

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program

SNC ID Number: 1074

Applicant: Truckee Donner Land Trust

Project Title: Webber Lake/Little Truckee Headwaters Forest Management Phase 2

Project Category: One

SNC Subregion: North Central

County(ies): Sierra

Funding Amount Requested: \$419,250

Funding Amount Recommended: \$419,250

Total Project Cost: \$419,250

Final Score: 82.25

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

The 185-acre Webber Lake/Little Truckee Headwaters Forest Management Phase 2 (Project) is a Category 1 project in Coppins Meadow within the Webber Lake Basin in unincorporated Sierra County. The applicant, Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT), is also the landowner. The project area is located about twenty-five miles north of Truckee and is surrounded by the Tahoe National Forest (TNF). The Webber Basin and Webber Lake form the headwaters of the Little Truckee River, the largest tributary of the middle reach of the Truckee River.

The Project will implement an existing Forest Management Plan/Timber Harvest Plan on 185 acres through harvesting timber and mastication. Timber stands will be thinned using hand and mechanical methods to minimize tree mortality and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. Treatments will also remove diseased trees and conifer encroachment into adjoining meadows. Any revenue resulting from the sale of wood products will be used to offset direct costs.

The Webber Lake and meadow complex, consisting of lake, meadow, stream, and conifer forest habitat, was acquired with funding assistance from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as was the development of the Timber Harvest Plan (THP). The TDLT and partners who form the Northern Sierra Partnership, with funding assistance from the SNC, have invested heavily in the upper Little Truckee Headwaters, identified as vital for the protection of habitat due to its relatively undeveloped state. Forest management within the Land Trust's Webber Lake ownership is congruent with the

forest thinning efforts of other landowners within the Planning Watershed, including Sierra Pacific Industries and the U.S. Forest Service. In the past two decades, almost half of the watershed throughout timberlands surrounding the THP area have been thinned under a variety of uneven aged silvicultural prescriptions. The Webber Lake/Little Truckee Headwaters project effectively connects forest management projects across the watershed, increasing the efficacy and restorative benefits of forest management on the landscape level.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust has received funding for two successful projects from the SNC. For nearly three decades, the non-profit has protected and managed more than 37,000 acres of conservation lands and is committed to conserving lands in the Truckee Donner region, which includes the upper basin of the Little Truckee River. The Land Trust has a long history of managing timber harvest operations on its lands, including supervising RPFs and logging contractors, as well as overseeing large budgets for similar projects.

The Webber Lake/Little Truckee Headwaters Forest Management Phase 2 project is strongly supported by the U.S. Forest Service, USFS Sierraville Ranger District, Sierra Pacific Industries, the Truckee River Watershed Council, and many others. This project will uniquely benefit residents of the state on both sides of the Sierra Nevada from a source water protection perspective, as the water flows to both the Truckee River and to the Feather River. Some water from the Webber Basin is carried to the Middle Fork of the Feather River and the CA State Water Project. The project supports the goals of Proposition 1 and 68 and the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Plan by reducing dangerous fuels for protection of the water supply and quality of Webber Lake, the Little Truckee River, and the Feather River Basin.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Harvest timber and perform mastication on 185 acres of forestlands	August 2019 – December 2021
SNC Progress Reports	Every 6 months
SNC Final Report	December 2021
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 2021

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Project Management	\$1,890
Implementation: forester, mechanical thinning	\$381,000
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$36,360
TOTAL:	\$419, 250

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

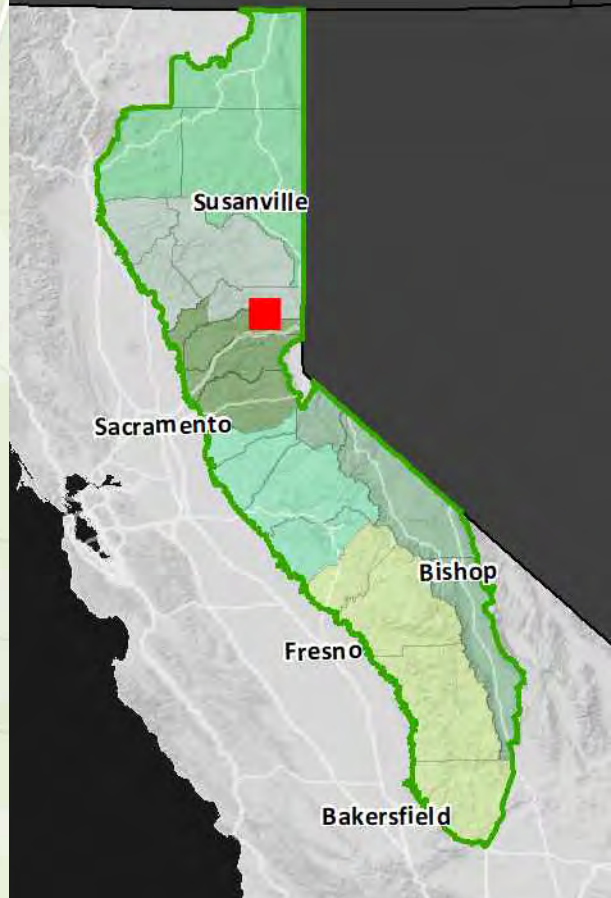
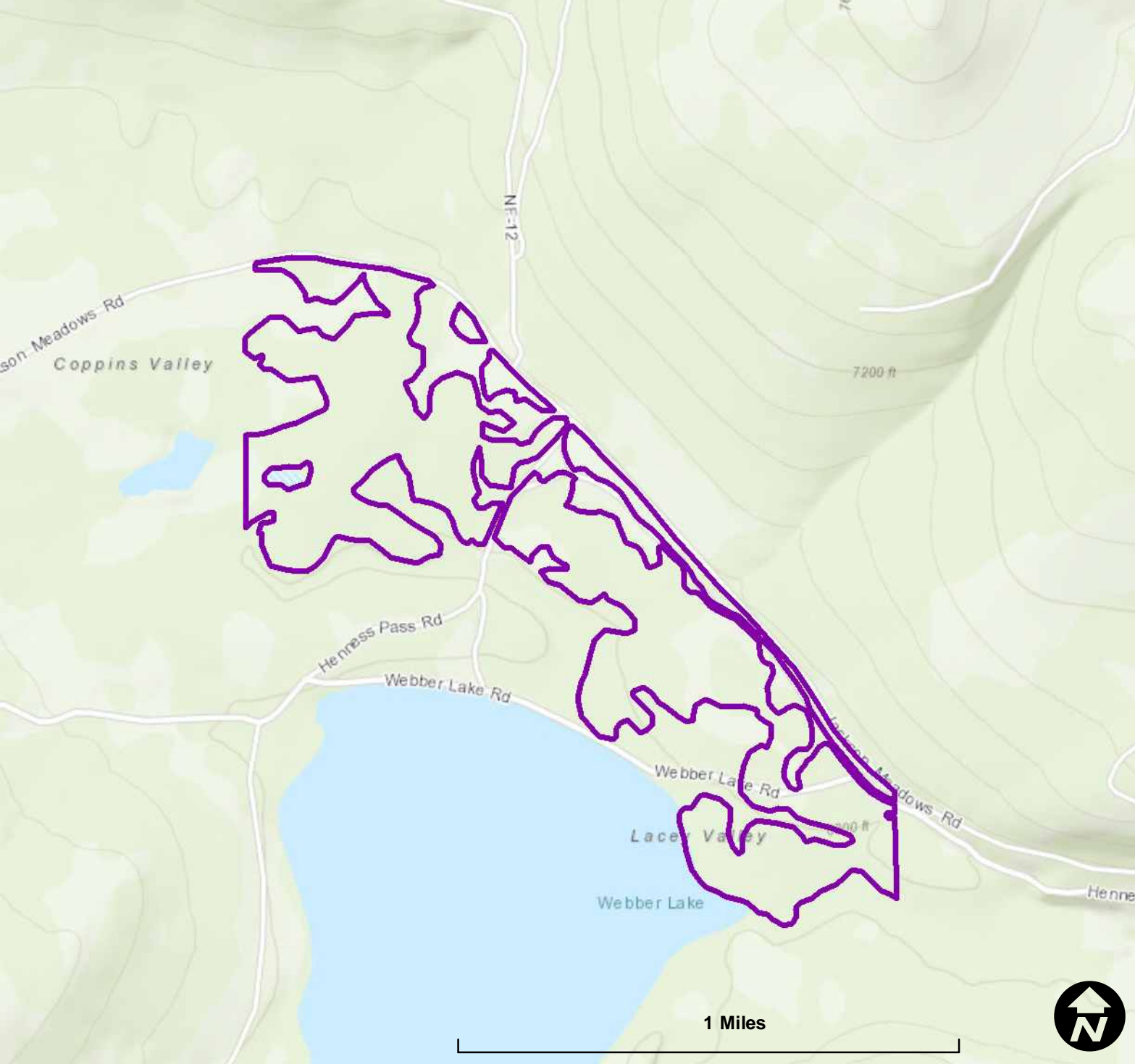
SUPPORT:









- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Truckee River Watershed Council
- USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville District

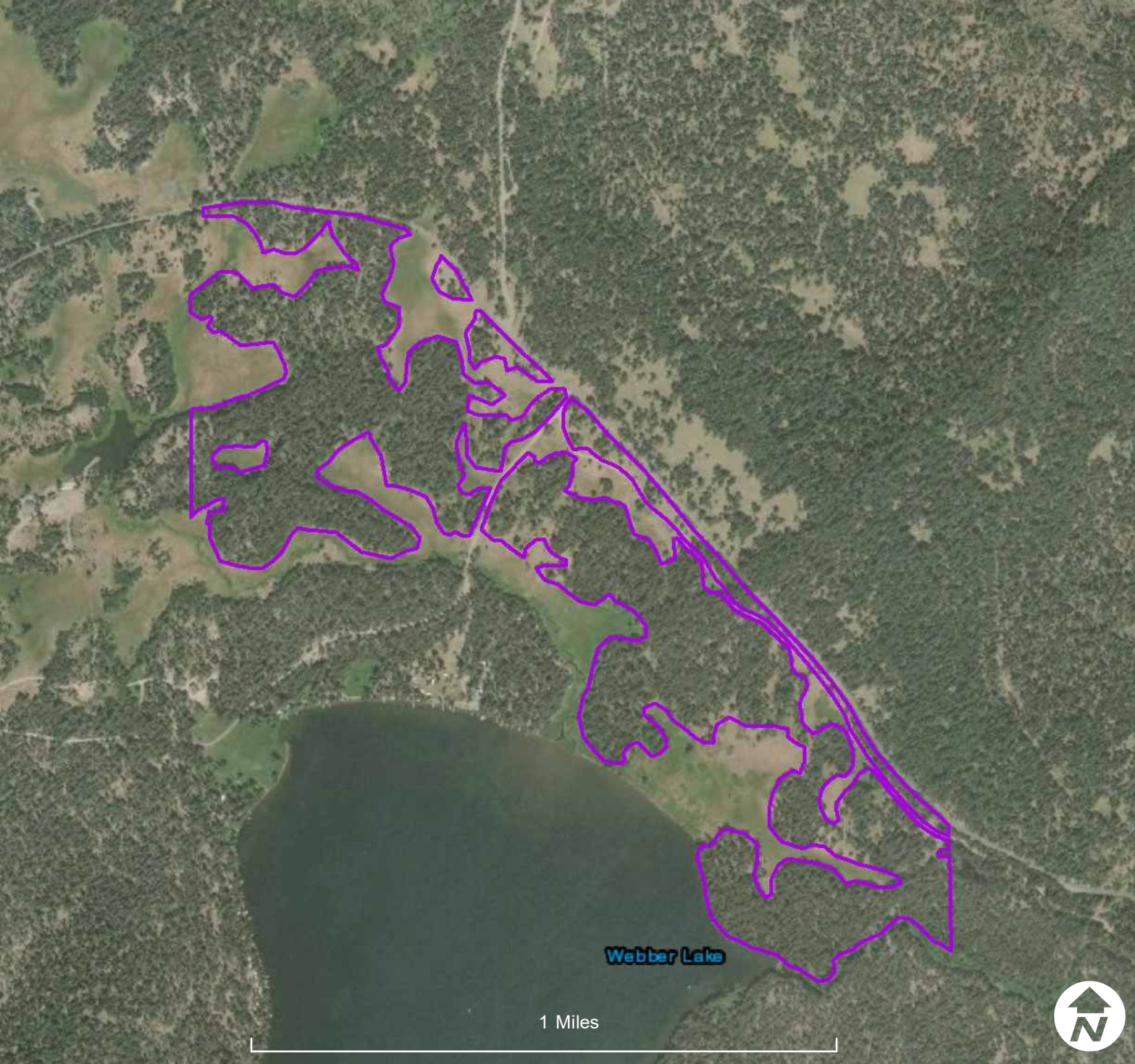
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES









There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

CEQA Documentation

SNC #: 1074

Project Title: Webber Lake Little Truckee Headwaters Forest Management Phase Two

Applicant: Truckee Donner Land Trust

CEQA:

The Truckee Donner Land Trust holds Timber Harvest Plan 2-18-00130-SIE, approved by CAL FIRE. The SNC may file a Notice of Determination on the THP as a Responsible Agency.

- **Notice of Determination:** See Below
- **Timber Harvest Plan:** [Click Here](#)

Notice of Determination

To:	From:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research U.S. Mail: <u>Street Address</u> P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814	Public Agency <u>Sierra Nevada Conservancy</u> Address: <u>11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205</u> <u>Auburn, CA 95603</u> Contact: <u>Shannon Ciotti</u> Phone <u>(530) 823-4689</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> County Clerk County of: <u>Sierra</u> Address: <u>100 Courthouse Square, Room 11</u> <u>Downieville, CA 95936</u>	Lead Agency (if different from above): <u>California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection</u> Address: <u>6105 Airport Road</u> Contact: <u>John Ramaley, RPF#2504</u> Phone: <u>(530) 224-2490</u>

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): _____

Project Title: Webber Lake Little Truckee Headwaters Forest Management – Phase 2 (SNC #1074)

Project Applicant: Truckee Donner Land Trust

Project Location (include county): Coppins Meadow, Webber Lake Basin, Sierra County

Project Description:
The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$419,250 in funding for forest thinning treatments on 185 acres of forested lands surrounding Webber Lake and Coppins Meadow. These treatments would reduce the severity and intensity of wildfire, and benefit watershed functionality by reducing conifer encroachment into Coppins Meadow. Specific treatments would include cut-to-length harvesting of small and medium-sized trees (12-24 inch diameter at breast height) using a rubber-tired processor and forwarder, and chipper. All work will be performed in compliance with the California Forest Practices Act and an adopted Timber Harvest Plan (THP) prepared for the property (THP No. 2-18-00130-SIE; TDLT Webber), which was approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on December 4, 2018.

This is to advise that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy **has approved the above**
(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)
described project on March 7, 2019 **and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.**
(date)

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Timber Harvesting Plan (THP No. 2-18-00130-SIE; TDLT Webber) was adopted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Chapter 8, commencing with section 4511 of Part 2 of Division 4 of the Public Resources Code. The Timber Harvest Plan meets the requirements of a Substitute Document pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15252. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is using the substitute document in its approval of the project as a Responsible Agency, consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15253 (a) and (b).
3. Mitigation Measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Drive Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603

Signature (Public Agency): _____ Title: _____

Date: _____ Date Received for filing at OPR: _____