

NEWS RELEASE

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Sierra Nevada Conservancy awards grants for forest and watershed restoration

(SACRAMENTO, Calif.) – Today the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board approved nearly \$610,000 in grants for projects that will reduce wildfire risk and restore forest and watershed health in the Sierra Nevada region. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 1, The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. This is the second set of awards made under the SNC's Proposition 1 grant program.

The projects approved for funding include:

- [Alpine County – Markleevillage Fuels Reduction Project, \\$230,115](#)
This project will remove heavy brush and small trees that can become fuel for wildfire on 234 acres of land managed by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (NF) near the community of Markleeville. The project will be implemented through a working partnership between Alpine County, the U.S. Forest Service Carson Ranger District, the Alpine Watershed Group, and the Alpine Fire Safe Council. This project leverages previous SNC-funded creek restoration and water quality projects by protecting those waterways from large, damaging wildfires. The project also connects with previous forest thinning work conducted by the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF.
- [Butte County – Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project \(Phase II\), \\$379,693](#)
This project will improve watershed health and reduce the adverse impacts of large, damaging wildfires near the streams and reservoirs that provide the drinking water supply for the Town of Paradise in Butte County. This project will thin excess brush and small trees on 176 acres of overgrown forest lands owned by the Paradise Irrigation District, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management to reduce wildfire risk, protect watershed tributaries to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health. The treatment areas are part of a larger planning effort and complement fuels projects in the community completed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Butte County Fire Safe Council.

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In addition to meeting the requirements of Proposition 1, these projects support the goals and objectives of the [Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program](#), a large-scale restoration program designed to address ecosystem health in the Sierra Nevada.

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 came from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006 and Proposition 1 passed by voters in 2014.

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. The Region is the origin of more than 60 percent of California's developed water supply.

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