

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1338

SNC ID Number: 1338

Applicant: Stanislaus National Forest

Project Title: Rim Fire Plantation Thin/Biomass Treatment Project

SNC Subregion: South Central

County: Tuolumne

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,368,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,368,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,573,200

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

The Rim Fire Plantation Thin/Biomass Treatment Project is an implementation project in southern Tuolumne County near the communities of Groveland and Greely Hill. The applicant, the Stanislaus National Forest, will thin 684 acres of pine plantation that survived the Rim Fire in 2013 to improve forest structure and increase resilience to wildfire, drought, and pest infestations.

The areas of pine plantation selected for this project burned at low- or moderate-severity within the 2013 Rim Fire leaving a high density of live trees and excessive amounts of ground and surface fuels. The Project will remove ground and ladder fuels within these plantations and establish a more open and heterogenous forest structure and composition mimicking the ICO (individual, clumps, and openings) patterns proposed by General Technical Report 220. The project proposes mechanical mastication for brush and ladder fuels, and where feasible, a biomass removal step for thinned trees. All acres are within the Wildland Urban Interface and will protect communities and public infrastructure.

This project is occurring alongside multiple restoration efforts within the Rim Fire footprint. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) funded the Rim Fire Restoration Project (#856), awarded to Tuolumne River Trust, which restored and improved multiple springs, meadows, and stream crossing, and over 200 acres of deer migration habitat. The SNC is also managing funding from the National Disaster Resiliency Project which is completing 7,000 acres of post-fire fuel reduction and reforestation in adjacent and nearby sub-watersheds.

The Stanislaus National Forest is a federal land management agency under the United States Department of Agriculture with a mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of our nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Stanislaus National Forest has been a longtime partner of the SNC and the various forest collaboratives in the Southern Sierra, and is also managing multiple SNC grants.

The Stanislaus National Forest has been partnering with the Yosemite Stanislaus Collaborative for the entirety of the Rim Fire Recovery. The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) has also been a strong partner on other projects on the Stanislaus, including the Arnold Avery Healthy Forest Restoration Project (#1257), another SNC-funded effort. The MDF has taken over much of the project management duties for the Arnold Avery Project and may end up playing a similar role here. The Stanislaus National Forest has pledged \$205,200 in in-kind support.

The Project supports multiple goals of the SNC Strategic Plan and the State of California Budget Act of 2020. By thinning these plantations, the Project will move the forest structure to a more resilient state, protecting water resources in the Tuolumne River Watershed and the small neighboring communities from catastrophic wildfire. The protected water resources are used as irrigation for farmers within the San Joaquin valley and small foothill communities downstream.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Six-month progress reports	February, August 2022 February, August 2023
Site preparation	August – December 2021
Fuels reduction	July 2022 – December 2023
Contract monitoring and inspections	July 2022 – December 2023
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 1, 2024

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Fuels reduction	\$1,231,200
Project management, inspection, and monitoring	\$136,800
Administrative costs	\$0
Total	\$1,368,000

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received

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