

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Sierra Nevada Watersheds to Benefit from \$2.2 Million in “Healthy Forest” Grants Awarded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

**(Mariposa)** – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s (SNC) Governing Board today approved \$2.2 million in “Healthy Forest” grants for 24 projects designed to reduce the risk of forest fires and protect California’s watersheds in 14 Sierra counties. With today’s award, the SNC has now awarded \$45 million for similar projects in the Sierra in the past four years, including \$7 million this year.

The grants are funded by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water Act passed by voters in 2006.

“Returning our forests to ecological health reduces the threat of fire, protecting our wildlife, our water and our lives,” said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. “These projects will help us achieve these goals, while providing jobs and helping to sustain local Sierra economies.”

The types of projects typically funded under the SNC’s grant program include fuels reduction (removal of underbrush and thinning of some smaller diameter trees), forest and meadow restoration, and invasive plant species removal. Many of the projects will be operational in the fall. *(Media note: For a complete list of projects approved today, please attachment see below.)*

Under Prop 84 guidelines, funds may be awarded to government agencies, non-profit organizations, or federally-recognized tribes. Projects may be on public or private land, but the outcome must serve to protect the watershed and provide public benefit.

“Because of decades of fire suppression and conflict over forest management, today’s major forest fires can have a devastating impact on the landscape and on the watershed,” said Branham. “The resulting erosion and siltation pollute our rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. By spending our precious dollars up in the Sierra proactively, we can reduce the risk and consequence of these fires, protecting the source of two-thirds of California’s drinking water.”

### ***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. The SNC receives no general fund tax dollars.*

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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.

Attachment:

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Proposition 84 “Healthy Forest” Grants, by County  
(Multi-county projects listed at the bottom)  
24 Projects, 14 Counties, \$2.2 Million**

County	Organization	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Butte	Butte County Fire Safe Council	<a href="#">Forest Health Chipper Program</a>	\$ 100,000.00
Calaveras	USDA/USFS Stanislaus National Forest – Calaveras Ranger District	<a href="#">ACCG Collaborative Project: West Calaveras Plantation Thinning NEPA</a>	\$ 74,975.00
Calaveras	Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions	<a href="#">Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard Development Engineering Plans</a>	\$ 74,800.00
El Dorado	Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District	<a href="#">Van Vleck Meadow Complex Assessment and Restoration Plan</a>	\$ 75,000.00
Madera	Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	<a href="#">Malum Ridge Healthy Forest and Watershed Protection</a>	\$ 70,000.00
Madera	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	<a href="#">The North Fork Community - Scale Biomass Project</a>	\$ 70,049.00
Modoc	United States Forest Service, Modoc National Forest	<a href="#">Swanson Canyon Hazardous Fuel Reduction Riparian Enhancement CE/EA</a>	\$ 73,999.00
Modoc	City of Alturas	<a href="#">Pre-engineering Study: City of Alturas biomass-based district heating in support of the Forest Health Sage Steppe Project</a>	\$ 75,000.00
Nevada	Sierra Streams Institute	<a href="#">Lower Deer Creek Healthy Revegetation Project</a>	\$ 112,932.00
Nevada	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest	<a href="#">Bloody Run Sub-watershed Forest Improvement</a>	\$ 74,326.53
Nevada	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	<a href="#">Loney Meadow Aspen Regeneration Project, Phase 2</a>	\$ 49,265.64
Nevada	Sierra Streams Institute	<a href="#">Hirschman's Pond Healthy Forest Initiative</a>	\$ 75,000.00

Placer	Placer County Resource Conservation District	<a href="#">Gillis Hill Fuel Break</a>	\$ 17,528.00
Plumas	Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council (MVSC)	<a href="#">White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project</a>	\$ 20,000.00
Plumas	City of Portola	<a href="#">Willow Creek Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction</a>	\$ 263,230.00
Shasta	Fall River Resource Conservation District	<a href="#">Burney Gardens Restoration Planning Project</a>	\$ 75,000.00
Tehama	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	<a href="#">Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel Break CEQA Environmental Analysis Project</a>	\$ 23,550.00
Tehama	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	<a href="#">Childs Meadows Head Cut Repair Project</a>	\$ 41,663.00
Tulare	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	<a href="#">Create a Restoration Plan for Cahoon Meadow, Sequoia National Park</a>	\$ 74,500.00
Tulare	Tulare County RCD	<a href="#">Mountain Home Fuel Load Reduction Project</a>	\$ 350,000.00
Tulare	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	<a href="#">Control Velvetgrass (Holcus lanatus) in the Kern Canyon of Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest</a>	\$ 237,638.00
El Dorado, Alpine, Amador	El Dorado Irrigation District,	<a href="#">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.</a>	\$ 75,000.00
Plumas; Tuolumne	California Invasive Plant Council	<a href="#">Planning High-Priority Invasive Plant Management in Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada</a>	\$ 58,593.00
Calaveras, Tuolumne	California Department of Parks and Recreation	<a href="#">Calaveras Big Trees State Park Fuels Treatments</a>	\$ 33,091.00
			\$ 2,195,140.17