

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1343

SNC ID Number: 1343

Applicant: Butte County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Forbestown Forest Resilience Project

SNC Subregion: North Central

County: Butte

Funding Amount Requested: \$500,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$500,000

Total Project Cost: \$717,740

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

The Forbestown Forest Resilience Project (Project), located in eastern Butte County, spans a ridgetop that divides the South Fork Feather River and Yuba River watersheds. The Forbestown Ridge Planning Area includes the communities of Forbestown, Clipper Mills, Hurlton, Oroville East, and Woodleaf. Specifically, this Project will treat a minimum of 219 acres of private lands in Clipper Mills adjacent to the Merry Mountain Village subdivision. Submitted by the Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC), the Project's primary purpose is to prevent catastrophic wildfire by removing ladder fuels and thinning overstocked forests.

The Project will prune low hanging branches to remove ladder fuels and thin overstocked stands with the goal of achieving 70 percent canopy cover by removing underbrush, down and dead fuels, and trees less than 10 inches diameter at breast height. The Project will use mastication and biomass chipping on approximately 207 acres and hand cutting and chipping on approximately 12 acres. The cost-per-acre reflects long hauling distances to biomass processing facilities. Outcomes include better resilience to wildfire, increased water availability, habitat protection, and improved forest health partnerships with local landowners. Located within a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and targeting five properties, the Project is a priority due to its proximity to Grizzly Creek and Merry Mountain Village subdivisions. It is one of three remaining ridges in Butte County that has not been burned by high-intensity wildfire in recent years. The Project is part of the CAL FIRE Butte Unit Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Forbestown Ridge area and is included in the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Project adds to a legacy of forest health projects in the Forbestown Planning Area which began in 2005 with the United States Forest Service (USFS) Slap Jack Defensible Fuel Profile Zones and the implementation of a two-mile-long ridgetop shaded fuel break. Phases of that project were funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) (#471 Forbestown Road Community Fuel Break). After the North Complex/Bear Fire of 2020, Butte County and the BCFSC formed a task force to collaborate on landscape-scale wildfire safety projects. Recently, the BCFSC received a USFS Western States Collaborative Landscape Scale Restoration Grant to develop a formal forest collaborative to increase landscape and community resiliency. The Project also builds on efforts of the American Forest Foundation's My Sierra Woods project, including the Merry Mountain Village Shaded Fuel Break.

Originating in March 1998, BCFSC has managed multiple SNC grants over the past 10 years including: Feather Falls (#G0721003), Chipper (#G0721002), Forbestown (#741), Little Butte Creek (#474), Chipper (#480), Magalia Forest Health (#835), and Little Butte Creek Phase II (#846). Active grants with SNC include Butte Creek Forest Health (#1024), Big Chico Creek Forest Management Plan (#1126), Cohasset Forest Health Planning (#1125), and Big Chico Creek Forest Health (#1236). The Project will be implemented on multiple private parcels owned by five landowners in the community of Clipper Mills, where years of planning and collaboration have taken place.

The Project was developed in consultation with multiple partners including CAL FIRE, USFS, Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council/Firewise USA, Mooretown Rancheria, American Forest Foundation, and Merry Mountain Village USA Firewise community. In-kind financial support of \$217,740 will be provided. Sources include secured grants from the USFS Stevens Fund for \$200,000, CAL FIRE California Climate Investments for \$10,000, and a Western States Landscape Scale Restoration award for \$5,000. Additional funds will be provided by the USFS Feather River Ranger District, American Forest Foundation, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Butte County Office of Emergency Management, and Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council.

The Project directly supports the SNC Strategic Plan, the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program, and California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan by increasing the pace and scale of restoration in the Sierra Nevada, protecting wildfire-prone homes and neighborhoods, and improving the region's forest resilience.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Progress reports	Every 6 months
Contract agreements	September 2021
Pre-project photo monitoring	September 2021
Project implementation of minimum of 219 acres	September 2021 – December 2024
Firewise USA public tour, online newsletter, web site postings	September 2021 – September 2024
Post-project photo monitoring	September 2024
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 1, 2025

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project and fiscal management	\$90,000
Contractual – mastication, biomass utilization, hand thinning and chipping, Forester	\$351,000
Travel	\$3,928
Supplies	\$1,500
Administrative costs	\$53,572
Total	\$500,000

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- American Forest Foundation
- Butte County Air Quality Management District
- Bureau of Land Management – Redding Field Office
- California State University, Chico – Regional Recovery and Partnerships
- Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council / Forbestown Firewise Community
- Butte County Resource Conservation District
- Oroville Foothills and Lake Wyandotte Fire Safe Council
- South Feather Water and Power Agency
- Plumas National Forest – Feather River Ranger 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