

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund

SNC ID Number: TRFRF005

Applicant: Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions (CHIPS)

Project Title: Forest Restoration and Prescribed Fire Crew Development

SNC Subregion: Region-wide

Funding Amount Requested: \$40,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$40,000

Total Project Cost: \$55,000

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) is located in West Point, Calaveras County. It has developed a successful forest restoration and prescribed fire crew training program which has been operating in Calaveras and Amador counties for the past eleven years, and in Alpine County and the Tahoe National Forest for the last four years. The program recruits, trains, certifies, and deploys 20-40 Native American and at-risk youth in an environment of structured work and social services to perform fuel reduction, prescribed fire, and other restoration tasks. Over the past two years, CHIPS has expanded the program into nearby counties, training an additional two crews, one of which is deployed in Yosemite National Park. The proposed grant would allow CHIPS to provide the recruitment, coordination, training, and deployment of an additional crew as requested by tribal organizations in other areas of the SNC Region. Several areas have shown an interest in these services, including Nevada and Plumas counties. In addition, the need for trained crews has been well documented throughout the Region.

CHIPS has a unique and effective approach to crew development that involves up-front coordination and contracting with local land management and other restoration agencies (such as fire safe councils and RCDs). This work assures that when the crew is trained, they will have work available for one-to-two years.

This program complements another aspect of the workforce development assistance being proposed for TRFRF funding in proposed programs #003 (Sierra Nevada Alliance professional staff internships) and #004 (Sierra Business Council Workforce Development Initiative). Those projects deal with agency staffing and long-term workforce development issues. This program is an on-the-ground project which provides immediate benefits in terms of available crews and job training/generation.

Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit California corporation based in Amador and Calaveras counties. It focuses on forest restoration and workforce development programs and is also involved in the development of the Wilseyville bioenergy/biomass business campus. CHIPS was a founding member of the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG), one of the earliest forest collaboratives. CHIPS is also a member of the SCALE collaborative and has played a leadership role in promoting Stewardship Agreements and other innovative business practices with land management agencies. The SNC has provided funding and technical support to assist with many of the CHIPS projects and activities, including their forest management work and bioenergy business development. CHIPS has a track record of timely and thorough completion of the SNC grants awarded.

This project meets the criteria of the SNC’s TRFRF appropriation by providing seed funding for workforce development programs in forest restoration and wood-based business development. The proposed work also directly addresses the SNC Action Plan Resilient Communities Strategy 3: Develop and implement collaborative approaches that enhance community resiliency and bring entities together to solve problems and overcome obstacles. Action 1: Support and participate in efforts to establish new workforce internships or service programs focused on planning and implementing forest health projects and wood products/biomass utilization.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Progress Reports	Every 6 months until project completion
Coordination and Partnership Development	September 2019 – May 2020
Crew and Foreman Training	May – June 2020
Crew Deployment	July – December 2021
Monitoring and Assistance	July – December 2021
Final Project Report	January – March 2021
Estimated Project Completion Date	March 2021

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Certification Expenses	\$25,000
Consultants	\$10,000
Operating Costs (travel, equipment, printing, etc.)	\$5,000
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$0
TOTAL:	\$40,000

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Number and Type of Jobs Created
- Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities
- Number of People Reached
- Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada

CEQA Documentation

SNC #: TRFRF005

Project Title: Forest Restoration and Prescribed Fire Crew Development

Applicant: Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions

CEQA:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262. Feasibility and Planning Studies.

- **Notice of Exemption:** See Below

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

County Clerk
County of _____

(Address)

Project Title: Forest Restoration and Prescribed Fire Crew Development (SNC #TRFRF005)

Project Location - Specific:

The prescribed fire crew could potentially be available throughout the Sierra Nevada region - potentially including Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Plumas, Sierra, Yuba, Nevada, Placer El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Alpine, Mono, and Inyo counties.

Project Location – City: NA Project Location – County: See description above

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding in the amount of \$40,000 to Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions to expand their existing forest restoration and prescribed fire crew program to recruit, coordinate, train, and deploy an additional crew as requested by tribal organizations in other areas of the Sierra Nevada region. The program recruits, trains, certifies, and deploys Native American and at-risk youth in an environment of structured work and social services to perform fuel reduction, prescribed fire, and other restoration tasks.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15262, "Feasibility and Planning Studies"

Reasons why project is exempt:

This is a program development activity to recruit and train a workforce crew. It does not involve physical alterations to the environment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

- Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: _____
- Signed by Applicant

Revised 2005