

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1322

SNC ID Number: 1322

Applicant: National Forest Foundation

Project Title: Michigan Bluff Community Protection Project

SNC Subregion: Central

County: Placer

Funding Amount Requested: \$3,042,670

Funding Amount Recommended: \$3,042,670

Total Project Cost: \$3,067,670

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

The Michigan Bluff Community Protection Project (Project) is in Placer County on lands managed by the American River Ranger District (ARRD) of the Tahoe National Forest. The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is applying in partnership with the ARRD. The Project immediately surrounds the rural community of Michigan Bluff and is about three miles east of the larger community of Foresthill. It is near the top of a ridge on the north side of the Middle Fork American River above Oxbow Reservoir. Due to fuels, terrain, and weather patterns, the Project area is classified by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as a “very high” Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This project is currently the top priority of the Tahoe National Forest.

The Project will treat 1,266 acres of hazardous fuels on United States Forest Service land around the community of Michigan Bluff. The forest in this area has an abundance of high-density stands and substantial surface and ladder fuels that are vulnerable to fire sweeping up from the canyon below. A combination of mastication and hand thinning will reduce hazardous surface and ladder fuels. Trees up to 10 inches diameter at breast height and brush will be shredded or cut. Concentrations of hazardous fuels will also be reduced 300 feet along 4.3 miles of roads. Approximately 494 acres will be masticated, 707 acres will be hand cut/piled or lopped and scattered, and 65 acres treated for invasive plants. Of these acres, 879 are directly along Foresthill Divide Road, and 109 acres of fuels treatment will focus on improving habitat for the threatened perennial herb Layne’s butterweed. The Project will also maximize the retention of old growth and large trees, and utilize radial thinning around large full-crowned conifers to provide additional growing space.

The Michigan Bluff Project supports the larger program work on the ARRD and complements the adjacent forest health projects of Deadwood and Sunny South. The total area of these three projects is 9,030 acres. These strategic treatments all occur in close proximity to Foresthill Divide, a broad ridgetop that separates the North and Middle Forks of the American River.

The NFF is a federally chartered organization that assists the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service in the protection and restoration of the nation's forests. The NFF is partnering with the Tahoe National Forest, and specifically the American River Ranger District, to expand the ARRD's capacity to increase pace and scale of forest restoration on the District. The NFF has managed nearly \$26 million in combined private and public funding between 2017 and 2021 across the Tahoe Headwaters Treasured Landscape (THTL). They are implementing work with the ARRD on the Biggie Phase 3 project, and successfully completed a \$350,000 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for a project (#773) at the Sagehen Experimental Research Station.

The Tahoe National Forest is providing \$25,000 in-kind resources for project management. The ARRD has invested \$250,000 in project planning and \$200,000 in preparation and layout of associated commercial thinning units.

The Michigan Bluff Community Protection Project is a part of the 2.4 million acre Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative and NFF's 614,000 acre THTL. This project is part of Placer County's "foothills-to-headwaters" fuel break in the American River basin and is within the Placer County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This grant is supported by the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance. The Project rests at the top of the Middle Fork American River watershed, directly above Oxbow Reservoir and the Ralston Powerhouse, and will help protect a major tributary of Folsom Lake.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Project management and reporting	September 2021 – January 2025
Hire RPF to complete implementation layout and provide project oversight	October 2021
Solicit and hire implementation contractor(s)	October 2021 – December 2021
Implementation layout	September 2021 – May 2022
Contractors complete 1,266 acres of fuel reduction, forest health and invasive species treatments	October 2021 – December 2024
RPF oversight of forest treatment work	October 2021 – December 2024
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 2025

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project management (inc. travel)	\$75,000
Registered Professional Forester – Implementation layout and project oversight	\$200,000
Forest health and hazardous fuels reduction treatments	\$2,253,800
Invasive plant removal	\$117,000
Administrative costs	\$396,870
Total	\$3,042,670

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Tahoe National Forest – American River Ranger District
- Tahoe National Forest – Supervisor's Office
- Placer County Fire Safe Alliance

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