

September 5-6, 2012
Mariposa Fairgrounds
5007 Fairgrounds Road
Bldg A, Sequoia Hall
Mariposa, CA 95338



September 5, 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 SNC's mission in the South 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 located at: 4999 Highway 140 Mariposa, CA 95338.

Reception

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Following the Board tour, Boardmembers and staff will attend a reception open to the public. The reception will be held at Mariposa Park Pavilion located at: 4998 County Park Road, Mariposa, CA 95338.

September 6, 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 June 7, 2012 Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**
- IV. Public Comments**
Provide an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items.
- V. Board Chair's Report**
- VI. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
 - a. Administrative Update
 - b. 2012-13 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program Update
 - c. South Central Subregion Report
 - d. Fund Development
- VII. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
- VIII. Discussion on Organization of SNC Activities (INFORMATIONAL)**
The Board will be provided an overview of SNC activities, organized in seven program areas, as well as the relationship of these program areas to the 2012-13 Action Plan.

- IX. 2011-12 Proposition 84 Grant Awards – Phase II (ACTION)**
The Board may act to authorize a second phase of grant awards for the 2011-12 Proposition 84 Healthy Forests grant program.
- X. Mokelumne Avoided Cost Analysis (INFORMATIONAL)**
The Board will be updated on work that is occurring as part of the Mokelumne Environmental Benefits Project.
- XI. Air and Water Quality and Climate System Indicators Report (ACTION)**
The Board will review the System Indicators Report and may take action on the staff recommendation to approve it.
- XII. Updates on Various SNC Activities (INFORMATIONAL).**
a. California State Water Plan
b. Annual Report
- XIII. Boardmembers' Comments**
Provide an opportunity for members of the Board to make comments on non-agenda items.
- 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).



I. Call to Order

Board Chair BJ Kirwan called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul administered the oath of office to incoming Boardmember Karen Taylor-Goodrich.

II. Roll Call

Present: Todd Ferrara, BJ Kirwan, Bob Kirkwood, Bob Johnston, Brian Dahle, Bill Nunes, Ted Owens, Linda Arcularius, Tom Wheeler, Nancy Upton, Karen Taylor-Goodrich, and Lee Stetson arrived during item XI.

Absent: Pedro Reyes, John Brissenden, and Burnadette Lovato

III. Approval of March 2012 Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

There were no changes to the meeting minutes.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Owens seconded a motion to approve the March 8, 2012, meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comments

There were no comments from the Public.

V. Board Chair's Report

Board Chair Kirwan congratulated Boardmember Dahle on the recent District 1 Assembly seat election.

VI. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Administrative Update

Administrative Chief Theresa Parsley said staff has been working on an updated and comprehensive grant program operation manual for the next grant cycle. As a companion to this manual, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is creating a training module to assist both staff and grantees with successful completion of their projects, as well as with grantee audits.

Based on the closeout for SNC's 2007-08 grants, it was determined that a minimum of another \$500,000 will be available for future grant awards. Possible use of these funds will be identified and recommendations will be brought to the Board in the future relative to the distribution of those funds.

Parsley said the SNC is assessing the impacts of possible 2012-13 State budget cuts, including the closure of State offices on Friday, a reduction of employee compensation by five percent, longer workdays, and impacts to contracted employees.

As the fiscal year closes, it appears the SNC will expend approximately 95% of its budget. The five percent unspent reflects mandatory salary savings and several expenditure categories like travel and training that came in less than originally budgeted.

Parsley added that the Auburn office is now powered by the sun. At no cost to the Conservancy, a rooftop solar system has been installed, providing 35 hundred kilowatts per month of free electricity.

b. Update on Various SNC Activities

Executive Officer Jim Branham said this year's fourth annual Great Sierra River Cleanup event is set for September 15, just after the next Board meeting. He said the program has enjoyed impressive support from thousands of volunteers who have picked up tons of trash, and it has been a great program for the SNC.

Branham noted the Geotourism project with National Geographic and the Sierra Business Council continues to make great progress. About 100,000 print maps have been distributed and the web site has received 50,000 hits in the month of May, about twice the amount of hits had received in the previous months.

Branham indicated that the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) Regional Coordinating Council met in late April and discussed the possible demonstration projects, but additional work is needed to further address this matter. One of the key roles for the Council is working with Region 5 of the U.S. Forest Service in development of an implementation plan for the Leadership Intent for Ecological Restoration. In addition, the SNC's local collaborative efforts continue to be active on the El Dorado, Stanislaus, and Sierra National Forests.

c. East Subregion Report

Mt. Whitney Area Manager Julie Bear introduced Kevin Carunchio, Inyo County Administrator, who gave an overview of Inyo County and local water issues.

He noted that the county is the second largest county in California in terms of area, but has one of the smallest populations. He pointed out that 98.3 percent of the land in Inyo County is publically owned, mostly by federal agencies. Only 1.7 percent of the land is privately owned, meaning a very small amount of land is available for development, which has had a negative impact on the local economy. Economics in Inyo have always been tied to natural resource issues. He noted that historically, 75 percent of Los Angeles's water has come out of Inyo County, but that has been declining a bit.

Carunchio then presented a 10-minute film by Tony Rowell on Inyo County.

VII. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul said there has not been a lot of activity in this legislative session pertaining to SNC issues, but she is advised that there will be lots of proposals for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) changes in August.

VIII. 2011-12 Proposition 84 Grant Awards (ACTION)

Branham reminded the Board that this round was very different from previous grant rounds at the Conservancy. This round selected "Healthy Forests" as a focus area, rather than a broader set of eligible project types.

He stated that the initial plan was to expend about \$5 million for ecological restoration, fuels reduction, conservation easements, and pre-project activities. At the March meeting, the Board approved adding an additional \$2 million from unspent Proposition 84 funds to this grant round. This is the first phase of grant awards, with additional awards planned for the September meeting. The first phase of projects before the Board represents the highest scoring proposals for on-the-ground (Category 1) projects.

Branham said a number of good projects could not be recommended due to a lack of CEQA compliance, which continues to be a source of frustration for the SNC.

Parsley said the SNC received 197 project proposals during the pre-application period. Of these, only 16 were declined due to ineligibility. That left a potential submittal of 181 requests for \$21 million. The CEQA compliance requirements continue to be a challenge for both SNC and applicants. Nearly one third of the proposals were rejected under the CEQA review process, leaving 121 eligible projects totaling \$17 million in requests.

Parsley said projects were not disqualified lightly and that the SNC has already incorporated changes to its 2012-13 Grant Guidelines and Grant Application Package in order to have fewer issues with CEQA in the upcoming grant round.

Parsley stated that 26 projects, totaling \$4.9 million in requested funding, are being recommended to the Board as part of first phase of recommendations. These projects all scored at 77 or higher. Parsley provided a breakdown of projects by type and location.

Branham put forth the staff recommendation to approve the projects listed in Exhibit A, including the conditional approval of project #489, "Campstool Ranch & Working Forest", pending resolution of concerns raised by the Department of General Services with regard to the appraisal of the property.

Several concerns were raised by Boardmembers related to this project and of conservation easements generally. Boardmembers Wheeler, Owens, Nunes, and Arcularius raised concerns relating to ensuring that there is sufficient public benefit

to justify the expenditure of public funds, including the possibility for public access to the property. Boardmember Dahle raised concerns regarding ensuring that there is a high enough risk of conversion to another use to justify the expenditure of public funds. It was agreed to delay consideration of this project until September.

Boardmember Kirkwood said the guidelines for the current grant round, which were adopted by the Board last year, set the parameters for awarding grants for conservation easements in this round and, therefore, any debate about conservation easements should be brought up in the context of developing guidelines for the 2012-13 grant round.

Kirkwood also raised the question of the relationship between stream restoration and forest restoration as it related to a number of projects being recommended.

Branham said that in evaluating a "healthy forest" project, meadows within the forest are considered part of the forest's overall ecosystem, not just the trees. Therefore, the projects met the criteria set forth in the guidelines, which explicitly identified meadow restoration in a forested landscape as eligible.

Kirkwood furthered asked a question about the benefit of a campground restoration project. Mt. Whitney Area Manager Julie Bear explained that the purpose of the project would be to move campers and their stock animals from campsites near a creek to designated campsites away from the creek in order to protect water quality and overall watershed health.

Action: Boardmember Johnston moved and Boardmember Nunes seconded a motion to adopt necessary California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings and authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination for project 510, the Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration Project; adopt necessary CEQA findings and file a Notice of Determination for project 578, the LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass Project; adopt necessary CEQA findings and file a Notice of Determination for project 471, the Completion of the Forbestown Fuel Break Project-Phases 3 and 5, adopt the proposed Notice of Exemptions for approved projects; authorize the grants listed in Agenda Item VIII, Exhibit A with the exception to Project 489, Campstool Ranch and Working Forest; direct staff to consider only projects scored at 70 and above for September 2012 funding considerations; and, the Board authorizes staff to enter into the necessary agreements for the recommended projects and direct staff to file the appropriate CEQA documentation with the State Clearinghouse. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Boardmember Wheeler moved and Boardmember Owens seconded a motion to further review the full application for project 489, Campstool Ranch and Working Forest, addressing issues raised by Boardmembers, as well as finalizing appraisal review by the Department of General Services prior to the September Board meeting. Boardmember Johnston opposed. The motion passed.

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

The SNC Mt. Whitney Area Manager Julie Bear presented information on the progress of the grant guidelines to date. As a result of input received from public comment period, Board comments, and other outreach efforts, Bear said there were some revisions that were reflected in the staff report submitted for Board approval.

Bear said the changes included clarifications and additional information on topics such as the “public benefit” mandate, eligible costs, administrative cost allocation, conservation easement language and CEQA. In addition, applications will be limited to three from a single entity, due to the limited amount of funds. To assist with CEQA compliance, the SNC is making staff available to help address applicant questions about the process. She also reviewed the overall program timeline, noting that the pre-application phase is scheduled to start June 18 with the release of the Request for Proposals. The deadline for submitting pre-applications is July 16.

Boardmember Nunes and others asked if it would be possible to request that projects be consistent with each county’s General Plan.

Branham said that question could be asked more directly in the application process. He noted that in addition to requesting information about zoning and adjacent land uses in the application and consulting with Board’s Subregional representatives on local planning issues, the SNC, as required by statute, sends information to every county liaison, planning director and/or county administrator in advance of finalizing the grant scores. He suggested it would strengthen the process if the SNC Subregional representatives and county liaisons could work with their staff to review the project information so that concerns can be identified and addressed prior to final scoring. Branham also agreed to request more explicit information in the application about a project’s consistency with existing county land use plans.

Nunes added that in his experience, the SNC staff responded in an exceptionally professional manner to questions about the proposed projects in Sierra County, and that the SNC sets a high standard for State and local government relationships.

Boardmember Arcularius asked that the SNC include the county agriculture commissioners when sending information to the counties for the FY 2012-13

Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program. She also requested additional information to better address the unique land tenure and governance issues involving site improvement projects proposed on lands leased from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP).

There were several comments and questions about grants for conservation easements, with some Boardmembers stating strong concerns with such projects. The discussion centered on project costs, evidence of a benefit to the public, and public access.

Branham said the scoring process for the 2012-13 grant round would favor on-the-ground restoration work over conservation easements, per the Board's earlier direction. He noted that easement projects do receive an extra level of review; the Department of General Services reviews the appraisal of the land values, and the SNC does not intervene in that process.

Deputy Attorney General Sproul said that the laws governing use of bond dollars require that projects on private land demonstrate a benefit to the public, and she assured the Board that those requirements will be met.

Board Chair Kirwan invited anyone in the audience who wished to address the Board on this item to come forward.

George Milovich, Agriculture Commissioner for Inyo/Mono counties, pointed out that DWP leases are long-term, with many checks and balances. He also supported the idea of using the expertise of agriculture commissioners in each county to review proposed projects.

Bear thanked Milovich for his assistance with the Grant Guidelines outreach efforts to all the county agriculture commissioners in the Sierra.

Branham added that the SNC appreciates all the input it receives from the Board on the grant guideline issues.

Action: Boardmember Nunes moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve Grant Guidelines for the Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program FY 2012-13. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Pacific Watershed and Forest Stewardship Council (ACTION)

Executive Officer Branham introduced the item saying the Board was being asked 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, especially once the Council sunsets.

The SNC Senior Representative Linda Hansen outlined the modifications as follows:

- Willingness of the SNC to approve successor conservation easement holders on lands retained by PG&E,
- Willingness of the SNC to serve, at its discretion, as a backup conservation easement holder on a temporary basis for lands retained by PG&E, and
- Willingness of the SNC to perform tasks associated with a plan to monitor the economic and physical impacts of the PG&E land conservation commitment.

Hansen said the SNC will also become a public repository for the relevant documents.

Boardmember Owens asked if the SNC would be saddled with long-term costs beyond the MOU.

Deputy Attorney General Sproul said the MOU calls for the SNC to be reimbursed for any and all tasks it takes on as long as funding is available. She said the MOU makes it clear that the SNC would not be responsible for continuing work, should funding not be available in the future.

Branham said that funds would be deposited into a trust account, and that he is comfortable that the SNC is not committing itself to work that it will not be paid for.

Boardmember Todd Ferrara congratulated the SNC for working through the issues with the Stewardship Council, on which he serves.

Action: Boardmember Wheeler moved and Boardmember Owens seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve modifications to the MOU between the SNC and the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council regarding future roles for the SNC. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery (ACTION)

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

Prefacing the report, Executive Officer Branham said it was great opportunity to tour the facility and grounds with the Board the previous day, and noted that it is clearly an iconic place in the eastern Sierra worth preserving. Mt. Whitney Area Manager Julie Bear thanked Bruce Ivey and the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery for hosting the tour and providing great information on the importance of the Hatchery.

Bear reminded the Board that DFG had approached SNC to take ownership of the facility, since it is no longer used as a fish hatchery. Since the last report to the Board in March, the SNC has been in discussions with the Wildlife Conservation Board, Inyo County, and DFG. The proposed MOA outlines a process for the development of a plan for the long-term use and ownership of the property. While it is possible that the SNC would take temporary ownership of the fish hatchery, Bear

reiterated that SNC ownership would only be a short-term role until a permanent solution can be implemented. Bear noted that this role is consistent with SNC's governing statutes, specifically to assist in the preservation of historic resources in the Sierra.

Bear stated that the staff recommendation includes approval for the SNC to spend up to \$50,000 from available base funding to conduct due diligence activities to determine feasibility of SNC's temporary ownership and to authorize the Executive Officer to enter into necessary agreements to assist in implementation of the proposed MOA. Any proposed ownership or management role for the SNC would be brought to the Board for approval in the future.

Boardmembers Ferrara, Kirkwood, and Johnston asked several questions related to SNC's role in retaining and owning land, SNC's ability to gift property and next steps depending on the findings of the due diligence efforts.

In response, Branham said the SNC cannot purchase land, but may accept donated lands. He said that land ownership is not the SNC's core competency but that it is well positioned to act in an interim capacity. He said the primary reason for SNC acting as an interim owner would be to facilitate its transfer to a local organization, such as Inyo County. Unlike DFG, SNC does not need to obtain fair market value in such a transfer. Branham further responded that should the SNC's due diligence activities point out that the project will not be fiscally viable, or the comprehensive business plan is not developed to the SNC's satisfaction, the SNC will not accept the property.

Boardmember Wheeler said that Madera County conducted a similar transfer of property with the North Fork Sawmill, and that it worked quite well. He said he thinks the former fish hatchery is a great facility and approved of the idea to consider its temporary transfer to the SNC.

Boardmember Arcularius noted that the County of Inyo is actively engaged in this process and is willing to put efforts toward a strategic plan to outline the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved.

Under public comment, Bruce Ivey, President of the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery, said he has not encountered anyone who does not feel the hatchery should not be preserved, maintained, and kept open to the public. He welcomes the SNC's leadership to make this happen. He urged expediency, as his volunteer organization has been providing hundreds of hours and between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year in cash donations and cannot maintain that level of support much longer.

Inyo County Administrator Kevin Carunchio spoke in favor of the SNC's role in the process. He said DFG only budgets \$8,000 per year for the facility. He said his county will be a strong supporter and partner with the SNC, adding that Inyo County has a contract with an expert in public/private real estate partnerships to help pull this project together.

Action: Boardmember Arcularius moved and Boardmember Nunes seconded a motion to authorize staff to expend up to \$50,000 in regards to exploration of the future use and operation of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery and to authorize the Executive Officer to enter to necessary and appropriate agreements for surveys, planning and analysis. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The SNC Mt. Lassen Area Manager Bob Kingman said the staff recommendation is to support the BOR with a resolution. He noted that the SNC's approval of a resolution would send a message to county boards of supervisors in the Sierra.

Steve Musillami, Co-chair of California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, said California was the first of 19 states to develop a BOR. He said that children are not getting outdoors as much as in the past. The goal is to have every child in California by age 14, to participate in outdoor activities, such as fishing, hiking, and discovering the connections to the past.

Action: Boardmember Owens moved and Boardmember Wheeler seconded a motion to approve a resolution in support of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Boardmembers' Comments

Boardmember Arcularius thanked those involved in pulling together the tour and the Board meeting, and asked everyone to come back and visit Inyo County again.

XIV. Public Comments

Tom Esgate with the Lassen Fire Safe Council thanked the SNC for being such fantastic partners and supporting their projects. He wanted to particularly thank the staff at SNC for their support.

Outgoing SNC Boardmember David Graber thanked the Board and the staff of the SNC for making his stay on the Board satisfying and enjoyable.

Board Chair Kirwan thanked Graber for his service.

XV. Adjournment

Board Chair Kirwan noted the next meeting will be in Mariposa, September 5-6. Boardmember Lee Stetson said discussion has already been under way for that meeting.

Board Chair Kirwan adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:35 PM.

Background

Along with the beginning of a new fiscal year summer has brought its challenges to the administrative programs of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). Most prominently have been the changes due to various negotiated agreements between the California state labor unions and the Administration. In the coming months staffing changes and the loss of long-term valuable and reliable staff resources will occur. Even so, staff continues to implement projects, prepare for a new budget fiscal year, close out the old, watch for, and respond to anticipated changes in human resources, develop new policies and procedures and carry out grants administration activities.

Current Status – Grants Administration

In addition to supporting the various grant awards programs currently in play, Grants Administration (GA) staff are executing June awards and working on a comprehensive Grants Operations Manual which will document grants processes, procedures and timeframes for use in implementing current and planning for future grant rounds. GA staff are also processing invoices and tracking the completion of 2008-2009 projects as well as more recent projects, in order to identify the amounts that have been or will be disencumbered (released) for use in other projects. Should Proposition 84 bond funding remain beyond that which has been identified for the 2012-13 (Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands) grant cycle, staff will bring an update report to the Board in December of 2012. This report will identify available Proposition 84 funding, the overall demand for funding in the 2012-13 cycle, and additional recommendations staff has regarding how any final, available funding might be awarded.

Current Status – Budget

SNC closed out fiscal year 2011-12 having spent 96 percent of its State Operations budget and 74 percent of its Local Assistance (Proposition 84) budget. As of June 30, 2012, approximately \$13 million remain in the Proposition 84 grant funds. This total includes the awards for 2010-11 (\$1,000,000 awaiting resolution of mineral rights issues), 2011-12 (\$7,000,000) and 2012-13 (\$5,000,000).

Operational funding levels for the fiscal year 2012-13 budget remained steady, with one exception. The 2012-13 budget put into place a 12-month compensation reduction for SNC employees. Amounting to a 4.62 percent cut, staff will also receive 8 hours of leave, to be used within the month it is accrued. This has resulted in a 5 percent staff time reduction for the fiscal year. Management is currently reviewing project plans to determine impacts on projects approved under the 2012 Action Plan and will bring recommendations back to the Board, should major adjustments be necessary.

Current Status – Staffing

The Governor's 2012 May Revise along with various agreements negotiated with state labor organizations, affects the SNC's use of students, retired annuitants and other non-specified temporary employees, as well as monthly reporting requirements. Based on direction received from the Department of Human Resources, effects to SNC staff and operations are summarized below:

Students:

Requires all departments to discontinue working students who perform specified work, no later than August 31, 2012; and establishes a hiring freeze of all students, with specified exceptions, including students who are hired via contract, through June 30, 2013.

Effect on SNC:

SNC has laid off all 5 student assistants as of August 31, affecting the Great Sierra River Cleanup, the Geotourism MapGuide Project, the Grant Program, Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI), the Current Funding Opportunities (CFO) program, media, communications and outreach, and general administrative programs.

Retired Annuitants:

Requires that departments assess their use of retired annuitants (RAs) and other temporary employees to determine whether they are mission critical or not; defines "mission critical" as "a disruption in normal business which may result in the failure of a business operation; allows for the retention of "Only those employees (retired annuitants and other temporary employees) that have been deemed...critical to the department's core mission"; and requires all departments to discontinue working all non-mission critical retired annuitants not later than August 31, 2012.

Effect on SNC:

SNC has completed its assessment and identified three of its existing 12 retired annuitants as meeting the definition of "departmental core mission critical." These provide legal and fiscal integrity/internal audit services to the SNC. Three RAs will be separated as of August 31, and the remaining six are planned to be separated at varying intervals prior to the end of the fiscal year. These RAs provide critical support for the 2012-13 grant cycle and will assist in training others to carry on their workload to allow for continuity of essential administrative services including payroll, contracting and procurement.

Alternatives for Completing Work:

Departments have been directed to review alternatives for completing work including the use of limited term, permanent intermittent or part-time employees and recruiting non-paid student interns and volunteers.

Effect on SNC:

With these reductions, SNC will have lost the equivalent of seven full time staff. More importantly, SNC will have lost the invaluable knowledge and expertise that many of these individuals bring with them. Several of the RAs leaving have been with the SNC since its beginning – they have been part of the "heart and soul" of this organization.

While they cannot be replaced, Human Resources Staff is exploring the possibility of establishing part-time positions as identified above to provide support in all other program and administrative areas.

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.

2012-13 SNC EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES				
As of July 27, 2012				
State Operations				
<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
SALARIES AND WAGES	1,820,465	0	1,820,465	0%
STAFF BENEFITS	583,430	0	583,430	0%
Personal Services, Totals	\$2,403,895	\$0	\$2,403,895	0%
Operating Expenses & Equipment				
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
GENERAL EXPENSE	292,462	1,565	290,898	1%
TRAVEL - IS	55,000	-	55,000	0%
TRAVEL - OS	5,590	-	5,590	0%
TRAINING	47,500	0	47,500	0%
FACILITIES	287,025	0	287,025	0%
UTILITIES	21,480	0	21,480	0%
CONTRACTS- INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT	1,172,483	443,140	729,343	38%
CONTRACTS- EXTERNAL	90,000	-	90,000	0%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	94,924	2,224	92,700	2%
CONSOLIDATED DATA CENTER	-	-	-	0%
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	0%
OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENSE	21,124	0	21,124	0%
PRO RATA (control agency costs)	161,517	0	161,517	0%
Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals	\$2,249,105	\$446,929	\$1,802,177	20%
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	14,705,508	2,294,492	87%
2008 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	12,692,401	4,307,599	75%
2009 Original Appropriation (reapprop 12/13)	15,448,000	9,059,490	6,388,510	59%
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
State Operations	4,653,000	446,929	4,206,072	10%
Local Assistance	49,448,000	36,457,399	12,990,601	74%
SNC EXPENDITURES, TOTALS	\$54,101,000	\$36,904,328	\$17,196,673	68%

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) was allocated \$54 million from the Proposition 84, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, passed by the voters in 2006. Should the Board approve today's awards recommendations for the 2011-12 Healthy Forests Grant Program, approximately \$5 million will be available for award in 2012-13.

At its June 2012 meeting, the SNC Board approved the 2012-13 Grant Guidelines for the final competitive grant cycle to support the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands (Ranches and AgLands) grant program as identified in the SNC's Strategic Plan. The Board had previously directed that \$5 million of the remaining dollars available to the SNC through Proposition 84 would be used to support this area of focus. The Grant Guidelines and accompanying Grant Application Packet were released on June 18, 2012, opening the grant round and requesting grant project proposals in the form of pre-applications.

Current Status

The timeframe to submit pre-applications for the 2012-13 Ranches and AgLands grant cycle ended on July 16, 2012. SNC received 93 pre-applications totaling \$17,035,667.73 in funding requests. Of those, 66 (71%) are for Category 1 projects (site improvement or conservation easement acquisitions) and 27 (29%) are for Category 2 (pre-project activities leading to an eligible project). There are 42 projects requesting \$8 million for site improvement projects and 24 projects requesting approximately \$7.3 million for conservation easement acquisitions. Pre-project planning activities have been proposed for the remaining 27 projects, requesting \$1.7 million. The project breakdown by Subregion is noted below:

2012-13 Ranches and AgLands Grant Program Pre-Applications Received				
By Subregion		% of Projects		% of Funding
Central	22	24%	\$4,172,000.00	24%
North	20	22%	\$3,299,894.83	19%
North Central	15	16%	\$2,722,524.00	16%
South	11	12%	\$2,155,899.90	13%
South Central	12	13%	\$2,001,900.00	12%
East	7	8%	\$1,662,320.00	10%
Multiple Subregions	6	6%	\$1,021,129.00	6%

Next Steps

SNC staff is reviewing all pre-applications for eligibility, paying particular attention to project readiness for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. An internal CEQA Review Team is working with SNC Project Leads, CEQA consultants and applicants to ensure their projects are CEQA ready, and if not, that they have a clear understanding of what it will take to be in compliance with the 2012-13 Ranches and AgLands Grant Guidelines. Projects that have CEQA compliance problems will be

flagged for additional review and assistance during application development, should they be otherwise eligible. Projects that are identified as being unable to comply with CEQA will either be declined for invitation to submit a full application during pre-application review, or will be addressed early in the application review phase of the process. The full 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 5:00 pm 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 committees, 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

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.

Background

The South Central Subregion encompasses the counties of Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa in their entirety. This expansive area is predominantly rural, with broad distribution of 166,000 residents across a widely variable landscape encompassing 5,300 square miles of the broader Sierra Nevada Region.

The majority of land ownership is private in Amador and Calaveras Counties, while public lands dominate the landscape in Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties. Yosemite National Park comprises more than 50 percent of the land area in Mariposa County alone.

The Subregion contains the upper watersheds of the Mokelumne, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers. These are critical watersheds for millions of downstream users. It is widely acknowledged that what takes place in the upper watershed has very distinct implications in terms of water quality and supply for those whose lives depend on Sierra Nevada water on a daily basis.

The entire Subregion, from south to north, is connected by Highway 49. This historic roadway, coupled with numerous connections to major roadways leading from the Central Valley and Bay Area, empowers the tourist economy in the Subregion. Recreational opportunities abound in the South Central Subregion, and the economic benefit from tourism is paramount.

Current Status

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is actively engaged in numerous activities throughout the South Central Subregion. First and foremost among those activities is the SNC's Proposition 84 Grants Program, which has had a measureable impact in terms of watershed protection as well as raising awareness of the enormous amount of conservation opportunities and needs throughout the four-county area.

To date, the SNC has invested over \$4,000,000 dollars in the Subregion, supporting a range of projects consisting of invasive species eradication, rangeland improvements and preservation, water infrastructure planning and development, and forest management activities aimed at decreasing the risk of high-severity wildfire. All of these activities are creating economic opportunities for Sierran communities who have a long and lasting legacy of working to manage the myriad natural, cultural and economic resources of the Subregion.

The SNC is also engaged in a variety of endeavors which meet its mission and advance its program goals. In Mariposa County, SNC has actively supported the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, which will be absolutely critical in future years in order to access funding from the CA Department of Water Resources.

Through the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project, of which SNC is a sponsor, visitors from around the world are now able to access recreational, historical, and

cultural gems that may have previously been overshadowed by the Crown Jewel of the National Park System, Yosemite.

In Tuolumne County, the SNC has supported efforts to conduct restoration activities at Phoenix Lake and its associated watersheds, which are critical drinking water resources for the City of Sonora and adjacent communities. The Board of the Tuolumne Utilities District recently adopted the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Plan, funded in part by SNC, which provides a clear path toward on the ground improvements to that key resource. In partnership with the Stanislaus National Forest, the SNC helped to establish the Yosemite-Stanislaus Solutions collaborative group, which is fostering a positive and productive dialog on forest management in the Tuolumne and Mariposa County portions of the Stanislaus National Forest.

Calaveras County has been a hub of activity for the SNC relative to the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative. Through the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group, SNC has advanced the goals of the Initiative through work with a high-functioning collaborative process. That support coupled with strong community involvement has ultimately resulted in a long-term funding commitment from the Forest Service under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Act. Work has begun on restoration work in the CFLR Cornerstone Project area which is directly benefitting local contractors and facilitating the restoration of a diversified forest economy in the counties and Subregion.

SNC activities in Amador County also entail participation in the ACCG. In addition, the SNC is actively supporting many other worthwhile efforts, including funding support for Stewardship, Through Education where local elementary and high school students are conducting on the ground restoration projects in watersheds throughout the county. This builds a stewardship ethic among the youth here in the Subregion, as well as achieving SNC goals relative to watershed protection and restoration. Other activities include funding support for the development of a recycled water system in partnership with Amador Water Agency, and the Mokelumne Environmental Benefits Initiative and Cost Avoidance Study, which will be presented today under a later agenda item.

Next Steps

The SNC maintains a visible presence in the South Central Subregion. Having an office in Mariposa, as well as strong support from the Auburn headquarters to the north, the SNC is able to grow its relationships with key policymakers, land managers, and stakeholders.

The SNC will continue its engagement in collaborative processes taking place throughout the Subregion, in hopes those partnerships will have real and lasting impacts on forest health, economic prosperity, and community vitality.

The SNC is committed to this Subregion in furtherance of its mission to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social

well-being of the Sierra Nevada, its communities, and the citizens of the State of California.

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

As part of the ongoing fund development effort, the SNC recently supported preparation and submission of four major grant applications for partners in the Region:

1. \$134,225 for the North Fork Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Project (applicant: Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council);
2. \$146,711 for the Wilseyville CHP Project (applicant: Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions, Inc.);
3. \$715,000 for the Sierra Investment, Enhancement, Restoration, and Renewal Accelerator (SIERRA) Jobs and Innovation Accelerator project (applicant: Sierra Institute for Environment and Community); and
4. \$823,019 to complete an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Yosemite-Mariposa Region (applicant: Mariposa Resource Conservation District).

Current Status

We are pleased to report that the North Fork CHP project was selected for funding by the Woody Biomass Utilization Grant (WBUG) program administered through the U.S. Forest Service. The North Fork CHP project application sought \$134,225 to complete design and engineering services leading to the construction of a small, community-scale bioenergy facility at the North Fork Mill Site. This project would act as a model for other communities adjacent to the Region's national forests and would promote a network of distributed bioenergy facilities that bring environmental, economic, and social benefits to the Sierra Nevada. While the SNC provided support through its contract with The Grant Farm to develop the application, the SNC will not play an active role in the implementation of this project.

The Yosemite-Mariposa Region IRWMP application has been recommended for funding by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the amount of \$823,019. While staff considers it unlikely that significant changes will be made to the recommendations, they will not be finalized until after DWR's public review and comment process has concluded. DWR anticipates authorizing grants by the end of September 2012.

SNC provided grant writing and program development assistance to help improve the current IRWMP application because the Yosemite-Mariposa Region's previous efforts to obtain IRWMP funding have not been successful. If authorized, this grant would provide funding for a comprehensive plan that addresses all water resources in the Yosemite-Mariposa Region, as well as issues regarding watershed health. The IRWMP is a prerequisite to obtaining many grants for water and watershed projects, so this success would have the potential to leverage many additional dollars for the Region. The SNC would not play an active role in the implementation of the project.

Unfortunately, the Wilseyville CHP WBUG application and the Sierra Investment, Enhancement, Restoration, and Renewal Accelerator (SIERRA) Jobs and Innovation Accelerator project application were not successful.

Next Steps

The SNC will track DWR's IRWMP authorization process, continue to distribute funding information to stakeholders throughout the Region, and actively seek opportunities to support partners in projects that further SNC program goals and objectives.

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

Since its creation in 2006, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has developed a number of projects and initiatives consistent with its statutory mandate. The Board has provided direction and been updated on these projects and initiatives as appropriate. In addition, the Board approved a new [Strategic Plan](#) and accompanying [2012-13 Action Plan](#) for the SNC within the last year and all of the projects and initiatives being undertaken by the SNC are consistent with these plans.

Despite this high degree of action on the part of the SNC, only one set of activities has been organized around a specific program: the SNC Proposition 84 Grant Program. In looking at the statute that created the SNC, however, it is clear that all of the SNC's activities can be grouped under seven primary programs with only one of them related to grants. These are not related to the seven subject matter focused program goals in the enabling legislation, rather, these are seven types of activities the SNC is authorized to perform on behalf of the Region. By grouping activities being undertaken by the SNC under these seven program areas, the Board and staff can more easily understand how the SNC's current activities align with the types of activities envisioned in its enabling legislation.

This alignment of SNC activities under seven statutorily authorized program areas is particularly timely in light of the fact that the SNC is nearing the end of its Proposition 84 grant funds, because it makes it that much more clear that other activities being undertaken by the SNC are equally as important from an overall program perspective.

SNC Programs

In creating the SNC, the legislation laid out a broad mission for the organization as well as enumerating several specific activities it is authorized to undertake on behalf of the Region. In order to meet these statutory mandates, SNC is undertaking activities within six program areas. These programs provide the underpinnings for its efforts to serve the Sierra Nevada and, ultimately, the entire State of California.

The first three programs draw their authority from the SNC's broad mission to "initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California," as well as an expressed intent on the part of the Legislature and then-Governor Schwarzenegger to create an organization that would provide Region-wide leadership and coordination on issues affecting the Sierra Nevada as well as promote greater understanding of the issues and importance of the Region at a statewide level and beyond. The four remaining programs are tied to activities specifically referenced in the SNC's enabling legislation ([AB 2600](#) Stats. 2004, ch. 726).

Under each program, are examples of activities the SNC has or is undertaking within that program area; future activities in these areas may include yet to be determined opportunities and/or a continuation of these activities. All planned activities are consistent with the 2012-13 Action Plan approved by the Board.

Policy Development Program (State and Federal)

- Biomass Utilization
- Forest Management on Public Lands
- Mokelumne Environmental Benefits Project

Education and Advocacy Program

- Sierra Day at the Capitol
- Subject Matter Symposia
- Selected legislation, including water bond

Region-wide Projects Program

- Great Sierra River Cleanup
- Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project
- State Water Plan; Mountain County Overlay Development
- Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council

Grant Program - [Section 33343 of the Public Resources Code](#) (PRC): *“The conservancy may make grants or loans to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations in order to carry out the purposes of this division...”*

- Proposition 84 Grant Program
- Other future grant programs

Collaborative Planning Program - [Section 33346 \(a\) of the PRC](#): *“The conservancy may expend funds and award grants and loans to facilitate collaborative planning efforts and to develop projects and programs that are designed to further the purposes of this division.”*

- Facilitation of local forestry collaboratives, e.g. Amador Calaveras Consensus Group, Sustainable Forest and Community Collaborative
- Facilitation services for development of Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) within the Region

Technical and Other Assistance Program - [Section 33346 \(b\) of the PRC](#): *“The conservancy may provide and make available technical information, expertise, and other nonfinancial assistance to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations to support program and project development and implementation.”*

- Grant writing assistance, e.g., assistance provided to local forestry collaboratives in putting together federal grant applications
- Assistance in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and/or the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA), e.g., assistance provided to the U.S. Forest Service for completion of NEPA process needed to complete fuels thinning projects identified by local forestry collaboratives
- Clearinghouse for information, e.g. funding opportunities

- Sponsorship of relevant events and programs, e.g., California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Annual Summit, Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Conference
- Acting as a fiscal agent or intermediary, e.g., assisting in the transfer of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery from the Department of Fish and Game to a new owner in order to preserve it as a local community resource

Research and Monitoring Program - [Section 33351 of the PRC](#): *“The conservancy may expend funds under this division to conduct research and monitoring in connection with development and implementation of the program administered under this division.”*

- Study of impacts on water supply from meadow restoration
- Sierra Watershed Ecosystem Enhancement Project (SWEEP)
- Sierra Nevada System Indicators Project

Alignment of Programs with the Strategic Plan

All of the activities being undertaken or planned to be undertaken to implement the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board in September 2011 fall within the six program outlined above. One way to look at this is to take the projects and initiatives laid out in the 2012-13 Action Plan and consider how the specific activities taking place under each of them connect to one of these six program areas. The results of this analysis can be seen in the table on the following page, which provides an overview of how activities being undertaken as part of projects in the Action Plan align with the seven program areas.

Table 1: How SNC Programs Align with 2012-13 Action Plan Projects

	Policy Development	Education & Advocacy	Region-wide Projects	Grants	Collaborative Planning	Technical & Other Assistance	Research & Monitoring
Grant Program				X			
Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI)	X	X	X		X	X	X
Regional Water	X	X	X		X		
Regional Agricultural and Ranching Initiative				X		X	
Geotourism		X	X				
Ecosystem Services	X	X			X		X
Education and Communications		X					
Funding Development		X				X	
Great Sierra River Cleanup		X	X				
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council			X			X	
Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery						X	
Sierra Nevada System Indicators							X

Next Steps

Looking at SNC activities with this type of program focus lays the foundation for ongoing discussions with the Board regarding what we are doing in support of each of these statutorily authorized programs. It also opens the door for future discussions with the Board regarding how our allocation of resources aligns with these seven programs. As staff brings the new 2013-14 Action Plan to the Board and we work to align budget resources with that Plan, this program view offers another way of evaluating whether SNC projects and resources are best allocated to meet our broad statutory mission.

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.

Background

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

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

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

Current Status

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

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

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

Evaluation and Recommendation Process

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

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

Projects Recommended for Funding

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

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

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

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

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

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

Category 1 Projects:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Category 2 Projects:

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

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

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

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

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

Detailed information for these projects is included in Attachment A.

Conditional Approval Recommendation

Category 1 Projects:

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

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

Category 2 Projects:

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

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

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

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

California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

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

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

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

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

Recommendation

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

Agenda Item IX Exhibit A

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

September 6, 2012

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

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

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

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

September 6, 2012

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

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

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

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.

Agenda Item IX Exhibit B

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

September 6, 2012

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

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September 6, 2012

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

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

September 6, 2012

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

Agenda Item IX Exhibit C

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

September 6, 2012

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

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

September 6, 2012

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

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

September 6, 2012

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

Agenda Item IX Exhibit D

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

September 6, 2012

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

Agenda Item IX Exhibit E

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

September 6, 2012

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

Agenda Item IX Exhibit F

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

September 6, 2012

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

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

September 6, 2012

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

ATTACHMENT A

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Pacific Forest Trust

Project Title: Campstool Ranch and Working Forest

Subregion: South Central

County: Calaveras

SNC Funding: \$ 350,000

Total Project Cost: \$4,063,005

Application Number: 489

Final Score: 90

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

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/OPPOSITION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Project Title: Create Restoration Plan for Cahoon Meadow, Sequoia National Park

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: \$ 74,500

Total Project Cost: \$154,060

Application Number: 580

Final Score: 85.50

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will produce a plan and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance to restore wetland hydrology, vegetation, and ecosystem function in the 17 acre Cahoon Meadow. Cahoon Meadow is a wet meadow located at 7,350 feet elevation at the headwaters of Cahoon Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Kaweah River in Sequoia National Park containing severe erosion gullies. The meadow is located in designated wilderness, and alternatives will include both mechanized and non-mechanized treatments. Additional funds and in-kind services will be provided by the National Park Service.

The following are project objectives:

1. Collect topographic information and create a base map for restoration plans.
2. Assess the success of past (1940s and 1950s) efforts to restore similar erosion gullies using hand crews, to evaluate whether hand-work (check dams) is likely to succeed in meeting restoration goals.
3. Formulate a range of feasible restoration goals and alternatives.
4. Create concept plans for the restoration alternatives, including plan views, cross sections, and draft details of restoration structures.
5. Write a NEPA/CEQA document.

The following are project deliverables:

1. A base map and wetland delineation of Cahoon Meadow.
2. A trip report of the 2013 site visit.

3. A report assessing the long-term (50 year) results of non-mechanized meadow restoration techniques and discussing their potential application in Cahoon Meadow and Sierra Nevada wilderness meadows.
4. A written plan and Environmental Assessment to implement on-the-ground restoration of wetlands at Cahoon Meadow, allowing the park to move directly to implementation of the selected alternative.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate project	December 1, 2012
Complete cooperative agreement with Colorado State University, David Cooper PI	January 31, 2013
Schedule 2013 site visit	March 31, 2013
Six-month progress report to SNC	June 30, 2013
Trip report of site visit, including preliminary identification and description of several restoration/stabilization goals & alternatives	September 15, 2013
Six-month progress report to SNC	December 31, 2013
Wetland Delineation Report	December 31, 2013
Six-month progress report to SNC	June 30, 2014
Begin scoping for EA	April 1, 2014
Search archives for relevant SAM Crew notes, maps, photos, and reports. Convert to digital format. Select meadows for revisits. Provide summary task report to park.	May 31, 2014
Draft Restoration Plan, including base map, several alternatives described with narratives, plan view of treatments, cross-sections of treatments, and conceptual details as necessary.	May 31, 2014
Begin writing EA	June 1, 2014
Complete site visits to relocate check dams & project sites and assess results of 1940s SAM Crew restoration treatments. Provide short trip report.	September 15, 2014
Six-month progress report to SNC	December 30, 2014
Final report assessing success of SAM Crew restoration treatments Provide recommendations.	December 31, 2014
Final Restoration Plan, incorporating results of SAM Crew site revisits	February 28, 2015
Six-month progress report to SNC	June 31, 2015
Release EA for public comment	June 1, 2015
Finding of No Significant Impact signed by Regional Director	December 31, 2015
Submit Final project completion report to SNC	January 31, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

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

* 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/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - David Cooper and Evan Wolf, Colorado State University

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

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

Project Title: Van Vleck Meadow Complex Assessment and
Restoration Plan

Subregion: Central

County: El Dorado

SNC Funding: \$ 75,000

Total Project Cost: \$125,000

Application Number: 622

Final Score: 84.25

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - CA State University, Sacramento- Department of Biological Sciences
 - CABY

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: U.S. Forest Service, Modoc National Forest

Project Title: Swanson Canyon HFR/Riparian Enhancement CE/EA

Subregion: North

County: Modoc

SNC Funding: \$73,999

Total Project Cost: 100,000

Application Number: 461

Final Score: 84

PROJECT SCOPE

The immediate goal of this project is to complete a NEPA analysis for the Swanson Canyon fuel reduction and riparian enhancement project. This project is located within the Pit River Watershed. It contains a seasonal stream that runs north to south and is flanked by steep canyon walls. The lower portion of the canyon contains a wet meadow that feeds into Rattlesnake Creek and eventually the Pit River.

The anticipated deliverable would be a categorical exclusion or environmental assessment under NEPA. The purpose of the project itself is to reduce hazardous fuels within the Swanson Canyon area, enhance riparian vegetation, and repair the adjacent road to eliminate sediment delivery into the creek. The project would occur on Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) lands. Reducing hazardous fuels in the Swanson Canyon area would, in turn, reduce the probability of a large-scale, destructive fire burning from Forest Service lands into the neighboring subdivision of Modoc Recreational Estates.

Similar faded fuel break is being implemented within the Modoc Recreational Estates and this project would augment those efforts on private lands.

This project is consistent with the goals of the Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration Strategy for the Modoc National Forest, the Modoc National Forest Plan, and the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Final SEIS. The U.S. Forest Service proposes removal of non-old-growth juniper, leaving the few existing ponderosa pine. The environmental analysis would also analyze actions to prune the limbs of the remaining trees to reduce flammability.

Cut wood would be removed from the riparian area for piling and burning; woodcutter-generated slash would likewise be piled and burned. Burn piles would consist of limbs and old slash (waste wood from cutting). The burn pile locations would later be seeded with native tobacco, which thrives in burned areas. Bole (trunk) wood from the treatment would be offered free to the public as firewood. Crews would use only hand labor (no heavy equipment).

After thinning the juniper, the riparian area would be seeded with Great Basin wild rye and other native plants to improve water retention of the soil. Rip rap would be installed on the road for side slope stabilization, aggregate (gravel) surfacing to direct runoff, contour of the road prism with side sloping, and reestablishing ditch lines to better direct runoff. Any trash (old tires, barrels, refrigerators, etc.) would be removed from the project area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Archeological Surveys	September, 2012-September 2013
Botanical Surveys	June 2013-September 2012
Road Condition Surveys, Maintenance Evaluation	September 2012 – September 2013
Project Coordination	September 2012 – December 2013
Travel and Project Administration	September 2012 – December 2013
Progress Report	March 2013
Progress Report	September 2013
Final Progress Report	March 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct Funding Costs	\$55,400
Indirect	\$13,500
Administrative	\$5,099
GRAND TOTAL	\$73,999

PROJECT SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

- Modoc Fire Safe Council

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

Number of People Reached

- Reach out to public through public involvement in the NEPA process
- Confer with Fire Safe Council, Modoc Estates Homeowner Association, (Alturas) River Center, and Pit River Tribe on plan design

Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada

- Forest employees' time
- River Center time and expertise
- CA Dept. of Corrections inmates' time and labor
- Indian youth time (Cedarville Rancheria)

Number and Type of Jobs Created

- Provide jobs for local, low-income youth

Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities

- Preserve fishing quality on Rattlesnake Creek and Pit River, due to removal of upstream sediment loading.
- Increase value of homes in adjoining Modoc Estates by reducing severe-fire hazard.
- Make bole wood from thinning available to public as fuel wood.
- Increase recreational economic value of area by enhancing the creek, and repairing and maintaining the road.

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Fall River Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project

Subregion: North

County: Shasta

SNC Funding: \$75,000

Total Project Cost: \$202,500

Application Number: 553

Final Score: 83.83

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Sierra Streams Institute

Project Title: Hirschmann's Pond Healthy Forest Initiative

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada

SNC Funding: \$75,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$92,250.00

Application Number: 536

Final Score: 83

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

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

Project Title: Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: \$350,000

Total Project Cost: \$370,000

Application Number: 644

Final Score: 82.50

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPISTION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of land improved or restored
- Number and types of jobs created
- Resources Leveraged

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: City of Alturas

Project Title: Pre-Engineering Study/ Biomass Heating

Subregion: North

County: Modoc

SNC Funding: \$75,000

Total Project Cost: \$81,800

Application Number: 579

Final Score: 82

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

PROJECT SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

Performance Measures—Key Performance Measure

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

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

Additional performance measures one to three years after project completion

1. Kilowatt equivalent of renewable energy developed and produced

Data: Engineering data from schematics

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

2. Resources leveraged

Data: Cash and in-kind collected by project manager

Financial agreements for construction

Biomass delivery contract dollar amount

3. Number and type of jobs created

Data: Employee roster from City of Alturas

Tracking by private businesses

Extrapolation based upon biomass delivery contracts to district heating facility

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

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

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

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

Subregion: South Central

County: Calaveras

SNC Funding: \$ 74,975

Total Project Cost: \$103,424

Application Number: 630

Final Score: 81.75

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and
Development Council

Project Title: The North Fork Community - Scale Biomass Project

Subregion: South

County: Madera

SNC Funding: \$ 70,049

Total Project Cost: \$111,082

Application Number: 565

Final Score: 81.50

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Measurable changes in knowledge or behavior

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council

Project Title: White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: \$20,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$20,000.00

Application Number: 552

Final Score: 79.50

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

PROJECT SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

1. Number and Type of Jobs Created

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

2. Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

This project is expected to create the following:

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

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

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

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, Pacific Ranger District

Project Title: Bloody Run Subwatershed Forest Health Improvement Project

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada, Sierra

SNC Funding: \$74,326.53

Total Project Cost: \$176,558.68

Application Number: 503

Final Score: 78.25

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

N/A

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Tehama County Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel break CEQA Environmental Analysis Project

Subregion: North-Central

County: Tehama

SNC Funding: \$23,550

Total Project Cost: \$23,550

Application Number: 460

Final Score: 77.75

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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- Percent of pre-project planning efforts resulting in project implementation

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Sierra Streams Institute

Project Title: Lower Deer Creek Healthy Revegetation Project

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada

SNC Funding: \$112,932

Total Project Cost: \$117,683

Application Number: 533

Final Score: 77.50

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS

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

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Amador Calaveras Consensus Group
 - Cal Fire-Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of collaboratively developed plans or assessments
- Measurable changes in knowledge or behavior

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: El Dorado Irrigation District

Project Title: Caples Creek Watershed Fuels Reduction and Meadow Restoration

Subregion: Central, South Central and East

County: El Dorado, Alpine, Amador

SNC Funding: \$ 75,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$252,407.34

Application Number: 564

Final Score: 77.25

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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PROJECT LETTERS

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: South Yuba River Citizens League

Project Title: Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project, Phase 2

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada

SNC Funding: \$ 49,265.44

Total Project Cost: \$133,825.64

Application Number: 588

Final Score: 77

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest
 - American Rivers, Inc.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: City of Portola

Project Title: Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: \$263,230

Total Project Cost: \$263,230

Application Number: 454

Final Score: 76

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Jobs Created
- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production
- Acres of Land Improved

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Placer County Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Gillis Hill Fuel Break

Subregion: Central

County: Placer

SNC Funding: \$17,528.00

Total Project Cost: \$72,278.00

Application Number: 513

Final Score: 75.83

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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

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

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

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

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

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: \$237,638

Total Project Cost: \$647,738

Application Number: 521

Final Score: 75.33

PROJECT SCOPE

This is a joint effort between Sequoia National Park (NPS) and Sequoia National Forest (USFS), to successfully eradicate velvetgrass, a perennial grass, and native to Europe, on lands in the Kern Canyon area in designated wilderness. Large scale efforts were implemented from 2009-2011, and have been successful at reducing populations of velvetgrass. Montane meadows and riparian wetlands are rare vegetation types in Kern Canyon occupying less than 2 percent of the land area, and are critical for habitat protection, native species diversity, biomass, and productivity. Initial efforts to reduce velvetgrass using herbicides, tarping, and hand-pulling have been successful, but further funding is required to ensure that it does not again come to dominate the area. Combining continued treatment efforts with the prior three years of work they have conducted, will allow them to eradicate velvetgrass from the Kern Canyon. Eliminating velvetgrass from the Kern Canyon will also ease grazing restrictions in these areas and reduce the likelihood of further spread via human activity.

Crews will install tarping materials on large USFS velvetgrass infestations and use hand-pulling and herbicide application on other populations on NPS and USFS lands. Four seasonal NPS personnel will oversee work crews of 12 people to hand-pull velvetgrass and install tarping materials. Backcountry Horseman will provide pack support for all large work crews.

Crews will also monitor past control efforts to ensure that they are not re-infested and to assess and correct any potential erosion problems as native vegetation begins to re-establish. Monitoring infestations can continue on NPS lands, while focusing efforts on USFS lands that have only received a single year of treatment.

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Field Crews Conducting Restoration Activities	June-September 2013
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	June-September 2013
Six-month Report to SNC	December 31, 2013
Public Presentation of Project Results (At least 1 per year)	October–December 2013
Field Crews Conducting Restoration Activities	June-September 2014
Six-month Report to SNC	June, 2014
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	June-September 2014
Six-month Report to SNC	December 31, 2014
Public Presentation of Project Results (at least 1 per year)	October–December 2014
Field Crews Conducting Restoration Activities	June-September 2015
Six-month Report to SNC	June, 2015
Visitor Outreach Materials Posted	June-September 2015
Public Presentation of Project Results (At least 1 per year)	October–December 2015
Final Project Report to SNC	December 31, 2015

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 the Backcountry Horsemen of California

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Tehama County Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Childs Meadow Head Cut Repair Project

Subregion: North-Central

County: Tehama

SNC Funding: \$41,663

Total Project Cost: \$41,663

Application Number: 462

Final Score: 74.75

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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

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

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

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPISTION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of pre-project planning efforts resulting in project implementation

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: California Invasive Plant Council

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

Subregion: Regional

County: Multi-County

SNC Funding: \$58,593.00

Total Project Cost: \$65,000.00

Application Number: 613

Final Score: 74.50

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

PROJECT SUPPORT/OPPOSITION LETTERS

Support:

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance measures will include:

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

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: California Department of Parks and Recreation

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

Subregion: South Central

County: Calaveras

SNC Funding: \$33,091.00

Total Project Cost: \$51,200.60

Application Number: 490

Final Score: 74.25

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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

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

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

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant:	Butte County Fire Safe Council
Project Title:	Forest Health Chipper Program
Subregion:	North Central
County:	Butte
SNC Funding:	\$100,000
Total Project Cost:	\$110,000
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	October 2012 – November 2013
Landowner requests compiled	October 2012 – November 2013
Volunteer training	October 2012 – November 2013
Chipping services provided	October 2012 – June 2014
Monitoring, tracking, and documentation	October 2012 – June 2014
Maintenance education	October 2012 – June 2014
Progress Reports	March 2013, Sep. 2013, March 2014
Final Report	September 2014
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/OPPISTION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Eastern Sierra Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection Project

Subregion: South

County: Madera

SNC Funding: \$70,000

Total Project Cost: \$74,500

Application Number: 470

Final Score: 72.25

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

* 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/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Central Sierra Watershed Committee

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

ATTACHMENT B

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: USDA Forest Service, Georgetown Ranger District

Project Title: Blacksmith Ecological Restoration Project

Subregion: Central

County: Placer

SNC Funding: \$ 75,000

Total Project Cost: \$400,000

Application Number: 502

Final Score: 74

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

* 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/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Mason, Bruce, & Girard, Inc.
 - California Forestry Association

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

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Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

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

Project Title: Blacksmith Ecological Restoration Project (SNC 502)

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Georgetown and Foresthill

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: American River Conservancy

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

Subregion: Central

County: El Dorado

SNC Funding: \$65,364

Total Project Cost: \$108,693

Application Number: 519

Final Score: 73.25

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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

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

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

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- CA Department of Fish and Game
- PRBO Conservation Science

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

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Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Kit Carson

Project Location – County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Wolf Creek Community Alliance

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

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada

SNC Funding: \$74,900

Total Project Cost: \$78,650

Application Number: 523

Final Score: 73.50

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT COSTS

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

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

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

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

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

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

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

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

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Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: near Grass Valley

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

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

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

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

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Lake Valley Fire Protection District

Project Title: Mt. Ralston Community Defense Zone

Subregion: Central

County: El Dorado

SNC Funding: \$171,156

Total Project Cost: \$201,230

Application Number: 616

Final Score: 72.75

PROJECT SCOPE

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

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

This project:

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

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

* *Timeline depends upon winter/spring access*

PROJECT COSTS

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

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

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- None submitted

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Number and Diversity of People Reached

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Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Twin Bridges

Project Location – County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

ATTACHMENT C

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

Introduction

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

The SNC Strategic Plan states that it will:

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

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

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

2011 Grant Applications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CEQA Does Not Apply to Table 1 Grant Application Activities

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

Potential Future Actions

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

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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: Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction (SNC 454)

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Portola

Project Location – County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
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Auburn, CA 95603

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Alturas

Project Location – County: Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

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

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

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

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

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Jim Branham

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Mill Creek

Project Location – County: Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Paradise

Project Location – County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: San Andreas

Project Location – County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Colfax

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: 26 miles southwest of Lone Pine

Project Location – County: Tulare and Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Near Lake Wildwood

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
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From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Nevada City

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Clito

Project Location – County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

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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: Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project (SNC 553)

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Redding and Burney

Project Location – County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: 5 miles southeast of Graniteville

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

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

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

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Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Pollock Pines

Project Location – County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: (check one)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

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Jim Branham

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: West Point

Project Location – County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Marji Feliz

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

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

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

Project Location – Specific:

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

Project Location – City: Porterville

Project Location – County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

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

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

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Background

Many of the Sierra Nevada watersheds are degraded and their forests are designated as high to very high risk of high-severity fire. Despite ongoing efforts to implement forest treatments, there needs to be a substantial increase in the number of acres of forest treatment occurring annually in order to significantly reduce fire threat and improve forest health. However, because of budget crises, state and federal budgets for this are declining. To reach this goal, some regions have been successful in establishing “Forest to Faucet” programs that create investment in upper watershed treatments to improve forest health in key watersheds that are critical to providing water to downstream users. Generally, these programs are established after a catastrophic fire occurs and the region is faced with unanticipated post-fire costs. The primary purpose of this project is to conduct an avoided cost analysis to quantify the potential savings of investing in forest restoration and catastrophic fire prevention practices as opposed to paying for the suppression, restoration, clean up, and maintenance work following a wildfire.

The upper Mokelumne Watershed is managed by a number of land management entities including U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, industrial and non-industrial forest landowners, and water and power utilities. Like many forested watersheds, this watershed delivers a significant amount of benefits to downstream users, but its health and resilience have become degraded by decades of fire suppression and disturbances. Because of this, resource managers believe that the chances of catastrophic fire in the watershed are elevated, and if it were to occur there would be significant adverse consequences to the watershed and quality of services it provides.

The first phase of the project will analyze how upper watershed restoration treatments, primarily fuel hazard reduction and forest health management, will benefit downstream beneficiaries and reduce operational costs of energy and water delivery agencies. The project will also analyze how these treatments can benefit socioeconomic and environmental conditions to watershed habitants and local resources. Subsequent work will build the metrics, agreements, and platforms necessary to facilitate actual investments in upper watershed restoration.

The project goals are as follows:

1. Reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the Mokelumne Watershed.
2. Restore the ecological function of the watershed.
3. Identify strategic investment for restoration of the Upper Mokelumne Watershed.
4. Quantify the costs and benefits of increasing the number of acres treated by identifying costs avoided through watershed restoration efforts.
5. Identify specific areas in the watershed that are most important to restore for water quality and water flow timing.
6. Identify and evaluate other ecosystem services, that, when restored, can improve the socioeconomic and environmental conditions of the area.

Current Status

The work approach has involved the key project partners, including the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Pacific Gas and Electric, The Nature Conservancy, and local stakeholders conducting an avoided cost analysis. Both a Steering Committee and Technical Committee have been formed with members from all participating organizations. The technical aspect and complexity of this project will require the hiring of at least three consultants: Fire Model Consultant, Sediment Model Consultant, and Project Managing Consultant. This effort is being coordinated with the watershed-wide project referred to as the Environmental Benefits Program. The scope of this project includes both the upper watershed and the Valley portion of the watershed. This effort expands project involvement to include Sustainable Conservation, Environmental Defense Fund and diverse interests from both the Valley and upper watershed. The project approach will be documented in order to export and transfer this approach to other Sierra Nevada watersheds and similar watersheds around the western U.S.

The project cash budget for the first two years totals \$242,000 and includes \$137,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, \$100,000 from the U.S. Forest Service and \$25,000 from The Nature Conservancy. It also includes an in-kind match of \$672,117 consisting primarily of the Project Management Team, Steering, and Technical Committee's time and technical resources.

Next Steps

The Technical Committee is pioneering the development of this innovative cost benefit analysis. This involves integrating a series of models (fire risk, sediment flow, and insect infestation) and evaluating the impacts of probable wild fire to water and power infrastructure and other assets in the watershed. The models will consider different scenarios including existing forest conditions and treatment scenarios. The cost benefit analysis is scheduled to be completed in December.

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

The SNC 2006 Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop System Indicators to measure progress in improving the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. Subsequent Board approvals have led to adjustment in the approach to best achieving this goal. The SNC is developing a set of five Indicator reports to portray the nineteen Board approved Indicators in a way that is more easily understood and affords greater opportunity to focus on the linkages among certain sets of data. The five reports are:

- Demographics and the Economy
- Land Conserved and Habitat
- Water and Air Quality and Climate
- Forest Lands
- Agricultural lands and Ranches

The first report on Demographics and the Economy was presented at the September 2011 Board Meeting. The second report on Land Conservation and Habitat was presented at the December 2011 Board meeting. The third report on Water and Air Quality and Climate is being presented at this September 2012 Board meeting.

Much of the data for the last two Indicator reports have been developed, but there is still much analysis and writing to be done. SNC has contracted with an outside forest expert to use SNC developed data to assist in writing the Forest Lands report. The fifth report will be written with internal resources.

Water and Air Quality and Climate System Indicators Report

This third report (see Attachment A) combines System Indicators that relate specifically to air and water. The report is structured in three themes:

- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Temperature, Precipitation, and Snowpack

State data resources (State Water Resources Control Board, Air Resources Board (ARB), and Department of Water Resources (DWR)) were combined and contrasted with other data resources and analytical techniques in new ways to develop an assessment that is unique and useful to the SNC Region.

The water quality section used the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired water bodies; but GIS capabilities enabled editing the data to the SNC boundary for the first time. The air quality analysis was limited to air basin analysis as provided by the ARB. In the climate section, historical temperature and precipitation data was acquired through a sophisticated modeling technique from the PRISM Climate Group, analyzed through GIS in new ways, and validated with direct temperature readings. DWR Cooperative Snow Surveys data (along with data from the Central Sierra Snow Lab)

were used to assess historical snowpack trends, but some novel analysis was employed.

The data and analysis in this report provides a unique overview of air and water conditions and trends that is specific to the SNC Region.

Report Highlights

The characteristics of water and air quality in the Sierra Nevada are quite different than other parts of the State. The Region has unique water quality issues and air quality issues that are largely out of the Region's control. Because the Sierra is the predominant supplier of surface water for the state, and that water supply is vulnerable to annual variation and long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, and snowpack, understanding the climate of the Sierra Nevada, and possible adverse trends, is crucial to the water supply and economic health of the State, as well as critical to protecting the environmental and economic health of the Region.

Here are some report highlights:

- Overall, the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams in the Sierra is better than much of the State in terms of human health, but there are some specific water quality issues. Mining-legacy mercury in rivers and streams (535 miles impaired) and reservoirs (104,000 acres impaired), is extensive and difficult to deal with. River and lake health suffers from increased water temperature and nutrient loading often associated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) with agriculture and grazing. Over 300 miles of streams do not meet health standards for pathogens due to agriculture and grazing, inadequate sewage treatment, and other factors according to SWRCB.
- Ozone in the Sierra Nevada is almost entirely due to pollution coming from or through the Central Valley. Ozone levels are often higher than the Valley itself, as winds push the pollution into the foothills and mountains. However, annual ozone levels have been in sharp decline since the early 2000's as statewide ozone levels have generally declined. The South Subregion along the San Joaquin Valley has the worst pollution – both highest ozone levels and highest particulate levels.
- Temperatures have increased throughout the Sierra Nevada Region over the past 40 years, but more so at higher elevations. Also, nighttime low temperatures have increased more than have daytime highs. Average nighttime low temperatures above 6,000' have increased in the range of 3 degrees F over the past 40 years.
- Year-to-year precipitation is so erratic that it is not possible to clearly discern any long-term increase or decrease, though it appears that there has been no significant long-term change over the past 40 years.
- As with precipitation, the large annual variation in total snowpack tends to obscure any real trend over the past 40 years. However, a long-term comparison

of April 1st to March 1st measurements for each year substantiates that average April 1st snowpack has significantly declined **relative** to March 1st snowpack in the past 20 years, implying earlier snow melt and/or less snowfall during March. The analysis also indicates some amount of decline in actual April 1st snowpack depths. This analytical framework can continue to provide a measure of important snowpack changes at regional levels as well as overall for the Sierra Nevada in the future.

Next Steps

Even more important than the actual data and analysis in the report, methodologies, and frameworks have been developed that will allow consistent tracking of air, water, and snow changes over time. Information relative to these indicators will be available on the SNC Web site and will be updated periodically as the underlying data is updated. We will also seek additional information sources to enhance the overall quality and robustness of the data and analysis.

In addition to providing information relevant to the administration of SNC's programs throughout the Sierra Nevada Region, we hope that this information will also be useful to others located in or working in the Region, including other State agencies, as they develop and implement their own projects and programs.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve this third System Indicators report after making any revisions resulting from its review.

System Indicators

Water & Air Quality, Temperature, Precipitation, and Snowpack



Final Draft Report
September 2012

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Introduction

This report is the third in a series of five reports that present analyses of nineteen Sierra Nevada System Indicators developed in 2008 through public outreach and approved by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board. This report encompasses the Indicators that deal specifically with air and water. They are Water Quality, Air Quality, (Air) Temperature, Precipitation, and Snowpack. There are many inter-relationships between these Indicators, especially between temperature and snowpack.

The characteristics of water and air quality in the Sierra Nevada are quite different than other parts of the state. The Region has unique water quality issues and air quality that is largely out of the region's control. Because the Sierra is the predominant supplier of surface water for the state, and that water supply is vulnerable to annual variation and long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, and snowpack, understanding the climate of the Sierra Nevada, and possible adverse trends, is crucial to the water supply and economic health of the state, as well as critical to protecting the environmental and economic health of the Region.

State data resources (State Water Resources Control Board, Air Resources Board, and Department of Water Resources) were combined and contrasted with other data resources and analytical techniques to develop an assessment that is unique and useful to the SNC Region.

The water quality section used the Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired water bodies; GIS capabilities enabled editing the data to SNC boundary for the first time. The air quality analysis was limited to a more straightforward assessment of data from the Air Resources Board at the air basin and county level. In the climate section, historical temperature and precipitation data were acquired from the PRISM Climate Group, which uses sophisticated modeling techniques to develop a comprehensive spatial picture of measurement data, and then analyzed through GIS in ways specifically useful to the Sierra Nevada and validated with direct temperature readings. DWR Cooperative Snow Surveys data (along with data from the Central Sierra Snow Lab) was used to assess historical snowpack trends, with some novel analysis employed.

The data and analysis in this report provide a unique overview of air and water conditions and trends that are specific to the SNC Region.

Highlights

- Overall, the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams in the Sierra is better than much of the state in terms of human health. But there are some specific water quality issues. Mining legacy mercury in rivers and streams – 535 miles, and reservoirs – 104,000 acres, is extensive and difficult to deal with. As identified by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), river and lake health suffers from increased water temperature and nutrient loading often associated with agriculture and grazing. Over 300 miles of streams do not meet health standards for pathogens due to agriculture and grazing, inadequate sewage treatment, and other factors according to SWRCB.
- Ozone in the Sierra Nevada is almost entirely due to pollution coming from or through the Central Valley. Ozone levels are often higher than portions of the Valley, as winds

push the pollution into the foothills and mountains. However, annual ozone levels have been in sharp decline since the early 2000's as statewide ozone levels have generally declined. The South Subregion along the San Joaquin Valley has the worst pollution – both highest ozone levels and highest particulate levels.

- Temperatures have increased throughout the Sierra Nevada Region over the past 40 years, but more so at higher elevations. Also, nighttime low temperatures have increased more than have daytime highs. Average nighttime low temperatures above 6,000' have increased in the range of 3 degrees F over the past 40 years.
- Year-to-year precipitation is so erratic that it is not possible to clearly discern any long-term increase or decrease, though it appears that there has been no significant long-term change over the past 40 years.
- As with precipitation, the large annual variation in total snowpack tends to obscure any real trend over the past 40 years. However, a long-term comparison of April 1st to March 1st measurements for each year substantiates that average April 1st snowpack has significantly declined *relative* to March 1st snowpack in the past 20 years, implying earlier snow melt and/or less snowfall during March. The analysis also indicates some amount of decline in actual April 1st snowpack depths. This analytical framework can continue to provide a measure of important snowpack changes at regional levels as well as overall for the Sierra Nevada in the future.

Water Quality in the Sierra Nevada

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 2010 303(d) List (List), developed under the Clean Water Act, was used for this System Indicator. The List indicates water bodies that exceed defined water quality standards, but does not provide data on the actual level of pollutants. [See description of List methodology at the end of this section.]

A new List is developed every few years, with the last previous years being 2006 and 2002. The 2010 List is the first one with data available in GIS (Geographic Information System) format, which allowed us to quantify water bodies (miles of stream/acres of lakes and reservoirs) specific to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) boundary. Unfortunately, this precludes us from being able to compare the 2010 data to that of previous years in a comprehensive way.

Even more problematic in comparing to previous years is that the number of impairment listings has increased dramatically between reports. Statewide, the 2002 List included 1,883 listings. This grew to 2,238 in 2006, and 3,507 in 2010. As the 2010 SWRCB Staff Report states, rather than necessarily indicating a worsening in pollution, “The large number of new listings is most likely a result of the large volume of new water quality data that has become available since the 2006 List. In addition, more protective water quality standards are now applicable to some water bodies.” There were also some de-listings in 2010 (see pg. 16 at the end of this section).

Now that the List provides GIS compatibility, it will be possible to clearly track new listings and de-listings in the Sierra Nevada in future years.

The List certainly doesn’t provide a complete story of water quality in the Sierra Nevada. It only includes surface water bodies; it does not assess groundwater quality. The List also does not quantify the actual level of the pollution. It does, however, provide a continuous, legally authoritative review of pollutants in surface waters to the extent that the health and beneficial use of water resources is compromised.

Overview of water impairments

The List identifies Rivers & Streams (referenced in this report as Streams, and measured in miles) and four kinds of area water bodies: Lakes & Reservoirs, Saline Lakes, Wetlands, and Estuaries (all referenced in this report as Lakes, and measured in acres). Many streams and lakes have multiple pollutants or other impairment issues.

The List identifies impaired water bodies as to both a pollutant category and specific pollutants. For instance, Pesticides is a category which includes specific pesticides such as Diazinon, Diuron, Group A pesticides, etc. (see table on next page). In some cases, it makes more sense for this report to assess pollutant categories and in other cases, specific pollutants.

The List also includes the sources of the pollutants, when known. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the impairment sources are identified as ‘unknown’.

Overall, water quality in the Sierra Nevada is certainly better than many areas of the State, such as the Central Valley and Southern California. However, there are certain pollutants that are

extensive and specific to the history or current land use of the Sierra Nevada, which warrant focus. These top issues include mercury, temperature, nutrients, pathogens, and toxicity.

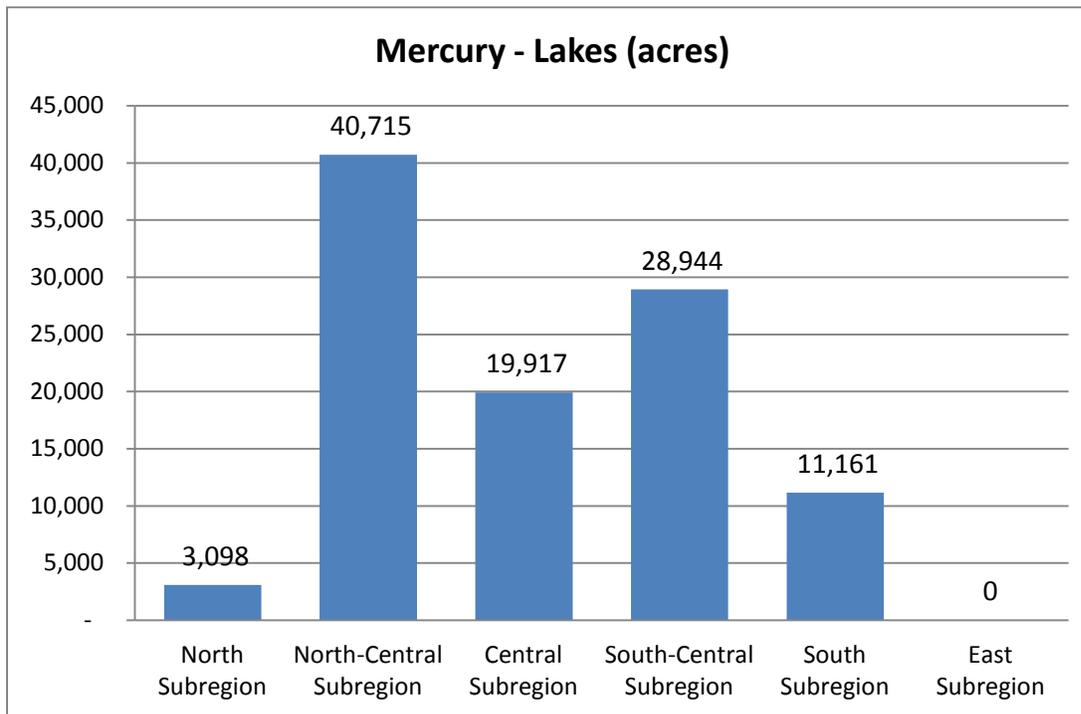
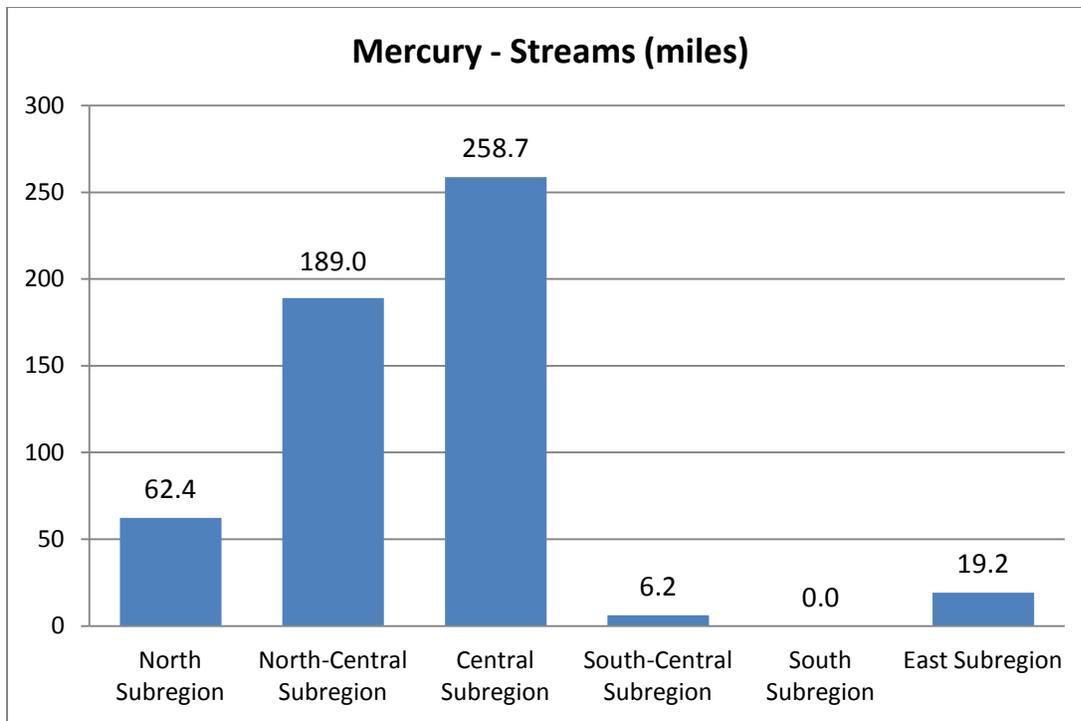
303(d) List Impairments within the SNC Region	
Pollutant Category	Pollutant
Metals and Metaloids	Mercury, Arsenic, Aluminum, Cadmium, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Silver, Zinc, unspecified metals
Miscellaneous	Invasive species, pH, Temperature
Nutrients	Nitrogen (including as Nitrates), Phosphorus, organic enrichment/low-dissolved oxygen, ammonia
Other inorganics	Sulfates
Other organics	PCB's
Pathogens	Bacteria, E. Coli, Fecal coliform, unspecified pathogens
Pesticides	Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, Diuron, Group A, Pyrethroids
Salinity	Salinity, Total dissolved solids
Sediment	Sediment/Silt, Turbidity
Toxicity	Sediment toxicity, Unknown toxicity

Mercury

Within the SNC Region, 535.5 miles of rivers and creeks, and 103,835 acres of lakes and reservoirs are listed for mercury impairment. Mercury is in almost all cases a gold mining legacy. As expected, the majority of rivers and creeks listed for mercury are in the 'gold country' within the Central and North-Central Subregions, and are identified as a consequence of 'resource extraction'. Major listed river segments include the North and South forks of the American (a total of 121 miles), the Feather River (59 miles), the Bear River (27 miles in Placer, Nevada, and Yuba Counties), Butte Creek in Butte County (48 miles), and the Yuba River (133 miles). However, over 60 miles of the Susan River in Lassen County is also listed for mercury, with the source identified primarily as 'natural'. Additionally, the source of mercury in creeks in the East Subregion (Mono County) is listed as natural or unknown.

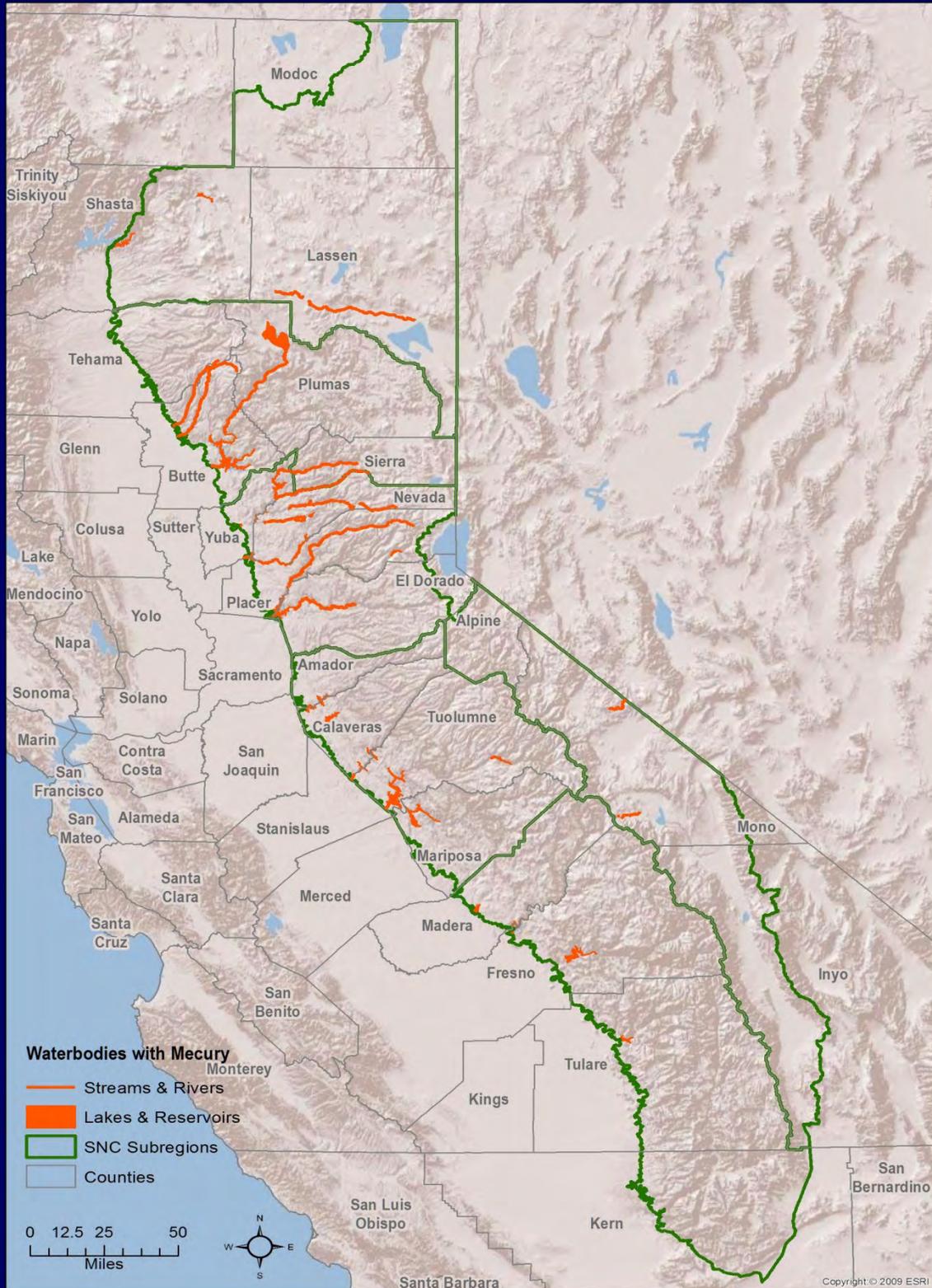
The geographic distribution of lakes and reservoirs listed for mercury is a bit different even though historic gold mining is still primarily the cause. While the North-Central and Central Subregions account for a large share of the mercury impairment in streams, the South-Central Subregion encompasses nearly 30,000 acres of impaired lakes. Major lakes and reservoirs in these three Subregions identified for mercury (approximately 90,000 acres total) include Lake Almanor, Lake Oroville, Folsom Reservoir, Don Pedro Lake, Hetch Hetchy, and McClure Reservoir. One small lake in the heart of the Central Subregion with known severe mercury contamination, Lake Combie, was the focus of a previous SNC grant to assess the potential for mercury extraction from lake sediment.

The South Subregion includes four lakes on the List for mercury, totaling over 11,000 acres (including Pine Flat Reservoir, and Millerton, Hensley, and Kaweah Lakes), while Lake Britton and a small portion of an arm of Lake Shasta extending into the Region account for 3,100 acres in the North Subregion. In total, 27 lakes and reservoirs are listed for mercury.



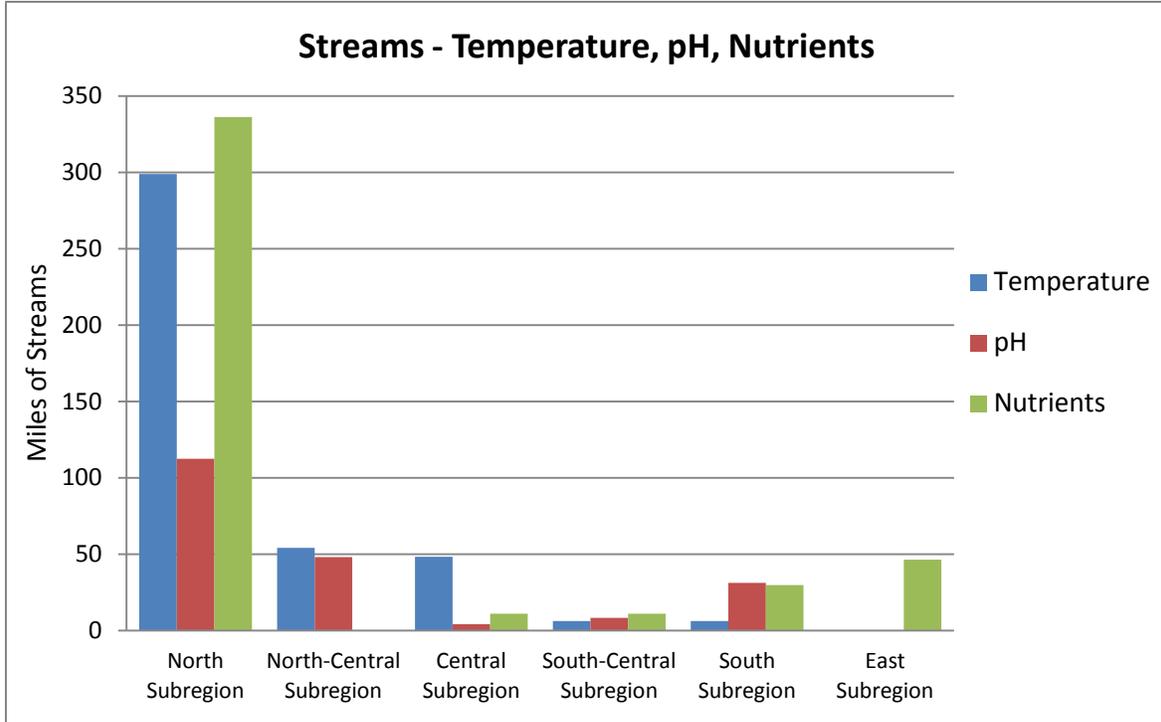
The map on the next page provides a visual depiction of mercury pollution in the Sierra Nevada.

Mercury Impairment in the Sierra Nevada



Three impairments – Temperature, pH, and Nutrients

As the following chart clearly shows, issues with stream temperature, pH, and nutrients are all dominated by the North Subregion.



Lakes are a different story. There are no lakes identified for temperature issues, but 37,910 acres of lakes are identified for nutrients and 9,785 acres of lakes are identified for pH. While more than half of the acres of lakes with nutrient impairment are in the North Subregion (all in Lassen County), there is also substantial lake nutrient impairment in the South and East Subregions. Almost all of the lake pH impairment is in the South Subregion.

Lakes – pH and Nutrients (acres)		
	pH	Nutrients
North Subregion	19	20,705
North-Central	0	0
Central Subregion	0	0
South-Central	299	0
South Subregion	9,467	9,466
East Subregion	0	7,739
Total	9,785	37,910

Temperature

There are 414 miles of rivers and creeks listed for temperature (water too warm) in the SNC Region. Of these, 299 miles (72 %) are accounted for by the Pit River running through Modoc, Lassen, and Shasta Counties. The source for the increased temperature is identified on the List as ‘grazing’. Precisely how the cattle grazing is causing increased water temperature is not described on the List, but a presumed major cause is a reduction of cooling vegetation along the river and tributary creeks.

The majority of the rest is in the North-Central Subregion (North Fork Feather River) and Central Subregion (South Fork Yuba River). The cause for the Feather River, below Lake Almanor, is listed as ‘hydromodification’¹; for the Yuba River, between Spaulding and Englebright Reservoirs is listed as ‘unknown’.

Increased water temperature can impact aquatic wildlife by changing the habitat characteristics, both directly by moving ambient temperature out of the accustomed range for specific aquatic species, and also by facilitating nutrient loading and changes to pH to the detriment of aquatic life.

Nutrients

In general terms, ‘nutrients’ are chemicals or compounds that ‘feed’ organic life; in the context of water quality, to the detriment of the aquatic ecosystem. In terms of the List, ‘nutrients’ are identified not only as specific chemical ‘foods’ (often fertilizer runoff), but also as the impacts of nutrients – undesirable enrichment of organic materials in the water and resulting reduced oxygen in the water.

‘Nutrients’ is a pollutant category which comprises a number of ‘pollutants’ – nitrogen (or nitrates), phosphorus, organic enrichment, and low-dissolved oxygen. These specific pollutants are very much interrelated. These nutrients feed microorganisms which consume oxygen in the water. Higher water temperatures both aid this organic growth and reduce the ability of water to hold oxygen, reducing the water’s ability to supply oxygen to aquatic wildlife.

As shown in the chart above, the North Subregion accounts for over 336 miles of the total 435 miles (77 %) listed for nutrient impaired rivers and creeks in the SNC Region. This includes the same 299 miles of the Pit River as well as 37 miles of the Susan River headwaters. Eagle Lake (20,705 acres) is the only lake in the North Subregion listed for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus).

In the East Subregion, the upper West Fork of the Carson River in Alpine County, along with a couple of creeks in Mono County, are listed for nutrients. Listed large lakes in the East Subregion include Bridgeport Reservoir and Crowley Lake. Thirty miles of the Fresno River above Hensley Reservoir is listed in the South Subregion, as are Hensley Lake and Lake Isabella.

The List identifies agriculture and grazing as either the primary or contributing source for 77 percent of the 435 miles of streams cited for nutrient pollution, including the 299 miles of the

¹ Hydromodification is defined as: alteration of the hydrologic characteristics of coastal and noncoastal waters, which in turn could cause degradation of water resources. In the case of a stream channel, this is the process whereby a stream bank is eroded by flowing water.

Pit River for which agriculture and grazing is the indicated source of excess nutrients that result in low-dissolved oxygen. The sources of excess nutrients in the East Subregion listed rivers include silviculture, waste disposal, hydromodification, and recreation along with agriculture and grazing. The source for other streams is listed as 'unknown'.

The List identifies many nutrient sources for 20,705 acre Eagle Lake, including agriculture, grazing, recreation, municipal runoff, atmospheric deposition, and natural sources. Sources of nutrients for most of the other lakes are listed as unknown.

pH

pH is a measure of the acidity of water. Most aquatic life is acclimated to a fairly small pH range. If the pH of the water gets out of that range in either direction, the health of the organism will suffer, or perhaps the fish, plant, or organism will no longer be able to survive there.

A total of 205 miles of streams and 9,785 acres of lakes in the SNC Region are listed for pH impairment. As shown in the chart above, 112.5 miles (55%) of impaired streams are in the North Subregion while the majority of impaired acres of lakes (97%) are in the South Subregion. Butte Creek is the only stream listed in the North-Central Subregion, while Deer Creek in Tulare County accounts for most of the pH stream impairment in the South Subregion. The source for the pH impairment for all streams is listed as 'unknown' except for 4.3 miles in Nevada County which is noted as 'natural'.

Deer Creek in Tulare County (29 miles) is listed for **high** pH. The Bear River in Amador County (8 miles) is listed for **low** pH. For the other 168 miles of pH- impaired streams, the List does not indicate if the pH is low or high.

There are two large reservoirs listed for pH – Lakes Isabella (7,710 acres) and Hensley (1,669 acres) – both in the South Subregion. Amador Lake (299 acres) is listed for high pH; the other four listed lakes are not specified as to high or low pH. The source of pH impairment for all lakes is listed as unknown.

Pathogens

'Pathogens' is a pollutant category which includes specific pathogenic descriptions: bacteria, E.Coli and fecal coliform, as well as unspecified pathogens. These are all really different ways of describing different aspects of the same thing – harmful bacteria from animal or human feces. Pathogens are a specific concern for human health.

302 miles of streams are listed for pathogens within the Region, with the bulk located in North, South-Central, and East Subregions (see map and table on next pages). As opposed to many of the other 303(d) impairments, the pathogens listings are nearly all limited to creeks rather than major rivers (the Carson and East Walker Rivers in the East Subregion are the two exceptions).

Pathogen Impairment in the Sierra Nevada



Many of the creeks are listed for multiple sources, which are a combination of agriculture and human sources including sewage/waste and recreation. A number of creeks are listed for 'unknown' sources, while a few are listed strictly as agriculture. Three creeks in Tuolumne County all around the Sonora/Jamestown area are listed for E.Coli. Wolf Creek in Nevada County (23 miles, listed for fecal coliform, source 'unknown') runs through highly populated wildland-urban interface, though it does support some grazing.

The East Walker River in Mono County is identified for a combination of agriculture, recreation, and urban sources; the Carson River in Alpine County is identified as primarily agriculture caused. The only lake listed for pathogens is 28 acre Ramona Lake in Fresno County, listed for E. Coli, and the source listed as unknown.

Miles of Impaired Rivers and Streams		
	Pathogens	Toxicity
North Subregion	108.2	62.4
North-Central	0	258.0
Central Subregion	24.4	1.7
South-Central	101.5	58.2
South Subregion	0	45.9
East Subregion	67.7	0
Total	301.8	426.2

Toxicity

Toxicity refers to substances in water that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life. It applies whether toxicity is due to a single substance or to the interactive effect of multiple substances. Toxicity is assessed through analysis of indicators such as species diversity and population density, growth anomalies, indicator organisms and biotoxicity tests.

Over 426 miles of streams are listed for toxicity in the SNC Region (see table above). The largest extent, 258 miles, is in the North-Central Subregion. Unfortunately, the List provides no direct indication of what is actually causing the toxicity in the various water bodies. Virtually all of the streams are simply classified as 'unknown toxicity' For all the listings, the cause is listed as 'unknown'. Many of the streams listed for toxicity are also listed for other impairments that might produce toxicity (including mercury, pesticides, pathogens, salinity, and pH), but some are not listed on the List for anything but toxicity.

In the North-Central Subregion, 221 miles of the Feather River (all branches, plus Concow Creek, a tributary) are listed for toxicity. The Susan River accounts for all the toxicity listing in the North Subregion. Most of the listing in the South-Central Subregion is accounted for by Bear Creek in Mariposa County and Littlejohns Creek in Calaveras County, though lower portions of Stanislaus and Tuolumne are listed. Deer Creek in Tulare County and Lower Kings River in Fresno County account for most of the South Subregion listing. Only one lake in the

Sierra Nevada is listed for toxicity, the 28 acre Ramona Lake that is listed for several other impairments.

Arsenic

Arsenic is listed for only two streams in the Sierra Nevada: 9.7 miles of Kanaka Creek in Sierra County (North-Central Subregion) and 1.7 miles of an unnamed tributary to Mammoth Creek in Mono County. The source for Kanaka Creek is identified as resource extraction; the source for Mammoth Creek tributary is listed as unknown.

There is only one lake listed for arsenic – 57,757 acre Honey Lake in the North Subregion. The multiple sources indicated include natural sources, unspecified nonpoint sources, construction/land development, and hydromodification.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in the Sierra, but mining has caused exposure and concentration in tailings and stream courses. Arsenic is highly toxic.

Pesticides

‘Pesticides’ is a pollutant category that encompasses any number of specific pesticides, five of which are identified in the SNC Region (see table at beginning of Water Quality section). Most are insecticides. Class A pesticides are those that are known human carcinogens.

There are 41.5 miles of streams listed for pesticides in four of the six Subregions, not including the North and East Subregions. They include 11 miles of Bear Creek in Calaveras County.

Most of the listings for the Region include the lower reaches of rivers that flow out of the Sierra into the Central Valley:

- Bear River below Camp Far West Reservoir
- Feather River below Lake Oroville
- Kings River below Pine Flat Reservoir
- Lower Stanislaus River below Tulloch Reservoir
- Tuolumne River below San Pedro Reservoir

These river segments are listed for multiple agricultural insecticides. It should be noted that there may be little or no pesticides for the portions of these listed segments that are actually within the SNC boundary, but because the listing is for the entire segment and the segments fall both within and outside the SNC boundary, there is no way of knowing whether the pollutant is actually in the Region or not. For instance, the List includes a 20 mile stretch of the Tuolumne River from Don Pedro Reservoir to the San Joaquin River as impaired for three pesticides. Only 3.5 miles of this stretch (just below Don Pedro Reservoir) is inside the SNC Region and included in our figures. However, it is highly likely that these agricultural pesticides are found primarily or entirely downstream in the farmland of the Valley rather up in the foothills within the SNC Region immediately below the dams.

There are no lakes listed for pesticides.

Other Impairment issues

Metals other than Mercury

There are various metals, largely mining legacy (except for Honey Lake), identified in the streams and lakes of the Sierra Nevada – primarily copper, manganese, zinc, and iron. A total of 70.5 miles of streams are listed for one or more metals (other than mercury and arsenic). They include 9.4 miles of Little Grizzly Creek in the North-Central Subregion, 8 miles of Deer Creek (El Dorado County) in the Central Subregion, 11 miles of Bear Creek (Calaveras County) in the South-Central Subregion, and the East Walker River and Mammoth Creek in the East Subregion.

The Honey Lake Area Wetlands and Wildlife Management Ponds (a total of 63,257 acres) are listed for ‘metals’; individual metals are not identified. Multiple sources are described, including natural sources, agriculture, and geothermal development. Comanche Reservoir in the South-Central Subregion is listed for copper and zinc; Haiwee Reservoir Inyo County is listed for copper.

Metals other than Mercury		
	Streams (miles)	Lakes (acres)
North Subregion	1.1	63,257
North-Central	10.9	0
Central Subregion	14.8	0
South-Central	16.5	2,433
South Subregion	0	0
East Subregion	27.2	1,703
Total	70.5	67,393

Sediment

‘Sediment’ is a pollution category which contains sediment/siltation and turbidity as specific pollutants. Sediment/siltation of streams can damage fish spawning habitat and negatively affect downstream water quality. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water.

A total of 93 miles of streams are listed for sediment/siltation. The Central Subregion accounts for 46.2 miles (the Truckee River and various creeks). The East Subregion contains 32.5 miles of listed rivers and creeks, and the Fall River in the North Subregion accounts for 11.8 miles.

There are a wide variety of identified sources for the sediment/siltation. They include silviculture, resource extraction, and urban sources in the Central Subregion. For the 35-mile stretch of the Truckee River, the List includes those causes along with grazing, land development, hydromodification, and recreation. In the East Subregion, grazing and silviculture are major sources of sedimentation. On the Fall River in Shasta County, silviculture is the identified source.

Two rivers are also listed for turbidity. The Susan River below Susanville (16.5 miles) is due to agriculture. Eight miles of the East Walker River below Bridgeport is listed for both sediment and turbidity.

Salinity

There are just over 200 miles of rivers and creeks in the SNC Region listed for salinity, all in the North and East Subregions. In the North Subregion, 54 miles of the Susan River and 37 miles of the Pit River, as well as 12 miles of Bidwell Creek in the far north-east of Modoc County have excess salinity, with the source indicated as unknown. In the East Subregion, the East Fork Carson River accounts for 46 miles and Rock Creek (a tributary to the Owens River) for 35 miles. Salinity in Rock Creek, and 4 miles of Monitor Creek in Alpine County, is a result of mining.

There are two main saline water bodies, listed for salinity/total dissolved solids/chlorides. The history of Mono Lake (39,744 acres) is well understood. Causes of the salinity are natural sources and hydromodification. The other is Honey Lake and the associated waterfowl management ponds (total 58,422 acres). The salinity arises from the constant cycle of dry season evaporation of the lake. Identified sources on the List include natural and nonpoint sources, agricultural diversions and return flows, and geothermal development. Ramona Lake in Fresno County (28 acres) is the only other lake listed for salinity (source unknown).

PCB's

All the listed PCB impairments are in the North-Central Subregion associated with the Feather River (North and South Forks plus Lower Feather River totaling 93.7 miles) and Lake Oroville (15,400 acres). The sources are 303(d) listed as 'unknown', though PCB's are man-made industrial related chemicals. PCB's are carcinogenic and highly toxic.

Sulfates

Four miles of Monitor Creek in Alpine County is listed for Sulfates from mining legacy.

Conclusions related to water quality

Pollutants differ as to the duration of their impact, and whether current practices are adding to the flow or they are a legacy of past practices. Some will require extensive cleanup or mitigation while others can be reduced or eliminated as a natural outcome of changing land management practices.

Mercury contamination in and around stream courses is a particularly extensive and intractable problem. Its evidence and consequences will linger for decades and centuries without specific cleanup efforts to clean up historic mine tailings and stream bottoms, or in some way keeping them out of the active ecosystem. Other metals, arsenic and PCBs are also of this nature, though not as extensive in scope.

Other pollution problems may be more solvable. Pathogens, excess nutrients, and pH could be reduced through implementation of various agricultural and grazing practices, and by addressing sewage issues where they occur. The SNC has funded and aided numerous projects, working with landowners to improve their ability to graze cattle with reduced adverse impacts on water quality.

The List provides a sign post of where much of the work to improve water quality needs to be targeted. Detailed information and strategies need to be coordinated with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to bring resources to these efforts.

Regional Board 5 – Central Valley Region – contains all the west drainage of the Sierra Nevada and northeastern California within the SNC Region. Region Board 6 – Lahontan Region – contains all the east drainage of the Sierra Nevada.

De-Listings

There were only two de-listings to the 2010 List within the SNC portion of SWRCB Region 5. They were the Feather River, below lake Oroville, which was delisted for the pesticide Diazinon (but this stretch of river is still listed for other pesticides); and Lower Bear River Reservoir in Amador County, which was delisted for copper.

There were more de-listings in Region 6. These included: Upper Truckee River for pathogens; Mammoth Creek, headwaters to Twin Lakes (Inyo County) for mercury and metals; East Walker River, below Bridgeport, for nitrogen and phosphorus; and Twins Lakes (Mono County) for nitrogen and phosphorus.

These de-listings were generally a result of re-evaluation of the weight-of-evidence on which the original listing was based (such as additional sampling and data), rather than a known reduction or elimination of the pollution source.

The 2010 303(d) List - Methodology

The State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) develops the 303(d) List under the mandate of the federal Clean Water Act. This mandate requires the states to identify waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards, with technology-based controls alone, and to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The SWRCB collects data on water quality and potential failure to meet standards from both internal programs and outside agencies. For the 2010 List, the agency received over 22,000 fact sheets detailing potential surface water quality impairments in California. Each fact sheet includes one or more Lines of Evidence (LOEs), a description of data and information used as a basis for recommending a decision – why the impairment should be placed on the List, or taken off.

There is not a simple measure of acceptable pollution levels for water bodies in general, though there are detailed determination procedures for each pollutant. An acceptable threshold for a particular pollutant depends on the water body and takes into account the effects as well as the concentration of the pollutant. The SWRCB uses a ‘weight-of-evidence’ approach (detailed in the Water Quality Control Policy) to make a final determination on whether to include an impairment on the list (or delete one). It also establishes a date for which a TMDL criteria for each impaired lake or stream segment must be established. For most of the Region 5 or Region 6 water segments, the TMDL date is around 2019 to 2021.

Air Quality

A great deal of air pollution in the Sierra Nevada is beyond any possible local control. Most of the ozone, and some of the particulates, are blown into the Region from the west. Much of the particulates come from dusty roads associated with the rural nature of the Region or from wildfires. There are not easy technological fixes. Still, it is important to understand and characterize the extent and distribution of air pollution so the Region can tackle what is possible in its role to meet state and federal air quality standards.

Three pollutants are assessed for the air quality Indicators:

- Ozone
- PM10 (suspended particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers in size)
- PM2.5 (suspended particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in size)

Ozone pollution is generally discussed in terms of the number of days per year that it exceeds a health-based standard, rather than the actual level of the pollutant. The standard used here is the California state 8-hour standard (where a monitoring site indicates an exceedence for any day in which the ozone level averages over .070 ppm for any 8-hour period during that day. Particulate Matter can also be portrayed through daily exceedences of a standard, but data is also available for average annual levels (micrograms per cubic meter of air) which better addresses actual year-to-year trends.

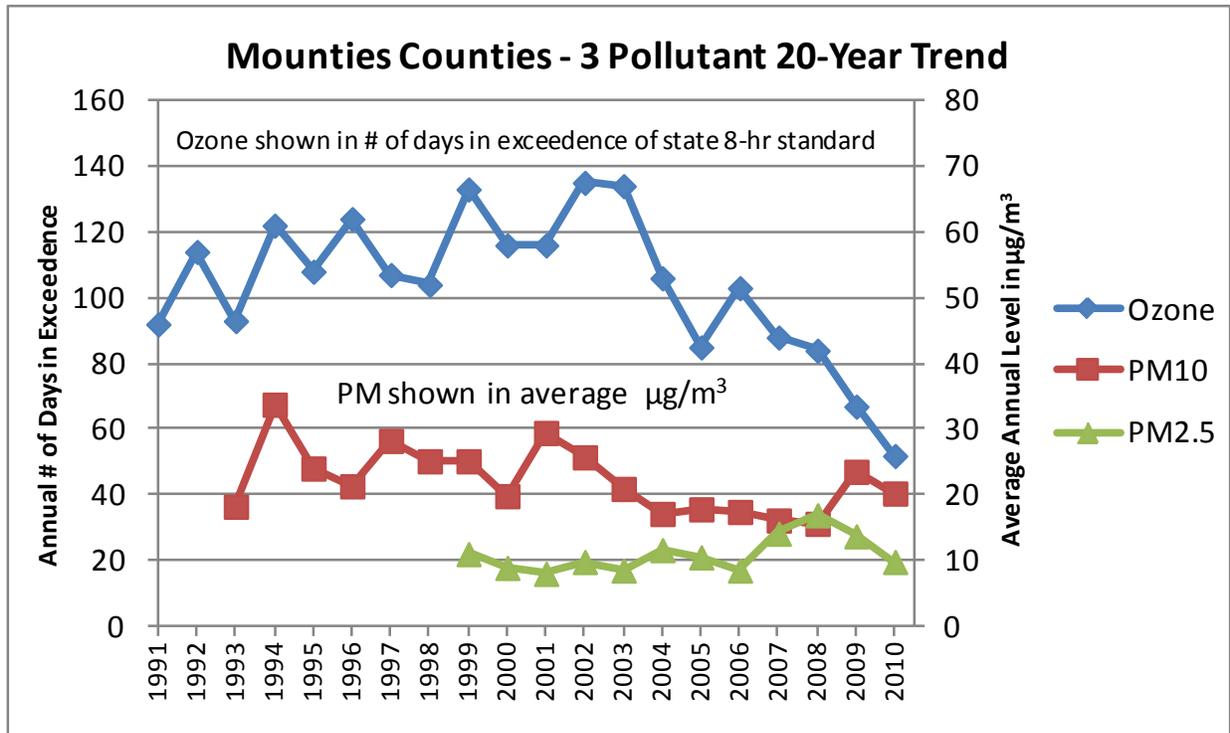
Although data is available at the county level, the low number of monitoring sites in some counties and other data issues limit analysis of PM10 and PM2.5. Some of these data problems can be mitigated by looking at Air Basins rather than counties. These basins include many more monitoring sites, so that clearly bad data points can be excluded without serious consequence and other anomalous data tends to be suppressed. The Air Basin data sets also include data for every year since 1990 (except 2008 for PM2.5). It should be noted that for ozone, the Air Basin (especially the Mountain Counties) will indicate more days of exceedences than any of the individual counties, since an exceedence in any of its counties' monitoring sites will be included in the Basin totals.

The five Air Basins included in this analysis are:

- Mountain Counties - includes all four counties of the South-Central Subregion, El Dorado and Placer Counties (but excluding the Tahoe Basin and Valley portions of those two counties), plus Nevada, Sierra and Plumas Counties
- San Joaquin Valley – includes all of the counties of the South Subregion
- Sacramento Valley Basin - Yuba, Butte, Tehama, and Shasta Counties
- Northeast Plateau - Lassen and Modoc, along with Siskiyou County
- Great Basin Valleys – corresponds to the SNC East Subregion

The Mountain Counties Air Basin is a good starting point to look at air pollution in the SNC Region. It is entirely within the Region and includes a substantial portion of the Sierra Nevada range. The Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins include substantial parts of the Sierra, but their data are dominated by the Central Valley.

The Mountain Counties graph compares the 20-year trend from 1991-2010 for the three pollutants. Strong trends over time are difficult to substantiate because of large yearly fluctuations. For ozone, after a general trend to worsening pollution up to 2002 there appears to have been significant improvement between 2003 and 2010; but without looking at a longer trend and potential confounding weather impacts, care should be exercised in interpretation. However, since 2007-2009 were drought and heavy fire years, the trend looks encouraging. No clear trends in PM pollution is evident since consistent data has been available (Mountain Counties data only extends back to 1993 for PM10 and 1999 for PM2.5)



Ozone

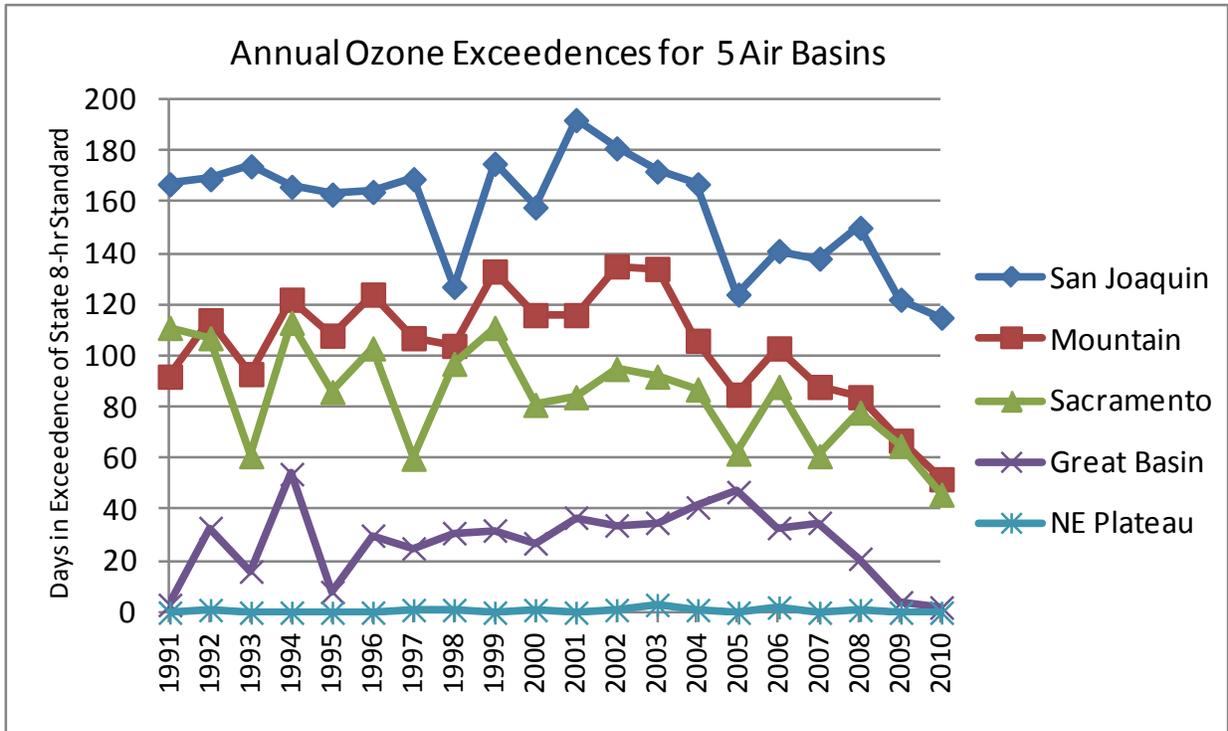
Ozone (O_3) is not a directly emitted pollutant, but rather is formed from precursor pollutants (nitrogen oxide and various hydrocarbons) in the presence of strong sunlight, which is why ozone pollution is largely a summer phenomenon. The source of the precursors, and where those precursors are converted to ozone, is the key issue to understanding ozone pollution in the SNC Region. It is well documented that little ozone is formed in the mountains – the vast majority of ozone is formed in the Central Valley or beyond and transported into the foothills and mountains.

Key points regarding ozone pollution in the five Air Basins that relate to the SNC Region:

- The San Joaquin Valley, encompassing the South Subregion, has the most unhealthy air.
- The Mountain Counties often has worse air quality than the Sacramento Valley, despite the fact that most of the ozone enters the mountains from the Central Valley, indicating

that significant pollution is actually 'blown' out of the Valley into higher ground. (This has been dubbed the 'bathtub ring' effect—see later discussion on Ozone Transport.) The more remote and sparsely populated Northeast Plateau counties almost never exceed the ozone standard.

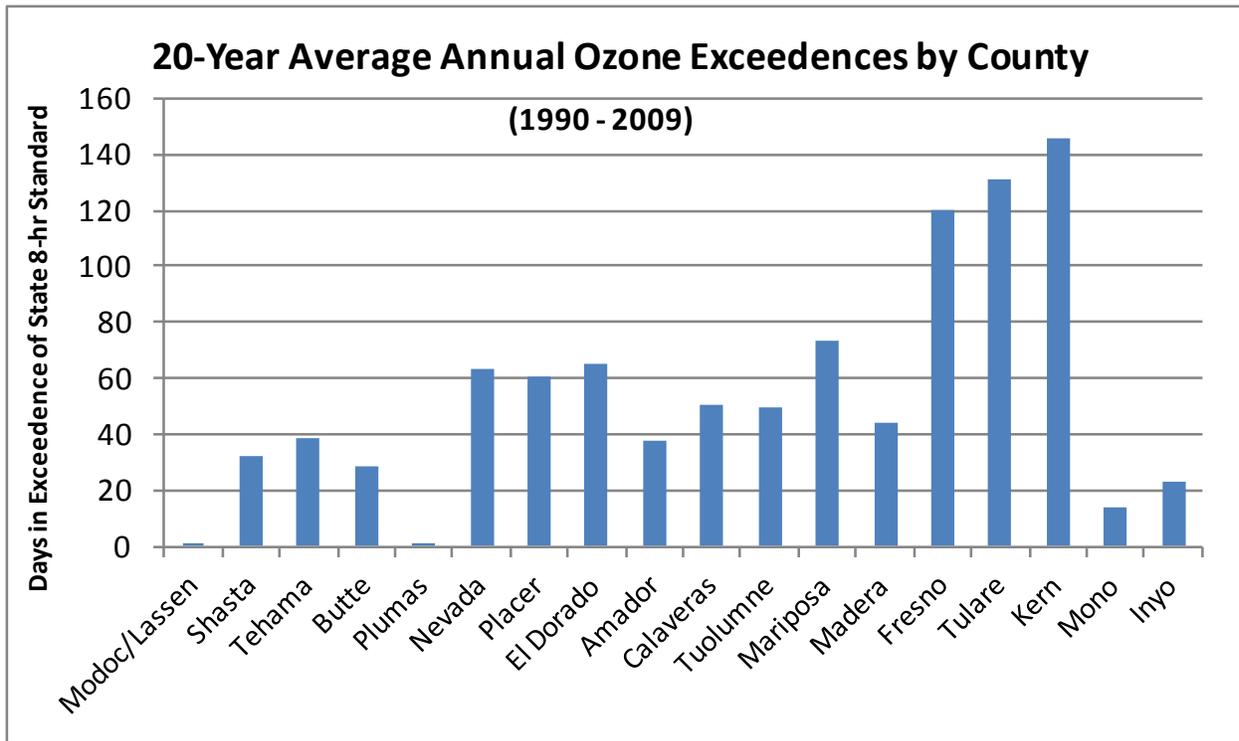
- The Air Basin trends do indicate improvement in ozone levels since the early to mid 2000's, but it should be noted that the California Air Resources Board indicates that 2009 was an anomalously good air-quality year, though 2010 showed continued improvement. More time is required to know how consistent this trend may be.



In addition to this air basin level analysis, the chart below depicts a 20-year average of annual ozone exceedences based on county level data. This county breakdown provides a better representation of the actual number of days of high ozone levels at a finer resolution than provided by air basin data, but does not indicate change over time for the counties. While it is generally consistent with the Basin-scale analysis, there are a couple of additional key points regarding differences in ozone pollution in different counties of the SNC Region (Note: Data is for the entire county, not just for the portion inside the SNC Region; also suitable data was not available for Sierra County):

- Plumas County has very few bad-air days, no doubt because of its topographic isolation from transport from the Sacramento Valley. Plumas is much more in line with the Northeast Plateau counties. [There was one anomalous year - 2002 - that was excluded from the data.]

- Counties of the southern San Joaquin Valley have particularly high ozone levels.



Ozone Transport

According to the CARB report *Ozone Transport: 2001 Review*, “The Mountain Counties Air Basin violates the State ozone standard due to transport from the Sacramento Valley, the San Joaquin Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area.” The 2001 report (the most recent update on ozone transport in California) further states that “all ozone violations” in the Mountain Counties are attributable to transport from these outside regions, whose pollutants “have a dominant effect on ozone concentrations in the Mountain Counties”. This includes the Sierra foothills towns of Grass Valley and Colfax, where violations are considered entirely due to transport from the Broader Sacramento Area. (The western portions of Placer and El Dorado Counties within the SNC Region, including the town of Auburn, are considered part of the Broader Sacramento Area.)

For the northern and central portion of the Mountain Counties, ozone primarily flows east and north from the Broader Sacramento Area, the Bay Area, and/or the San Joaquin Valley, largely driven by a circulation pattern pushed by the ‘delta breeze’ during the summer. Ozone transport from and through the Sacramento region “dominates the air quality of the Upper Sacramento Valley, as far north as Butte and Tehama Counties.” This ozone can then be pushed up into the Sierra foothills. Transportation is the largest cause of ozone that is *generated* in the Sierra Nevada, particularly along the 80 and 50 corridors, and contributes to ozone pollution in portions of the Central Subregion; but is not significant enough on a county or air basin scale to lead to violations on its own.

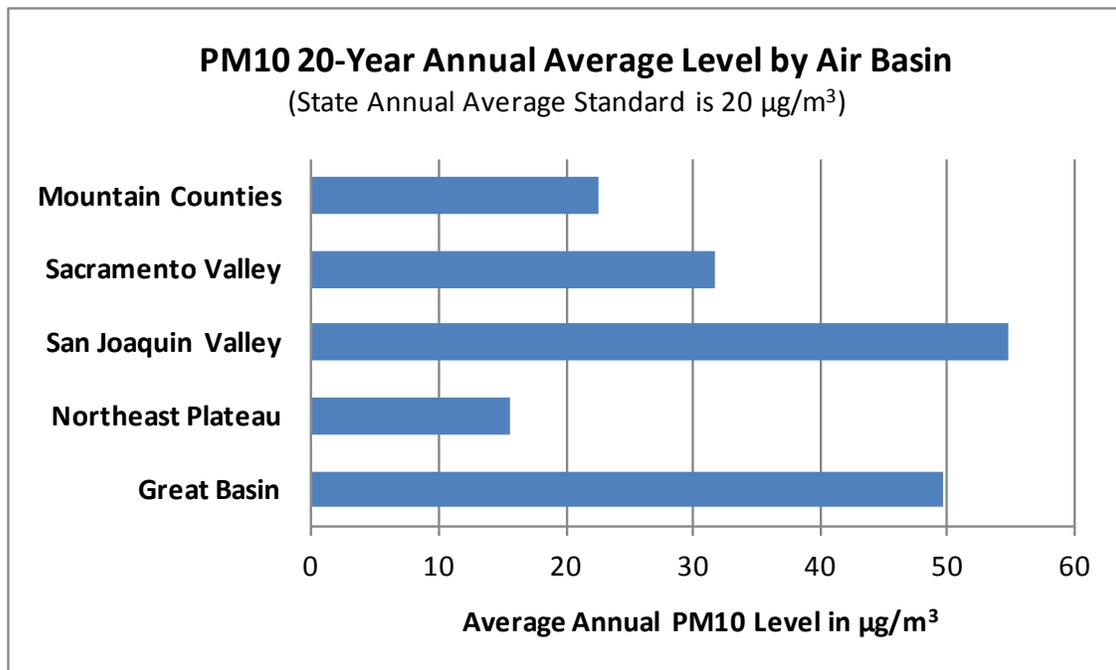
For the southern portion of the Mountain Counties, afternoon breezes push ozone into the Sierra Nevada foothills from the San Joaquin Valley, where it can cause ozone violations in areas such as Sonora and Yosemite, and even cross over the Sierra and cause violations in Mammoth Lakes. Eddy currents within the San Joaquin Valley also carry ozone into the Sierra foothills of Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties.

Note that “Under the California Clean Air Act, when emissions from one region contribute to ozone violations in a downwind area, the upwind area shares responsibility for controlling those emissions sources. The State and federal government also share in this responsibility...”²

Particulate Matter

PM10

PM10 are very small particles that can stay suspended in air for significant periods (hours to days) but are nonetheless large enough to irritate the lungs when inhaled and are associated with respiratory ailments. These particles tend to be composed of the fine components of dust and soot. The state standard for PM10 is an annual average level below 20 micrograms per cubic meter of air. PM10 would best be analyzed at the county level, but data are not available by county, so are analyzed at the Air Basin level.



As shown in the chart above, there are a few key points regarding PM10 pollution in the five Air Basins that relate to the SNC Region:

- Most of the Air Basins do not come close to meeting the state standard; only the Northeast Plateau has consistently met the state standard. However, it is impossible to know from this data set how the portions of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins

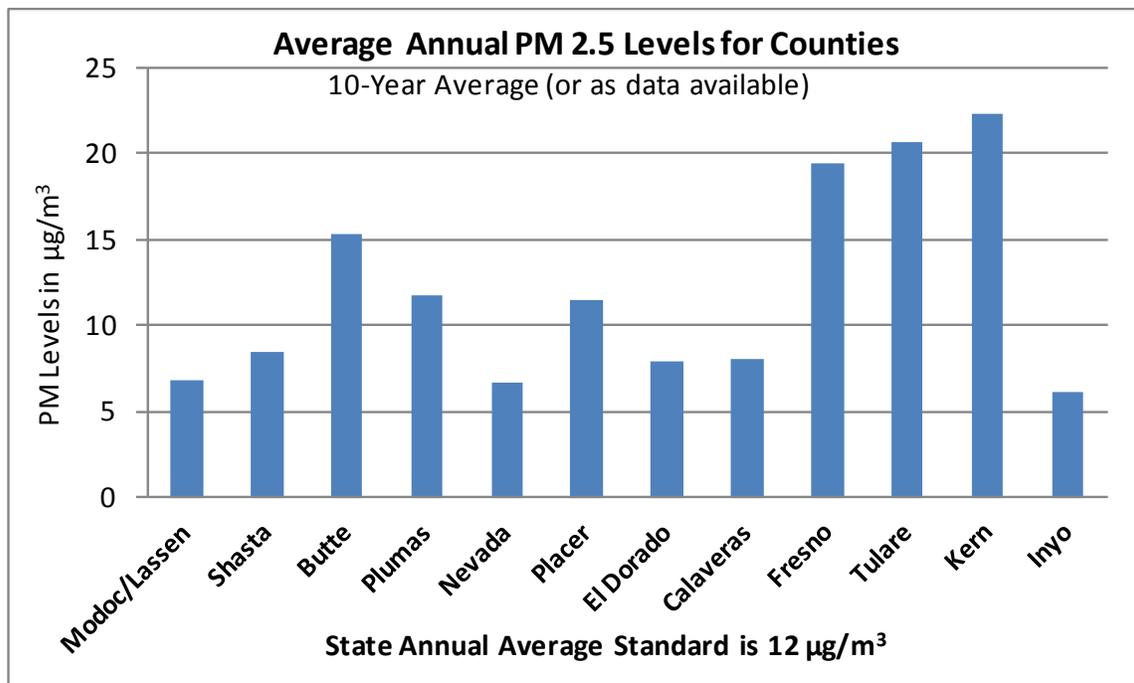
² From Page 3 of the CARB “Ozone Transport: 2001 Review” report

within the SNC Region compare to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins on the whole. The up-slope parts of the basins might have much lower pollution levels.

- The Mountain Counties Basin has not met the state standard many of the past 20 years (with annual exceedence days between 6 and 95), but did meet the state standard from 2004-2008 with virtually no days in exceedence of the standard.
- The high PM10 levels in the Great Basin are due largely to arid and windy conditions.

PM2.5

PM2.5 are smaller particles than PM10, and are of particular health concern. They penetrate deeper into the lungs, are less physically irritating, but can lead to a greater variety of health risks beyond respiratory irritation. The state standard for PM2.5 is an annual average level below 12 micrograms per cubic meter of air. PM2.5 data is available for some counties of the SNC Region, but the data don't extend back very far (it is a newer standard) and there are substantial data gaps. Data is sporadic at the air basin level too, so that level of analysis provides no advantage. With these caveats in mind, the chart below shows average annual PM 2.5 levels for the thirteen counties in the SNC Region where sufficient data are available.



In viewing the chart above, several key points emerge:

- Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties, in the San Joaquin Valley, are consistently well above state standard for PM2.5. In Inyo County (in the Great Basin) PM2.5 levels are much lower than PM10 corroborating that larger dust particles are the predominant issue there.

- Placer and Butte Counties tend to have levels at or above the state standard, but how much of it is associated the valley outside the SNC Region is not discernable from the data.
- Plumas County seems surprisingly high for its geographic location, but data is only available since 2005, though it is fairly consistent for the five years in which PM2.5 is reported (2004, 2005, 2007, 2009 & 2010).

Generation and transport of particulate matter

Airborne particulate matter may be directly emitted or formed as a secondary pollutant in the atmosphere. The larger PM10 pollutants are generally directly formed emissions, such as dust or soot. PM2.5, a subset of PM10, may be direct emissions (such as fine soot) or secondarily formed in the atmosphere – mostly small particulate nitrates and sulfates.

As compared to ozone, long distance transport is not particularly relevant to PM10 pollution; the particles are generally too heavy to be suspended long enough to travel great distances. PM2.5 is another matter; small particles carried by wind from China form a component of particulate pollution in the Sierra Nevada.

The nature of PM10 varies considerably by location, as well as the season. In more urban areas along the western foothills of the Sierra, a high percentage of particulates are generated by transportation and industry, though a large portion of PM10 in the rural portions of the Valley consists of dust from dirt roads and soot from residential and agricultural combustion. In the more rural areas, the majority of PM2.5 is combustion related, with a smaller component consisting of ammonium nitrates and sulfates from transportation and industrial processes. PM10 tends to be heaviest in summer and fall, while PM2.5 is highest in late fall and winter.

In the Mountain Counties, most of PM10 in late spring to early fall (wildfires excluded) is due to dust from unpaved roads, and in the colder months results from residential and controlled combustion. PM2.5 accounts for a majority of total PM10. The vast majority of PM2.5 is related to combustion, with very little from secondary nitrate and sulfate creation. Certainly, summer wildfires can produce huge localized spikes in PM10 and PM2.5.

In contrast, PM2.5 accounts for a much smaller portion of PM10 in the Northeast Plateau and Great Basin Valley. PM10 derives primarily from dust, particularly in the Great Basin, where winds can cause huge spikes in PM10 measurements. Particulate pollution is less seasonal in these remote areas than in the mountains or Central Valley.

This description of PM generation and transport comes primarily from the California EPA Air Resources Board report *Characterization of Ambient PM10 and PM2.5 in California: Technical Report June 2005*.

Temperature, Precipitation and Snow Pack

Data for the temperature and precipitation analyses were developed from the PRISM Climate Group data sets (PRISM data set methodology is described at the end of the Temperature section), which are the highest quality spatial climate data sets currently available. Because potential warming and weather pattern shifts could occur differently in different parts of the Region and at different elevations, these data were analyzed not only for the Region as a whole, but were also separated out for each Subregion, and further differentiated for three elevation bands and the western and eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

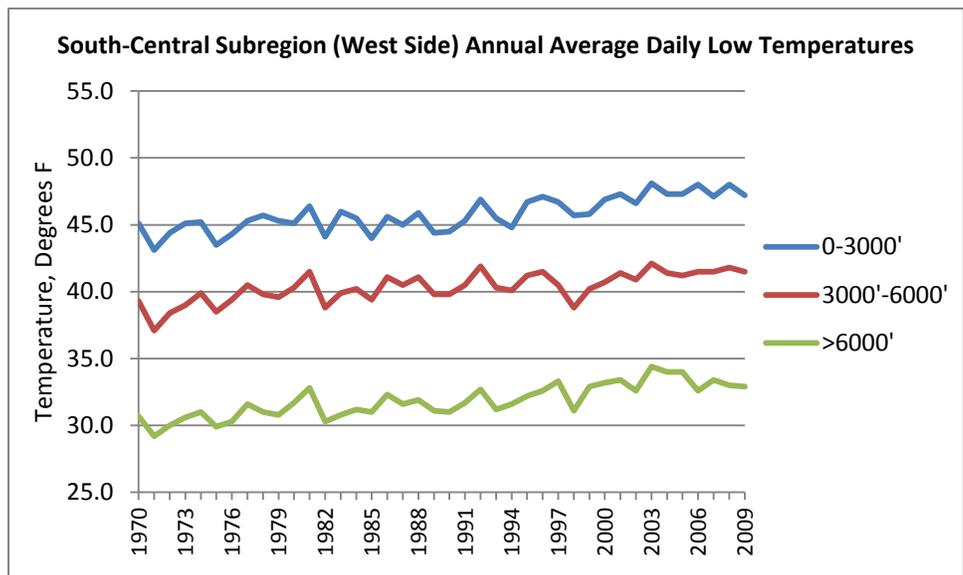
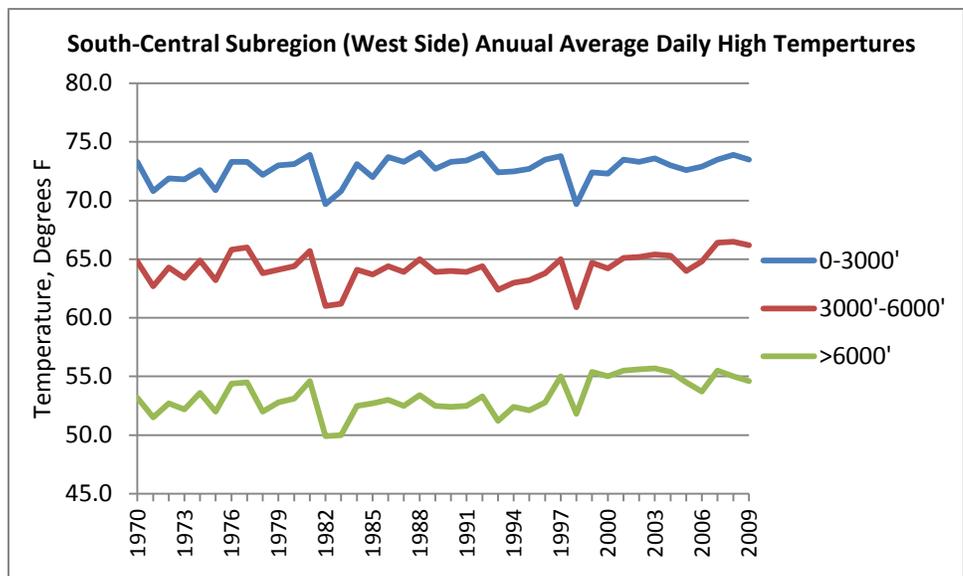
Temperature – Data were developed for both annual average daily high temperatures (daytime highs) and average daily low temperature (nighttime lows from 1970-2009).

Two trends are evident from the data:

- while there is a overall noticeable increase in average annual temperatures over the past 40 years, temperatures have risen more at higher elevations
- nighttime lows have risen more than daytime high temperatures.

For example, the two charts to the right display the annual average daily highs and daily lows for the South-Central Subregion on the west side of the Sierra. This Subregion is fairly typical of the pattern for all of the Subregions.

There has been only a slight increase in daytime high temperatures at lower elevations over the past 40 years, but

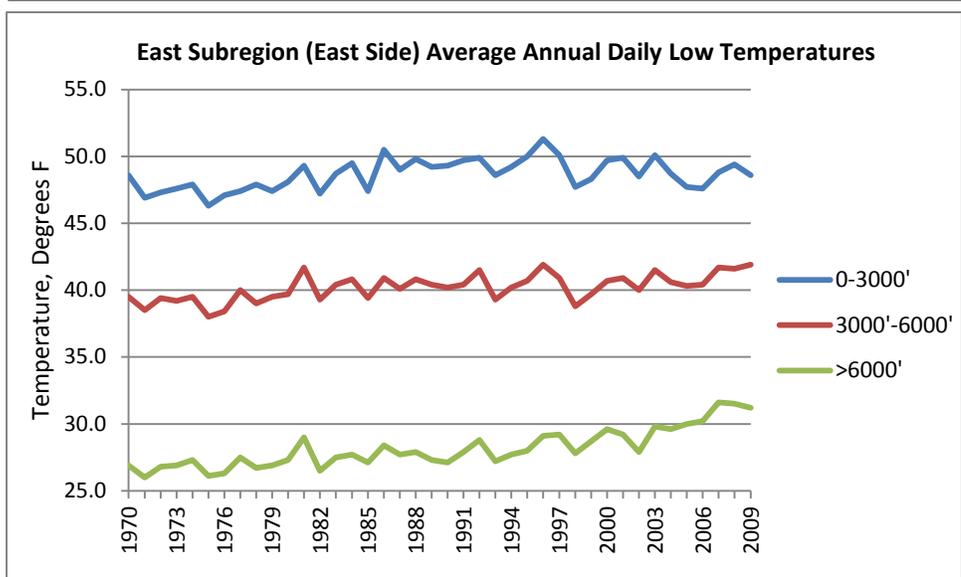
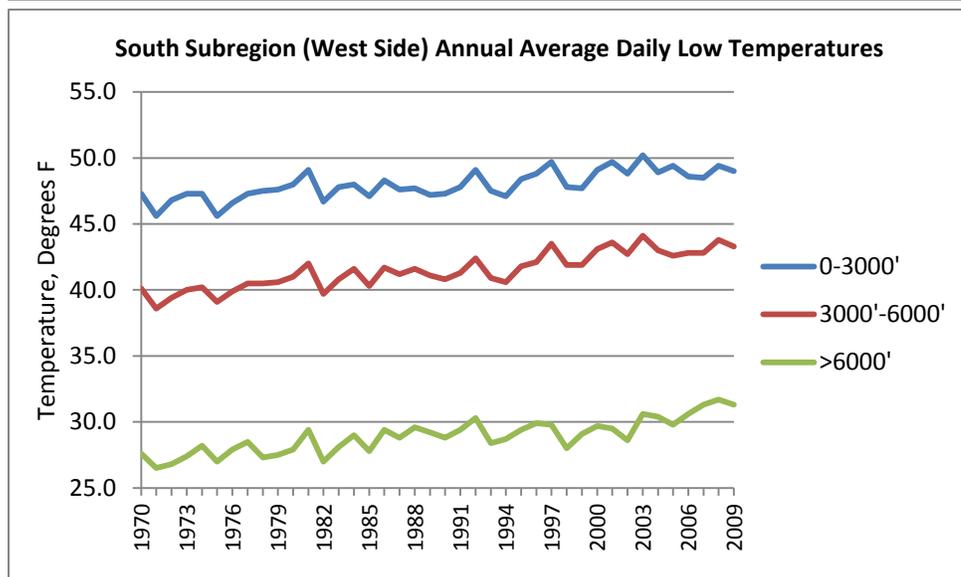
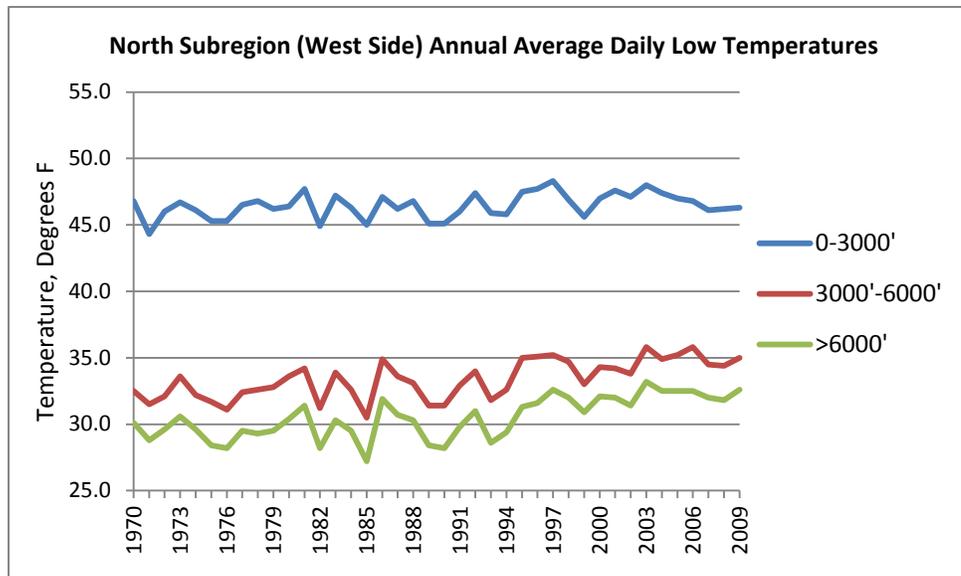


there is a more noticeable increase above 6,000’.

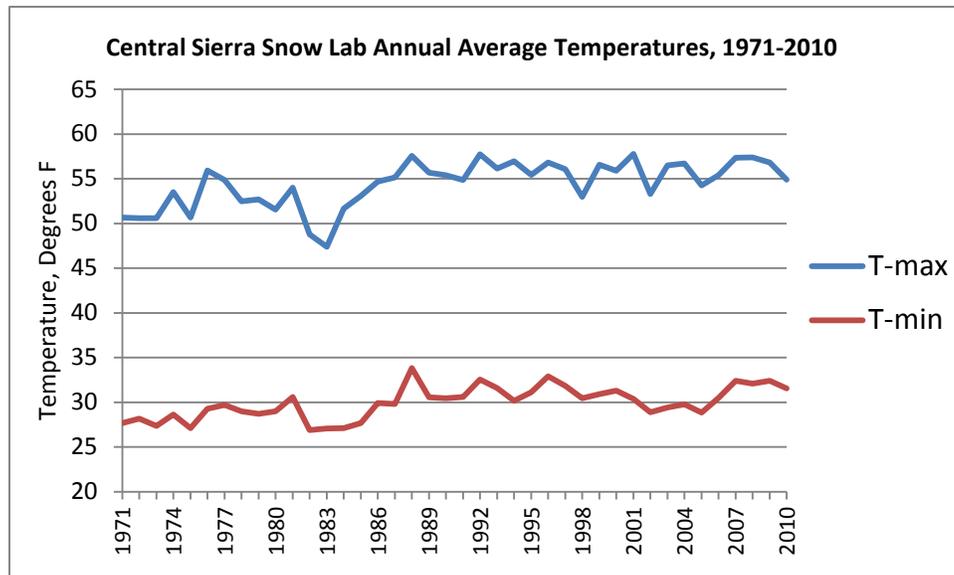
On the other hand, nighttime low temperatures have increased noticeably at all elevations, and are even more pronounced at the highest elevations.

The three charts to the right show the average annual low temperatures for three of the other Subregions. They demonstrate the consistency of the trend across the Sierra, from North to South, and West to East. (However, nighttime lows below 3,000’ appear to have increased more in the South-Central Subregion than for most of the other Subregions.)

In all cases, average nighttime low temperatures at higher elevations have risen faster than at lower elevations.



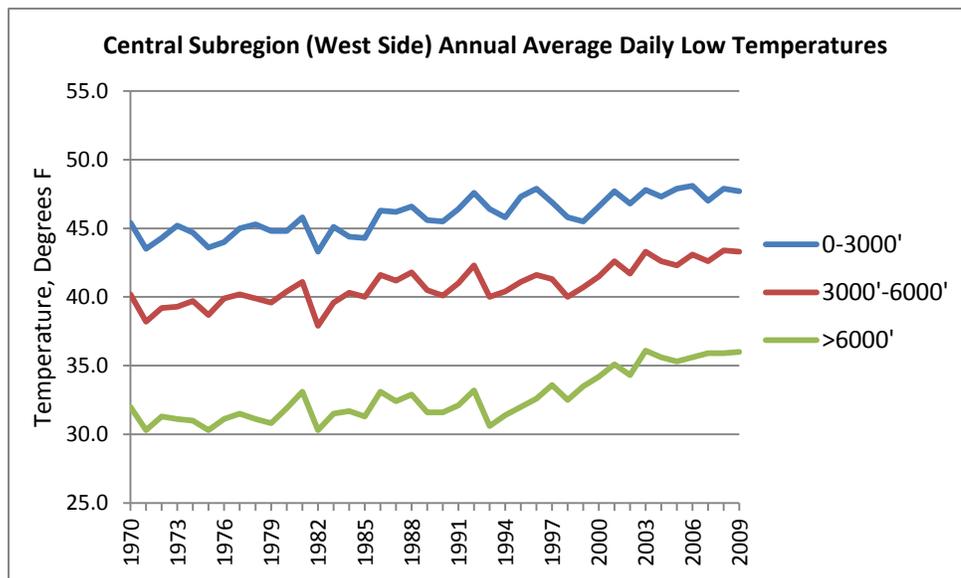
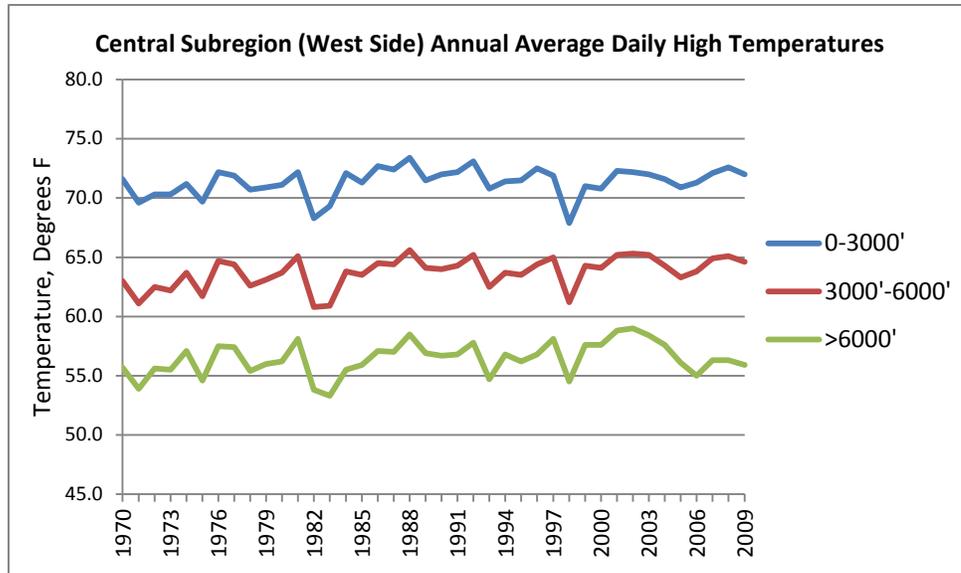
While the PRISM data is the best comprehensive measure of temperature in the Sierra Nevada available, it is a modeled data set, meaning that it takes actual temperature measurements and applies sophisticated techniques to estimate temperatures between the known points to create a temperature grid of the Region. In rural and high elevation areas, there are fewer physical readings from which to develop the database than in more populated areas, so there is less confidence in the accuracy of the modeled data. Therefore, a detailed temperature measurement history from the Central Sierra Snow Lab, operated by UC Berkeley, was used as a means of corroborating the trends identified using the PRISM data analysis. Annual averages of daily high and low temperatures were developed from daily data over the past four decades supplied by the Snow Lab. A graph of annual average daily high and low temperatures is shown below. The Snow Lab is located at approximately 7,000' elevation at Donner Summit, and so compares to the elevation band on the other graphs of >6,000' where increasing temperature trends are the strongest.



At the Snow Lab, annual average daytime **high** (T-max) temperatures are substantially higher now than 40 years ago, though the trend has been somewhat erratic, and daytime highs show no sign of increase since the mid-1980's. Average annual **low** (T-min) temperatures have also risen over the past 40 years, in a similar pattern. The vertical scaling on the graph make the trend appear flatter than the other charts, but the actual nighttime temperature increase has been similar to the Subregional PRISM data. A conservative analysis of the Snow Lab daily low temperature data indicates a temperature rise of approximately 3° F from 1971 to 2010³. The South-Central Subregion nighttime lows indicate a 3 to 3.5 degree F rise from 1970-2009.

³ A centered 5-year moving average was applied to the T-min data, smoothing out annual variations. A linear trend line was then run on the moving average. The temperature increase over the shorter time span of the moving average (1973-2008) was 3.0 degrees F.

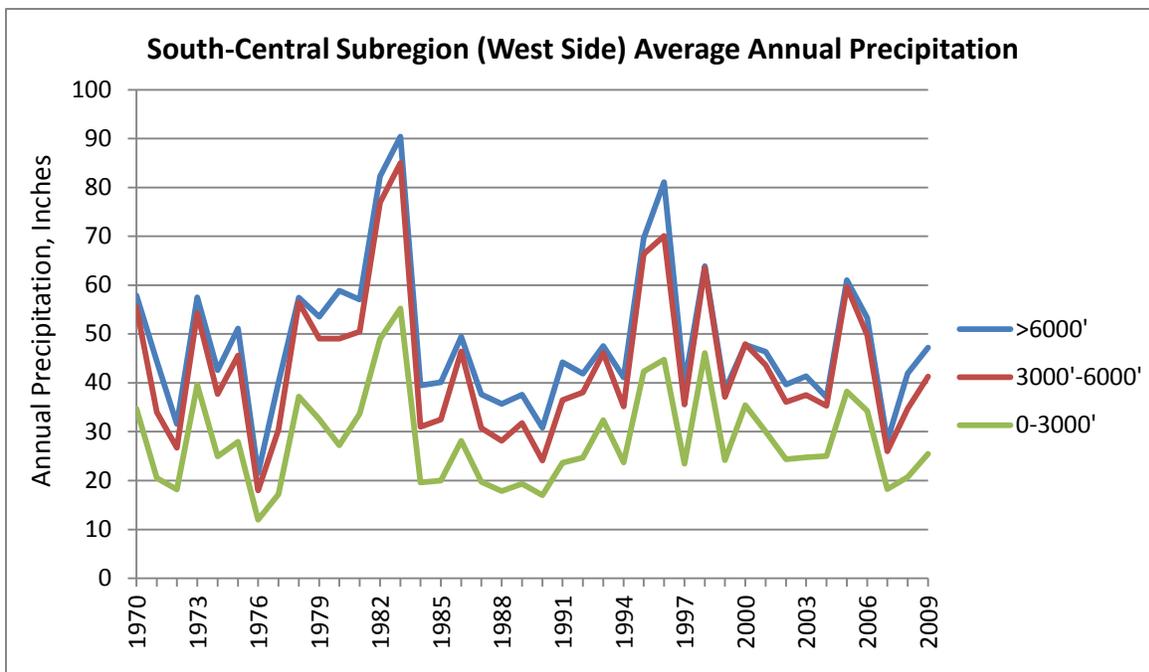
It should be noted the Central Sierra Snow Lab is located in the Central Subregion. The graphs of Central Subregion for both daily high and low temperatures are shown below. The trend for average annual daily high temperatures above 6,000' is fairly similar to the Snow Lab nighttime low temperature trend. However, the annual average daily low temperatures above 6,000' indicate a particularly rapid increase in temperatures over the past 15 years which is not indicated at the Snow Lab location. Further assessment is warranted to determine if this is because the Snow Lab location is not indicative of average high elevation temperatures in the Central Subregion, or if there is a problem with the PRISM modeling in this area.



The PRISM (Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model) data sets are developed by the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University. PRISM is a knowledge-based system which uses point measurements of temperature, precipitation, and other climate factors to create continuous, digital elevation-based mapping coverage through GIS (Geographic Information system). SNC utilized an 800 meters elevation-based raster set to provide continuous temperature and precipitation layers specific to the SNC Region. PRISM is utilized by USDA Forest Service, NCRS, and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

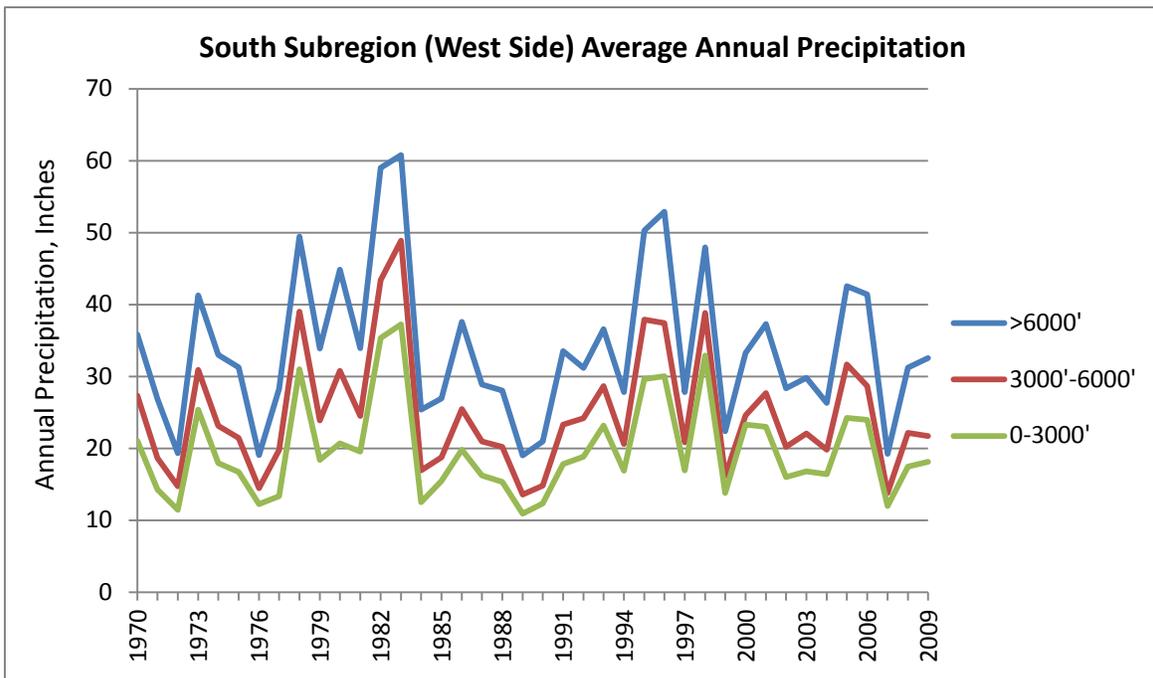
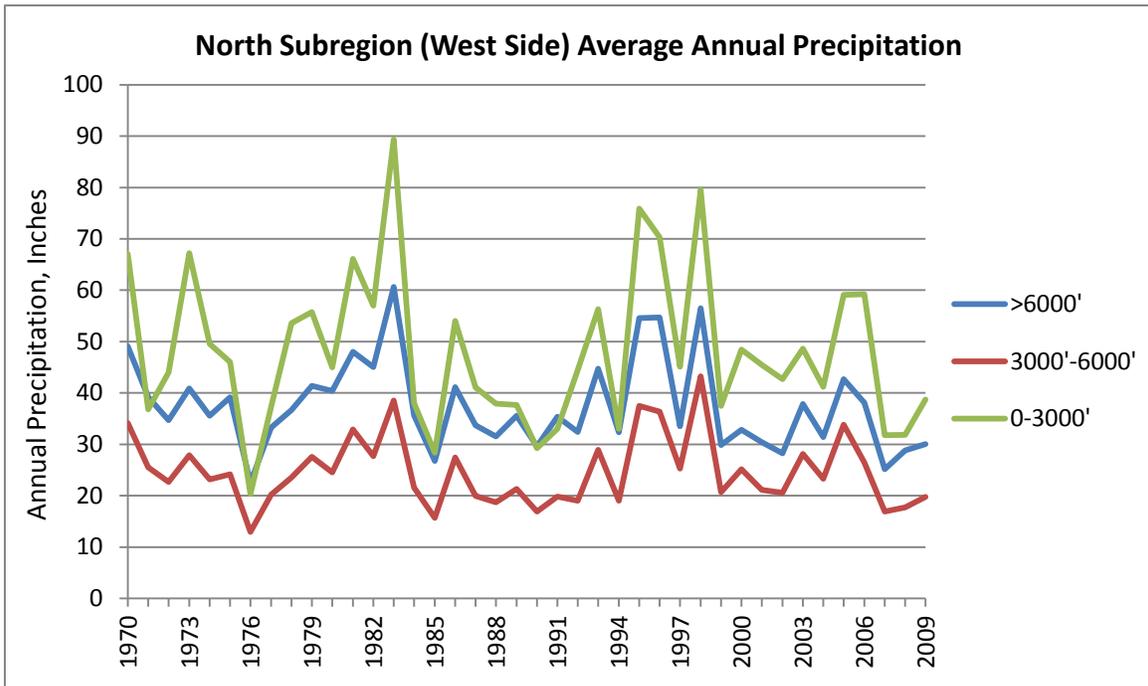
Precipitation – Unlike temperature, there is no meaningful trend in the amount of rain or snowfall. Linear trend lines (not shown) applied to the Subregion graphs indicate a slight decrease in precipitation generally over the past 40 years. However, because the trend is slight and highly influenced by the first and last years in the data sets, this trend really cannot be viewed as significant. If there is a gradual change in the average precipitation in the Sierra Nevada occurring now or in the future, it will take a much longer timeframe to bring it to light. The data sets that have been created as a result of the Sierra Nevada System Indicators Project provide a framework for identifying potential future long-term changes in precipitation between Subregions, different elevations, or for the Region as a whole.

The data do allow us to compare the differences in precipitation levels at different elevations and among Subregions. These comparisons tell us that precipitation patterns in the South-Central (shown below), Central, and North-Central Subregions are fairly similar. They also tell us that precipitation is greater above 3,000’ than at foothill elevations for most of the Sierra Nevada. The exception is the North Subregion (see chart on next page). With lower mountains but extensive high plateau, it has a quite different elevation rainfall pattern. Here, the heaviest rain falls below 3,000’, while the plateau elevation within the 3,000’- 6,000’ elevation band receives the least precipitation.



The South Subregion (see chart on next page), with its high peaks, receives proportionally heavier snow above 6,000’ than other west facing Subregions. The East Subregion (chart not shown), in the rain shadow of the mountains, receives the least amount of rain and snow. This Subregion receives only 5 to 10 inches of precipitation per year averaged over the elevations between 3,000’ and 6,000’. While elevations above 6,000’ receive considerably more precipitation, it is still significantly less than what is received at those elevations on the west slope of the Sierra.

Below are two Subregions with very different precipitation patterns.



Snow Pack – In California, most of the precipitation falls during the winter while much of the need for water, particularly for agriculture, is in the summer. The Sierra Nevada provides an invaluable service by capturing a tremendous amount of precipitation as snow and storing it as snowpack for gradual release through the spring into scores of supporting reservoirs for distribution to the rest of the state.

Because California is so dependent on the supply of water that flows from the snowpack each year, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) measures the snow and estimates the water that will be available for the coming year. DWR reports to the public the year's snowpack depth as a percent of average annual snowpack, rather than the number of inches of snow that has fallen. Also, the snowpack depth is converted to inches of 'snow water equivalent' (Snow WEQ). There are good reasons for this; it is vital to know how much water the winter's snow will provide. Measuring snowfall is problematic. Snow may fall relatively 'dry' and fluffy (full of trapped air on the ground) or wet and heavy. Simply, cores of snow are taken down to the ground surface with a metal tube, the depth is measured, the snow is weighed, and converted to the number of inches it would be in the tube if it were melted.

The DWR Cooperative Snow Surveys ('cooperative' because DWR relies on cooperating partners such as the Forest Service, irrigation districts, and PG&E to take measurements in their geographic domains) measures more than two hundred snow courses scattered throughout the mountains multiple times throughout the snow season (on or as close as possible to the first day of each month).⁴

Although there is large variability from year to year in the total amount of snowfall in the Sierra, where it falls across the Region, and how quickly the snowpack melts, it is possible to use different data sources to uncover a consistent picture of the trends in annual snowpack across the Region. The following analysis shows that the year-to-year *pattern* of snowpack creation and melt is quite consistent across the Sierra wherever it is rigorously measured. While there is no significant trend indicating that average annual snowfall/snowpack is increasing or decreasing in the Sierra overall, there is a clear trend that snowpack is melting earlier (or more late-season snow is falling as rain instead). As shown in the various following charts comparing March and April snowpacks, the equivalent of several inches of water has been lost between April 1st snowpack as compared to the March 1st snowpack over the past 20 years or so.

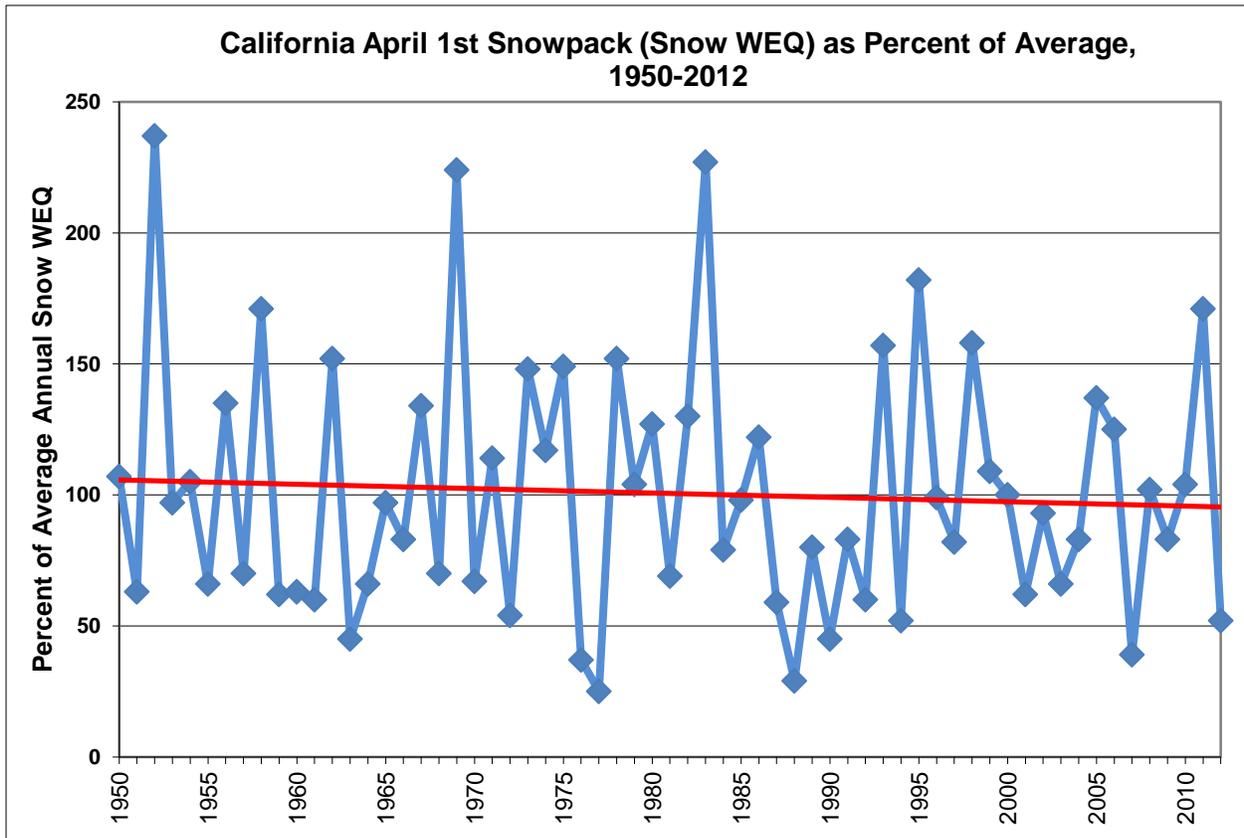
The importance of April 1st snowpack

April 1st is the most important snow measurement of the year, and is the primary benchmark for estimating water availability and comparing years. Generally, most of the year's snow has fallen by then and little snow has yet melted with the onset of spring. In most years, the snowpack is deepest then. Because of its importance, more snow courses are measured for April than in other months, as many as 250, in order to provide the most accurate estimate of total snow-water volume for the year.

The chart below graphs the April 1st Snow WEQ from 1950 through 2012 as a percentage of average April 1st Snow WEQ. Snow WEQ varies greatly from year to year, from nearly 240% of

⁴ Data for snowpack was acquired from the Department of Water Resources CDEC (California Data Exchange Center) site, as well as directly from the DWR cooperative Snow Surveys Chief.

average in 1952 to only 25% of average in 1977, a ten-fold spread. This makes it challenging to discern any real trend. The red line on the chart is the linear trend line – but it is shown for illustrative purposes only. While it indicates an 8 - 10% decline in April 1st snowpack statewide over the past 63 years, the trend line cannot be taken to be meaningful. With such wide swings from year to year, the trend line is very sensitive to even one year of extreme data, even over six decades. For example, if the graph did not include the first three years, which include the huge 1952 snowfall, the resulting 60 year trend would not show any noticeable decline. If the graph ended with the heavy snow year of 2011 rather than including the low snow year of 2012, the trend line would also be much flatter. A more sophisticated approach is needed to assess any real decline (or increase) in snowpack.



Another problem with analyzing snowpack in this way over a long period is that ‘average’ changes over time. For quite a long time, the ‘average’ that is being used for comparison has been the mean of the 50 year period from 1950 to 2000. That is expected to change soon, with the new average being 1960 to 2010. Of course, the raw data can be adjusted for the new average, but it would be cumbersome over the long haul. A better way is to analyze real Snow WEQ data measured in inches rather than looking at it as a percent of average.

Using actual Snow WEQ measurements

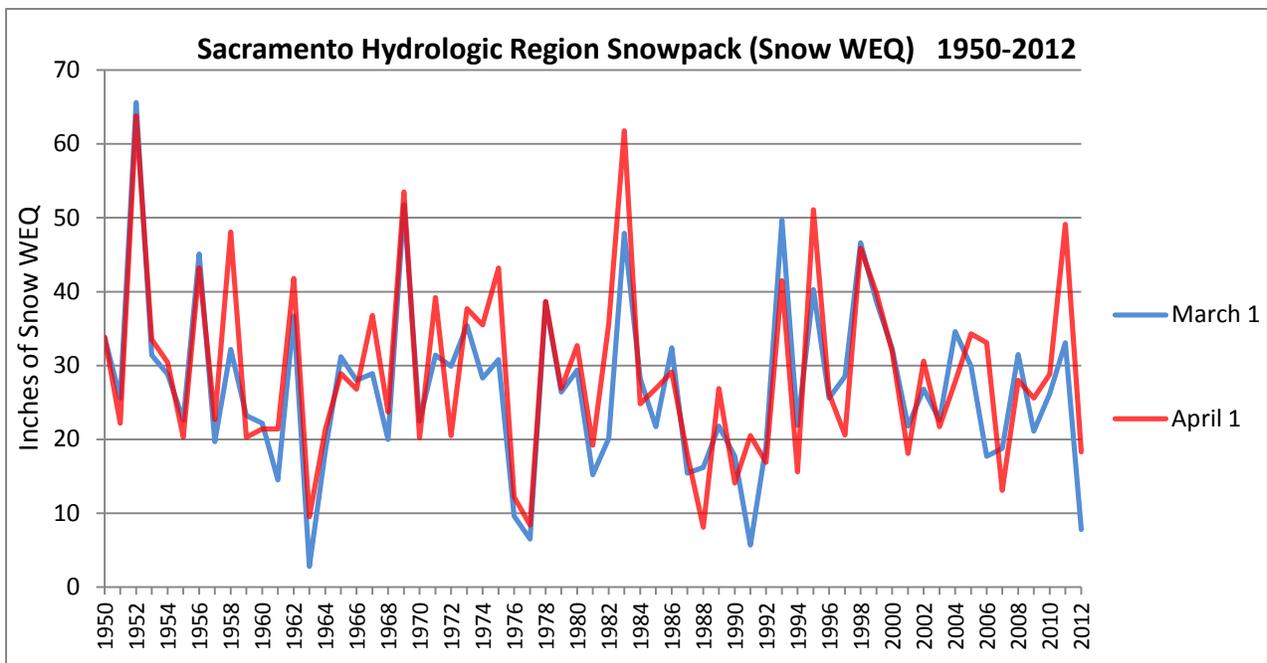
Measuring snowpack in inches of Snow WEQ affords an unchanging, objective standard for comparing years. In addition, we would like to be able to analyze changes in snowpack

regionally rather than just at the state level. Figures are available in inches of Snow WEQ, averaged for each of the state's hydrologic regions.

There are six hydrologic regions that contain all the mountain areas that are covered by the Cooperative Snow Survey. Only the North Coast is irrelevant to the SNC Region. The five hydrologic regions that encompass the Sierra Nevada are the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Tulare, North Lahontan, and South Lahontan.

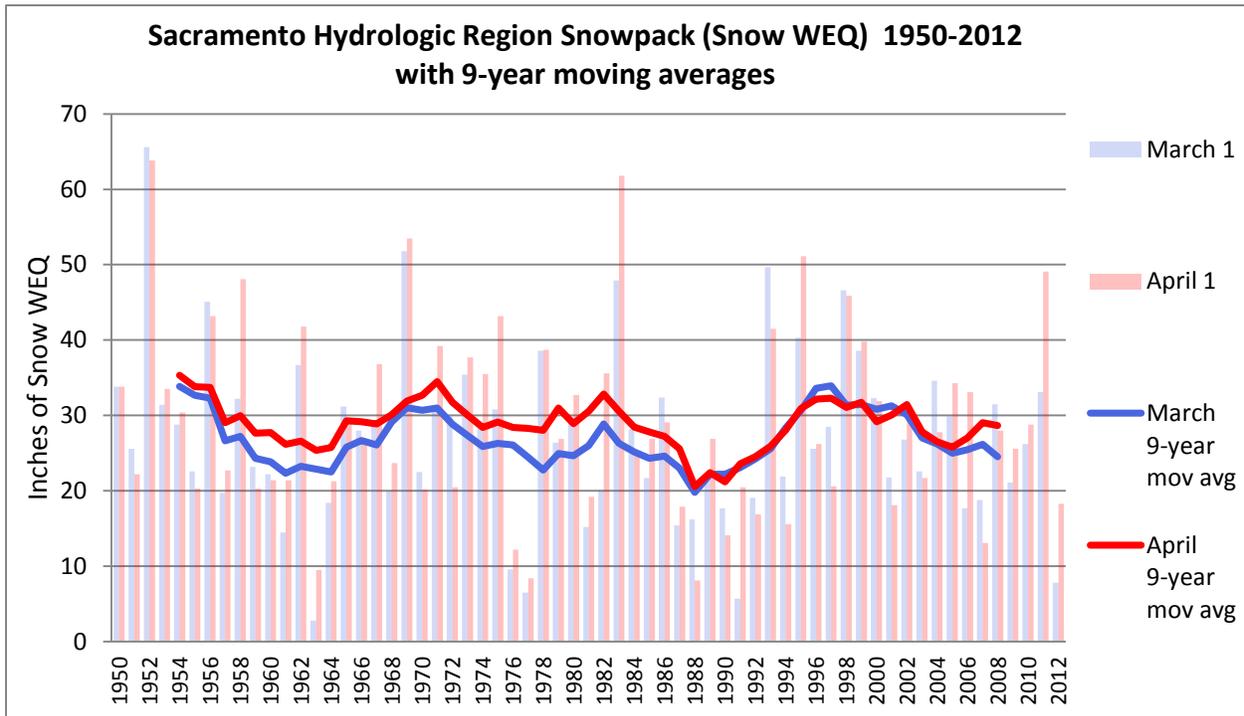
Comparing April 1st and March 1st

The chart below is for the Sacramento Hydrologic Region (which includes the Pit, Feather, Yuba, and American River watersheds) and shows snowpack in inches of Snow WEQ rather than percent of average snowpack. The April 1st snow course measurement averages are the red line. As expected, the year to year pattern of snowpack for this large region is quite similar to that of the overall state, whether reported in actual depth of snow or as a percent of average snowpack. Close to 80 snow courses are measured on or about each April 1st in this hydrologic region to produce an average snowpack measurement for each year. As it was for the state in general, 1952 was the biggest snow year, with 63.8 inches WEQ in April. 1977 had only 8.4 inches, though 1988 had even less at 8.1 inches WEQ.



The chart also includes the March 1st snow course measurements for the Sacramento Region. A visual inspection of the chart reveals that in most years, but certainly not every year, the April 1st snowpack (in WEQ) is deeper than March 1st. In discussions with Frank Gehrke, the DWR Snow Surveys Chief, it was thought that comparing snowpack depth between March and April over time would highlight any changing relationship between the two measurement periods. Because April 1st is taken to be the time of year that the snowpack is deepest, if the average April 1st depth decreases relative to the March 1st depth, it would indicate that either less snow was falling in late winter or snow was beginning to melt earlier.

The chart below is the same as the one above (converted to a bar chart), except that a 9-year moving average for each of the two months is added. The 9-year moving average is much more informative than a simple linear trend. It indicates changes throughout the time period rather than taking the time period as a whole; and is not subject to the distortions of the beginning and end points of the time series. It aids analysis by evening out the large year-to-year variations into 9 year groupings.⁵



As indicated in the charts above, in some years the April 1st snowpack (in Snow WEQ) was a foot or more deeper than March 1st while in other, albeit fewer, years the March 1st snowpack was deeper than April. What's most interesting, however, are the more general patterns revealed by looking at the 9-year moving average. From the mid-50's through the mid-80's, the 9-year moving average for the Sacramento Region shows April 1st snowpack to *average* typically 3 to 5 inches deeper than March 1st during this time period. However, that gap closed up in the late 1980's and since that time, on average, April and March snowpack depths have been about the same. This more recent trend has been interrupted by the last two winters; for while 2011 had far above average snowfall and 2012 was far below average, both years had substantial March snows, which are reflected in a re-emerging gap in the 9-year moving averages. This serves to highlight that this analysis is not predictive. However, if over the coming years and decades, the moving average of the April 1st snowpack should continually fall at or below that of March 1st, it would document earlier snowmelt in the Sierra than the recent historical pattern.

⁵ The trend lines start as the average of the first 9 years as the data point for the middle year of that group, and then shifts the average each subsequent year (e.g. the average of 1950-1958 becomes the data point for 1954, the average of 1951-1959 becomes the data point for 1955, and so on).

The analysis above was just for one hydrologic region. Each of the five hydrologic regions encompassing the SNC Region has its own history, but the overall patterns for all five are similar. However, unlike the Sacramento hydrologic region, most of the regions still average a slightly deeper snowpack on April 1st than on March 1st. The charts of the other four hydrologic regions are included in the appendix.⁶

Beyond the March-April comparison, the data for the hydrologic regions do illustrate differences in regional amounts of late season snowpack. The Eastside regions – North and South Lahontan – receive less snow than the Westside (which is certainly not news), while the Sacramento hydrologic region averages a bit less March and April snowpack than the more southerly San Joaquin and Tulare regions. Tulare is the only hydrologic region where overall annual snowpack appears to have increased somewhat over the past half century.

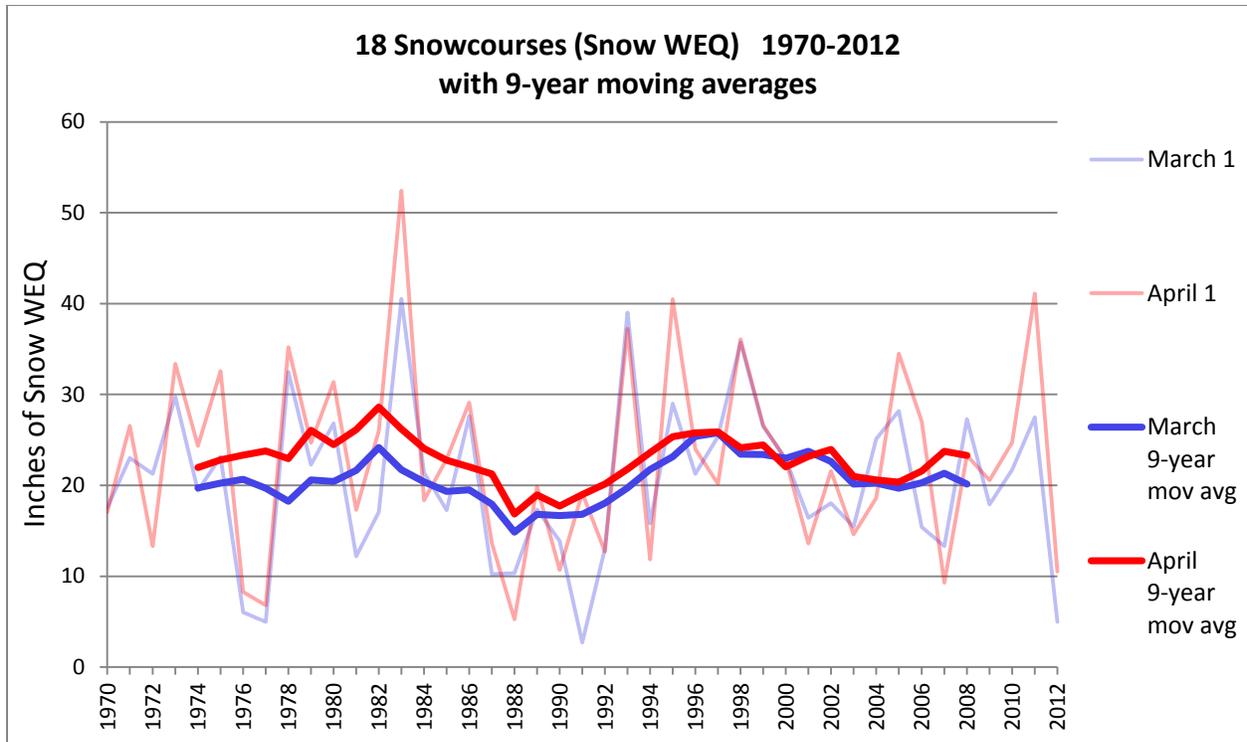
Verifying with single location measurements

To the extent possible, the DWR Snow Surveys collects data for the same snow courses year after year. Measuring the same courses provides year-to-year data consistency and measuring a large number of courses provides the best estimate possible of the average regional snowpack depth and resulting total volume of water.

In a typical year, the April 1st Snow Survey includes almost 80 snow course measurements in the Sacramento Hydrologic Region, about 70 in the San Joaquin Region, about 45 in the Tulare, 17-18 in the North Lahontan, and about 20 in the South Lahontan. The March 1st Survey generally includes five to ten fewer snow courses than April. However, through the measurement history, data gaps emerge in many of the snow courses for either April or March.

As a supplement to the hydrologic region averages, an analysis was made to identify individual snow course locations where there is a complete record for both March and April for a long time frame with no missing years. An SNC review of data provided by DWR, covering 1970 to 2012 (43 years), yielded 18 snow courses that had Snow WEQ measurements for both months for all 43 years. (Almost 100 more were missing only one year or just a few years for either March or April.) These 18 courses are spread across the Sierra, from the Pit River watershed in the north to the Kern watershed in the south. Taken together, these 18 snow courses provide an excellent cross section of Sierra snowpack from year to year. The snowpack Snow WEQ was averaged for the 18 courses, and are displayed along with 9-moving averages on the chart below.

⁶ Note: DWR does not have March data for the South Lahontan region before 1958, and there were only 2 snow courses measured in 1958, and so was not included.

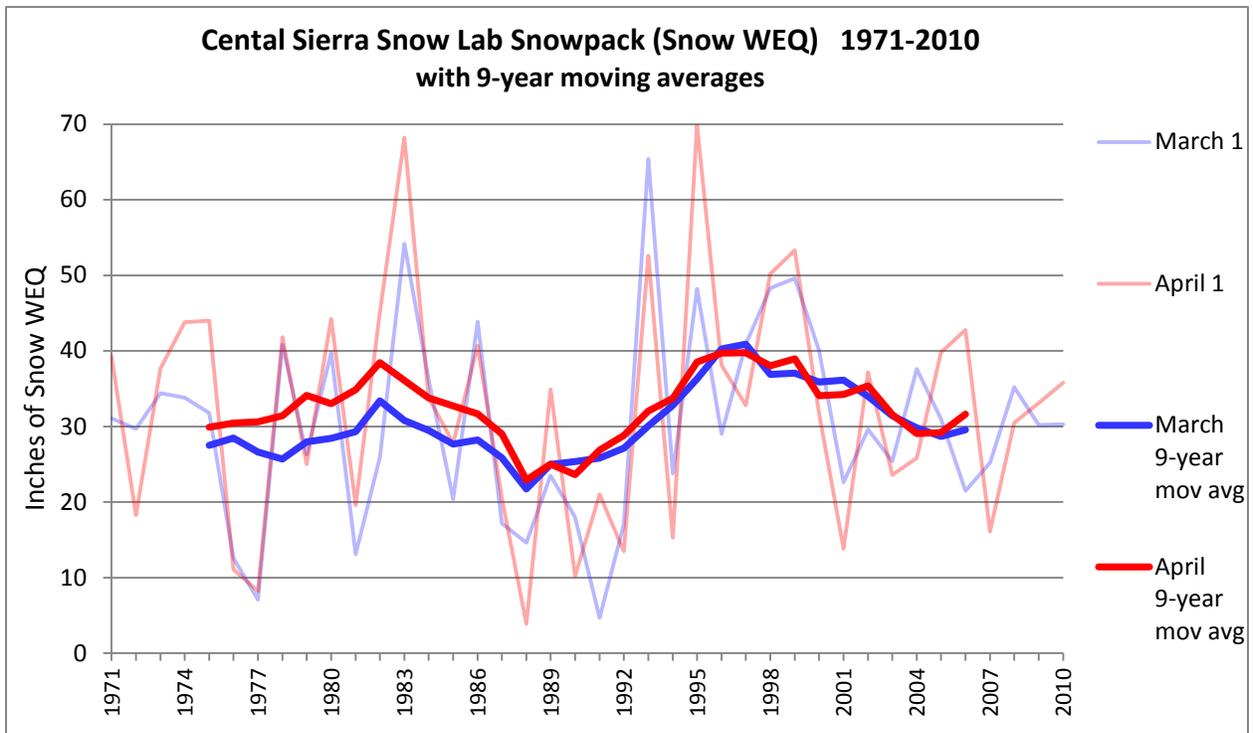


Over the same time period (1970-2012), this graph is barely distinguishable from the Sacramento Hydrologic Region graph, especially in the moving-average relationship between March and April snowpack. The amount of average snowpack for these combined 18 snow courses is less than for the Sacramento Region, but the year-to-year patterns are the same. In other words, using a targeted set of snow courses with complete data is entirely consistent with the hydrologic region-scale analysis.

Data from the Central Sierra Snow Lab

The UC Berkeley Snow Lab, located at 6,900' elevation at Donner Summit, provides the most detailed single location snow analysis in the Sierra Nevada. Although they take much more frequent snow measurements than just monthly, the March 1st and April 1st Snow WEQ was graphed to provide yet another single location comparison under the same parameters. The chart, including 9-year moving averages, is shown below. The time series is slightly different; it starts into 1971 and does not include 2011 and 2012.

Once again, the relationship between April and March is entirely consistent with all the other data sets. Because it does not include 2011 and 2012, both years of which had heavy March snows throughout the region, a growing gap between the March and April snowpacks after 2010 would be expected, as with all the other data sets from the influence of these years on the moving average.



Conclusion related to snowpack

This analysis clearly demonstrates a decline in April 1st snowpack relative to March 1st, and also indicates some degree of actual decline in average April snowpack depth, though it does not quantify the change. It does appear that the relative decrease in April snowpack compared to March is in the range of perhaps several inches of Snow Water Equivalent, which is quite substantial, given an average April 1st snowpack depth in the range of 20 to 35 inches of Snow WEQ. A Department of Water Resources report claims a 10 percent decline in April snowpack over the past century, with presumably much of this decline since 1950.⁷ That report employed a very different analysis in its finding – assessing runoff water flow changes rather than snow depth changes to indicate reduced snowpack. This SNC report provides a different strategy to look at snowpack change that is potentially complimentary, and certainly points in the same direction.

⁷ 2008 DWR report “Managing an Uncertain Future: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for California’s Water.” This report states that early spring snowpack in the Sierra Nevada has decreased by 10% in the past century. The methodology used a “full natural flows” approach that looked at percent changes to April through July water flows.

Precipitation, Temperature, and Snowpack Relationships

There are three important questions to ask when considering potential future changes in snowpack (and hence the timing of California's water supply): 1) is there a long run change in precipitation? 2) Is more (or less) precipitation falling as rain rather than snow? And 3) is snowpack melting earlier (or later)?

As to the first question, at this point there is no clear evidence of significant change in total precipitation in the past four decades. The year to year variation is so great that it would take many years or decades to tease out any real change in the rainfall pattern.

For any particular elevation, the second and third questions are primarily dependent on any specific changes in temperature – the season and the actual temperatures. Depending on elevation and ambient temperature, warming weather may cause more rain (rather than snow) and faster snow melt. There is substantial evidence of generally warming temperatures, dependent on elevation and time of day. What has not been investigated yet is if indicated warming is occurring in any particular season. That is another level of analytical complexity yet to be tackled.

Question number 2 is the most difficult to address. There is not really a system in place (that we have been able to find) to measure whether precipitation is falling as rain or as snow on a geographic scale. The Central Sierra Snow Lab does consistently note observations proportioning precipitation as to rain or snow. With considerable effort, over time, a relationship could be determined on how much snowpack loss is due to melting and snow not falling in the first place. However, a single location provides a weak basis for a regional assessment.

Regarding question 3, if April 1st snowpack in any one year is less than March 1st snowpack, we know that more snowpack melted than new snow fell, and that April 1st is not the best date to characterize the annual snowfall. If April 1st snowpack is greater than March 1st, we know that some snow has fallen, but it challenging to determine if there was also increased rain and/or snow melt that reduced the potential snowpack for that month.

At this point, the data for rising temperatures does correlate with a relative decrease in the amount of April 1st snowpack compared to a month earlier.

Contact Information

For more detailed information on the individual Indicators or explanation of their development, please contact:

Chris Dallas

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

cdallas@sierranevada.ca.gov

(530) 823-4673

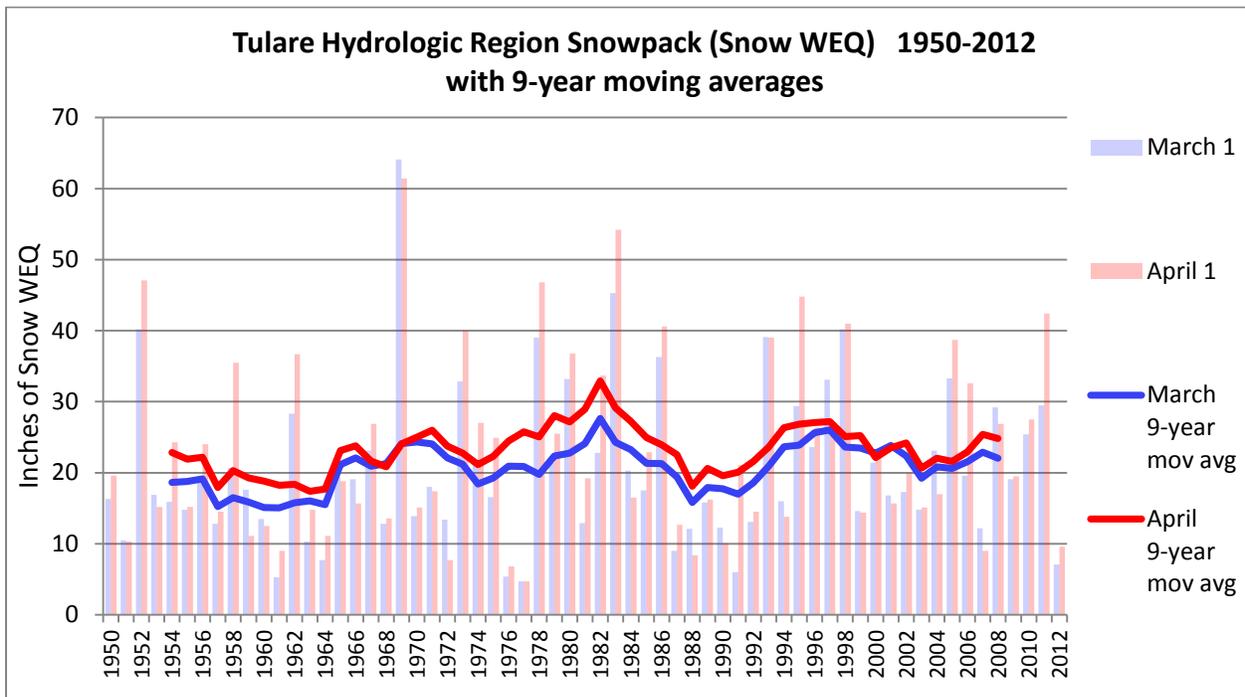
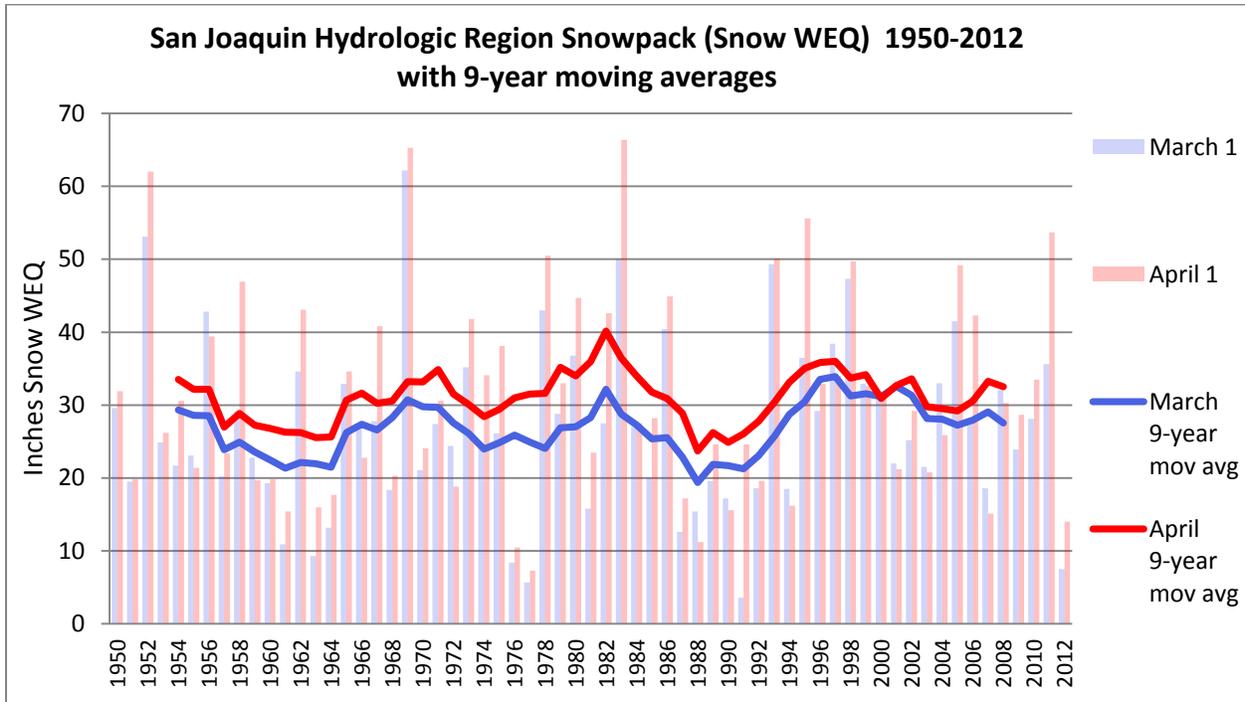
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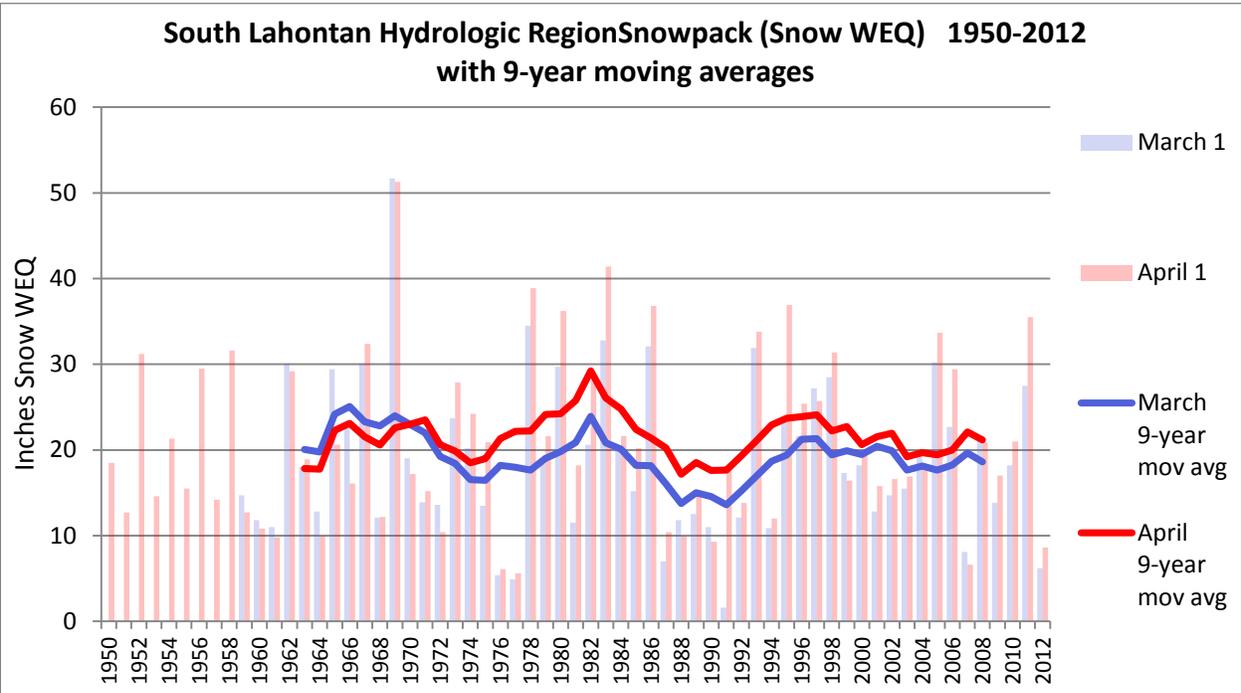
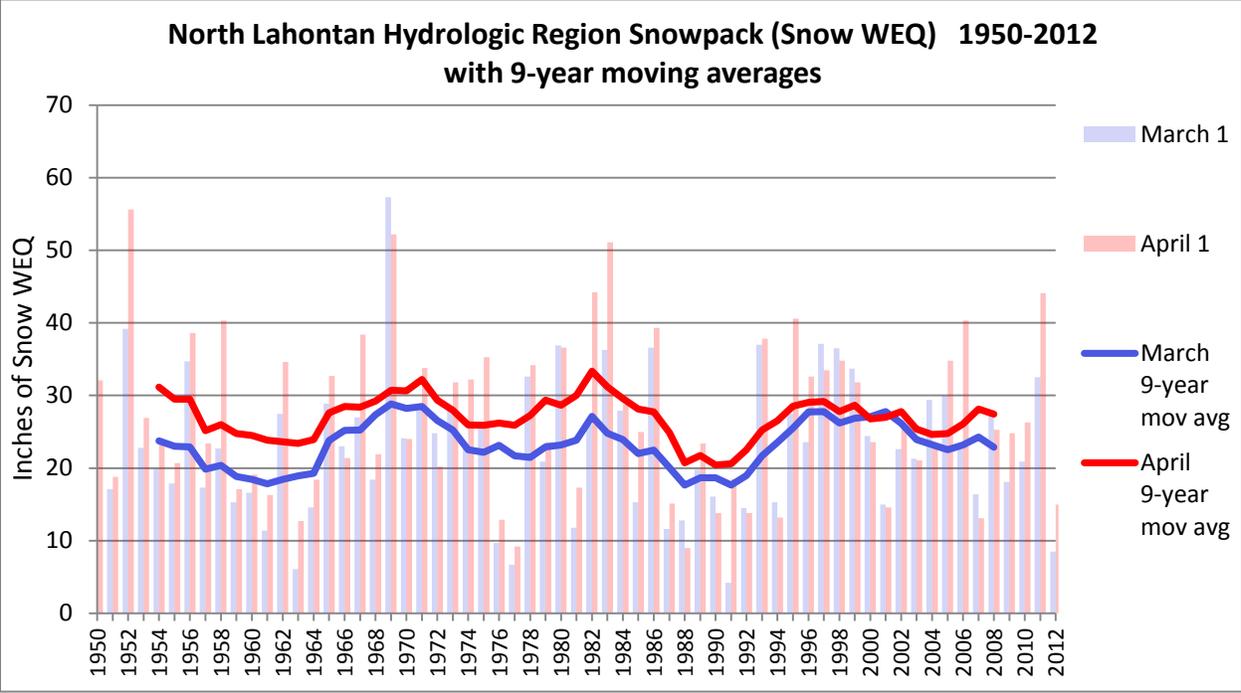
Appendices

- Snowpack Charts for Four Hydrologic Regions
- Tables of Specific 303(d) Listed Impaired Water Bodies

Appendix – Snowpack Charts for Four Hydrologic Regions

(Sacramento included in the text body)





Mercury - Streams (in miles)													
	Butte	Calaveras	El Dorado	Lassen	Mono	Nevada	Placer	Plumas	Sierra	Tehama	Tuolumne	Yuba	Total
American River, North Fork			1.9				74.6						76.5
American River, South Fork			44.6										44.6
Bear River, Lower (below Camp Far West Reservoir)							1.4					1.2	2.7
Bear River, Upper (from Combie Lake to Camp Far West Reservoir)						11.1	13.5						24.6
Big Chico Creek	24.0									11.3			35.3
Bodie Creek					9.7								9.7
Butte Creek	48.2												48.2
Deer Creek (from Deer Creek Reservoir to Lake Wildwood)						16.1							16.1
Feather River, Lower (below Lake Oroville Dam)	4.7												4.7
Feather River, North Fork (below Lake Almanor)	13.1							41.1					54.2
Gold Run						1.9							1.9
Humbug Creek						2.2							2.2
Little Deer Creek						4.1							4.1
Mammoth Creek (Old Mammoth Road to Highway 395)					6.0								6.0
Mammoth Creek (Twin Lakes outlet to Old Mammoth Road)					1.9								1.9
Mammoth Creek, unamed tributary					1.7								1.7
Stanislaus River, Lower		1.5									1.2		2.7
Susan River (Headwaters to Susanville)				37.3									37.3
Susan River (Litchfield to Honey Lake)				8.5									8.5
Susan River (Susanville to Litchfield)				16.5									16.5
Tuolumne River, Lower (below Don Pedro Reservoir)											3.5		3.5
Yuba River, Lower												1.0	1.0
Yuba River, Middle Fork						16.7			20.7			7.7	45.2
Yuba River, North Fork									28.1			10.1	38.2
Yuba River, South Fork						41.9	6.5						48.3
Grand Total	90.0	1.5	46.5	62.4	19.2	93.9	96.0	41.1	48.9	11.3	4.7	20.1	535.5

Mercury - Lakes (Acres)

	Amador	Butte	Calaveras	El Dorado	Fresno	Madera	Mariposa	Nevada	Placer	Plumas	Shasta	Tulare	Tuolumne	Yuba	Total
Almanor Lake										25,315					25,315
Britton Lake											1,100				1,100
Camanche Reservoir	1,367		1,066												2,433
Camp Far West Reservoir								100	730					899	1,730
Combie, Lake								170	192						362
Don Pedro Lake													11,056		11,056
Englebright Lake								413						341	754
Folsom Lake				6,040					3,759						9,799
Hell Hole Reservoir									1,370						1,370
Hensley Lake						1,669									1,669
Hetch Hetchy Reservoir													1,840		1,840
Kaweah Lake												1,702			1,702
McClure Reservoir							5,605								5,605
Millerton Lake					1,091	928									2,019
New Bullards Bar Reservoir														3,864	3,864
New Hogan Lake			3,180												3,180
New Melones Reservoir			748										907		1,654
Oroville, Lake		15,400													15,400
Oxbow Reservoir (Ralston Afterbay)				32					33						65
Pardee Reservoir	1,184		1,001												2,185
Pine Flat Reservoir					5,771										5,771
Rollins Reservoir								547	227						774
Scotts Flat Reservoir								660							660
Shasta Lake											1,998				1,998
Slab Creek Reservoir				242											242
Tulloch Reservoir			525										467		992
Wildwood, Lake								289							289
Grand Total	2,551	15,400	6,520	6,315	6,862	2,597	5,605	2,179	6,311	25,315	3,098	1,702	14,269	5,105	103,827

Metals other than Mercury - Streams (net miles)

	Alpine	Amador	Calaveras	El Dorado	Mono	Nevada	Placer	Plumas	Shasta	Sierra	Yuba	Total	Metals
Aspen Creek	0.9											0.9	metals
Bear Creek			11.1									11.1	coper
Bear River (Lower Bear River Res. to Mokelumne River, N Fork)		5.4										5.4	copper
Bear River, Lower (below Camp Far West Reservoir)							1.4				1.2	2.7	copper
Bryant Creek	3.2											3.2	metals
Carson Creek (from WWTP to Deer Creek)				2.1								2.1	aluminum, manganese
Deer Creek (Sacramento County)				7.9								7.9	iron
Dolly Creek								1.5				1.5	copper, zinc
East Walker River, below Bridgeport Reservoir					8.0							8.0	manganeze
Humbug Creek						2.2						2.2	copper, zinc
Kanaka Creek										9.7		9.7	arsenic
Leviathan Creek	3.2											3.2	metals
Little Cow Creek (downstream from Afterthought Mine)									1.1			1.1	cadmium, copper, zinc
Little Grizzly Creek								9.4				9.4	copper, zinc
Mammoth Creek (Old Mammoth Road to Highway 395)					6.0							6.0	manganese
Mammoth Creek (Twin Lakes outlet to Old Mammoth Road)					1.9							1.9	manganese
Mammoth Creek, unamed tributary near Old Mammoth Rd					1.7							1.7	arsenic
Monitor Creek	4.0											4.0	alum, iron, mang, silver
Grand Total	11.4	5.4	11.1	10.0	17.5	2.2	1.4	10.9	1.1	9.7	1.2	82.0	

**Metals other than Mercury – Lakes
(net acres)**

	Amador	Calaveras	Inyo	Lassen	Total	Metal
Camanche Reservoir	1,367	1,066			2,433	copper, zinc
Haiwee Reservoir			1,703		1,703	copper
Honey Lake				57,757	57,757	arsenic
Honey Lake Area Wetlands				62,592	62,592	metals
Honey Lake Wildfowl Management Ponds				665	665	metals
Grand Total	1,367	1,066	1,703	121,014	125,150	

Temperature - Streams (in miles)

	Butte	Calaveras	Lassen	Madera	Modoc	Nevada	Placer	Plumas	Shasta	Tuolumne	Total
Feather River, North Fork (below Lake Almanor)	13.1							41.1			54.2
Pit River (from confluence of N and S forks to Shasta Lake)			83.3		105.8				109.9		299.0
Stanislaus River, Lower		1.5								1.2	2.7
Tuolumne River, Lower (Don Pedro Res. to San Joaquin River)										3.5	3.5
Willow Creek (Madera County)				6.2							6.2
Yuba River, South Fork (Spaulding Res. to Englebright Res.)						41.9	6.5				48.3
Grand Total	13.1	1.5	83.3	6.2	105.8	41.9	6.5	41.1	109.9	4.7	413.9

pH - Streams (in miles)								
	Amador	Butte	Lassen	Modoc	Nevada	Tulare	Yuba	Total
Ash Creek, Upper			13.5	5.8				19.3
Bear River (from Allen to Upper Bear River Res.)	8.4							8.4
Butte Creek		48.2						48.2
Deer Creek						28.9		28.9
Deer Creek					4.2		0.1	4.3
Kaweah River (below Terminus Dam)						2.4		2.4
Pit River, North Fork				22.8				22.8
Pit River, South Fork			0.7	37.2				37.9
Rush Creek				9.6				9.6
Willow Creek			21.9	1.0				22.9
Grand Total	8.4	48.2	36.2	76.3	4.2	31.3	0.1	204.7

(low)

(high)

pH - Lakes (acres)						
	Amador	Kern	Madera	Shasta	Tulare	Total
Amador Lake	299					299
Eastman Lake				19		19
Hensley Lake			1,669			1,669
Isabella Lake		7,710				7,710
Success Lake					88	88
Grand Total	299	7,710	1,669	19	88	9,785

Nutrients - Streams (net miles)										
	Alpine	Calaveras	Lassen	Madera	Modoc	Mono	Placer	Shasta	Total	nutrient
Bear Creek		11.1							11.1	low oxygen
Carson River, West Fork (Headwaters to Woodfords)	18.0								18.0	nitrogen, phosphorus
Carson River, West Fork (Woodfords to Paynesville)	3.6								3.6	nitrogen
Fresno River (Above Hensley Reservoir)				29.9					29.9	low oxygen
Hilton Creek						11.3			11.3	low oxygen
Miners Ravine							9.4		9.4	low oxygen
Pit River (from confluence of N and S forks to Shasta Lake)			83.3		105.8			109.9	299.0	nutrients, low oxygen
Pleasant Grove Creek							1.7		1.7	low oxygen
Susan River (Headwaters to Susanville)			37.3						37.3	nitrogen
Swauger Creek						13.6			13.6	phosphorus
Grand Total	21.6	11.1	120.6	29.9	105.8	24.9	11.1	109.9	434.9	

Nutrients - Lakes (net acres)									
	Alpine	Fresno	Inyo	Kern	Lassen	Madera	Mono	Total	nutrient
Bridgeport Reservoir							2,615	2,615	nitrogen, phosphorus
Crowley Lake							4,861	4,861	oxygen, amonia
Eagle Lake (Lassen County)					20,705			20,705	nitrogen, phosphorus
Hensley Lake						1,669		1,669	oxygen
Hume Lake		87						87	oxygen
Indian Creek Reservoir	164							164	phosphorus
Isabella Lake				7,710				7,710	oxygen
Pleasant Valley Reservoir			99					99	low oxygen
Grand Total	164	87	99	7,710	20,705	1,669	7,476	37,910	

Pathogens - Streams (in miles)											
	Alpine	Amador	Calaveras	Lassen	Mariposa	Modoc	Mono	Nevada	Shasta	Tuolumne	Total
Ash Creek, Upper				13.5		5.8					19.3
Bear Creek (from Bear Valley to San Joaquin River)					27.3						27.3
Bear Creek			11.1								11.1
Beaver Creek				19.9					2.9		22.7
Buckeye Creek							17.2				17.2
Canyon Creek						18.7					18.7
Carson River, West Fork (Paynesville to State Line)	3.3										3.3
Carson River, West Fork (Woodfords to Paynesville)	3.6										3.6
Clover Creek									11.2		11.2
Curtis Creek										11.6	11.6
East Walker River, above Bridgeport Reservoir							7.4				7.4
French Ravine								1.7			1.7
Indian Creek	11.7										11.7
Littlejohns Creek			24.6								24.6
Oak Run Creek									5.6		5.6
Rattlesnake Creek (at W Mokelumne River, N Fork)		0.9									0.9
Robinson Creek (Hwy 395 to Bridgeport Res)							1.8				1.8
Robinson Creek (Twin Lakes to Hwy 395)							9.1				9.1
South Cow Creek									7.9		7.9
Sullivan Creek (from Phoenix Res. to Don Pedro Lake)										10.8	10.8
Swauger Creek							13.6				13.6
Willow Creek				21.9		1.0					22.9
Wolf Creek (Nevada County)								22.8			22.8
Woods Creek										15.2	15.2
Grand Total	18.6	0.9	35.7	55.3	27.3	25.4	49.1	24.4	27.5	37.6	301.8

Toxicity - Streams (in miles)										
	Butte	Calaveras	Fresno	Lassen	Mariposa	Placer	Plumas	Tulare	Tuolumne	Total
Bear Creek					27.3					27.3
Concow Creek (tributary to West Branch Feather River)	9.7									9.7
Deer Creek								28.9		28.9
Fall River, tributary to Feather River, Middle Fork	12.8						9.5			22.3
Feather River, Lower (below Lake Oroville Dam)	4.7									4.7
Feather River, Middle Fork (Sierra Valley to Lake Oroville)	10.7						68.4			79.1
Feather River, North Fork (below Lake Almanor)	13.1						41.1			54.2
Feather River, South Fork (Little Grass Valley Res to Lake Oroville)	17.0						18.0			34.9
Feather River, West Branch (from Griffin Gulch to Lake Oroville)	38.1									38.1
Kaweah River (below Terminus Dam)								2.4		2.4
Kings River, Lower (Pine Flat Reservoir to Island Weir)			14.6							14.6
Littlejohns Creek		24.6								24.6
Mud Creek	4.6									4.6
Pleasant Grove Creek						1.7				1.7
Stanislaus River, Lower		1.5							1.2	2.7
Sucker Run	10.6									10.6
Susan River (Headwaters to Susanville)				37.3						37.3
Susan River (Litchfield to Honey Lake)				8.5						8.5
Susan River (Susanville to Litchfield)				16.5						16.5
Tuolumne River, Lower (below Don Pedro Reservoir)									3.5	3.5
Grand Total	121.2	26.2	14.6	62.4	27.3	1.7	136.8	31.3	4.7	426.2

Pleasant Grove Creek - sediment toxicity; all the rest unknown toxicity
all sources unknown

Pesticides - Streams (net miles)								
	Butte	Calaveras	Fresno	Placer	Tuolumne	Yuba	Total	pesticide
Bear Creek		11.1					11.1	diazinon
Bear River, Lower (below Camp Far West Reservoir)				1.4		1.3	2.7	chlorpyrifos, diazinon
Comanche Creek (from Little Chico Creek to Angel Slough)	0.5						0.5	diuron
Feather River, Lower (below Lake Oroville Dam)	4.7						4.7	chlorpyrifos, Group A
Kings River, Lower (Pine Flat Reservoir to Island Weir)			14.6				14.6	chlorpyrifos
Pleasant Grove Creek				1.7			1.7	pyrethroids
Stanislaus River, Lower		1.5			1.2		2.7	chlorpyrifos, diazinon, Group A
Tuolumne River, Lower (below Don Pedro Reservoir)					3.5		3.5	chlorpyrifos, diazinon, Group A
Grand Total	5.2	12.6	14.6	3.1	4.7	1.3	41.5	

Salinity/Total Dissolved Solids - Streams (in miles)						
	Alpine	Inyo	Lassen	Modoc	Mono	Total
Bidwell Creek				12.3		12.3
Carson River, East Fork	46.4					46.4
Mammoth Creek (Headwaters to Twin Lakes outlet)					2.6	2.6
Mammoth Creek (Old Mammoth Road to Highway 395)					6.0	6.0
Mill Creek (Modoc County)				4.2		4.2
Monitor Creek	4.0					4.0
Pit River, South Fork			0.7	37.2		37.9
Rock Creek (tributary to Owens River)		15.4			20.0	35.4
Susan River (Headwaters to Susanville)			37.3			37.3
Susan River (Susanville to Litchfield)			16.5			16.5
Grand Total	50.4	15.4	54.5	53.7	28.6	202.6

Pit River - salinity; all the rest 'total dissolved solids'

Sediment/Siltation - Streams (in miles)							
	Alpine	Mono	Nevada	Placer	Shasta	Sierra	Total
Bronco Creek			1.2				1.2
Clearwater Creek		12.6					12.6
East Walker River, below Bridgeport Reservoir		8.0					8.0
Fall River (Pit)					11.8		11.8
Gray Creek (Nevada County)			2.6				2.6
Humbug Creek			2.2				2.2
Squaw Creek				7.9			7.9
Truckee River			22.4	10.1		2.4	35.0
Wolf Creek (Alpine County)	11.8						11.8
Grand Total	11.8	20.7	28.4	18.0	11.8	2.4	93.2

Turbidity - Streams (in miles)			
	Lassen	Mono	Total
East Walker River, below Bridgeport Reservoir		8.0	8.0
Susan River (Susanville to Litchfield)	16.5		16.5
Grand Total	16.5	8.0	24.5

Background

The SNC is currently involved in two statewide initiatives focused on water, the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) California Water Plan Update 2013 (CWP) and the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan. Our goal for participating in these initiatives is to help decision-makers more fully understand the complexities and value of the natural and cultural resources that come from the Sierra Nevada and better justify the need for additional investment to protect and enhance those resources, which are critical to the Region and the rest of the state.

- The California Water Plan, also known as Bulletin 160, is a statewide blueprint for water management. It provides information for decision-makers, water managers and other interested stakeholders for use in administering the state's considerable water-related resources. The SNC has been serving as the coordinator and lead author for the Mountain Counties Overlay (MCO) regional report, one of 12 region-specific reports that provide more detailed information on the major hydrologic regions of the state (The SNC Region is larger than the Mountain County Overlay area. It includes 7 additional counties: Modoc, Shasta, Tehama, Mono, Inyo, Tulare, and Kern Counties). We also sit on the 29-member State Agency Steering Committee charged with overseeing development of the California Water Plan Update.
- The Delta Plan is a legislatively mandated, legally enforceable plan designed to achieve the State's coequal goals of protecting and restoring the ailing Delta ecosystem and providing a more reliable water supply for California. While the focus of that plan is primarily on the Delta – as the distribution hub for much of the state's water – the SNC's involvement is a reminder that most of the water coming through the Delta originates in the Sierra.

Current Status

For the California Water Plan Update 2013, the SNC continues pulling together content for the Mountain Counties Overlay regional report which, along with the rest of the Water Plan Update, should be available for public review and comment in Spring 2013. Staff also worked with DWR to host a regional outreach forum for 40+ participants in different locations around the Mountain Counties area, where facilitated discussions highlighted issues and potential content for the regional report as well as other topics related to integrated water management in the Region.

The SNC also had its own Strategic Plan chosen from among a group of 183 other state agency plans to be featured in the main body (Volume 1) of Update 2013. Selection as a "Featured Plan" is significant because the policy perspectives and goals presented in featured plans are used to help shape the content and focus of the Update 2013 document. Some of the other agencies with featured plans include Caltrans, California Energy Commission, Delta Stewardship Council, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Water Resources, to name a few.

In terms of the Delta Plan, a final staff draft was presented to the Delta Stewardship Council in May. This final staff draft was the last in a series of six (SNC reviewed and provided comments on 3 of the 5 early drafts) presented to the Council over 14 months and reflects public comments from the five previous drafts as well as analysis from initial environmental review.

In addition to this effort, of particular concern to the Sierra is the legislative requirement that the State Water Board develop flow criteria for the Delta, including tributaries that feed it, which could have negative impacts on upstream water supplies, fish habitat, wildlife, energy production, recreation and more.

Next Steps

The SNC will continue working with DWR, stakeholders and reviewers to complete the draft Mountain Counties Overlay regional report and ensure that goals and objectives from our own Strategic Plan are reflected in the main body of the Water Plan Update. When the draft is released for public comment next year, we will also partner with DWR to host regional public forums to solicit comments and feedback.

Regarding the Delta flow criteria, SNC staff members are consulting with key stakeholders in the Region to determine the best strategy for articulating upstream needs and helping to shape the process used to determine flow criteria.

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

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is required by statute, Public Resource Code Section 33350, to “make an annual report to the Legislature and to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency regarding expenditures, land management costs, and administrative costs.”

During the first few formative years of the SNC, the annual report was produced as an expanded education and outreach tool, with interactive multimedia components, professional layout, full-color printing, and widespread distribution in both hard copy and electronic formats. In fiscal year 2010-11 the Annual Report was scaled down in scope due to the status of the California State budget and SNC operational limitations, resulting in a full-color document that was produced in-house by staff. The final product was distributed to satisfy the legislated requirements and made available on the SNC Web site.

Current Status

Given ongoing budget and staffing limitations, staff intends to produce a scaled-down report for this and subsequent years until or unless there is a specific reason to include more information, such as at the conclusion of our Proposition 84 Grant Program. This and future Annual Reports will be four to six pages in length, addressing general information about the SNC and its programs and specific information about budget expenditures, grant awards and grant close-outs for each year. The recommended content will meet statutory requirements for budgetary reporting and contain enough informational background to provide the reader with an understanding of those expenditures/costs and our programs.

Graphics for the annual report may include the SNC map, logos, budget charts or graphs and a small number of photos. Report design and printing will be handled in-house. Staff will prepare the Annual Report and distribute it appropriately, with an anticipated distribution date of the October following the fiscal year close.

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.