

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1341

SNC ID Number: 1341

Applicant: Butte County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Big Chico Creek Forest Resilience Project

SNC Subregion: North Central

County: Butte

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,248,950

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

The Big Chico Creek Forest Resilience Project (Project) is located in northern Butte County adjacent to the community of Forest Ranch on Highway 32, close to the City of Chico and the community of Cohasset. The applicant, Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC), will reduce fuel loading and improve forest structure on 451 acres. Landownership includes the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER), owned and managed by California State University, Chico (CSU Chico), and five private landowners.

Building off of a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC)-funded planning grant (#1126) and guided by the Project's Forest Management Plan and supported by the local Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the Project will reduce surface and ladder fuels and remove invasive species such as Spanish and French Broom. Trees under 10 inches in diameter will be removed until an objective of 70 percent canopy cover is obtained. Treatments will include a combination of hand-thinning, chipping, and pile and broadcast burning. These treatments will reduce wildfire spread and intensity, while retaining excellent habitat and water resource values. The Project also protects the BCCER, an important educational resource for CSU Chico and the region.

The BCFSC has developed a large and effective management plan for this region. The initial planning for this project and for the adjacent Big Chico Creek Forest Health Project (250 acres) was funded by SNC (#1236). California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) also has two large Vegetation Management Plans nearby totaling 2,700 acres within and near the BCCER. Other projects in the area include a

large-scale roadside fuel reduction program and a Fuels Management Plan for the City of Chico.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council is a local nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission “to provide safety in Butte County through wildfire hazard education, mitigation, and wildfire recovery.” The BCFSC has been an active partner with SNC and has successfully managed numerous state-funded grants and projects. The Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve is a public education preserve dedicated to supporting the educational mission of CSU Chico by providing a site with natural resources to support research and teaching. All private landowners have provided letters of support and have been active members throughout the planning phases of the Project.

Major partners that will have an active role implementing this Project include CAL FIRE, BCCER, and the Grossman Family Trust, which has pledged \$246,000 in match funding. The Project will also acquire approximately \$2,950 of in-kind support from various partners. Collaboration with these partners will continue through and beyond this Project’s grant period.

The Project supports multiple goals of the SNC Strategic Plan and the State of California Budget Act of 2020. By reducing fuel loading and creating a more heterogenous forest structure, the Project will reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire in a portion of California that suffered one of the most devastating and destructive wildfires in the state’s history, the Camp Fire. The Project will protect the public educational and recreational resources of the BCCER and will help to maintain a clean water supply to the City of Chico and millions of Californians who rely on the Sacramento River for municipal and agricultural water supplies.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Six-month progress report	February, August 2022 February, August 2023 February, August 2024
Site preparation and contractor bidding	August – December 2021
Hand thinning/ chipping/ burning	September 2021 – December 2024
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 1, 2025

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project management and travel	\$187,857
Hand thinning, chipping, burning	\$702,000
Supplies	\$3,000
Administrative costs	\$107,143
Total	\$1,000,000

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- American Forest Foundation
- California Water Service
- Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve
- Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council
- Forest Ranch Community Association
- California State University, Chico
- Butte County Resource Conservation District
- USDA Forest Service
- Butte County Office of Emergency Management
- Butte County Air Quality Management District
- Butte County Department of Development Services
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

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