

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1300

SNC ID Number: 1300

Applicant: National Forest Foundation

Project Title: West Fork Carson and Monitor Pass Project

SNC Subregion: East

County: Alpine

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,401,520

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,401,520

Total Project Cost: \$1,568,710

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

The West Fork Carson and Monitor Pass Project is located on lands managed by the Carson Ranger District (District) of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) in Alpine County. In partnership with the HTNF, The National Forest Foundation (NFF) will implement 494 acres of hazardous fuel reduction and aspen restoration treatments in the Hope Valley and Pickett's Junction area at the intersection of Highway 88 and 89, and along Highway 89 near Monitor Pass. This project will reduce fuel loading and risk of severe wildfire, restore aspen and meadow ecosystems, and enhance and protect the headwaters of the Carson River watershed.

The project area includes 370 acres of mixed-conifer forest and 124 acres of aspen stands. Current conditions are overstocked stands with horizontally and vertically continuous fuels that pose a high risk of high-severity crown fire. The aspen stands are currently in a declining state and at risk of loss due to conifer encroachment and dense fuel loading. The project treatment approach includes hand cutting and piling conifers 12-inch and less diameter at breast height, removal and hand piling of dead and downed material, and removal of brush. Piles will be located outside of the dripline of overstory trees, where possible, and 15 feet away from any aspen tree or sprout and outside of a riparian buffer. Treatment outcomes will include reduced fuel loading, stand density, and conifer encroachment in aspen and meadow habitats, resulting in improved forest health and fire resiliency, improved hydrologic benefits, lower risk of high-intensity wildfire, and restored high-value aspen communities.

This project is one component of a larger landscape strategy on the HTNF, Carson District, and has been identified as a priority by the District due to the extensive fuel loading, risk of loss/conversion of aspen stands, and proximity to high-value resources. The HTNF currently has an additional 310 acres of similar treatments under contract for implementation within the larger West Fork Carson and Monitor Pass planning areas. The NFF has also applied to California Department of Fish and Wildlife to support another 350 acres of fuels reduction and aspen/meadow restoration in the Hope Valley area around the West Fork Carson unit of this project. Additionally, HTNF has scheduled National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning to prepare more acreage for treatment directly adjacent to the project.

The NFF was founded by the U.S. Congress in 1991 and is solely dedicated to enhancing the ecological health and promoting sustainable public enjoyment of America's 193-million-acre National Forest System. The NFF has significant experience administering public and private funds to complete forest health projects on National Forest lands, including previous work with Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) on projects within the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative area. Local staff in NFF's Tahoe Program will be managing and coordinating this project with the HTNF.

The NFF and the HTNF, Carson District, are the primary partners for this project. The HTNF led NEPA planning activities and the project scope was designed collaboratively by the HTNF and NFF. Specialists from the HTNF will serve as expert technical staff and provide in-kind staff time to support to the project. Other project partners include the Alpine Watershed Group and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, both of which provided letters of support for the project. The NFF also intends to partner with a tribal workforce, such as the Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions Hung a Lel Ti crew, that is based in Alpine County, for project implementation.

This project supports the SNC Strategic Plan, and aligns with the intent of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience funding, by improving forest and watershed health through hazardous fuel reduction and aspen restoration in the headwaters of the Carson River. This will result in a direct benefit to water quality and quantity for downstream users in Markleeville, Woodfords, and the Hung a Lel Ti community. This project will also enhance and sustain recreation opportunities for the public and associated revenue for communities in Alpine County, especially related to the regionally renowned aspen leaf color change every fall. Additionally, this project will increase local capacity and the pace and scale of forest treatments in Alpine County and within SNC's East Subregion by supporting new partnerships and developing local workforce.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Progress reports	Every 6 months
Complete project layout and install signage	July – August 2021
Implementation of 494 acres of treatment	September 2021 – November 2024
Final report	December 2024
Estimated Project Completion Date	November 2024

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project implementation	\$1,138,000
Project management	\$75,000
Travel, signage, and supplies	\$6,000
Administrative costs	\$182,520
Total	\$1,401,520

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District
- Alpine Watershed Group
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Opposition:

- None received

Project Performance Measures

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project-specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored