measures previously identified in the LDSF Management Plan MND that would apply to the proposed LDSF Fuel Break/Flat Top Biomass Project are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following pages.

1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the LDSF Fuel Break/Flat Top Biomass Project. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the LDSF Management Plan, and conditions of approval for the project. The table has the following columns:

Mitigation Measure/Summary: Lists the mitigation measures identified within the IS/MND for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure enumerated in the IS/MND.

Implementation Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be completed.

Monitoring Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be monitored.

Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party: References Cal Fire or any other public agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

Verification of Compliance: Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.

1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to Cal Fire in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. Cal Fire shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, Cal Fire shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.

TABLE 1-1: LDSF FUEL BREAK/FLAT TOP BIOMASS PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
Hazards							
MM 1	To ensure that all hazardous materials are properly used, stored, and transported, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), material labels, and any additional handling and emergency instructions for the materials are kept on file at LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF) Headquarters.	Throughout the Project	Continuously during periods when potentially hazardous materials are in use.	Cal Fire			
MM 2	Any state employee handling these materials is made aware of the potential hazards, given proper training and instruction, and also made aware of the location of the MSDS, and other documentation for the material.	Throughout the Project	Continuously during periods when potentially hazardous materials are in use.	Cal Fire			
MM 3	All contractors used in the application or use of these hazardous materials shall have the appropriate licenses and be able to read and understand the MSDS, labels, appropriate recommendations and application instructions.	Throughout the Project	Continuously during periods when potentially hazardous materials are in use.	Cal Fire			
MM 4	The storage of potential hazardous materials on LDSF is in accordance with the MSDS and any buildings that are used for storage will display appropriate placards.	Throughout the Project	Continuously during periods when potentially hazardous materials are in use.	Cal Fire			

LEAD AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

If you would like to view the supporting environmental documentation prepared for this project by the lead agency, click on the following links:

[**LaTour Demonstration State Forest 2008 Management Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**](#)

[**Buck Butte Timber Harvesting Plan**](#)

[**Rim Road Timber Harvest Plan**](#)

[**North McMullen Mountain Timber Harvest Plan**](#)

Note: these are large PDF files that may take a while to load. For best performance, 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.

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: Kelty Meadow Campground Restoration and Facilities Improvement Project (SNC 607)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located within the Bass Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest, within the Willow Creek watershed (Kelty Meadow Campground) in Madera County, California.

Project Location – City: Oakhurst

Project Location – County: Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Backcountry Horsemen of California–Sierra Freepackers Unit is requesting \$11,775 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for habitat restoration on about 2-acres at Kelty Meadow Campground in the Sierra National Forest. The project involves planting currently unvegetated banks with native riparian vegetation. Vegetation would be introduced by sod plugs and willow cuttings from on-site sources. Repeated trampling of the channel from riding stock and cattle has caused resource damage. One rock grade control structure is proposed to stabilize and protect the stream banks. Additionally, a metal spring box will be placed in the channel to capture water plumbed to a 23.5 gallon trough. The off-site watering system would also provide improved access for campers to water their horses and eliminate the need to water horses at the creek. Overall, 350 linear feet of stream bank will be restored, and fencing will restrict access in order to protect the stream. Approximately 3,168 feet of stream bank downstream of the project will be protected from excessive sedimentation and erosion. The project goals are to restore and mitigate riding stock and cattle impacts to aquatic and riparian habitat, improve meadow hydrologic condition at Kelty Meadow, and upgrade the Kelty Meadow Campground infrastructure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Backcountry Horsemen of California - Sierra Freepackers Unit

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15333, “Small Habitat Restoration Projects” and Section 15303, Installation of Small Structures
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Kelty Meadow 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, and Guidelines Section 15303, which permits the installation of small structures, including fencing and other accessory structures. The project consists of channel stabilization to restore riparian habitat; the development of off-site water to reduce water quality impacts; and construction of hitching rails and installation of bear boxes to improve the facilities at the campground. The project will not adversely impact any state or federally protected plant or animal species or adversely affect sensitive wetland habitats. In addition, the disturbance footprint is less than five acres, and no heavy equipment will be used to implement the project. 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

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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: Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 608)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on National Forest Land in the Upper Chiquito watershed boundaries, north-central part of the Sierra National Forest, south of Yosemite National Park boundaries, east of Fish Camp, in Madera County, California.

Project Location – City: East of Fish Camp

Project Location – County: Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council is requesting \$40,147.42 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for meadow/riparian restoration on 30 net acres in Sierra National Forest. The proposed project includes stabilizing headcuts by installing rock step-pools and revegetating the channel banks with native sod and live-stake willow plantings, stabilizing stream channels by placing in-stream rock structures where appropriate, restoring riparian habitat and montane meadow by reducing the encroaching conifers and noxious weeds, and managing off-highway vehicles (OHV) by either closing the roads/tracks or bringing them up to maintenance standards. The total ground disturbance footprint for the proposed project is less than five acres. No heavy equipment will be used in meadows, all work will be done by hand. There are no known cultural resource sites within the project area. Yosemite toad tadpoles, a candidate species but not a listed species, have been observed near one of the meadows. Pre-treatment surveys will be completed and best management practices will be implemented for impact avoidance. Coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will occur regarding avoidance activities, which may include completing working prior to metamorphosis and only proceeding with work after daily inspections. The purpose of the project is to restore and/or preserve the hydrologic function of four degraded meadow systems of the Sierra National Forest within the Upper and Lower Chiquito Creek watersheds such that water quality impacts from accelerated erosion are eliminated and water storage/residence time is maximized, increasing annual water availability to riparian-aquatic systems, wildlife, and livestock. The project would create healthy meadow and stream habitat, improve water quality, and manage OHV use to provide maximum public enjoyment while maintaining meadow health.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land", and Section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration 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, and 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 create healthy meadow and stream habitat, improve water quality, and manage OHV use to provide maximum public enjoyment while maintaining meadow health. 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

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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: Ground Hog Meadow Watershed Restoration Project (SNC 614)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in Groundhog Meadow along a tributary to the North Fork Kern River, in Golden Trout Wilderness in Inyo National Forest, 11 miles from the nearest road, southwest of the town of Lone Pine in Tulare County, California.

Project Location – City: Near Lone Pine

Project Location – County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Inyo National Forest is requesting \$7,150,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for meadow/riparian restoration on 0.01-acre (450 square feet) in Groundhog Meadow. The proposed project includes constructing three to four new larger grade control structures for stream bank stabilization using natural materials in the incised stream in the upper portion of the meadow and 10 smaller structures in the incised lower reaches, revegetating bare banks, and completing minor repairs to existing structures. All work would be completed using hand labor; no mechanized equipment would be used. The proposed project would consist of placing natural items such as rock, logs, cut branches, and locally derived sod on streambanks and in stream beds to help reduce erosion. About 450 square feet (0.01-acres) of land disturbance would occur. The purpose of the project is to restore the degraded ecosystem function of Groundhog Meadow. The project will decrease flashy flows in the system and increase surface flow during the late summer season downstream of the project area, thus allowing improved habitat and higher, cooler flows during the late summer when golden trout and other aquatic species mortality can occur.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Forest Service

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 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, including stream or river bank revegetation and stream or river bank stabilization. The project will decrease flashy flows in the system and increase surface flow during the late summer season downstream of the project area, thus allowing improved habitat and higher, cooler flows during the late summer when golden trout and other aquatic species mortality can occur. The project will not adversely impact any state or federally protected plant or animal species or adversely affect sensitive wetland habitats. The project will not adversely impact any cultural resources. 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

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Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Northstar Fuels Site Management Maintenance 2 Project (SNC 619)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located within the Northstar Community Services District in the Martis Valley groundwater basin, two miles southeast of Truckee, Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Truckee

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Northstar Fire Department is requesting \$112,967.56 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment. The project area consists of eight sites totaling approximately 57 -acres within the Northstar Ski Resort residential area. The project involves removing smaller ladder fuels and dead, diseased and dying trees; tree thinning by using hand -tools; and mastication methods. The project includes snag retention for wildlife habitat, stream zone protection for Class I and II streams, and compliance with water quality and Department of Fish and Game recommendations. Any pile burning will be conducted in accordance with the Placer County Air Pollution Control District Permit issued for this project. All project areas will be flagged for boundaries, watercourses, sensitive sites and cultural protection zones. All trees, brush and downed material to receive treatment will be clearly marked. The purpose of the project is to reduce and manage fuel loads in order to protect the forest and watershed health.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Northstar Fire Department

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Northstar Fuels Management Maintenance 2 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 alleviate the risk of catastrophic fire; reduce insect attacks and disease; improve soil conditions; improve ground water infiltration, flow and water quality; and establish a diverse forest that is historically spaced and promotes the correct species mix for future generations. 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:

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: Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project (SNC 631)

Project Location – Specific:

Woodpecker Preserve is located within the Nevada City limits, less than three miles from downtown Nevada City on Lower Banner Mountain in Nevada County, California.

Project Location – City: Nevada City

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Bear Yuba Land Trust is requesting \$76,315 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for an approximately 28-acre project involving fuels reduction, removal of invasive vegetation, and limited revegetation in selected areas. Woodpecker Preserve is a heavily forested 28.23-acre parcel of land which acts as a buffer to a densely populated residential neighborhood on Banner Mountain. Proposed work includes the removal or modification of surface fuels, selective hand-thinning to decrease overall stand density, and retention of appropriate snags for wildlife. Areas of erosion-prone slopes would be revegetated with native plants, including areas where soil may become destabilized due to the fuels work and invasive plant removal. Revegetation will occur on less than five acres, focusing on the Nevada Irrigation District Ravine, which is highly erosive. Areas where Himalayan Blackberry (invasive species) is removed will be revegetated to supplement any habitat lost in those areas. Native plant species that will be used in the replanting include: *Acer macrophyllum* (Big Leaf Maple), *Gallium bolanderi* (Bolander Bedstraw), *Symphoricarpos mollis* (Creeping Snowberry), *Muhlenbergia rigens* (Deer Grass), *Rhamnus rubra* (Sierra Coffeeberry), *Rubus leucodermis* (White-Stemmed Raspberry), and *Salix spp.* (Willow species). The project will protect against catastrophic wildfire, enhance and protect wildlife habitat, and promote a healthier forest and watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bear Yuba Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"; Section 15333, "Small Habitat Restoration Projects"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration 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 land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project will not remove any healthy, mature, and/or scenic trees from the property, only young trees in dense stands with a DBH of 6 inches or less. In addition, methods of vegetation removal/thinning will all be done by hand and wildlife habitat will be protected. The project is also 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 acreage that will be replanted

with natives will not exceed five acres. The project will protect against catastrophic wildfire, enhance and protect wildlife habitat, and promote a healthier forest and 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

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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: North Grove Forest Restoration Project (SNC 651)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located within Calaveras Big Trees State Park four miles northeast of Arnold on Highway 4, in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, California.

Project Location – City: Arnold

Project Location – County: Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is requesting \$349,008 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatment and restoration. The project involves the restoration of 125-acres of the North Grove giant sequoia forest in the Calaveras Big Trees State Park, through selectively thinning the understory and removing surface and ladder fuels. This restoration project will reduce the high fuel loads in the North Grove that may lead to stand-replacing post-wildfire effects such as sediment delivery into Big Tree Creek, as the project area is on the Cal Fire "Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map" as an area of "High Severity". Work will include removing woody debris, shrubs, and dead and diseased vegetation. All work will be accomplished by hand crews using chainsaws, loppers and other hand tools. For any prescribed burn a Smoke Management Plan and wildland vegetation management burn permit from the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District are required. The project is a cooperative project between the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, Cal Fire, and the California Department of Corrections. The goal of this project is to restore the North Grove to a crown-fire-resistant forest with open stand structure and prepare the North Grove basin of mixed conifer-giant sequoia forest for the re-introduction of a frequent, low-intensity fire regime [mimicking the natural fire regime] by thinning and removal of surface and ladder fuels. The project will retain live trees more than 8 inches in diameter at breast height and quality downed logs and snags for habitat, and the project will protect surveyed cultural and historic resources, as well as sensitive plant species.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 North Grove Restoration 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 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 (thinning) which will reduce wildfire risk through

removal of encroaching vegetation, and all activities will be completed using hand tools. 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

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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: Union Hill Fuels Reduction Project (SNC 656)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located within Empire Mine State Historic Park (SHP) near the City of Grass Valley, in Nevada County, California.

Project Location – City: Grass Valley

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sierra District, is requesting \$150,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program for fuel reduction treatments on up to 81-acres within Empire Mine State Historic Park. The project involves forest thinning and hazard fuel reduction done by mastication, hazard tree removal, and invasive plant control in the Union Hill area of the Park. The project would reduce fuels, focusing on 200 foot buffers surrounding existing trails and fire roads and along the boundary of private land, and contains protection for wildlife and historic/cultural resources. Pre-treatment wildlife and botany surveys must be completed before implementation activities commence. The purpose of the project is fuels reduction and non-native plant species control and removal. The project will reduce fire risk, prevent soil and mineral/nutrient erosion, protect wildlife habitat, and promote a healthier forest. The project reduces the threat of catastrophic wildfire and improves the native forest composition and structure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sierra District

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- 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 Union Hills Fuels 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 to provide thinning and fuel reduction that will protect state park property and nearby local homeowners, prevent soil and mineral/nutrient erosion, protect wildlife habitat, and promote a healthier forest. 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

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) was allocated \$54 million in Proposition 84, passed by the voters in 2006. Approximately \$50 million of this amount was available for grant awards to eligible nonprofit organizations, public agencies and federally recognized tribal organizations. With today's action on the Healthy Forests Grant Program, approximately \$45 million has been awarded to a variety of projects consistent with Proposition 84's requirements and SNC's governing statute.

At its March 2012 meeting, the SNC Board directed staff to further revise the FY 2012-13 Grant Guidelines for the upcoming grant cycle to support the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program as identified in the SNC's Strategic Plan. The Board also decided that approximately \$5 million of the remaining dollars available to the SNC through Proposition 84 would be used to support this area of focus. The Board reviewed a number of changes from previous SNC Grant Guidelines, discussed further below, to be included in the draft guidelines. A public review draft reflecting this direction was available for public comment from March 5 to April 18, 2012.

Current Status

SNC staff is recommending approval of Final DRAFT Grant Guidelines for Proposition 84 for Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands FY 2012-13 ([Attachment A](#)). These draft Grant Guidelines include all revisions made as the result of considering comments received during the public comment period, as well additional staff analysis. If approved, the final guidelines will be made available to potential applicants in mid-June. A companion Grant Application Packet (GAP) with necessary forms and instructions will also be available to assist applicants.

Pursuant to Board direction and input from stakeholders and the public, the Final Draft Grant Guidelines include several minor changes compared to previous Proposition 84 guidelines prepared by SNC. Following is a list of the more substantive changes included in this year's Draft Grant Guidelines:

- Eligible Projects have been more narrowly defined to support the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands focus area.
- A transfer of interest provision for conservation easement projects has been further clarified.
- A statement regarding the public benefit of a project on private land is now a requirement in the pre-application.
- An individual entity will be limited to submitting no more than three project pre-applications.
- A grant application for a conservation easement must also specify the proposed easement language and a complete acquisition schedule.
- The Environmental Documents section has been modified to offer more clarity and understanding of the CEQA process. A 30-day extension to submit CEQA compliance documents in certain unique circumstances has been added which requires a staff consultation in advance of any extension being granted.

- Under Eligible Costs, an allowance for monitoring for pre and post project conditions has been added.
- A Cost Allocation Plan is defined in the glossary as a plan for equitable distribution of administrative costs for a project that has multiple funding organizations or a grantee that is administering multiple grants.

Staff has compiled all of the comments received during the public review period into [Attachment B](#) showing all changes incorporated into the Final Grant Guidelines.

Next Steps

While the Board may have comments or suggestions on various aspects of the guidelines, next steps include making any final revisions to the guidelines based on Board direction received at this meeting, completing the GAP, and posting the guidelines on the SNC Web site for release. The proposed schedule for this grant cycle is as follows:

GRANT PROGRAM ELEMENTS	Target Date or Duration
RELEASE PRESERVATION OF RANCHES AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS GUIDELINES AND GAPS - OPEN RFP	6/18/2012
PRE-APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT PERIOD: SNC staff will be available to work with applicants on preparation of pre-applications to be submitted during this period.	6/18/2012-7/13/2012
PRE-APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE: If an applicant wishes to receive SNC grant funding, they must submit a pre-application and the associated attachments no later than COB on this date.	7/13/2012
PRE-APPLICATION REVIEW PERIOD: SNC will review pre-applications for eligibility (including focus area alignment) and completeness. Invitations to submit a full application may occur any time after the pre-application has been reviewed, but no later than COB 8/13/2012.	7/16/2012-8/13/2012
FULL APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT PERIOD: Applicants who receive an invitation to submit a full application should work with SNC staff to develop and refine their full application during this period.	8/15/2012-10/19/2012
FULL APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE - CLOSE RFP: All elements of a full application must be complete and submitted by COB on this date.	10/19/2012
FULL APPLICATION REVIEW: SNC staff and technical evaluators will evaluate all complete applications, resulting in a score up to 100 points. Consultation with the Board Subregional subcommittees, as well as communication with affected local agencies will occur during this period.	10/22/2012-1/13/2013
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO SNC BOARD: Staff will provide recommendations based on the evaluation, including consideration of geographic distribution of projects.	3/7/2013

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Guidelines, FY2012-13, including changes based on Board direction and direct staff to take the necessary actions to implement the FY 2012-13 Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program.



PROPOSITION 84 PRESERVATION OF RANCHES AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS GRANT PROGRAM

**FUNDED BY THE
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River
and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006**

GRANT GUIDELINES Fiscal Year 2012-13

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy 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.

www.sierranevada.ca.gov

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I. Introduction

A. Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a California state agency that 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. The SNC provides state funding through its Proposition 84 Grant Program for local projects in partnership with eligible nonprofits, tribes, and public agencies.

California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (the Act) on November 7, 2006. Proposition 84 added Section 75050 to the Public Resources Code (PRC), authorizing the State to issue bonds, and the Legislature to appropriate the proceeds, for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds, and associated land, water, and other natural resources. [Section 75050 \(j\)](#) of the PRC allocates \$54 million of these funds for SNC.

The Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act (Act), enacted in 2004 and commencing with [PRC Section 33300](#), established the SNC, and Sections 33343 and 33346 set forth the authority for SNC to award grants of funds in order to carry out the purposes of the Act. The SNC has adopted Program Guidelines and has adopted its Strategic Plan in accordance with the Act; these documents provide general direction for SNC's activities and serve as the basis for these Grant Guidelines.

B. Purpose of Grant Guidelines and Grant Application Packet

The Grant Guidelines establish the process used by the SNC to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and authorize grants under the SNC Proposition 84 Grant Program. They also explain the scope of, and the requirements for, grant applications. A Glossary of Terms is provided in [Appendix C](#).

A Grant Application Packet (GAP) accompanies the Grant Guidelines, and includes more specific information and forms needed for each category of grant applications. For applicants who want more information about the administrative requirements once a grant is authorized, sample grant agreements for each of the Proposition 84 project types are provided at: www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/managing-your-grant.

II. Grant Program Information

A. Program Focus 2012-13

For Fiscal Year 2012-13, grant funds will be allocated to the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands area of focus as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan updated in September 2011. In order to be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC in FY 2012-13, all projects must meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. Maintain a direct focus on Ranches and Agricultural Lands and provide a clear public benefit (as described below).
2. Meet the [Public Resources Code 75050](#) (Proposition 84) mandate that awards go only to projects that protect and restore rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources.
3. Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as described in [Appendix B](#).

Ranches and Agricultural Land activities, for the purposes of this grant program, include projects that support the long-term ecological values and economic viability of working rangelands and other agricultural lands and the health of their associated watersheds. Grants for Ranches and Agricultural Land projects will be allocated to two grant categories and will be awarded in one round.

For purposes of this grant program, projects on private property must demonstrate a public benefit (protection, restoration or improvement of natural resources) occurring beyond the private property in question. Examples include, but are not limited to, improvement in water quality or quantity, fish and wildlife habitat, and air quality. Applicants with questions regarding their project and the assessment of “public benefit” should contact SNC staff for more project-specific information.

B. Grant Categories

Category One grants include site improvement/restoration projects and acquisition of conservation easements. Examples of potential Category One grant projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Projects to reduce erosion, restore riparian integrity or provide for natural stream flow and stream structure, including the following:
 - Removal, replacement or improvement of structures, roads or stream barriers
 - Construction of sediment basins, diversions or filter strips to remove or trap sediment or other pollutants to improve water quality
 - Utilization of vegetation on highly erodible areas to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff into streams, ponds and riparian areas

2. Projects to manage grazing along riparian corridors or meadows, including fencing or new water storage, for the purpose of reducing erosion, improving habitat function, and/or improving water quality
3. Irrigation and water conservation projects to reduce agriculturally induced nonpoint-source pollution, including surface water and groundwater contamination; reduce soil erosion and sedimentation; and conserve ground and surface water
4. Meadow restoration to improve habitat and hydrologic function
5. Removal of noxious weeds and restoration of native species in upland, riparian, wetland and aquatic ecosystems to promote natural ecosystem function
6. Protection of ranches and agricultural lands and associated watershed resources (streams, meadows, wetlands) through the use of conservation easements
7. Grazing management or agricultural management practices that improve overall habitat conditions for habitat or stream connectivity for fish and wildlife species across working landscapes

Category Two grants are limited to pre-project activities that are necessary to prepare for implementation of a specific future on-the-ground Ranches and Agricultural Lands project that itself would meet the Category One requirements in these Guidelines. Examples of Category Two grant projects include work such as:

1. Acquiring permits for a specific project or set of projects
2. Completing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for a specific project or set of projects
3. Performing appraisals for conservation easement acquisitions
4. Performing necessary studies and assessments, and developing necessary project designs related to a specific site or project
5. Preparing plans or supplementing existing plans that will result in a specific project or set of projects.

C. Ineligible Projects

Examples of ineligible projects include:

1. Fee title acquisitions and associated planning activities.
2. Grants to service or repay bridge-loans.
3. Projects that consist solely of the purchase of equipment.
4. Projects that consist solely of maintenance activities.
5. Projects dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of or an order (citation) to comply with any law or regulation.
6. Education, outreach, or event-related projects, unless these are an incidental part of a larger project that is eligible for SNC grant funds.

7. Projects to implement required mitigation measures unless they are included as a part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for SNC grant funds.
8. Projects that are conducted on private lands that do not demonstrate a clear public benefit.

This list is not exhaustive and is offered only as guidance to potential applicants. The SNC will make determinations of eligibility on a project-by-project basis during the pre-application phase and to the extent necessary during the evaluation phase of the application process. All questions related to the eligibility of a project should be referred to SNC staff as soon as possible.

D. Eligible Applicants

Grant funds may be authorized for:

1. Public agencies (any city, county, district, or joint powers authority; state agency; public university; or federal agency).
2. Qualifying nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. "Nonprofit organization" means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC as set forth in Public Resources Code Section 33300 et seq.
3. Eligible tribal organizations (includes any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 9250-9255, inclusive, of Document 95-3839 (February 16, 1995) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time).

NOTE: As a general rule, organizations or individuals performing non-grant-related work for the SNC under contract are ineligible to apply for a grant from the SNC during the life of the contract. This policy applies to organizations that:

1. Contract directly with the SNC.
2. Are providing services as a subcontractor to an individual or organization contracting directly with the SNC.
3. Employ an individual, on an ongoing basis, who is performing work for the SNC under a contract whether as the primary contractor or as a subcontractor.

Potential applicants who have a contract with or are doing work under a subcontract for the SNC and are contemplating applying for a grant should consult with SNC staff to determine limitations on eligibility.

E. Process

All applicants are required to comply with the SNC's pre-application process. Pre-applications will be evaluated to confirm applicant and project eligibility, including relevance to the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Land focus area. SNC program staff will be available to provide assistance in the development of a pre-application.

Full applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of technical experts and SNC staff. Site visits may be requested as part of the evaluation process. Applications will be awarded points in accordance with the evaluation criteria described in [Section IV](#) of these Guidelines.

Geographic distribution of projects will be considered in determining project awards; however, unlike previous grant cycles, funding will be awarded without a specific or guaranteed allocation by Subregion.

F. Consultation and Cooperation with Local Agencies

In compliance with the SNC's governing statute, local government agencies, such as counties, cities and local water districts, are notified of eligible grant projects being considered for funding in their area.

For all applications under consideration, SNC staff will notify the county and/or city affected and public water agency (when appropriate), and request comments within 15 business days following notification. The SNC will make all reasonable efforts to address concerns raised by local governments. The individual SNC Boardmembers representing each geographic Subregion within the SNC boundary will also be notified and may wish to communicate with the affected entities as well.

If an applicant has a project-specific resolution of support from the affected city and/or county or water agency, it should be included in the application package in order to facilitate the overall assessment process.

G. Grant Provisions

For each awarded grant the SNC develops an individual grant agreement with detailed provisions and requirements specific to that project. Please be aware that if authorized to receive a grant from the SNC, the provisions listed below will also apply:

1. Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the State.
2. Grant-eligible costs may be incurred by the grantee only after the grantee has entered into a fully executed agreement with the SNC; only these costs will be eligible for reimbursement.
3. Per the grant agreement, grantees must be prepared to maintain a level of documentation that will satisfy State auditing requirements to support the claim of eligible costs.

For conservation easement acquisition projects the following provisions are also pertinent:

1. Grants to nonprofit organizations for acquisition are subject to specific legal requirements, including a requirement that the deed or other acquisition instrument contain a power, on the part of the State, to cause the property interest to re-vest in the State, or in another public agency or nonprofit organization designated by the State, if the existence of the acquiring organization is terminated, or if the grantee violates the purpose of the grant through breach of a material term or condition thereof. (Public Resources Code Section 33344). Grant applicants should take note that language deemed sufficient in other State grant programs may not meet the above legal requirements, as the SNC's governing statute has specific requirements to be met in this regard.
2. If the project applicant intends to transfer the responsibility for the project to a third party in the future, the transfer must conform to the assignability process detailed in the grant agreement. SNC shall be notified 60 days in advance of any planned transfer of an interest in the real property. Any transfer shall be subject to approval of the SNC, and a new agreement sufficient to protect the public interest shall be entered into between the SNC and the transferee.

A sample grant agreement that specifies these requirements can be found on the SNC Web site at www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/managing-your-grant. The SNC will provide assistance to the grantee to ensure the grantee's clear understanding and interpretation of the terms and conditions of the grant.

III. Applying for a Grant

Note: See Grant Application Packet (GAP) for required forms and additional application information.

A. Pre-Application Requirement

Applicants are required to complete and submit a pre-application form to SNC by the date posted on the SNC Web site. All pre-application information and forms will be available on the SNC Web site. Any pre-application that is submitted after the deadline will not be eligible for an invitation to submit a full application. The following basic project information is required in the pre-application:

1. Grant application type.
2. Project name.
3. Applicant name and address.
4. Applicant type.

5. Applicant's authorized representative.
6. Person with day-to-day responsibility for management of the grant, if awarded.
7. Project description.
8. Funding and budget information.
9. Project location, including latitude and longitude.
10. Status of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance (for federal applicants, applicants using federal funding, or projects on federal land, National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] status will also need to be provided).
11. For projects occurring on private land, the resulting public benefit.
12. Type and status of land tenure for the project (site improvement projects only).
13. Appraisal status (conservation easement acquisition projects only).
14. Articles of incorporation, IRS letter, and bylaws (nonprofit organizations only).

B. Use of Pre-Application

Pre-application information, as described in Section A, will be evaluated to confirm applicant and project eligibility. Eligible applicants whose projects comply with the Proposition 84, SNC mission and program areas, and focus area criteria will receive an invitation to submit a full application. Pre-applications will also need to demonstrate that the applicant is fully aware of and has a specific plan to comply with CEQA requirements, as well as applicable NEPA requirements. SNC program staff will be available to provide assistance to invited applicants in developing the elements of a full application. Applicants invited to submit full applications will not need to resubmit information already submitted in the pre-application.

C. Multiple Pre-Applications

An individual entity will be limited to submitting no more than three project pre-applications. Multiple projects may not be submitted on a single pre-application. Applicants should consult with SNC program staff on any questions related to submission of multiple pre-applications.

D. Project Location

Project eligibility, including geographic eligibility, will be assessed during the pre-application phase of this grant solicitation process. Generally, funds must be expended within the statutory boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for a project to be eligible. Certain types of projects which involve implementation outside the boundaries of the Region may also be eligible if they meet all guideline requirements of the SNC and have a direct benefit to the Region. These might include physical projects located just outside the boundary which result in tangible benefits to resources within the boundaries of the SNC. Applicants should consult with SNC staff when such projects are being considered. See [Appendix A](#) or www.sierranevada.ca.gov/maps/snc-

[region](#) for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's boundaries.

E. General Information

Applicants who have received an invitation to submit a full application will be able to find all needed materials and forms on the SNC Web site or from any SNC office by request. All full application materials are due and must be either delivered to the SNC headquarters office in Auburn by 5:00 PM on the application due date or postmarked no later than the due date. Any full application that is delivered or postmarked after the deadline will not be considered for evaluation. Files must be delivered in the format specified in the Grant Application Packet (GAP). Applications that are deemed incomplete or ineligible may not be processed or evaluated by the SNC.

F. Category One: Site Improvement/Restoration or Conservation Easement Acquisition

1. Overview

As described earlier in this document, only site improvement and/or restoration projects and conservation easement acquisitions in the SNC's stated Ranches and Agricultural Lands focus area will be eligible for grant awards in the 2012-13 Category One grant round. The funding range for individual Category One grants is \$5,000 to \$350,000.

Examples of potential Category One grant projects include, but are not limited to:

- Projects to reduce erosion, restore riparian integrity or provide for natural stream flow and stream structure, including the following:
 - Removal, replacement or improvement of structures, roads or stream barriers
 - Construction of sediment basins, diversions or filter strips to remove or trap sediment or other pollutants to improve water quality
 - Utilization of vegetation on highly erodible areas to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff into streams, ponds and riparian areas
- Projects to manage grazing along riparian corridors or meadows, including fencing or new water storage, for the purpose of reducing erosion, improving habitat function, and/or improving water quality
- Irrigation and water conservation projects to reduce agriculturally induced nonpoint-source pollution, including surface water and groundwater contamination; reduce soil erosion and sedimentation; and conserve ground and surface water
- Meadow restoration to improve habitat and hydrologic function
- Removal of noxious weeds and restoration of native species in upland, riparian, wetland and aquatic ecosystems to promote natural ecosystem function

- Protection of ranches and agricultural lands and associated watershed resources (streams, meadows, wetlands) through the use of conservation easements
- Grazing management or agricultural management practices that improve overall habitat conditions for habitat or stream connectivity for fish and wildlife species across working landscapes.

2. Site Improvement Requirements

- All pre-applications, including those for projects to be implemented on federal and tribal lands, are required to address how CEQA compliance will be achieved. (See Section III H on Environmental Documentation for more information).
- All full applications are required to identify and state progress and projected dates of completion for all permits necessary to complete the project.
- Full applications must include site and topographic maps, as well as site photos.
- Land Tenure:
- Applicants must submit documentation to the SNC showing that they have adequate tenure to, and site control of, the properties to be improved or restored¹. Proof of adequate land tenure includes, but is not necessarily limited to:
 - Fee title ownership.
 - An easement or license agreement, sufficient for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.
 - Other agreement between the applicant and the fee title owner, or the owner of an easement on the property, sufficient to give the applicant adequate site control for the purposes of the project.

For projects involving multiple landowners, all landowners or an appointed designee must provide written permission to complete the project.

- Land Tenure Requirements: Alternate Process
When an applicant does not have tenure at the time of application, but intends to establish tenure via an agreement that will be signed upon grant authorization, the applicant must follow the alternate land tenure process by submitting a template copy of the proposed agreement, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or permission form at the time of application. Once a project has been authorized for funding by the SNC Board, the applicant must submit documentation of land tenure before a complete grant agreement can be executed. Applicants are encouraged to submit this information in an expeditious manner. If this information is not

¹ Adequate site control is the power or authority to conduct activities that are necessary for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

provided within 90 days of Board authorization, the SNC may choose not to fund the project.

3. Conservation Easement Acquisition Requirements

The SNC will accept applications to acquire conservation easements (fee title acquisitions are not eligible for grant funding in this cycle).

- Any conservation easement acquisitions must be from willing sellers.
- The terms under which the conservation easement is acquired shall be subject to the SNC's approval, per the requirements of the Public Resources Code 33343.(b).
- All interests to be acquired must be in perpetuity.
- A grant application to acquire a conservation easement is required to specify all of the following:
 - The intended use and past use of the property
 - The manner in which the land will be managed
 - The proposed easement language
 - A complete acquisition schedule
 - How the cost of ongoing management will be funded
- Applications are required to include a recent appraisal (two paper copies and an electronic version [CD]); see Appendix F for applicable requirements according to California State appraisal regulations. All appraisals will be reviewed by the California Department of General Services. Appraisals are requested at the time of full application submittal, but applicants will have 60 days from the application due date to provide the SNC with a completed appraisal. Any applicant taking advantage of this delay does so at its own risk, as the SNC cannot guarantee that necessary reviews will be conducted in time to meet the Board schedule.
- If applicable, the application must indicate the applicant's intent to transfer the responsibility for the project to a third party in the future and, if known, must also identify the third party and include evidence that the third party is aware of the responsibility and willing to assume the long-term management of the project.
- The SNC may require applicants to provide a Phase I or Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (toxics report) on any property proposed for conservation easement acquisition, if there is reason to believe the site may have toxic contamination. The pre-application should include any known information about possible toxic contamination and applicants should consult with SNC staff early in the process to determine if the potential for toxic contamination may affect the funding of the project.

G. Category Two: Pre-Project Grants

Category Two grants are limited to pre-project activities that are necessary to prepare for a specific future on-the-ground project that meets the SNC grant program criteria. In other words, Category Two grants encompass pre-project

activities for the types of projects that would be eligible for a Category One grant according to these Guidelines. The maximum amount for individual Category Two grants is \$75,000.

Examples of Category Two grants include work such as:

1. Acquiring permits.
2. Completing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.
3. Performing appraisals for conservation easement acquisitions.
4. Performing necessary studies and assessments, and developing necessary project designs related to a specific site or physical project.
5. Preparing plans or supplementing existing plans that will result in a specific project or a set of projects.

H. Environmental Documents

The SNC must comply with The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when it authorizes grants. The type, cost, timing, and amount of documentation needed to satisfy CEQA requirements can vary greatly depending on the type and scope of the proposed project and the type of applicant. The SNC will act as the CEQA Lead Agency ***only*** for a project which qualifies for an exemption from CEQA, but ***not*** for those projects requiring a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

At the time of application submission, the applicant is responsible for providing an adopted EIR, Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Notice of Exemption, if a public agency has acted to provide CEQA compliance. If the EIR, Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration will be adopted by another public agency within 30 days of application submission, consult with SNC staff to determine if an extension can be granted. However, under no circumstance will the SNC accept one of the above CEQA compliance documents more than 30 days after the application deadline.

If the applicant believes the project is exempt from CEQA, the application should provide adequate information for the SNC to determine whether an exemption applies, including all available environmental assessments or reports.

[Appendix E](#) describes the requirements for CEQA compliance for this grant program. Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to consult with SNC staff during the pre-application period as CEQA compliance can require a significant amount of time to complete and affect your ability to complete a full application.

I. Projects with Uncertain Treatment Area

If a project's geographic area or deliverables cannot be fully determined at the time of application because the applicant is trying to maximize treatment, the

grant application must indicate the minimum and maximum numerical objective (deliverables) that the project will likely achieve. Examples of these types of projects include, but are not limited to, vegetation clearing activities, revegetation projects, or invasive plant removal projects. Environmental review documentation for these projects must cover the maximum area proposed.

J. Eligible Costs

Only direct project costs for items within the scope of the project and within the time frame of the project agreement are eligible for payment. Costs related to project-specific performance measures and reporting are required to be addressed in the project budget.

As a part of a site improvement project, costs of monitoring activities to establish pre- and post-project conditions such as, but not limited to, biological, chemical, or physical tests to monitor or evaluate a project's efficacy are eligible.

Eligible administrative costs must be directly related to the project and may not exceed 15 percent of the project implementation cost. Grantees with projects that are funded from multiple grants must develop and apply an administrative cost allocation methodology in identifying eligible administrative costs within each grant. SNC staff is available to provide assistance in determining eligible administrative costs.

The purchase of equipment as a part of a grant may have limitations and requirements; grantees interested in purchasing equipment with grant funds should consult with SNC staff during application development.

K. Ineligible Costs

Indirect expenditures billed as a percentage of implementation costs are not eligible for reimbursement. These are expenses that involve ongoing operations, or repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

Proposition 84 funds may not be used to service or retire debt previously incurred by an eligible applicant in connection with the applicant's acquisition of a real property interest.

In addition, grant funding may not be used to establish or increase a legal defense fund or endowment, make a monetary donation to other organizations, or pay for food or refreshments.

If ineligible costs are included in the project budget, they could result in the project being deemed ineligible in total. In some cases, the project may be approved for funding with the total amount of the award reduced by the amount of the ineligible costs. In that event, SNC will contact the applicant to confirm

that the project is still viable. Applicants should avoid including ineligible costs in the application and should contact SNC staff with questions.

L. Performance Measures and Reporting

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes to the SNC achieving its programmatic goals.

Applicants must propose project-specific performance measures at the time of full application submittal. Detailed information and recommended performance measures can be found in [Appendix D](#) of this document. Applicants may also propose alternative performance measures, which will be subject to the approval of SNC staff if the grant is authorized. The proposed measure(s) will be finalized in consultation with SNC staff prior to grant agreement approval. Please refer to the Evaluation Criteria, Section IV, for further description of how performance measures will be considered as part of the application.

All grantees will be required to provide periodic progress reports and a final report. The final report must include data related to the project performance measures. See www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/managing-your-grant for additional information on the required content of these reports.

M. Audits

Applicants should be aware that under the grant agreement, all expenditures claimed in carrying out the project remain subject to audit by the State of California for three years after the final payment or anytime during the conduct of the agreement. Potential applicants should note that during that timeframe they are expected to maintain detailed records necessary to support funding claims and to make them available upon request at all reasonable times for inspection, examination, monitoring, copying, excerpting, transcribing, and audit.

IV. Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria to determine which projects are consistent with the requirements of Proposition 84, and also provide the greatest contribution to achieving the protection and sustainability of ranches and agricultural lands while supporting the Program Goals and mission of the SNC. Additional criteria used to evaluate applications include: project quality and readiness, cooperation and community support, long-term maintenance and sustainability, and project category preference.

Full applications must include a complete, clear and concise description of all project activities. The description must also include detail on the project's location, purpose, goals, outcomes, design or methodology, staffing, and costs. Applications will be

awarded points as described below. The maximum number of points possible for each application is 100.²

A. Proposition 84 Land and Water Benefits and SNC Program Goals and Mission (Maximum 40 points)

Evaluators will be looking for project descriptions that clearly explain the goals, purpose, activities and outcomes of the project to assist in an evaluation of the following two areas, with a maximum of 40 points available:

1. Consistency with the Goals of Proposition 84 (Maximum of 20 points)

Evaluators will consider how the project will contribute to the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds, and associated land, water, and other natural resources.

2. SNC Program Goals and Mission (Maximum of 20 points)

Evaluators will consider how well the project aligns with the SNC's mission and program areas (listed in [Appendix B](#)). Projects will be evaluated based on their contribution to the preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands in the Sierra Nevada Region, as defined in these Guidelines. Projects that provide substantive benefits across multiple program areas, as well as address the SNC's "triple bottom line" of environmental, economic, and social well-being, will receive a higher score.

B. Project Quality and Readiness (Maximum of 45 points)

Evaluators will consider whether the application exhibits a complete, realistic and attainable plan for success. Project Quality and Readiness will be evaluated in the areas listed below. Applicants should ensure they include information that clearly describes project outcomes that preserve ranches and agricultural lands and responds to the noted questions in each area.

1. Purpose, Goals, and Outcomes (Maximum of 25 points)

- Does the project have clearly stated purpose, goals and outcomes?
- Does the applicant propose using identified best management practices and/or appropriate scientific information in achieving project deliverables?
- Is the project part of a larger plan? If so, how does it relate to the overall goals and deliverables?
- If the project includes removing materials from the land, such as biomass, is there an intended use or purpose for the materials?

Applicants should also consider the following:

- For stream enhancement and restoration projects, including grazing

² Final scores from Category 1 and Category 2 projects will be calculated based on a normalized scale due to the difference in the total points possible for each category.

management and noxious weed removal, will the project contribute to one or more of the following: reduced erosion, restored riparian integrity, the promotion of natural ecosystem function, or water quality protection or improvement?

- For meadow restoration projects will the project contribute to improved habitat conditions, hydrologic function, or stream connectivity for fish and wildlife species?
- For conservation easements, will the project contribute to protecting against the threat of conversion to another use, the protection of natural resources, improved water quality or increased habitat connectivity?

Projects with activities on private lands will have to address the clear public benefit of these activities.

2. Workplan and Schedule (Maximum of 5 points)

- Does the workplan adequately describe the specific tasks and schedule needed to complete the project and achieve the stated outcome(s)?
- Is the workplan realistic and does it describe the specific roles of all partners involved in the project?

3. Budget (Maximum of 5 points)

- Are the budgeted amounts adequate and appropriate to achieve the stated outcomes?
- Is the applicant providing in-kind resources? Are other parties that may benefit from the project contributing?
- If the project is to be conducted wholly or in part on private land, is it anticipated that activities performed under the grant will directly generate revenues? If so, how will the revenues be utilized to benefit the project? If funding other than SNC funding is needed for project completion, what is the status of other funding? Who is participating and what is their contribution and relationship to the project?
- Is the project cost-effective (i.e., does the cost of the project seem appropriate based on the deliverables described)? Is information included to demonstrate its cost-effectiveness?

4. Restrictions, technical documents, and agreements – Category 1 projects only (Maximum of 5 points)

- Are permits, agreements, and technical documents necessary for the implementation of this project? If so, are they in place? If not, is there a clear and feasible plan to secure them prior to project implementation?
- Are there property restrictions and/or encumbrances that could adversely impact project completion?

Note: CEQA/NEPA compliance requirements are provided in more detail in [Appendix E](#).

5. Organizational Capacity (Maximum of 5 points)

- Does the applicant possess the capacity to complete the project as proposed?
- Does the applicant, including current staff, have experience in completing similar projects?
- If appropriate, does the applicant have project partners and/or contractors with expertise necessary for project completion?
- If the applicant has entered into other grant agreements with the SNC, has the applicant performed in compliance with agreement requirements?

C. Cooperation and Community Support (Maximum of 5 points)

Evaluators will consider if the application demonstrates community support from a diverse range of stakeholders. Projects that were developed through a collaborative group or a process that included public input will receive a higher score.

D. Long-term Management and Sustainability (Maximum of 5 points)

For Category One projects evaluators will consider whether the application clearly describes how the long-term management of the project will be accomplished and financed.

For Category Two projects applicants should describe the plan to procure resources for future implementation of the project, including identification of funding source(s) for project implementation/completion.

E. Project Category Prioritization (Maximum of 5 points)

In scoring grants, the SNC will use the following prioritization methodology. Each application submitted will automatically be assigned a point value based on project type. Priority weighting is awarded to Category One restoration and site improvement projects over all other project types.

1. Site improvement projects (5 points).
2. Pre-project activities that ready on-the-ground site improvement projects (2 points).
3. Acquisition of conservation easements (1 point).
4. Pre-project due-diligence projects that ready the acquisition of conservation easements (0 points).

In addition to the technical evaluation, SNC staff will consider geographic distribution of proposed projects when developing recommendations for the SNC Board.

APPENDIX A

Program Geographic Area

Project must be located in, or partly in, the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Region to be eligible. PRC Section 33302 (f) defines the Sierra Nevada Region as the area lying within the Counties of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba, bounded as follows:

On the east by the eastern boundary of the State of California; the crest of the White/Inyo ranges; and State Routes 395 and 14 south of Olancho; on the south by State Route 58, Tehachapi Creek, and Caliente Creek; on the west by the line of 1,250 feet above sea level from Caliente Creek to the Kern/Tulare County line; the lower level of the western slope's blue oak woodland, from the Kern/Tulare County line to the Sacramento River near the mouth of Seven-Mile Creek north of Red Bluff; the Sacramento River from Seven-Mile Creek north to Cow Creek below Redding; Cow Creek, Little Cow Creek, Dry Creek, and the Shasta National Forest portion of Bear Mountain Road, between the Sacramento River and Shasta Lake; the Pit River Arm of Shasta Lake; the northerly boundary of the Pit River watershed; the southerly and easterly boundaries of Siskiyou County; and within Modoc County, the easterly boundary of the Klamath River watershed; and on the north by the northern boundary of the State of California; excluding both of the following:

- (1) The Lake Tahoe Region, as described in Section 66905.5 of the Government Code, where it is defined as "Region."
- (2) The San Joaquin River Parkway, as described in Section 32510.

See: www.sierranevada.ca.gov/maps/snc-region for a general map of the Region; however, applicants should contact staff to verify whether the project is located in an eligible area.

APPENDIX B

SNC Mission

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy 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 Program Areas

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy was created as a state agency to do all of the following, working in collaboration and cooperation with local governments and interested parties:

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

APPENDIX C

Glossary of Terms

Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in the SNC Proposition 84 Grant Guidelines and Grant Application Packet shall have the following meanings:

Acquisition – To obtain ownership of permanent interest in real property through conservation easements. Leaseholds and rentals do not constitute Acquisition.

Administrative Costs – Administrative costs include any expense which does not relate directly to project implementation. Similar to the traditional definition of ‘overhead,’ administrative costs include rent, utilities, travel, per diem, office equipment and supplies, services such as internet and phone, etc.

Applicant – The entity applying for a SNC grant pursuant to these guidelines.

Application – The individual application form and its required attachments for grants pursuant to the SNC Program.

Appraisal - An estimate of the value of real property or other specific interest in real property.

Authorized Representative – The officer authorized in the Resolution to sign all required grant documents including, but not limited to, the grant agreement, the application form, and payment requests. The authorized representative may designate an alternate by informing SNC in writing.

Best Management Practice – A practice or combination of practices considered to be the most effective means (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) of meeting a particular goal or achieving a particular end.

Biological/Other Survey – An evaluation or collection of data regarding the conditions in an area using surveys and other direct measurements.

Board – The Governing Board of the SNC as established by PRC Section 33321.

Bond or Bond Act – Proposition 84, The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Public Resources Code Section 75001 et seq.).

California Public Agency - Any state agency, board, or commission, any county, city and county, city, regional agency, public district, redevelopment agency, or other political subdivision.

Capital Improvement Projects – Projects that utilize grant funds for acquisition of conservation easements or site improvement/restoration.

CEQA – The California Environmental Quality Act as set forth in the Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. CEQA is a law establishing policies and procedures that require agencies to identify, disclose to decision makers and the public, and attempt to lessen significant impacts to environmental and historical resources that may occur as a result of a proposed project to be undertaken, funded, or approved by a local or state agency. For more information, refer to: <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/>.

CEQA/NEPA Compliance – Activities a public agency performs to meet the requirements of CEQA or NEPA.

CEQA Lead Agency-The lead agency is the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant effect upon the environment. Under CEQA a public agency is any state agency, board, or commission, any county, city and county, city, regional agency, public district, redevelopment agency, or other political subdivision.

Collaborative Process – Willing cooperation between stakeholders with different interests to solve a problem or make decisions that cut across jurisdictional or other boundaries; often used when information is widely dispersed and no single individual, agency or group has sufficient resources to address the issue alone.

Condition Assessment – Characterization of the current state or condition of a particular resource.

Conservancy – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy as defined in Public Resources Code Section 33302 (b).

Conservation Easement – A limitation created under a deed, will or other instrument in the form of an easement, restriction, covenant or condition, executed by or on behalf of the owner of the land subject to such limitation, which is binding upon the successive owners of such land, and the purpose of which is to retain land predominantly in its natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, forested or open-space condition. (see Civil Code Section 815.1)

Cost Allocation Plan - A plan for equitable distribution of administrative costs for a project that has multiple funding organizations or a grantee that is administering multiple grants. The plan should follow generally acceptable accounting standards. The Cost Allocation Plan to be used for these projects should be retained in accounting files as required in the grant agreement.

Data – A body or collection of facts, statistics, or other items of information from which conclusions can be drawn.

Design/Permit – Preliminary project planning or identification of methodologies or processes to achieve project goals, and the process of obtaining any regulatory

approvals or permits necessary from appropriate governmental agencies in order to conduct the work of the project.

Easement – An interest in land entitling the holder thereof to a limited use or enjoyment of the land in which the interest exists, or to restrict the use or enjoyment of the land by the owner of the fee title.

Eligible Costs – Expenses incurred by the grantee during the agreement performance period of an approved agreement, which may be reimbursed by the SNC.

Enhancement – Modification of a site to increase/improve the condition of streams, forests, habitat and other resources.

Environmental Site Assessment – Phase I, Phase II or other reports which identify potential or existing contamination liabilities on the underlying land or physical improvements of a real estate holding.

Executive Officer – Executive Officer of the SNC appointed by the Board, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33328, to manage the Conservancy.

Fair Market Value – The value placed upon property as supported by an appraisal that has been reviewed and approved by the California Department of General Services or other authority designated by law or by the SNC.

Fee Title – The primary interest in land ownership that entitles the owner to use the property subject to any lesser interests in the land and consistent with applicable laws and ordinances.

Fiscal Sponsor – An organization that is eligible to receive SNC Proposition 84 grants and is willing to assume fiscal responsibility for a grant project, although another entity would carry out the grant scope of work.

Grant – Funds made available to a grantee for eligible costs during an agreement performance period.

Grant Agreement – An agreement between the SNC and the grantee specifying the payment of funds by the SNC for the performance of the project scope within the agreement performance period by the grantee.

Grant Agreement Performance Period – The period of time during which the eligible costs may be incurred under the grant, and in which the work described in the grant scope must be completed.

Grant Agreement Term – The period of time that includes the agreement performance period, plus time for all work to be billed and paid by the state. This period is the same as the beginning and ending dates of the agreement.

Grantee – An entity that has an agreement with the SNC for grant funds.

Grant Scope – Description of the items of work to be completed with grant funds as described in the application form and cost estimate.

Infrastructure Development/Improvement – The physical improvement of real property, including the construction of facilities or structures (such as bridges, trails, culverts, buildings, etc.).

In-kind Contributions– Non-monetary donations that are utilized on the project, including materials and services. These donations shall be eligible as “other sources of funds” when providing budgetary information for application purposes.

Land Tenure – Legal ownership or other rights in land, sufficient to allow a grantee to conduct activities that are necessary for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. Examples include: fee title ownership; an easement for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement; or agreements or a clearly defined process where the applicant has adequate site control for the purposes of the project.

Model/Map – Representations to visually show the organization, appearance or features of an area or subject.

Monitoring/Research – To search, observe or record an operation or condition with tools that have no effect upon the operation or condition.

Natural Resource Protection – Those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to rivers, lakes, and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources, or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural resources and includes acquisition, restoration, preservation and education.

NEPA – The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. NEPA is a federal law requiring consideration of the potential environmental effects of proposed project whenever a federal agency has discretionary jurisdiction over some aspect of that project. For more information, refer to: <http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/index.html>

NEPA Lead Agency-The federal agency having responsibility for providing compliance with NEPA for a proposed project on federal lands.

Nonprofit Organization– A private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC as set forth in Public Resources Code Section 33300 et seq.

Other Sources of Funds – Cash or in-kind contributions necessary or used to complete the acquisition or site improvement/restoration project beyond the grant funds provided by this program.

Outreach Materials – Audio, visual and written materials developed to help explain a particular topic or subject.

Performance Measure – A quantitative measure used by the SNC to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes.

Plan – A document or process describing a set of actions to address specific needs or issues or create specific benefits.

Planning – The act or process of creating a plan.

Pre-Project Due Diligence – The analysis necessary to identify all aspects influencing a project and determine the risks associated with a project.

Preservation – Protection, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities.

Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands – Activities occurring on ranches and farms that result in sustainable economic, ecological, and social benefits to communities, people, and their environments.

Project – The work to be accomplished with grant funds.

Project Coordinator – An employee of the SNC who acts as a liaison with the applicants or grantees and administers grant funds, ensuring compliance with guidelines and the grant agreement.

Proposition 84 – See Bond.

Public Agencies – Any California public agency, public university, or federal agency.

Public Benefit – Benefits accruing to the general public, clarified in this document with regard to publicly-funded work on private lands. These types of projects must demonstrate benefits (protection, restoration, or improvement of natural resources) beyond the private property in question, in order to be accepted as eligible for potential grant awards.

Ranches and Agricultural Lands – Lands managed to produce goods and commodities from the natural environment (most commonly actively-managed farms and ranches). These lands often provide important contributions to habitat, biodiversity, water quality, air quality and open space that benefit everyone.

Region – The Sierra Nevada Region as defined in Public Resources Code Section 33302 (f).

Region-wide – Providing benefits that affect the overall breadth of the SNC Region or multiple Subregions within the Region.

Resilience – The ability of an ecosystem to regain structural and functional attributes that have suffered harm from stress or disturbance.

Resource Protection – Those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to natural, cultural, historical or archaeological resources, or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or resources, such as acquisition of conservation easements, development, restoration, preservation or interpretation.

Restoration – Activities that initiate, accelerate or return the components and processes of a damaged site to a previous historical state, a contemporary standard or a desired future condition including, but not limited to, projects for the control of erosion, the control and elimination of exotic species, fencing out threats to existing or restored natural resources, road elimination, and other plant and wildlife habitat improvement.

Revenue – Revenues generated from a project as the direct result of the provision of public funds, excluding funds provided to reimburse expenses.

Site Improvements – Project activities involving the physical improvement or restoration of land.

SNC – Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Stewardship Plan – A plan to provide ongoing implementation and management associated with the acquisition of a conservation easement or site improvement/restoration project.

Study/Report – Research or the detailed examination and analysis of a subject.

Total Cost – The amount of the Other Sources of Funds combined with the SNC grant request amount that is designated and necessary for the completion of a project.

Tribal Organization – An Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 9250-9255, inclusive, of Document 95-3839 (February 16, 1995) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time.

Working Landscape(s) – Lands producing goods and commodities from the natural environment (such as farms, ranches, and forests in timber production). For many

communities, these lands are an important part of the local economy, culture, and social fabric.

APPENDIX D

Performance Measures

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes to SNC achieving its programmatic goals.

All grantees are required to report on performance measures for their projects. Certain information will be asked of all projects. This includes data related to four quantitative performance measures if applicable to the project:

1. Number of People Reached
2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
3. Number and Type of Jobs Created
4. Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities

In addition to the information that will be asked of all projects, grantees will report on performance measures (usually one to three) related to their specific project.

Submitting Performance Measures in the Grant Application

You must propose project-specific measures as part of your grant application. Generally, you will select these measures from the pre-approved list developed by the SNC. However, you also have the option of proposing a different measure in your application if you believe it would be more appropriate for your project. Final Performance Measures will be determined in consultation with SNC staff, but it is highly recommended that the applicant work with SNC staff during the pre-application process to concur on the appropriate Performance Measures prior to application submission.

The Performance Measures you select should be directly applicable to your project's goals, outcomes, and deliverables. Approved measures become part of a grantee's final grant agreement.

The four Performance Measures listed above that are required of all projects should be addressed in the grant application as to if and how they are applicable to the project.

The applicant is not expected to conjecture the quantitative outcomes of the Performance Measures in the grant application, but merely to list and discuss their applicability.

Selecting Project-Specific Performance Measures

1. You should begin the process of selecting project-specific performance measures by referring back to the project category you selected for your project.

The table on the following page provides a list of the recommended measures that are most likely to be relevant for projects in each category. A description of all of the measures follows the table. Examine your project purpose, goals, desired outcomes, and deliverables (from your project general description). Select measures that will help you determine whether and how well these have been achieved. (If you are unclear on which measure/s to select or have questions, please contact SNC staff.)

2. Review your project workplan and budget to ensure you have factored in the time and cost to gather and report performance measure-related information. For each Performance Measure, a detailed description of information gathering and reporting requirements is provided on the SNC Web site:
www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/managing-your-grant/detailed-performance-measure-descriptions
3. You may find that the performance measures listed below are not relevant to your project. SNC encourages the development of performance measures most appropriate for your project. Development of new measures should be done in consultation with SNC staff, because it requires their approval. When proposing a new performance measure, keep in mind that the measure should directly relate to a specific project goal, outcome, or deliverable. Consider performance measures that can be tracked using accepted methods to ensure that your data will be consistent and defensible. For any new performance measures proposed for your project, provide the following information:
 1. Clear definition
 2. Data collection method(s)
 3. Data sources
 4. Target values

Reporting Performance Measures Outcomes in the Progress and Final Reports

Grantees must report on all Performance Measures that are incorporated into the grant agreement in the Progress Reports (when interim measurement is applicable) and the Final Report, in accordance with the Detailed Performance Measures descriptions.

Grantees are also required to provide qualitative, or narrative, information in their final project reports as requested on the Final Report form.

Performance Measures by Project Category All Grants

A. Common to All Categories
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of People Reached 2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada 3. Number and Type of Jobs Created 4. Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities
B. Common to Site Improvement & Acquisition Categories
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created 6. Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored 7. Number of New Recreation Access Points 8. Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved 9. Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided 10. Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior
C. Acquisition Only
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Acres of Land Conserved
D. Site Improvement Only
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced 13. Acres of Land Improved or Restored 14. Acre Feet Per Annum of Streamflow Improved 15. Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved 16. Mass of Pollutants Reduced Per Year
E. Pre-Project Planning
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments 18. Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation 19. Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

Performance Measure Descriptions

The following Performance Measures (PMs) have been developed to meet SNC's initial needs as it launches its programs and provides initial grant funding for several project types. These PMs, along with a brief description of each, are listed below in five broad categories: Performance Measures for All Projects, Performance Measures Common to Site Improvement and Acquisition Projects, Performance Measures for Acquisition Projects, Performance Measures for Site Improvement Projects, and Performance Measures for Pre-Project Planning Projects.

A. Common to All Categories

1. Number of People Reached

Number of People Reached measures progress of information-sharing and education efforts and inclusiveness of other project efforts such as plan development.

2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada

The Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged provides a measure of the additional resources contributed to SNC funded projects by grantees and other partners. The total value is based on other funds provided by external sources, valuation of volunteer hours, and the value of in-kind contributions made by a project.

3. Number and Type of Jobs Created

Number and Type of Jobs Created provides an accounting of the full-time equivalent jobs created by SNC-funded activities. Information provided should describe whether the job is expected to be temporary or long-term.

4. Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities

New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities measures the types, quantities, and, where appropriate, estimated dollar values of new, improved, or preserved activities, products, and services resulting from the project.

B. Common to Site Improvement and Acquisition Projects

5. Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created

The Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity maintained or created is based on the California Energy Commission's (CEC's) standards for renewable energy eligibility and includes energy generation capacity from biomass, wind, solar, small hydroelectric and other qualifying sources.

6. Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored

Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored provides a measure of a project's contribution to water quality, riparian property values, habitat, and stream connectivity. Information provided should indicate whether the stream bank is being protected or restored.

7. Number of New Recreation Access Points

Number of New Recreation Access Points measures improvements in recreation access by: type of access points, recreation type, and change in capacity.

8. Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved

Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved records the total number of sites with important cultural or natural features that are protected from development or other adverse impacts.

9. Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided

Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided demonstrates the value of Sierra ecosystem resources in reducing the effects of climate change. Potential project types can include conservation forest management, renewable energy generation, and industrial process improvements. The carbon reductions included in this performance measure will be informed by and linked, as appropriate, to standard approaches and protocols such as those published by the California

Climate Action Registry.

10. Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

Measurable Change in Knowledge or Behavior tracks the effects of educational and interpretive efforts to improve appreciation for and stewardship of Sierra Nevada resources. Examples of behavioral change include increased Firewise landscaping and removal of noxious weeds on private property. Examples of change in knowledge include improved student understanding of climate change and increased public acceptance of prescribed fire.

C. Common to Acquisition Projects

11. Acres of Land Conserved

Acres of Land Conserved includes areas that have been conserved through acquisition, including easements. This performance measure provides an accounting of the extent of landscape and natural resources conserved by SNC activities. Information provided should include the method of conservation (acquisition or easement) and the primary purpose of conservation (recreation, open space, working landscapes, etc).

D. Common to Site Improvement Projects

12. Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced

Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced measures the benefits of water conservation and efficiency projects and particular restoration efforts that impact timing of flows. These actions benefit both local residents and the people of California who receive their water supply from the Sierra Nevada. Project activities can include: meadow restoration to enhance runoff timing or incentive programs such as converting to drip irrigation to reduce demand.

13. Acres of Land Improved or Restored

Acres of Land Improved or Restored tracks efforts to reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as catastrophic wildfire, and improve natural resource conditions, such as site productivity and wildlife habitat, through site improvement. Information provided should identify whether the acres protected have been categorized by importance or priority rating through another agency or program, such as acres of critical habitat, or acres in moderate, high and very high fire hazard areas, as delineated by the CALFIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zoning Map.

14. Acre-Feet per Annum of Streamflow Improved

Acre-Feet per Annum of Streamflow Improved measures the changes in flow conditions in a given stream or river resulting from a project. This performance measure directly addresses improving water quality and habitat, since flow can be a controlling driver in these issues. Subcategories include: water conservation or efficiency projects dedicating conserved water to instream flows, actions that result

in changes in management, short-term leases of water for instream flows, and permanent transfers through acquisition of a water right.

15. Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved

The Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved incorporates paved and unpaved multi-use urban, hiking, OHV, equestrian and other trails and paths. Information provided should identify the length, type of trail/path and type of use.

16. Mass of Pollutants Reduced Per Year

The Mass of Pollutants Reduced Per Year indicates the pollutant reduction effectiveness of restoration, water quality, and air quality projects. Current projects focus on reducing sediment and mercury pollution; however, additional pollutants may be targeted in future projects. Information provided should identify the pollutant type/s to be reduced and the amount of reduction.

E. Common to Pre-Project Planning Projects

17. Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

The Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments is a measure that may be relevant for a wide variety of projects. Plans and assessments help communities plan for resource use, qualify for targeted funding, and support understanding of conditions and management options. Examples of anticipated subjects include fire protection, water resources, land use, tourism development, habitat surveys and many more.

18. Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Implemented measures progress in moving SNC-funded projects from initial stages of collaboration and planning to on-the-ground actions and acquisitions.

19. Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

Measurable Change in Knowledge or Behavior tracks the effects of educational and interpretive efforts to improve appreciation for and stewardship of Sierra Nevada resources. Examples of behavioral change include increased Firewise landscaping and removal of noxious weeds on private property. Examples of change in knowledge include improved student understanding of climate change and increased public acceptance of prescribed fire.

APPENDIX E

California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a State agency, and SNC actions to approve grants are discretionary decisions subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When SNC is initiating or making discretionary decisions such as providing financial support to entities for grant projects, the SNC must ensure that it complies with CEQA. This CEQA requirement applies to all decisions to award funds to eligible grant applicants, including entities that are not California Public Agencies per CEQA, such as federal agencies, tribal agencies and organizations, and nonprofit (501(c)(3) organizations. Agencies or organizations that are not a California Public Agency do not have the authority to adopt or certify CEQA environmental documents.

The requirements for CEQA compliance will vary according to the proposed activities. ***As the necessary steps for CEQA compliance are determined project by project, and compliance can be a time consuming process, all applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with SNC staff during the pre-application process to determine how best to meet the CEQA requirements.***

The California Environmental Quality Act is the State of California's environmental review process. **Projects** are defined by CEQA as: The whole of an action that has potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Specifically, related to the SNC grant program: A **Project** includes an activity which is funded, in whole or in part, through public agency contracts, **grants**, subsidies, loans, or other assistance from a public agency, such as the SNC.

Applicants should note that the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines were revised in 2011 to provide guidance to public agencies on how to address the issue of greenhouse gas emissions in draft CEQA documents. Along with all of the usual CEQA topic areas, this issue must be addressed, as applicable. For a revised CEQA Guidelines Initial Study Checklist, [click here](#). The SNC also encourages applicants to review the current provisions of CEQA, the statute, and the CEQA Guidelines, which are the regulations adopted by the Secretary for the Natural Resources Agency to implement CEQA. The statute and the Guidelines can be found on-line at <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/>. Permitting requirements may be applicable to your proposed activities, and permitting processes may also be subject to CEQA review. The description below provides a broad overview of the level of CEQA for different project activities.

For activities that meet the CEQA definition of a Project, the CEQA environmental review process is completed by a California Public Agency acting as a CEQA Lead Agency (please see the Glossary). The Lead Agency is responsible for determining if the proposed activity is a "Project" or is "Not a Project" for purposes of CEQA. If you are an applicant that is **not** a California Public Agency, contact your Project Lead to

discuss what level of CEQA review and permits may be applicable to your project. The SNC will only act as a lead agency for grant projects in this grant cycle when the proposed activities are considered “Not a Project” per CEQA or the project qualifies for a CEQA exemption (either a Categorical Exemption or a statutory exemption). The SNC may act as a responsible agency (supporting agency) when a permit or other action subject to environmental review under CEQA requires another California Public Agency to act first as the lead agency under CEQA and to conduct environmental review resulting in the approval of a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report.

➤ **Not a Project under CEQA**

If the proposed activity does not meet the CEQA definition of a project, then review under CEQA would not be required. Applicants are advised to consult with SNC staff prior to submission of a pre-application to determine if any information is needed to support the claim of “not a project.”

➤ **Categorical and Statutory Exemptions**

Specific types of activities have been identified as exempt from environmental analysis under CEQA; classes of Categorical Exemptions and Statutory Exemptions may be found in the CEQA Guidelines and the statute. If you are a California Public Agency submitting an application, you are responsible for filing a signed, filed and stamped copy of a Notice of Exemption for a categorically or statutorily exempt project.

For all applicants, including public agencies, all available environmental assessments or reports that have been conducted must be submitted so that SNC can determine whether a finding of exemption is appropriate.

SNC will file a Notice of Exemption for all projects determined to be Categorically Exempt from CEQA upon authorization by the SNC Board.

➤ **Negative Declaration and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

A CEQA Lead Agency is responsible for conducting an Initial Study for projects which are not categorically or statutorily exempt. If the Initial Study shows that a project will not have a significant impact on the environment, a Negative Declaration may be prepared and adopted by the CEQA Lead Agency. When impacts are identified that can clearly be reduced to a level of insignificance by adopted mitigation measures during project implementation, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared and adopted by the CEQA Lead Agency. The public notice, document preparation, and public review for these documents may require several months to complete. Documentation of completed CEQA review for proposed grant projects must be provided with the application.

The SNC will NOT act as the CEQA Lead Agency for any project requiring a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report. The applicant is responsible for providing an approved Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration from another CEQA Lead Agency analyzing potential impacts of the project. The CEQA Lead Agency must have discretionary authority to approve the environmental document, which means an agency must have jurisdiction by law over the activity (see CEQA §15366) that requires it to make a decision or issue an approval (see CEQA §15352), and to have discretion [not ministerial review] that allows it to condition its approval or change the project to protect the environment (see CEQA §15357).

➤ **Environmental Impact Report**

If the CEQA Lead Agency determines through an Initial Study that a project may result in a potentially significant impact to the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. The public notice, document preparation, and public review for an EIR may take up to two years to complete. Documentation of completed CEQA review must be provided with application.

The SNC will NOT act as the CEQA Lead Agency for any project requiring a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report. The applicant is responsible for providing an approved Environmental Impact Report analyzing potential impacts of the project. The CEQA Lead Agency must have discretionary authority to approve the environmental document, which means an agency must have jurisdiction by law over the activity (see CEQA §15366) that requires it to make a decision or issue an approval (see CEQA §15352), and to have discretion [not ministerial review] that allows it to condition its approval or change the project to protect the environment (see CEQA §15357).

Consistency with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Projects must comply with both NEPA and CEQA requirements if they are from federal applicants, applicants using federal funding, or are conducted on federal land. The project applicant is responsible for providing information at the time the application is submitted, including NEPA documents and all available environmental assessments or reports, that demonstrates that the project qualifies for an exemption from CEQA. **The SNC will act as the CEQA Lead Agency only if the project qualifies for an exemption under CEQA.**

APPENDIX F

Appraisals

REGULATIONS FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF APPRAISAL REPORTS TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS (UPDATED AS OF 2/22/12):

Appraisal reports prepared for the acquisition of any land or interest therein by or with funding from an “acquisition agency” as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5096.501(a) must conform to the following minimum standards in order to be considered for Appraisal Review by the State.

(a) Appraisal reports shall be prepared and signed by an appropriately Licensed or Certified Real Estate Appraiser in good standing (pursuant to Part 3, commencing with Section 11300 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code, and the California Code of Regulations, Title 10, Section 3701).

(b) Appraisal reports shall include descriptive photographs and maps of sufficient quality and detail to clearly depict the subject property and any market data relied upon, including the relationship between the location of the subject property and the market data.

(c) Appraisal reports shall include a complete description of the subject property land, site characteristics and improvements. Valuations based on a property's development potential shall include:

(1) Verifiable data on the development potential of the land (e.g., Certificates of Compliance, Tentative Map, Parcel Map, Final Map).

(2) A description of what would be required for a development project to proceed (e.g., legal entitlements, infrastructure).

(3) Presentation of evidence that sufficient demand exists, or is likely to exist in the future, to provide market support for the development.

(d) Appraisal reports shall include a statement by the appraiser indicating to what extent land title conditions were investigated and considered in the analysis and value conclusion (a Preliminary Report should be included as an attachment to the appraisal report when available).

(e) Appraisal reports shall include a discussion of implied dedication, prescriptive rights or other unrecorded rights (see Civil Code Sections [801-813](#), [1006-1009](#)) that may affect value, indicating the extent of investigation, knowledge, or observation of conditions that might indicate evidence of public use. If the appraiser has no knowledge of or has not observed such conditions, a statement to that effect shall be included in

the appraisal report. (This regulation does not require the appraiser to render an opinion regarding the legality of any such unrecorded right.)

(f) Appraisal reports including more than nominal value for specialty interests, including but not limited to timber, water, minerals, or carbon credits, shall include a separate valuation prepared and signed by a certified or registered professional qualified in the field of specialty interest. This valuation shall be reviewed and approved by a second qualified, certified or registered professional, considered by the appraiser, and appended to the appraisal report.

Note: Authority cited: Section 5096.517, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 5096.501 and 5096.517, Public Resources Code.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES (DGS) APPRAISAL SPECIFICATIONS

All appraisals must be completed and signed by a State of California Certified Real Estate Appraiser who certifies that the appraisal is in compliance with the [Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice](#) as currently adopted by the Appraisal Standards Board of the Appraisal Foundation.

Category	Organizations Commenting	Name of Commenter	General Comments	Specific Comment	Resolution
Character Limit	Pit and Fall River RCDs	Todd Sloat	These Draft Grant Guidelines are well prepared – nice work!	I'm hopeful the application process will allow proposals to include more text than the last RFP's. There was simply not enough characters allowed to fully describe and cover the topics which were listed in the Evaluation Criteria.	Character limits have been increased in the Grant Application Packet to address this issue. The Grant Application Package now clearly states the inclusion of space in the character limits established.
	Placer Land Trust	Jeff Darlington		Last year there was some confusion on the electronic pre-app process. Specifically, the character space allowed per question was too short for many responses.	
	Plumas Corporation	Gia Martyn		when stating character limits it should be very clear as to whether that includes spaces.	
Two Separate Documents	Trust for Public Land	Sonia Jacques Carl Somers	We generally feel that these guidelines are reasonable and fair to potential applicants.	Comments on Healthy Forests FY 2011-2012: Requiring applicants to read and follow rules in two different documents.... (GAP and GG).... Resulted in some inefficiencies and confusion.... Inconsistency between the necessary level of detail.....and the number of characters or words allowable.....	In past years SNC has reduced the number of documents relating to grant cycles from three to two, and is continually striving to reduce confusion by ensuring consistency between the two. Even so we find that the Grant Application Package is necessary to provide more detailed application completion directions.
Clarifications	California Rangeland Trust	Meredith Kupferman	Overall, the 2012-2013 grant guidelines are excellent. They are comprehensive, yet well organized and still relatively streamlined in comparison to other public grant programs	On page 37, Appendix F is titled "Appraisals" and is referenced in Section F3 on page 12 where the appraisal requirements are addressed. However, the first section of Appendix F addresses two requirements related to real property transactions and not appraisals.	The first section of Appendix F has been moved to other parts of the document.
	Placer Land Trust	Jeff Darlington		If there is a way to speed up the reimbursement process, it would relieve a burden on grantees who often have to carry substantial costs for 6-8 weeks before being partially reimbursed. I understand if not, but it would certainly be helpful if the process were quicker	This is not a comment on the Guidelines. SNC does its very best to process all invoices in a timely manner. We are subject to the same rules and procedures as the rest of the State of California, which we acknowledge can sometimes be slow.
	Placer Land Trust	Jeff Darlington		I'm assuming that fencing and gates are not considered "equipment" and therefore don't require prior consultation with SNC?	SNC does not consider fencing and gates to be equipment
	Placer Land Trust	Jeff Darlington	 is there any scenario in which SNC grant funds could be used as a portion of a purchase price that has already been paid?	No, this is not an option, per advice from the Attorney General's office.
	Trust for Public Land	Sonia Jacques Carl Somers	clarification as to what form of documentation is required To assure the Conservancy that the proposed long-term steward is able and willing to perform this role. Will a letter from the proposed steward provide sufficient assurance?	The Guidelines and GAP have been modified to clarify this issue.
	Trust for Public Land	Sonia Jacques Carl Somers		TPL would like clarification of the phrase "power of termination". Can an example be provided?	This would be used if a grantee violates the terms of the agreement with SNC. Fortunately we have not had to invoke this, so we do not have an example.
	Plumas Corporation	Gia Martyn		Preference or points for matching contributions, both in-kind and cash, should be highlighted; however, eligible costs for match should be clarified.	Although project contributions by other organizations and/or beneficiaries are requested to be provided to assist in assessing project cost effectiveness and support, SNC grants do not require matching funds.

Category	Organizations Commenting	Name of Commenter	General Comments	Specific Comment	Resolution
Easements	Northern Sierra Partnership	Lucy Blake	Let me begin by saying that we strongly support the Conservancy's goal of protecting working ranches in the Sierra Nevada.	Stewardship projects are critical to promoting the sustainability of ranches and agricultural landscapes, but there are many existing sources of funding for such projects..... Unfortunately, the opposite is true for conservation easement funding. In our view, this emphasis needs to be flipped so SNC dollars go first to landowners seeking to protect their property with permanent conservation easements.	The SNC Board establishes policy and priorities for the grants program, and made this determination for the 11-12 and 12-13 SNC grant solicitation cycles. The Board may revisit this policy at any time.
	The Nature Conservancy	David Edelson	We are very supportive of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's work in the northern Sierra and consider you to be a critically important partner in our efforts	we encourage you to assign higher priority to funding conservation easements that would permanently conserve lands that provide high ecological values.	
	SNC Board Madera County Supervisor	Tom Wheeler	Please feel free to share these comments with the rest of the governing board.	It would be my preference to see grants awarded to job-creating projects versus conservation easements. Any stimulus we can provide in this economy will go a long way.	
Easement Review	Placer Land Trust	Jeff Darlington		The bullet item saying that SNC must approve "the terms under which the conservation easement is acquired" seems to indicate that SNC must approve the Purchase & Sale Agreement or escrow instructions. I strongly urge SNC to stay out of Purchase & Sale Agreement and escrow instruction approval.	SNC is legally required to do this under Section 33344 of the Public Resources Code. The reference has been clarified to indicate this.
Eligibility	KRV Heritage Foundation Bob Powers Gateway Preserve	Tom Anderson, President		It is with some dismay to conclude from the 2012-2013 Draft Grant Guidelines that our wetland enhancement project at the Bob Powers Gateway Preserve does not fall within the guidelines. Mostly zoned for agriculture, the Preserve is no longer used that way. Thus, we are asking that the Guidelines be changed, so that a project like ours might compete.	The SNC Board establishes policy and priorities for the grants program, and made this determination for the 11-12 and 12-13 SNC grant solicitation cycles. The Board may revisit this policy at any time.
Environmental Documentation	Placer Land Trust	Jeff Darlington		One question would be whether SNC could extend the deadline for CEQA documentation from 30 days after application to 45 days after application?	Providing the 30 day extension in limited circumstances may create review challenges, adding another 15 days will only make the situation worse. The 30 day extension is being proposed based on projects in the past round having CEQA actions taken just days after the deadline.
	Placer Land Trust	Jeff Darlington		How will SNC determine "if there is a reason to believe the site may have toxic contamination" in order to support requiring the applicant to obtain an Environmental Site Assessment?	This decision is made on a case-by-case basis. SNC asks, and if there is pertinent information we follow-up and make a judgment on individual circumstances as early in the process as possible (hopefully the pre-application phase).
	Trust for Public Land	Sonia Jacques Carl Somers		...applicants be encouraged to submit an environmental checklist for the property inspection, and the review of a professionally prepared environmental database report.....as a first step requirement....to determine whether a Phase 1 report is truly necessary. (Example submitted)	The example seems to be a good tool which should be shared widely. This is not ordinarily used for easement acquisition.
	Trust for Public Land	Sonia Jacques Carl Somers	Grateful for CEQA lead agency activities.		

Category	Organizations Commenting	Name of Commenter	General Comments	Specific Comment	Resolution
	Plumas Corporation	Gia Martyn		States pre-apps must demonstrate awareness of and specific plans for complying with CEQA. It should also be noted that if applicable, compliance with NEPA is required as well.	The definition of NEPA and NEPA Lead Agency is provided in the Glossary, along with a hyperlink for anyone who wants additional information.
	Plumas Corporation	Gia Martyn		This section under evaluation criteria asks are permits, agreements, and technical documents necessary for the implementation of this project? It should also ask specifically if CEQA and/or NEPA required.	
Evaluation	Placer Land Trust	Jeff Darlington		I would suggest weighting "5. Organizational Capacity" higher than items 2 and 3... having a capable organization is much more valuable in evaluating the grant project	SNC believes all three of these categories are equally important.
Funding Caps	Northern Sierra Partnership	Lucy Blake	 we recommend that the Category 1 cap of \$350,000 per project be increased to \$700,000. .. Another way stretch your dollars farther would be to institute a requirement that SNC funds be matched, to some extent, with funding from other sources.	The SNC Board establishes policy and priorities for the grants program, and made this determination for the 11-12 and 12-13 SNC grant solicitation cycles. The Board may revisit this policy at any time.
	KRV Heritage Foundation Bob Powers Gateway Preserve	Tom Anderson, President		imposing too low of a limit may keep the Sierra Nevada Conservancy from making a sufficient investment to allow important conservation projects to move forward.	
	Trust for Public Land	Sonia Jacques Carl Somers		TPL would like to propose that the maximum grant be increased to \$500,000.... (to leverage matching funds)	
Performance Measures	Trust for Public Land	Sonia Jacques Carl Somers		"If acquisition only projects are held to the same performance measures as the site improvement project and pre-project planning categories, this could result in penalizing acquisition only projects." Suggests new performance measure for acquisition only projects - "Number of additional public benefits attained".	There is no possibility of a "penalty" for acquisition-only projects, since performance measures are not part of the evaluation/scoring process.
Pre-App Scope	Plumas Corporation	Gia Martyn		The pre-application process should filter out applicants on more refined criteria than simply whether or not the applicant and project is eligible, so more projects can be weeded out. Perhaps projects that can offer a certain percentage of match	The Pre-application process is not intended as a qualitative review. The status of matching funds is addressed in the budget section.
	Plumas Corporation	Gia Martyn		If more projects were weeded out in the pre-app process than grant reviewers could evaluate a more in depth full proposal.	
Appraisal	Trust for Public Land	Sonia Jacques Carl Somers	TPL would like to commend the Conservancy's decision to allow the applicant up to 60 days from the application due date to provide a completed appraisal...		

Background

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) was formed in 2004 as the result of a court settlement in 2003, and is responsible for developing and implementing a land conservation plan for the permanent protection of more than 140,000 acres of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) watershed lands (the watershed lands) located in 22 counties. This is referred to as PG&E's Land Conservation Commitment. Some watershed lands will be donated to public entities, Native American tribes, or qualified nonprofit conservation organizations. Conservation easements or conservation covenants will be placed on the watershed lands to ensure that the Beneficial Public Values (BPVs) of the parcels are protected in perpetuity.

The Stewardship Council is expected to dissolve after the completion of its work on the land conservation program. The Stewardship Council's dissolution is not expected until 2016 or thereafter.

In September, 2010 the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board authorized its Executive Officer to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Stewardship Council. That MOU contemplates that the parties will negotiate agreements for work to be performed by the SNC and for the SNC to be reimbursed by the Stewardship Council or a successor/trustee. The SNC Board also authorized the Executive Officer to establish an appropriate budgetary mechanism to receive and expend funds necessary to fully cover the costs to perform the responsibilities associated with subsequently authorized agreements between the SNC and the Stewardship Council.

Also in September, 2010 the Stewardship Council board delegated authority to the Stewardship Council Executive Director to enter into a MOU with SNC that would guide the negotiation of specific contracts. The MOU was signed in November, 2010 by both parties and identifies potential future roles for the SNC pertaining to: 1) SNC serving as the covenant holder on watershed lands donated to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS); and 2) SNC performing certain other third-party roles related to the monitoring of lands or easements to be donated to various organizations on donated PG&E lands. The MOU clearly states that no agreement would require SNC to perform duties unless adequate financial resources were provided to reimburse SNC, and such duties would only be performed to the extent that resources were made available.

The Stewardship Council has made progress in identifying donees for fee title and conservation easements, and is planning to bring to its board for approval later this year the first Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans that have been drafted, including all proposed transfer documents.

Current Status

Recently, SNC Staff has been in discussions with Stewardship Council staff to prepare agreements for roles and tasks to be performed by the SNC after the dissolution of the

Stewardship Council. These tasks are not specifically identified in the existing MOU, but are generally consistent with tasks contemplated in past discussions.

SNC staff has also been discussing a proposed conservation covenant funding agreement with the Stewardship Council staff, necessary before SNC can begin performing duties on those lands donated to the USFS.

Next Steps

In order to perform the additional tasks currently being discussed, an amended MOU is necessary. Therefore, staff is recommending that amendments to the MOU (Attachment A) be made to address the following:

- 1) The willingness of the SNC to approve successor conservation easement holders for conservation easements on lands retained by PG&E in the event that original easement holders desire to assign their interest or cease to exist;
- 2) The willingness of the SNC to determine at its sole discretion to serve as a back-up conservation easement holder on a temporary basis for conservation easements on lands retained by PG&E, in the event that the existing conservation easement holder can no longer perform its duties and a suitable replacement has not been identified; and,
- 3) The willingness of the SNC to perform tasks associated with the plan to Monitor the Economic and Physical Impacts of the PG&E Land Conservation Commitment and for SNC to serve as a Public Information Repository of all key Land Conservation Commitment Documents as determined by the Stewardship Council.

The first anticipated use of the MOU and authority delegated to the SNC Executive Officer is likely to occur when an agreement is executed describing the acceptance of covenants and related SNC roles on the Deer Creek planning unit, which is being donated to the USFS. The parties expect that separate agreements would be drafted to accommodate future Conservation Covenants that the SNC may determine to accept, and each such covenant agreement would be accompanied by funds for the performance of specified duties.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve the attached amended MOU, and authorize the Executive Officer, in consultation with legal counsel, to execute the MOU, and to make non-substantive changes as may be needed.

Staff further recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Officer to enter into agreements with the Stewardship Council to provide services identified in the amended MOU provided that funding is made available to the SNC for such services.

Memorandum of Understanding

Amended June 7, 2012

Section 1: Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated November 30, 2010 is between the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), and the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council), a California nonprofit corporation and private foundation. The MOU was authorized by the Governing Board of the SNC on September 2, 2010 (amended June 7, 2012) and by the board of directors of the Stewardship Council on September 16, 2010, with approval for the Executive Director to execute an amended MOU granted on May 2, 2012.

This MOU is intended to provide guidance to the parties for future negotiations for the development of certain future agreements between the SNC and the Stewardship Council. It is anticipated that the scope of work and the compensation to be provided for duties performed by SNC will be clearly set forth in agreements, within the overall guidance of this MOU, and will meet the requirements of both the Stewardship Council, in connection with Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) transfer of lands and conservation easements pursuant to the Land Conservation Commitment (defined below), and be consistent with the legal authority of the SNC.

Section 2: Background

The SNC and the Stewardship Council have been engaged in discussions over the past three years concerning potential roles for the SNC to play in the long term preservation of public beneficial values on watershed lands subject to the Land Conservation Plan being developed by the Stewardship Council. This includes lands that will be conveyed by PG&E to new owners in fee title subject to conservation easements or equivalent protections, as well as lands that will remain with PG&E with easements in place. These transactions are intended to implement the "Land Conservation Commitment" as set forth in the following documents:

- (a) That certain Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement") as modified and approved by the California Public Utilities Commission in its Opinion and Order of December 18, 2003 (Decision 03-12-035); and,
- (b) That certain Stipulation Resolving Issues Regarding the Land Conservation Commitment dated September 25, 2003 (the "Stipulation").

Both the Stewardship Council and the SNC agree that the primary interest of developing this arrangement is to ensure that the lands in question are and will be managed in the long term to maintain the beneficial public values identified in the Land Conservation Plan. The SNC generally prefers not to receive ownership of fee title or conservation easements on the lands subject to the Stewardship Council's actions, and intends to consider accepting such interests in the future only on an interim basis or under unique circumstances. One such unique circumstance would be as the holder of Conservation Covenants on lands conveyed to the United States Forest Service (Forest Service).

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Section 3: Items for Inclusion in Scopes of Work for Individual Agreements

The SNC contemplates agreeing to perform various tasks, including but not limited to those enumerated below, in assisting the Stewardship Council with addressing long term issues, subject to the terms of future executed agreements and in compliance with all applicable legal requirements. It is understood that specific actions and activities on the part of the SNC will be contingent upon availability of adequate funding to carry out specified duties and subject to the legal authority of the SNC, as delegated to the Executive Officer by the SNC's Governing Board. The SNC and the Stewardship Council recognize four general categories of roles as outlined below, each to be funded separately by the Stewardship Council. These general categories involve: (1) acting as a covenantee under Conservation Covenants over lands donated by PG&E to the Forest Service, (2) preparation of a report in 2024 as part of the Stewardship Council's Plan to Monitor the Physical and Economic Impacts of the Land Conservation Commitment, (3) assuming various duties with respect to Conservation Easements and future Assignments of Property Interests, and (4) Serving as a Public Repository of Stewardship Council documents.

Category 1: Holder of Conservation Covenants over United States Forest Service (Forest Service) Lands

The SNC would agree to act as covenantee under Conservation Covenants over certain lands transferred to the Forest Service subject to future agreements that specify duties, which may include any or all of the following agreements and undertakings:

- A. To act as the covenantee under Conservation Covenants over lands that are conveyed to the Forest Service by PG&E (the Forest Service Lands), subject to necessary funding being provided by the Stewardship Council. As a covenantee, the SNC anticipates that it would be responsible for the monitoring of conservation restrictions on the Forest Service Lands, as set out in the Conservation Covenants, to ensure that the Forest Service's management of these lands is consistent with management plans and maintaining the beneficial public values enumerated in such Conservation Covenants
- B. To monitor and participate as needed to facilitate Forest Service completion of amendments to Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) prepared pursuant to the National Forest Management Act as necessary to absorb donated lands and acknowledge covenants.
- C. To develop and maintain web based resources to facilitate public education and support covenant monitoring.
- D. To prepare a baseline resource conditions report.
- E. To establish monitoring protocols that may include:
 1. Coordination with each Forest Service forest unit that receives donated lands;
 2. Conducting regular visits;

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3. Completing physical on-the-ground visits;
 4. Identifying and establishing GPS locations and photo points;
 5. Establishing an Annual Schedule for meeting with Forest Service units and completing necessary physical inspections of donated lands;
 6. Reviewing Forest Service LRMPs Amendments; and
 7. Conducting an annual review of Forest Service Notices of Proposed Actions.
- F. To pursue legal and administrative remedies as provided by law and regulation and take action as necessary to enforce the terms of Conservation Covenants.

Funding to be provided by the Stewardship Council to the SNC in connection with the foregoing duties shall be set forth in separate written agreements, subject to the approval of the board of directors of the Stewardship Council and the Executive Officer of the SNC, and effective upon transfer of fee title to the Forest Service and the recording of the Conservation Covenants in the official records of the county or counties in which the transferred lands are located.

Category 2: Conservation Easements and Assignment of Property Interests

The SNC would agree to perform the following roles with respect to Conservation Easements to be held by various public or nonprofit entities on PG&E lands in support of the Land Conservation Commitment, subject to the terms and conditions enumerated in future agreements between the SNC and the Stewardship Council. These roles would be performed on an as-needed and likely infrequent basis. The duties to be performed would be set forth in future agreements between the SNC and the Stewardship Council and other documents, and may include the following:

Role 1: To comment upon proposed successor fee title holders as necessary. It is anticipated that the conservation easements to be recorded on lands transferred by PG&E in connection with the Land Conservation Commitment will provide that in the event a recipient entity of fee title proposes to transfer title to the donated lands, the SNC would receive notice and an opportunity to comment in writing upon the proposed transfer.

Role 2: To approve successor conservation easement holders in the event it becomes necessary. In the event that a recipient entity of a conservation easement on donated or retained PG&E watershed lands ceases to exist or proposes to transfer its rights under the conservation easement, the SNC would have the authority to approve a successor easement holder upon consultation with the fee title owner and in accordance with the terms of future agreements between the SNC and the Stewardship Council.

It is anticipated that the conservation easements to be recorded on donated and retained PG&E watershed lands will provide that the conservation easement holder shall obtain SNC's approval of a proposed assignee which

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must be an organization (a) qualified to hold a conservation easement under Section 815.3 of the California Civil Code; and (b) willing and financially able to assume all of the responsibilities of the conservation easement holder.

Role 3: To serve as temporary holder of conservation easements, at the SNC's discretion, when necessary pending the SNC's identification and approval of long-term conservation easement holder(s). In the event that a recipient entity of a conservation easement on lands transferred by PG&E or lands retained by PG&E ceases to exist or proposes to transfer its rights under the conservation easement, and the SNC has not approved the proposed assignee based on the the criteria specified above, the SNC would have the authority to assume the conservation easement holder's rights under the easement and to hold and manage the conservation easement until a transferee successor can be identified and approved by the SNC.

In such circumstances the SNC would have the right to assign the easement interest to another qualified holder and would be able to effect a transfer of title by the recording of an affidavit that establishes or affirms that an event or condition has occurred in accordance with specific provisions listed in the recorded easement.

It is understood that SNC may decline to exercise its right to assume the conservation easement in its discretion.

Funding to be provided by the Stewardship Council to the SNC in connection with the foregoing roles shall be set forth in a separate written agreement or agreements, subject to the approval by the board of directors of the Stewardship Council and the Executive Officer of the SNC.

Category 3: SNC would agree to monitor certain impacts of the Land Conservation Commitment (through 2023) and to oversee the preparation of a report in 2024 assessing the physical and economic impacts of the Land Conservation Commitment, subject to the terms and conditions enumerated in future agreements between the Conservancy and the Stewardship Council. . SNC's report would assess the impacts from the date of the close out report that will be prepared by the Stewardship Council just prior to its dissolution through December 31, 2023.

Category 4: SNC would agree to serve as a Public Information Repository of Land Conservation Commitment Documents, subject to the terms and conditions enumerated in future agreements between the Conservancy and the Stewardship Council. The documents to be included in the repository would be determined by the Stewardship Council and provided to the SNC by the Stewardship Council.

SECTION 4: Amendments to MOU

This MOU between SNC and the Stewardship Council may be amended in writing as agreed by the parties and is subject to the authorization granted, or general authority delegated, by the governing body of each party. Upon dissolution of the Stewardship

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Council, the MOU will cease to be in effect; however, the future agreements entered into by the parties pursuant to this MOU will survive as provided by the terms of the agreements.

SECTION 5: Effect of this Memorandum of Understanding

This is a non-binding document whose purpose is to facilitate further negotiations between the parties in anticipation of possible future binding agreements. Such agreements, when and if executed by the authorized representatives of the parties, will contain the entire and complete expression of the parties' agreement with respect to the contemplated transaction(s). This MOU is intended to serve as the basis for further negotiations and the parties recognize that each party may propose different or additional terms as negotiations proceed.

Jim Branham
Executive Officer,
Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Allene Zanger
Executive Director,
Pacific Forest and Watershed
Lands Stewardship Council

Date

Date

Background

At the March 2012 Board meeting, staff provided an update on discussions with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Inyo County regarding the potential transfer of ownership of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery from DFG to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). The potential transfer is being considered due to the fact DFG no longer operates the facility as a hatchery due to several constraints and would like to dispose of the site. SNC, as a sister state agency, was identified as a possible third party for temporary ownership of the property.

Current Status

Since the March 2012 Board meeting, staff has participated in a series of discussions with staff representatives from DFG, Inyo County and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to identify issues and areas of concern related to a potential transfer of ownership. WCB is now involved in the discussion as they would authorize a transfer from DFG to SNC, should that occur. A list of key issues has been developed and includes clarifying the actual process to be used in the event of a transfer, existing restrictions and/or encumbrances on the property, water rights and future management and uses of the property. A draft Action Plan has been developed to address the key questions and assign tasks. This Action Plan has been distributed among participating parties and will be finalized with assignments and due dates for completing specific tasks.

SNC staff has researched the issue of the organization's legal authority to accept the property and to convey the property to another party. The SNC is authorized to take such actions, provided they meet the statutory purposes of the SNC, which appears to be the case in this instance.

SNC staff has conveyed the position that we would only be interested in taking ownership of the property as a temporary owner, with a clearly defined plan for transferring ownership in place.

Next Steps

The Action Plan contains deadline dates for completing identified tasks and responsibilities and is focused on two areas. The first area is the process that would be utilized for a potential transfer of the property, including any specific conditions and/or restrictions that DFG would require affecting the future use of the facility. It is anticipated this work will be completed by July 30, 2012.

The second area is the future use of the facility. SNC staff is working with Inyo County staff to outline a process that will develop a plan for the future use of the facility. This process will be defined and beginning by July 30, 2012, once the foundational issues described above are addressed. The process will include participation from the Friends of Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery and an opportunity for public input. The development of this future use plan will be a key determining factor in SNC's decision as to whether to

accept temporary ownership of the property. It will identify options for ownership and management structure that are needed to facilitate the desired future use of the facility.

A future action by the Governing Board will be required before ownership would be accepted. In the coming weeks, the SNC will conduct adequate due diligence to identify any implications of ownership, including any potential liabilities. The SNC is working closely with Inyo County and will only proceed with acceptance of the property with a clear plan for conveyance that is acceptable to all key parties.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Officer to take the following actions:

1. To expend up to \$50,000 to conduct site surveys, planning, and analysis with respect to the future management and utilization of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery property and adjacent State landholdings (“the Properties”), including analysis of future project alternatives, in preparation for a possible transfer of State jurisdiction over the Properties to the Conservancy; and
2. As necessary or appropriate to facilitate such surveys, planning, and analysis, to enter into memorandums or letters of understanding with any or all of the following entities: the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG); the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB); the County of Inyo; and the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery.

Background

In support of the work SNC does to meet its programmatic goal of increasing opportunities for recreation and tourism in the Region, the SNC is a member of, and actively participates on the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (Roundtable). The Roundtable was founded in 1998 to encourage cooperation between public and private entities involved and interested in outdoor recreation, public lands and tourism in California.

The Round table's membership includes recreation, parks and tourism leaders from local, state and federal governmental organizations, private enterprises, user groups, environmental groups, educational institutions and the public.

Roundtable members have provided input on the recent update of the SNC Strategic Plan, and have been helpful in disseminating information and supporting the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project, the Great Sierra River Cleanup, and Sierra Day in the Capitol.

Current Status

With recent concerns about youth detachment from outdoor activities, lack of physical exercise and increased health risks, the Roundtable created the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (CCOBR) for the purpose of recommending a fundamental list of experiences that every child in California would benefit from experiencing, before entering high school.

Numerous studies document that children who do these things are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills and self-image, and lead more fulfilled lives. The CCOBR includes the following:

1. Play in a safe place
2. Explore nature
3. Learn to swim
4. Go fishing
5. Follow a trail
6. Camp under the stars
7. Ride a bike
8. Go boating
9. Connect with the past
10. Plant a seed

The Roundtable is currently seeking resolutions of support for the CCOBR from all sectors across the state to help elevate the importance of providing opportunities and places where children can experience and appreciate California's rich outdoor resources.

The mission and the programs of the SNC are strongly aligned with the purposes of the CCOBR. A resolution by the Board in support of the CCOBR would represent a positive step towards raising awareness in the Region may serve as a model for additional support. SNC staff has prepared a Resolution of Support for the Board to consider.

Next Steps

If the Board supports passing the proposed Resolution in support of the CCOBR, staff would communicate via e-mail and direct conversations, the action to all governments and partner organizations in the Region. Staff would also like to make relevant information available to them to consider adopting similar resolutions.

Recommendation

SNC staff recommends the Board adopt SNC Resolution 2012-001 in support of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and direct staff to communicate this action to all partner organization and governments in the Sierra Nevada Region and the opportunity to also consider adopting similar resolutions.



*Resolution No. 2012-001
Support for the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
Adopted by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Governing Board
June 7, 2012*



Whereas, the Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy recognizes the significant concern about youth detachment from the outdoors, lack of physical exercise and the increased health risks associated with childhood obesity; and

Whereas, Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy recognizes that unstructured play in the great outdoors can be a wonderful experience for people of all ages, and especially for our youth; and

Whereas, participating in outdoor activities is not only enjoyable, but also develops an appreciation of California's unique environment; and

Whereas, the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism, a volunteer consortium of public and private organizations has created the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights; and

Whereas, the Bill of Rights provides that youth between the ages of four and fourteen should have the opportunity to:

- *Play in a safe place*
- *Explore nature*
- *Learn to swim*
- *Go fishing*
- *Follow a trail*
- *Camp under the stars*
- *Ride a bike*
- *Go boating*
- *Connect with the past*
- *Plant a seed*

Whereas, numerous studies document that children who participate in these outdoor recreation activities are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills and self image, and lead more fulfilled lives; and

Whereas, the Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is committed to these goals;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy supports and endorses the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights as a guideline for parents, guardians, parks, communities, health professionals, private enterprises and other entities to encourage children to experience each of the activities listed by the completion of their 14th year. The Governing Board of Sierra Nevada Conservancy will promote the efforts of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights with our partners throughout the Sierra Nevada Region.

Board Chair, BJ Kirwan

*Attest: Theresa Burgess
Board Liaison*
