

### **Background**

The fourth of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) regional Tribal Forums was held in June at the United States Forest Service District Office in Prather. Two tribes were represented at the meeting, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians and North Fork Indian Rancheria. Numerous areas of common interest were covered in the discussion, including fire and tree mortality and consequences for human safety and resources, burned areas, abandoned mine lands and cultural monitoring and remediation, tribal partnerships, state contracting, and cultural education and tourism. Recommended actions from the meeting were:

- Continue to seek opportunities for intertribal approaches for project administration and development. SNC can assist in the facilitation of tribal partnerships through the Proposition 1 grant program project development phase and through on-going developments under the Watershed Improvement Program.
- Continue education/outreach efforts: consider more SNC presentations during tribal convenings.
- Request change in SNC enabling legislation to include definition of California Native American Tribe in order to include non-federally recognized tribes.
- Include tribes in SNC Strategic Plan Update process.

Developments on follow-up actions from previous forums:

- Project Leads in each SNC Subregion are working with potential applicants on the development of projects under SNC's Prop 1 grant round. Language within the Grant Guidelines encourages applicants, with the assistance of Project Leads when needed, to work with tribes whose ancestral homelands may be affected by the project, or who may be able to partner for a more successful outcome.
- SNC is considering proposed legislation for modification of the definition of "Tribal Organization" found within PRC 33302(h) to include non-federally recognized tribes for SNC grants and support.

### **Current Status**

At this writing, the fifth of the series of Tribal Forums is scheduled to take place Wednesday, September 6, prior to the Board tour. (Information from the Tribal Forum will be provided to the Board during the meeting.)

### **Next Steps**

SNC staff will continue to work towards stronger relationships with the California Native American Tribes within our Region. The next Tribal Forum will be held in December.

### **Recommendation**

**This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.**