

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1319

SNC ID Number: 1319

Applicant: Feather River Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Mohawk Valley Wildfire Resilience Project

SNC Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,022,082

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,022,082

Total Project Cost: \$1,140,532

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

The Mohawk Valley Wildfire Resilience Project (Project) is located in Plumas County along the Middle Fork Feather River and the California Highway 70/89 corridor near the communities of Blairsden, Graeagle, Johnsville, and Plumas Pines. Submitted by the Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD), the Project will treat 727 acres of land managed by the Beckwourth Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest and 35 acres of Plumas Eureka Community Services District (CSD), for a total of 762 treatable acres. The primary purpose of the Project is to reduce hazardous fuel loads in overstocked forest stands to create conditions that are more resilient to wildfire.

The Project is a combination of private and public ownership in mixed conifer forest that will be treated with hand thinning and grapple piling to control insect and disease infestation and reduce hazardous fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface. Field surveys conducted in 2016 revealed extremely dense mixed conifer stands with elevated levels of tree mortality and high fuel loads. Units were identified in plan development funded through Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) and were selected after being deemed unsuitable for mechanical thinning due to steep terrain, access issues, and sensitive habitat concerns. The collaboratively planned Project has been identified as a regional priority due to its location, current ecological condition, ability to impact water resources, wildlife, and wildfire resiliency as well as its proximity to critical infrastructure including water treatment centers.

The Project has been planned in tandem with California State Parks and shares a boundary with their proposed Madora project that would create a fuel break, hand thin fuel reduction, and broadcast burning. The Project is near hazardous fuels reduction projects currently pursued by the Plumas County Fire Safe Council in eastern Plumas County and the SNC-funded Lakes Basin projects (#1088 and #1232).

Originally established in 1954, the Feather River RCD is a special district whose mission is to advocate for resource conservation through education and collaborative efforts with willing landowners and organizations that promote economic and ecological sustainability. Managing forest health projects since 2012, the RCD currently manages several SNC-funded projects including two RFFCP grants and the Moonlight Fire Restoration Program through a Good Neighbor Agreement between SNC and the Plumas National Forest. The RCD's programs and projects include management of reforestation, hand thinning, mastication, and oversight of the Plumas Underburn Cooperative.

Direct Project partners include the Plumas National Forest and Plumas Eureka CSD. Both partners have assisted with scoping, layout, and identifying needs for the Project and have committed to implementing pile burning to remove residual forest materials in their respective areas. A match of \$118,450 in the form of pile burning and project management will be contributed by Plumas National Forest.

Consistent with California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program, the Project will create conditions that are more resilient to wildfire and have characteristics that promote clean water, biodiversity, and a mixed-aged forest as well as allowing for safer reintroduction of fire as a management tool. Public benefits include positive impacts on fish and wildlife habitat, decreasing the likelihood of high severity fires affecting the popular Lakes Basin Recreation Area and Plumas Eureka State Park, and bolstering the local tourism economy. The Project will treat Plumas Eureka CSD property which provides drinking water and wastewater treatment for the community of Plumas Pines. The majority of the Project is located along the Middle Fork Feather River, which provides water for Lake Oroville and the State Water Project, and has the potential to affect the downstream communities of Sloat, Cromberg, and Greenhorn before entering the uninhabited wild and scenic section of the Middle Fork Feather River.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Progress reports	Every 6 months
Layout and flagging	February – April 2022
Project implementation – hand thin, grapple pile	May 2022 – December 2024
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 1, 2025

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project management, reporting, and travel	\$15,487
Flagging and layout	\$5,278
Hand thin/hand pile 386 acres	\$540,400
Hand thin/grapple pile 296 acres	\$296,000
Brush grapple pile 80 acres	\$72,000
Administrative costs	\$92,917
Total	\$1,022,082

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District
- Plumas County Fire Safe Council
- Plumas Eureka Community Services District
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition

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