

NEWS RELEASE

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\$1 Million for Rim Fire Restoration to be Considered by Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board

Auburn — The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board will meet in Jackson on December 4-5 to consider authorizing \$1 million for projects that contribute to the restoration of the area affected by the Rim Fire. Activities will result in the protection and restoration of watersheds impacted by the fire and will be funded by Proposition 84, passed by voters in 2006.

“This is the largest fire in the recorded history of the Sierra Nevada and it has implications for all of California,” said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. “Preliminary estimates suggest that nearly 100,000 acres burned at high intensity, larger than most Sierra fires in their entirety. Our Board will be considering the opportunity to invest some of our limited resources to the important restoration efforts needed for this area.”

The Board may also take action to award a grant for a recommended project under the 2013-14 Healthy Forests/Abandoned Mine Lands grant program, and will hear updates from SNC staff on the Agricultural Lands and Ranches System Indicators Report, Mokelumne Avoided Cost Analysis, and Abandoned Mine Lands Initiative.

On Dec. 4, the Board will tour projects highlighting the challenges posed by abandoned mine lands, and will make a stop at BLM’s Mokelumne River Access to learn more about the Mokelumne Coast-to-Crest Trail. The field trip is scheduled from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and will begin at The National Hotel in Historic Downtown Jackson. A reception will be held at Stanley’s Steakhouse in The National Hotel following the tour at 5:30 p.m.

The public is invited to attend all SNC events; however, lunch and transportation are not provided. Complete information on the meeting agenda, staff reports and field trip are available online at www.SierraNevada.ca.gov.

About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Governing Board

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. The SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded over \$50 million in grants for projects to protect and enhance the health of California’s

watersheds by improving forest health, remediating mercury contamination from abandoned mines, protecting critical natural resources and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.

The SNC Governing Board meets quarterly around the Sierra Nevada Region, which spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties, and runs from the Oregon border on the north, to Kern County.

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