

NEWS RELEASE

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Sierra Nevada Agencies, Local Government and Conservation Groups to Receive \$4.6 Million from Sierra Nevada Conservancy for Healthy Forest Projects

(Lone Pine) – Approximately \$4.6 million in grant awards for work to restore Sierra Nevada forests to ecological health and prevent damaging forest fires was approved today by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) Governing Board during its quarterly meeting in Lone Pine (Inyo County). The funding is from Proposition 84, passed by California voters in 2006.

"Many of our forests are in such poor ecological health that in many instances they are at high risk of being overrun by catastrophic wildfire," said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. "These projects will go a long way toward reducing that threat and protecting our watersheds, as called for under Prop. 84 guidelines."

Since its creation in 2004, the SNC has awarded approximately \$45 million for Prop. 84 projects in the Sierra. For this grant round, the SNC received nearly 200 initial requests, but due to funding constraints, only 25 projects were approved by the Board. Federal, state and local government agencies, as well non-profit organizations, will receive the funding.

(Note: A complete listing of the projects, organized by county with local contact information, is attached below.)

Some of the highlighted projects include:

- Calaveras Co. – Big Trees State Park Forest Restoration, \$349,008.
Thinning the understory and ladder fuels to protect the Giant Sequoia and Big Tree Creek.
- Butte Co. – Little Butte Creek Fuel Break/Forest Health, \$84,000.
Hand cutting 30 acres of dense chaparral and overstocked ponderosa pines near the town of Magalia and near the drinking water collection area for the town of Paradise.
- Lassen Co. – Diamond Mountain Forest and Meadow Restoration, \$273,735.
Tree thinning on approximately 500 acres that contain the headwaters of Lassen Sand Slough and Baxter Creek. Biomass generated will be sold to offset project costs.

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- Mono Co. – June Loop Fuels Reduction, \$327,500.
Fuels reduction on 89 acres of land critical to the Grant Lake-Rush Creek Municipal Watershed.
- Auburn, Placer Co. – American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break, \$146,690.
Hand removal of fuel loads on 60 acres in steep terrain, protecting the city of Auburn and the American River watershed from the impacts of catastrophic fire.

The 25 grant applications represent a cross section of project types:

- Fuels Reduction (12 projects, \$2.5 million)
- Forest Health/Restoration (seven projects, \$1.48 million)
- Meadow Restoration (four projects, \$473,422)
- Invasive Species Removal (two projects, \$73,867)

The board also approved guidelines for the 2012-13 round of Prop. 84 grants, which will be focused on the preservation of ranches and agricultural lands. The request for pre-application proposals is expected to be available on the SNC's Web site later this month.

About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Governing Board

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. In its first eight years, the SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded approximately \$45 million in grants for projects including fuels reduction, conservation easements and acquisitions, and watershed and habitat restoration. To view a map of project locations to date, visit the SNC's [Grants Web page](#).

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 southeast of Bakersfield. Of the 13 voting members, six are self-selected county supervisors, one from each of the six Sierra Nevada Conservancy sub regions.

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Attachment: *Project list with contact names and information. See below.*

Projects Awarded Funding by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board, June 7, 2012

25 projects, \$4,573,007

All projects are funded by California Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water Bond Act of 2006.

County	SNC ID	Organization	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Contact Information	Project Type
Butte	471	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Forbestown Fuel Break – Phases 3 & 5	\$187,100.00	Calli-Jane Burch (530) 877-0984 firesafe@buttefiresafe.org	Fuels Reduction
Butte	474	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project	\$84,000.00	Calli-Jane Burch (530) 877-0984 firesafe@buttefiresafe.org	Fuels Reduction
Calaveras	651	California Department of Parks and Recreation	North Grove Forest Restoration Project	\$349,008.00	Liz Steller (209) 536-5932 lstel@parks.ca.gov	Site Improvement/Restoration
Lassen	510	Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD)	Diamond Mountain Forest & Meadow Restoration	\$273,735.00	Leslie Woods (530) 257-7271 leslie.woods@ca.usda.gov	Site Improvement/Restoration
Lassen	494	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Little Valley Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,800.00	Thomas W. Esgate (530)310-0146 twesgate@sbcglobal.net	Meadow Restoration
Lassen	463	Pit Resource Conservation District	Kramer Ranch Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,692.00	Thomas W. Esgate (530)310-0146 twesgate@sbcglobal.net	Site Improvement/Restoration
Lassen, Plumas	497	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Clear Creek Forest and Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$349,650.00	Thomas W. Esgate (530)310-0146 twesgate@sbcglobal.net	Meadow Restoration
Madera	608	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration Project	\$40,147.42	Steve Haze (559) 855-5840 Stevehaze007@gmail.com	Meadow Restoration
Madera	467	Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District	Nelder Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	\$299,510.34	Luz Vasquez (559) 877-2218 lvasquez@fs.fed.us	Fuels Reduction
Madera	607	Sierra Freepackers Unit- Backcountry	Kelty Meadow Campground Restoration and Facilities	\$11,775.00	Joyce Granger (559) 283-4058 cmj@sti.net	Meadow Restoration

		Horsemen of California	Improvement Project			
Mono	520	USDA - Forest Service, Inyo National Forest	June Loop Fuels Reduction Project	\$327,500.00	Ed Armenta (760) 873-2400 earmenta@fs.fed.us	Fuels Reduction
Nevada	631	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project	\$76,315.00	Marty Coleman-Hunt (530) 272-5994 marty@bylt.org	Site Improvement/Restoration
Nevada	512	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest – Truckee Ranger District	Truckee – Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project	\$33,867.44	Joanne Roubique (530) 587-3558 jroubique@fs.fed.us	Invasive Species Removal
Nevada	656	CA State Parks, Sierra District	Union Hill Fuels Reduction Project	\$150,000.00	Dan Lubin (530) 272-0298 dlubin@parks.ca.gov	Fuels Reduction
Placer	619	Northstar Fire Dept	Northstar Fuels Site Management/Maintenance 2	\$112,967.56	Joe Barron (530) 562-1212 jbarron@northstarcsd.org	Fuels Reduction
Placer	488	Placer Land Trust	Harvego Bear River Preserve Improved Forest Management Implementation Project	\$300,000.00	Jeff Darlington (530) 887-9222 jeffd@placerlandtrust.org	Fuels Reduction
Placer	567	City of Auburn Fire Department	American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break	\$146,690.00	Mark D'Ambrogi (530) 823-4211 mdambrogi@auburn.ca.gov	Fuels Reduction
Placer	535	Placer County Department of Agriculture	Placer County Department of Agriculture A-Rated Noxious Weed Eradication in the Sierra Nevada	\$60,000.00	Ed King (530) 889-7372 eking@placer.ca.gov	Site Improvement/Restoration
Placer, Nevada, Sierra	500	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	Weed Treatment on the Westside of the Tahoe NF	\$40,000.00	Genice Froehlich (530) 478-6583 gfroehlich@fs.fed.us	Invasive Species Removal
Plumas	458	Plumas County Fire Safe Council	La Porte Rd II HFR	\$143,000.00	Jerry Hurley (530) 82-4705 jerry.hurley@sbcglobal.net	Site Improvement/Restoration
Plumas	556	Feather River Resource	Heart K Forest Health Project	\$232,750.00	Phil Noia (530) 283-7512 frrcd@hotmail.com	Site Improvement/Restoration

		Conservation District				
Plumas, Sierra	509	Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District	Carman Creek Watershed Forest Ecosystem Health Improvement Project	\$350,000.00	Gale Dupree (530) 993-6051 ifish@earthling.net	Meadow Restoration
Shasta	578	California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection	LDSF Fuelbreak/Flat Top Biomass	\$90,000.00	Dave Lovless (530) 225-2505 dave.loveless@fire.ca.gov	Fuels Reduction
Tulare	614	Inyo National Forest	Ground Hog Meadow Watershed Restoration Project	\$71,500.00	Todd Ellsworth (760) 873-2547 tellsworth@fs.fed.us	Meadow Restoration
Yuba	453	Yuba County Public Works Department	Fuel Reduction Along County Roads	\$144,000.00	Michael Lee (530) 749-5420 mglee@co.yuba.ca.us	Fuels Reduction
			Total Award	\$4,573,007.76		