

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1305

SNC ID Number: 1305

Applicant: Lassen Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Project Title: Thompson Peak Initiative Bootsole Forest & Watershed Restoration Project

SNC Subregion: North

Counties: Lassen & Plumas

Funding Amount Requested: \$3,671,725

Funding Amount Recommended: \$3,671,725

Total Project Cost: \$7,611,725

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

The Lassen Fire Safe Council Inc. (LFSC) will implement the 3,770-acre Thompson Peak Initiative Bootsole Forest and Watershed Restoration Project located within the Plumas National Forest (PNF) southwest of the communities of Janesville and Milford, CA and north of Antelope Lake. The purpose of the project is to reduce hazardous fuels, reduce risk to communities and the landscape from large, severe wildfires, restore forest health and resilience, improve wildlife habitat, and improve watershed condition. The project is located in Lassen and Plumas counties atop the Thompson Peak escarpment at elevations of approximately 6,000 to 6,600 feet.

The project will treat overly dense conifer stands using variable density silviculture prescriptions to promote a mixture of tree sizes and structural diversity throughout the project area. Treatments will include mechanical and hand thinning, including sawlog and biomass removal. Implementation of the project would result in reduced stand densities and would shift the species composition to a greater percentage of drought-tolerant, fire-resistant pine resulting in a landscape more resilient to drought, wildfire, and climate change. Conifers would be removed from within meadows, aspen stands, and where aspen occurs as a minor component within other forest types. The project includes up to 1,000 acres of restored aspen and meadow. Prescriptions would retain old-growth and large trees and promote more fire-resistant stands. Following treatment, prescribed fire could be used to reduce surface fuels through the project area. The PNF proposes an additional 463 acres of prescribed fire and 3,770 acres of underburning as a follow-up treatment throughout the project area, although these

actions are not proposed for Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) funding or included as deliverables for this project.

The project is a component of the large landscape-scale Thompson Peak Initiative (TPI) covering approximately 92,713 acres. Projects in the TPI include forest health projects, community protection treatments funded with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) California Climate Investment (CCI) funds and planning projects funded in partnership with the SNC (project #1275), PNF, and Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The Diamond Mountain Initiative to the northwest has treated over 7,000 acres on both United States Forest Service and private lands (SNC project #1065 and other funding sources).

The LFSC has a Master Stewardship Agreement with the land manager, the PNF. PNF staff will work closely with LFSC staff and contractors to implement the proposed project. The LFSC is a 501(c)(3) organization with limited paid staff that relies heavily on contract services provided by industry professionals. The LFSC has received numerous awards from SNC in the past, including two currently active projects in the vicinity of the Bootsole Project (SNC #'s 1065 and 1275).

The project has been developed under a community-led effort, the TPI, and partners include PNF, Susanville Indian Rancheria, CAL FIRE, Bureau of Land Management, Lassen County, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, LFSC and the Janesville and Milford Fire Protection Districts. Additional funding for the project (approx. \$3,990,000) includes PNF in-kind personnel for project oversight, revenue from biomass material (estimated in coordination with Honey Lake Power), and a challenge match from CCI funds secured by LFSC.

The project will increase the pace and scale of forest health projects, strengthen protection of communities, and manage forests to achieve the state's economic and environmental goals. The project addresses the importance of climate change and will implement locally driven solutions by restoring forest health to build resistance to wildfire. The project will contribute forest materials to industries reliant on a market for sustainable wood products and further develop strong partnerships among federal, state, local, tribal, and private entities. Most of the treatment area is located within the Feather River watershed. The communities of Janesville and Milford (California Disadvantaged Communities) as well as surrounding working forest and agricultural landscapes adjacent to the project area will be protected by treatments on the PNF.

Project Schedule

| Project Tasks and Deliverables | Timeline |
|--|-------------------|
| Progress report #1 | 2/1/22 |
| Progress report #2 | 8/1/22 |
| Progress report #3 | 2/1/23 |
| Progress report #4 | 8/1/23 |
| Progress report #5 | 2/1/24 |
| Progress report #6 | 8/1/24 |
| Layout, cruise, marking & frog surveys | 8/1/21 – 11/1/21 |
| Hand thinning & mastication treatments | 10/1/21 – 1/1/21 |
| Frog surveys (second year) | 6/1/2022 |
| Biomass utilization thinning treatments | 6/1/22 – 11/1/24 |
| Final report with performance measures reporting | 12/31/24 |
| Estimated Project Completion Date | 12/31/2024 |

Project Costs

| Project Costs | SNC Funding |
|---|--------------------|
| LFSC personnel / assistant project manager | \$34,200 |
| Project management, monitoring & reporting | \$142,000 |
| Frog surveys | \$8,200 |
| Cruise, layout, and marking | \$365,000 |
| Registered Professional Forester services – project oversight | \$80,000 |
| Hand thinning treatments & piling | \$496,500 |
| Biomass thinning treatments | \$2,037,600 |
| Mastication treatments | \$25,800 |
| Travel / mileage | \$5,600 |
| Supplies (paint & flagging) | \$5,000 |
| Administrative costs (14.7 percent) | \$471,825 |
| Total | \$3,671,725 |

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Susanville Indian Rancheria
- Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office
- California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, Scott Packwood, Unit Chief
- County of Lassen, Board of Supervisors
- County of Plumas Board of Supervisors
- Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District

- Lassen County Chamber of Commerce
- Greenleaf Power
- Susan River Fire Protection District
- Janesville Fire Protection District
- Milford Fire District

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
- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created