

NEWS RELEASE

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Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board Awards More Than \$3 Million for Restoration Projects

(AUBURN, Calif.) – At its quarterly meeting, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board approved a total of \$3,122,551 in funds for five different projects focused on improving watershed and forest health throughout the Sierra Nevada.

Each of the selected projects strike at the heart of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP), SNC's large-scale restoration initiative designed to improve ecosystem and community resilience in the Region.

“The projects authorized for funding by our board today will provide community protection and improve forest and watershed health more broadly,” said Sierra Nevada Conservancy Executive Officer, Angela Avery. “These are great examples of the type and kind of work that the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program is focused on implementing with our partners across the region.”

Four of the approved projects are specifically forest health grants funded through Proposition 1 (The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014) and Proposition 68 (The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018). The Yuba Watershed Institute was awarded \$300,000 for its *Inimim Forest Restoration Project – Phase 1* to aid in forest restoration and watershed health in Nevada County. Sagehen Creek Field Station, a research and teaching facility of the University of California at Berkeley located in the Tahoe National Forest, was awarded \$1 million for its *Pushing the Larger Landscape Into Resiliency Through Fire* project. An additional \$721,487 was authorized to the Sierra Foothill Conservancy in Mariposa County for the *Von Der Ahe Forest Enhancement Project* and \$506,714 went to the Plumas Audubon Society for its efforts to improve the health of the forests in the Genesee Valley, a significant tributary to the north fork of the Feather River.

Finally, \$594,350 was allotted for the *Blacksmith Project*, an undertaking by the El Dorado National Forest to aid in landscape resilience and improve growing conditions for trees in a 6,000-acre area east of Georgetown, Ca. Funding for this project came from CAL FIRE's California Climate Investments (CCI) grant program, which puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work throughout the state to help improve public health, the environment, and the economy by reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs).

Additional information about these projects and the programs that fund them can be found at sierranevada.ca.gov in the June 2019 Board Meeting materials.

**About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and
the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the 25-million-acre Sierra Nevada Region. The SNC leads the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP), a large-scale restoration program designed to restore the health of California's primary watershed and create resilient Sierra Nevada Communities. Additional information about the SNC and the WIP can be found at sierranevada.ca.gov.

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