

NEWS RELEASE

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Restoring the Sierra Nevada's forests and watersheds main topic at Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board Meeting

(AUBURN) – This week the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board will meet in Nevada County to discuss a plan for addressing the unhealthy conditions in many Sierra Nevada forests and watersheds, and will consider awarding funding for projects that restore forest health and address abandoned mine lands in the Region.

Last month, the SNC released the [State of the Sierra Nevada's Forests Report](#) highlighting the extremely unhealthy conditions that exist in many Sierra forests. The report detailed the negative long-term impacts to California's environment and economy that will occur if the pace and scale of forest restoration efforts are not significantly increased immediately. On Thursday, the SNC Board will meet to discuss an action plan for addressing forest health, building on existing efforts, and identifying needed investment priorities.

"Unhealthy Sierra forests and megafires are not just a Sierra Nevada problem," said Sierra Nevada Conservancy Executive Officer Jim Branham. "The immediate impacts of these fires, like smoke, and the long term impacts such as lost carbon storage, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced water storage capacity can affect everyone in California."

The Board will also discuss the Conservancy's action plan for the coming year, and will hear presentations by local partners on biomass-to-energy efforts in the area.

The quarterly meeting of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board will take place on Thursday, Dec. 4, starting at 9 A.M. at the Grass Valley Elks Lodge. On Wednesday, Dec. 3, the Governing Board will tour projects that address forest health in Nevada County. 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 <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/>.

About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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 has awarded over \$50 million in grants for projects to protect and enhance the health of California's primary watersheds by improving forest health, remediating mercury contamination from abandoned mines, protecting critical natural

resources and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.

The Sierra Nevada Region spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties, and runs from the Oregon border on the north, to Kern County on the south.

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