

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is required by statute, Public Resource Code Section 33350, to “make an annual report to the Legislature and to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency regarding expenditures, land management costs, and administrative costs.”

In the early years of the SNC, the Annual Report was produced as an expanded education and outreach tool. In more recent years, due to budget and operational constraints, the Annual Report has been scaled down in scope while still satisfying statutory requirements and providing an overview of key activities.

Current Status

Staff is in the process of producing another in-house Annual Report for FY 2013-14. The report, which will be approximately six pages in length and designed primarily for electronic distribution, will fulfill statutory requirements while highlighting the SNC’s commitment and benefit to the Region and its communities.

September, 2014 marks the SNC’s 10 year anniversary so the FY 2013-14 Annual Report will focus on the SNC and the Region with a 10 year perspective. On June 17th, staff sent a survey to approximately 2,100 people – SNC Boardmembers, stakeholders, grantees, partners and others - asking for assistance in telling our story. Staff will use some of the quotes and images received in response in this year’s report.

Proposed Outline:

- A word from the Executive Officer – The past 10 years
- A word from the Board Chair, BJ Kirwan – SNC Regional accomplishments over the past 10 years (linking to the accomplishment document distributed at June 2014 meeting)
- Report topics:
 - Protecting and Restoring the Sierra
 - Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative
 - Biomass Utilization – including the grant program focus
 - Rim Fire Restoration – Board allocation of \$1m
 - Abandoned Mine Lands – including the grant program focus
 - Enjoying in the Sierra
 - Great Sierra River Cleanup
 - Geotourism – launching of agritourism and water trails development
 - Investing in the Sierra
 - Ecosystem Services Initiative – focusing on the Moke Avoided Cost Analysis
 - Sierra to the Sea, Resolution #03-14-01

- Budget and Fiscal information
- Grant Program Information
 - 10 year perspective of awarded grants
 - Awarded amount by year
 - Number of closed out projects
 - Aggregated Performance Measures

Next Steps

Staff will draft the Annual Report as described above and will complete design, layout, and illustrations in-house. Graphics may include budget charts or graphs, a small number of photos and quotes from legislators, partners, stakeholders and/or Boardmembers. With Board concurrence, staff will prepare the Annual Report and distribute it appropriately. Anticipated distribution and posting on the SNC Web site is mid November 2014.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve the proposed approach for completing the 2013-14 Annual Report and direct staff to develop and distribute the report.