

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program

SNC ID Number: 1094

Applicant: Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Lakes Basin Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project – Phase 1

Project Category: One

SNC Subregion: East

County(ies): Mono

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,135,220

Final Score: 84.5

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

The Lakes Basin Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project – Phase 1 is a Category One on-the-ground site improvement project in the Mammoth Ranger District of Inyo National Forest, immediately southwest of the Town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County. The Project consists of a minimum of 560 acres of fuels reduction on Inyo National Forest land adjacent to many valuable recreational and water resources. The Project is designed to be expandable up to a total of 632 acres if contracting bids allow. The Project will protect public infrastructure, recreational access, wildlife habitat, and forest and watershed resources.

Ranging in elevation from 8,400–10,100 feet, the Project encompasses various overcrowded forest types including Sierra Mixed Conifer, red fir, and lodgepole pine stands. The Project is part of the Mono County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and will apply a thin-from-below treatment, removing most of the small-diameter trees and creating less-crowded and more-resilient forest stands able to better withstand wildfire, drought, and disease. The Project will utilize a combination of mechanical and hand thinning and will implement fuel breaks, roadside and campground fuels reduction, defensible space around infrastructure, forest restoration, and a small amount of meadow aspen release treatments. All slash will be masticated or chipped and spread on site, piled for later burning, or removed through public fuelwood cutting.

Over the past decade, considerable work has been completed around the town of Mammoth Lakes. Approximately 130 acres of fuels reduction work was completed on

Inyo National Forest land with a past Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant. Project partner, Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD), was awarded federal funding to work with nearby private property owners to inspect and implement fuels reduction work. The MLFPD has recently partnered with Mono County and purchased a chipper which they use to provide roadside chipping services to private property owners throughout the county.

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council (MLFSC) is a recently formed, local 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to reduce wildfire threat to communities and natural resources in the Mammoth Lakes region. The SNC has awarded two grants to the MLFPD, which is one of the founding organizations of the MLFSC. The landowner, Inyo National Forest, is dedicated to protecting natural resources and recreation opportunities for the public.

The Project’s primary partners are the Inyo National Forest, Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and the Mammoth Community Water District. The Inyo National Forest has agreed to provide technical assistance and project monitoring assistance at no expense of the grant. The Mammoth Community Water District will also provide in-kind project management and grant administration, as well as community outreach and education related to the Project.

The Project lies within the headwaters of Mammoth Creek that provide municipal water to the town of Mammoth Lakes. Additionally, these waters flow into the Owens River which is a significant source of water for the city of Los Angeles and communities supplied by the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin. The Project also supports the goals of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program and Propositions 1 and 68 by creating more resilient and robust headwaters forest ecosystems and protecting recreational access.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Agreements and partner roles developed between USFS, MLFSC, MCWD, and MLFPD	March – May 2019
Implementation contract awarded	May 2019
Fuels reduction implementation	September – November 2019 September – December 2020
SNC Progress Reports	Every 6 months
SNC Final Report	January 2021
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 2021

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Implementation Costs	\$997,000
Publications, Printing, and Outreach	\$1,000
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$2,000
TOTAL:	\$1,000,000

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

SUPPORT:

- Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program
- UC Santa Barbara – Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves
- Mono Lake Kudzatika Tribe
- Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Mono County Board of Supervisors
- Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

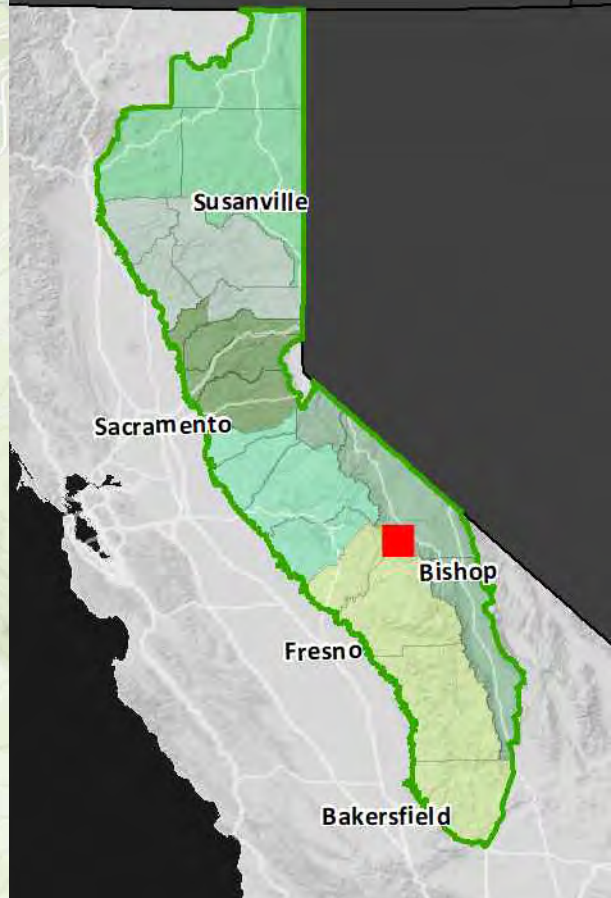
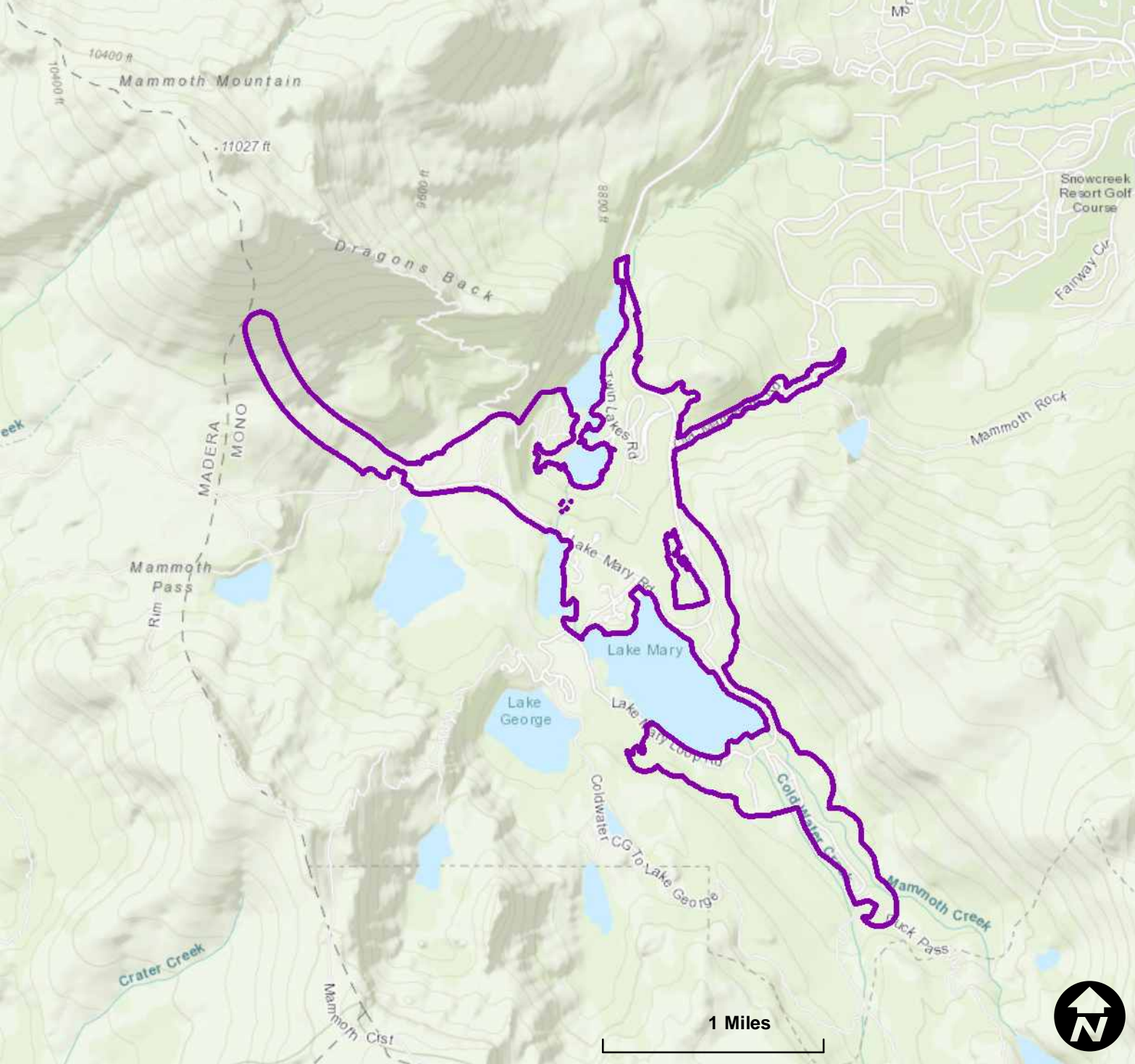
OPPOSITION:

- None

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
- Number and value of new improved or preserved economic activities
- Number of significant sites protected or preserved
- Linear feet of stream bank restored



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

Lakes Basin Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project - Phase 1
Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council



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

CEQA Documentation

SNC #: 1094

Project Title: Lakes Basin Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project - Phase 1

Applicant: Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council

CEQA:

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District is Lead Agency on an Initial Study and Negative Declaration. The SNC may file a Notice of Determination on the IS/ND as a Responsible Agency.

- **Notice of Determination:** See Below
- **Initial Study and Negative Declaration:** [Click Here](#)

Notice of Determination**Appendix D****To:**

Office of Planning and Research
 U.S. Mail: _____ Street Address: _____
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
 County of: Mono _____
 Address: 74 School Street, Annex I _____
 Bridgeport, CA 93517 _____

From:

Public Agency: Sierra Nevada Conservancy _____
 Address: 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205 _____
 Auburn, CA 95603 _____
 Contact: Shannon Ciotti _____
 Phone: (530) 823-4689 _____

Lead Agency (if different from above):
 Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District _____
 Address: 3150 Main Street _____
 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 _____
 Contact: _____
 Phone: _____

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

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2018039002 _____

Project Title: Lakes Basin Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project - Phase I (SNC #1094) _____

Project Applicant: Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District _____

Project Location (include county): Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County _____

Project Description:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$1,000,000 in funding to reduce fire risk on 560.3 acres of land at the headwaters of Mammoth Creek within the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Project benefits include increased wildfire resilience, ecological resilience, protection of water municipal water resources, restoration of aquatic resource functionality, and protection of wildlife habitat. Specific project treatments would include mechanical and hand thinning; and fuel wood cutting, piling, chipping, burning, and/or removal.

This is to advise that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy _____ has approved the above
 (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on _____ and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
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: _____