

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program

SNC ID Number: 1130

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Project Title: French Meadows Prescribed Fire Project

Project Category: One

SNC Subregion: Central

County(ies): Placer

Funding Amount Requested: \$942,357

Funding Amount Recommended: \$942,357

Total Project Cost: \$1,094,697

Final Score: 83.50

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

The French Meadows Prescribed Fire Project is a component of the 28,000-acre French Meadows Forest Restoration Project. The project is in Placer County on the Tahoe National Forest in the upper watershed of the American River around and above French Meadows Reservoir. The project area is at approximately 5,000' elevation on the west slope of the Sierra due west of Lake Tahoe. This grant will treat 654 acres using prescribed fire.

The French Meadows Forest Restoration Project (FMP) is a major collaborative effort for large-scale restoration of the French Meadows Reservoir watershed on the Tahoe National Forest. The goal of the FMP is to put ecologically-based fire regimes back onto the landscape following appropriate pre-treatments. This grant will fund the first prescribed fire treatment on the FMP, consisting of two treatment areas totaling 654 acres. This project includes hand thinning to break up continuity of ladder fuels and remove any unsafe concentration of fuels; creation of fire containment lines; deployment of fire engines and water resources at strategic locations; use of drip ignition (18 – 20-person burn crews); and crews to reinforce fire lines, contain hot spots, and mop up after burning. The prescribed fire will be under the control of the Forest Service Burn Boss and other management staff.

Adjacent and integral with the FMP, the American Headwaters project is a 10,000-acre area owned by the American River Conservancy which is also being restored to a