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Sierra Nevada Conservancy awards \$3.2M for tree mortality, forest health, and watershed restoration projects

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy governing board has approved over \$3.2 million in grants for projects that will address tree mortality, 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 third set of awards made under the SNC's Proposition 1 grant program.

The projects approved for funding include:

- American River Headwaters Improvement Project, \$500,000. This grant to the American River Conservancy will treat 330 acres on lands the American River Conservancy owns at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the American River. Located upstream of the French Meadows and Hell Hole Reservoirs and west of Lake Tahoe and the Granite Chief Wilderness, the entire site includes 10,115 acres and will, in part, serve as a research and demonstrate site for landscape-scale ecologically-based forest management.
- Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase III, \$250,700. This grant awarded to the Nevada Irrigation District will remove excess trees, brush, and sprouting hardwoods to reduce fire risk on 82 acres owned by the Nevada Irrigation District. The project area is located on the shoreline of the Scotts Flat Reservoir, an important component of the water supply infrastructure that NID manages for communities in Western Nevada County.

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 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.