



WILDFIRE RECOVERY AND FOREST RESILIENCE

Directed Grant Program



Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the people of California.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and the state of California recognize the need to address wildfire and forest resilience priorities. The Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force identified these priorities in [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: A Comprehensive Strategy](#).

The SNC's role in the Region is to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada, its communities, and the people of California. The SNC's primary initiative, the [Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program \(WIP\)](#), is a large-scale, holistic effort to restore resilience to the forested landscapes and communities of the Sierra Nevada. It is recognized by state policy and planning documents as a model program for addressing the growing challenges facing the Sierra Nevada Region in a changing climate. The SNC's Strategic Plan identifies Healthy Watersheds and Forests as a Regional Goal. This goal continues the SNC's focus on healthy forests and broadens efforts to better integrate watershed elements into its programs, reinforcing the SNC's commitment to preserve, protect, and restore the health of the Region's watersheds, regardless of the threats they face.

Fires are becoming larger and more damaging, and the 2020 and 2021 fire seasons were among the most severe in the state's history. According to the California Public Utilities Commission fire risk map, 44 percent of the state's overall elevated or extreme fire risk falls within the SNC's Region. The Sierra Nevada Region is home to roughly 900,000 residents and attracts more than 50 million visitors every year. The Region is the source of drinking water for 75 percent of Californians, stores half of California's carbon in its forests, and supports a wide variety of wildlife species. Investing in the Sierra Nevada provides benefits to all Californians.

This program seeks to create more-resilient forest landscapes, reduce wildfire risk, and accelerate recovery from recent wildfires. The climate and ecological benefits of forest restoration treatments are well known. Ecologically sound forest management, including prescribed fire and community protection, are critical in securing the overall well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. The SNC seeks projects that will help secure carbon stability in the Sierra Nevada by reducing the risk for large, damaging wildfires. Landscape-scale forest health treatments reduce the intensity of wildland fires. Reduced intensity of wildland fire also makes it safer for firefighting resources to utilize fuel breaks to protect structures if a fire enters the wildland urban interface. Additionally, in response to recent wildfires, SNC identified five wildfire recovery strategies for the Sierra Nevada: landscape-scale forest restoration, water supply protection, strategic reforestation, rapid expansion of wood-utilization infrastructure, and support for community-led initiatives. This program will support projects that address these strategies.

Program Funding

The 2021 Budget Act appropriated \$50 million to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support wildfire recovery and forest resilience priorities. Up to \$25 million was made

available in early 2022. The SNC will direct an additional \$25 million and any additional funding allocations that become available for this purpose to support this grant program.

Program Priorities

The primary priority of the Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program is the planning and implementation of **forest health projects that promote wildfire recovery and forest resilience**. Projects must support the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and the WIP.

California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan identifies three goals that are strongly aligned with the WIP: healthy and resilient natural places, safe communities, and sustainable economies. Both plans also stress the importance of climate resiliency, regionally tailored solutions, the linkages between ecological and economic health, the importance of low-intensity fire, and the need to work strategically across land ownership boundaries.

Additional focal areas include: multi-benefit projects, landscape-scale projects, high-impact projects, and wildfire recovery.

Multi-Benefit Projects

This grant program will support forest health projects that result in a combination of multiple watershed, ecosystem, and community benefits. Examples of such benefits include reduced likelihood of, and/or recovery from, high-intensity fire and the negative consequences of such fires; protection and enhancement of natural resources, including habitat and recreation, improved air and water quality, increased carbon sequestration and reduced greenhouse gas emissions; workforce development; and stronger regional economies.

Landscape-Scale Projects

This grant program will support forest health projects that promote resilient and healthy forests at a landscape scale. The Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan identifies the need to scale-up forest management to meet the state and federal 1-million-acre annual restoration target by 2025. Projects which address planning or implementation at a landscape scale are necessary to reach this goal.

High-Impact Projects

This grant program will also support forest health projects that will result in an especially strong, direct benefit to communities, critical infrastructure or unique natural resources or assets. This includes protection of water supplies, hospitals, schools, and giant sequoias.

Wildfire Recovery

This grant program will also support forest and watershed health projects that address recovery needs resulting from wildfire. These may include the assessment, planning, or

implementation of identified recovery needs. Please note that the projects must be focused on forest-health-related recovery needs.

II. PROGRAM INFORMATION

Applicant Eligibility

Grant funds may be authorized for:

- Public agencies: any city, county, special district, joint powers authority, state agency, or federal agency
- Qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations: "Nonprofit Organization" means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC.
- Eligible Tribal Entities: an Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is one or both of the following: (1) Recognized by the United States and identified within the most current Federal Register; (2) Listed on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribe.
 - Eligible tribal entities are encouraged to apply. On September 25, 2020, the governor released a [Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands](#) to encourage every state agency, department, board, and commission subject to his executive control to seek opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of and access to natural lands that are within a California tribe's ancestral land and under the ownership or control of the State of California. The SNC may give favorable consideration to projects which "assist California tribes with procurement, protection or management of natural lands located within their ancestral territories, subject to available resources."

NOTE: SNC does not allow grants to mutual water companies.

Project Eligibility

To be **eligible** to receive a grant award from the SNC under this program, projects must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be located within, or provide services to, the Sierra Nevada Region as defined by SNC governing legislation.
- Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the [SNC Strategic Plan](#).
- Be consistent with the requirements of the funding source and budget provisions.
- Result in a clear, demonstrable, and enduring public benefit.
- Meet all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, as applicable.

Project Categories

Planning Projects

Planning projects include project development and other pre-implementation activities that will result in future on-the-ground project(s). Future actions resulting from the planning activities should be described in the proposal. Lead agencies for CEQA/NEPA compliance for future actions should be identified, if applicable.

Examples of potential planning projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquiring permits for a specific, future on-the-ground project(s)
- Analyses required to support CEQA and/or NEPA documentation for a specific, future on-the-ground project(s)
- Performing necessary cultural resources, biological, botanical, aquatic, soil, hydrologic, wildlife, timber, or other studies/surveys and/or developing necessary project designs related to a specific site or physical project(s)
- Preparing final project plans or supplementing existing plans that will result in a specific project(s)
- Planning for large-landscape fuel reduction or prescribed fire
- Planning for post-fire restoration and/or post-fire fuel management across a large landscape
- Planning activities associated with new or existing bioenergy or wood processing facilities

Implementation Projects

Implementation projects are the execution of on-the-ground projects.

Examples of potential implementation projects include, but are not limited to:

- Strategic reforestation and implementation of suitable stand-improvement activities after wildfire or tree mortality
- Implementation of strategic forest management projects (including mechanical treatments, hand treatments, and/or prescribed fire) that will reduce wildfire risks, protect communities, promote watershed health, improve habitat conditions, and/or protect biodiversity
- Hazard tree removal along trails, roads, or to protect resources
- Post-fire recovery from firefighting efforts in sensitive natural environments
- Projects that protect water resources by reducing post-fire sedimentation
- Forest products manufacturing and/or biomass utilization projects that increase capacity to accelerate fire recovery or improve forest and watershed health
- Creation and/or maintenance of fuel breaks

- Fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface
- Strategically located fuel reduction projects that protect critical infrastructure, such as water supply protection, or other valued resources and assets
- Forestry work that benefits fire evacuation routes

Ineligible Projects

Examples of ineligible projects include:

- Grants to service or repay loans
- Projects dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, a law or regulation
- Research, education, outreach, or event-related projects, although these types of activities may be included as a small part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for SNC grant funds
- Culverts and road building, although these types of activities may be included as a small part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for SNC grant funds
- Fee title/easement acquisitions
- Any projects that do not meet the program priorities described in these guidelines

This list is not exhaustive and is offered only as guidance to potential applicants. The SNC will make determinations of eligibility on a project-by-project basis. If an applicant has questions about the eligibility of their project, they should consult with their [SNC Area Representatives](#).

Eligible Costs

Direct Project Costs

For project costs to be eligible for reimbursement, the costs must be within the scope of the project, supported by appropriate documentation, and completed by the required deadline as identified in the grant agreement. Costs related to project-specific performance measures, project reporting, and required signage are eligible costs; they must be included in the project budget if being requested by the applicant.

Expenses for California Native American tribes and tribal entities to support their leadership of and participation in local and regional planning, project development, and implementation activities, including cultural burning programs, and projects that include monetary compensation for consultation, project planning and implementation activities, cultural monitoring, and other activities are eligible costs.

Staff salaries and benefits directly related to project management and project implementation are eligible costs, but hourly rates billed to SNC and specified in the

Project Budget must be equal to the actual compensation paid by Grantee to employees and cannot include administrative costs.

Traveling expenses directly related to the project are eligible but may not exceed the current state traveling expenses reimbursement rates. Please note that travel and related costs as part of a subcontract for project implementation are not subject to these limitations.

Administrative Costs

Administrative costs are shared overhead expenses, rather than direct costs. Administrative costs may not exceed 15 percent of the SNC-funded direct project costs. In the event of an audit, projects with budgets that include administrative costs must be able to document the appropriateness of these expenses. A typical method for documentation of administrative overhead expenses is a Cost Allocation Plan (CAP). A CAP is a formal accounting plan used to calculate and document the method for recovering overhead costs. The SNC strongly recommends that grantees consult with an accounting professional to develop an appropriate method for calculating overhead rate and prepare a CAP.

Ineligible Costs

Examples of ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing or increasing a legal defense fund or endowment
- Monetary donations to other organizations
- Food or refreshments not part of project-related eligible travel expenses or a negotiated subcontract related to project implementation
- Costs associated with fundraising
- Grant writing expenses
- Any expenses incurred before a grant agreement is executed or after the project completion deadline, as identified in the grant agreement

III. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Landowner Permission

Landowner Support for Planning Projects

If the applicant does not own the property on which the project is implemented, Full Proposals must include letters from all property owners/managers indicating their awareness of, and willingness to, implement the project being planned. Recruiting additional landowners to give permission and participate in a project may occur after grant award.

Right of Access for Implementation Projects

If the applicant does not own the property on which the project is implemented, Full Proposals must include letters from all property owners/managers indicating their awareness of and willingness to implement the project. If the project is awarded, the grantee must enter into a land tenure agreement with the landowner(s) assuring access for project implementation and SNC access for a minimum of 10 years of site condition monitoring after project completion before execution of the SNC grant agreement. For select projects, SNC may consider executing a grant agreement before land tenure is in place, but the grantee must provide proof of land tenure before work begins on the pertinent property.

Implementation projects may be subject to monitoring for general site conditions. The SNC and its officers, employees, agents, and representatives shall have access to monitor the project site for a minimum of 10 years following completion of the project. This requirement will be addressed through the grant agreement with the grantee; SNC will not enter into a separate agreement with private landowners. The SNC will coordinate with the grantee whenever possible when requesting access.

Environmental Compliance Documents

The SNC requires all projects comply with CEQA at the time the Board authorizes a grant. Since the complexity of CEQA compliance will vary depending on the proposed project activities and the type of applicant, it is very important that applicants consult with SNC staff as early as possible to discuss which CEQA documents will be required. If CEQA is not complete at the time of proposal, the lead agency for CEQA must be identified in the proposal, with a letter of support or other documentation from the agency stating that they are eligible and willing to serve as lead. In cases where a project is not exempt from CEQA and the partners do not have standing to act as lead agency, the SNC will consider acting as lead agency.

If the project is subject to NEPA, a NEPA decision must be in effect at the time of Board approval of grant award.

NOTE: When projects have previously completed CEQA or NEPA documentation and the baseline environmental conditions of the project area have significantly changed (due to fire, tree mortality, etc.), applicants must provide confirmation from the agency responsible

for preparing the original environmental compliance documents that the analysis and determinations remain valid.

Long-Term Management

Projects receiving support through this program must demonstrate a clear and enduring public benefit. This includes long-term viability of any programs developed through the project as well as on-the-ground site improvement components of a project. All site improvement project sites shall be maintained, operated, and used in a manner consistent with the purposes of the project. Additionally, the grantee and/or property owner shall not use any portion of the project site for mitigation or as security for any debt. The long-term management plan for site improvement or program development projects must include a description of how project deliverables will be managed and maintained over time, by whom, and how funding will be provided for such work.

Performance Measures and Reporting

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes to the SNC achieving its programmatic goals. Detailed information and recommended performance measures can be found on the [SNC Performance Measures](#) webpage.

SNC requires all grantees consider four specific quantitative performance measures:

- 1) Number and type of jobs created
- 2) Number and value of new, improved, or preserved economic activities
- 3) Resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
- 4) Number of people reached

In addition, each grantee will be required to report on one to three additional project-specific performance measures that will help describe project outcomes in a measurable way. Examples of additional performance measures can be found on the [SNC Performance Measures](#) webpage.

Applicants may also propose alternative performance measures, which will be subject to the approval of SNC staff if the grant is authorized. The proposed measures will be finalized in consultation with SNC staff prior to grant agreement approval.

All grantees will be required to provide progress reports and a final report for the entire project timeline. The final report must include data associated with the project performance measures.

The SNC may request reporting on additional metrics.

Engagement with California Native American Tribes

Recognizing that Native Americans have inhabited and cared for the land of present-day California since time immemorial, the SNC strongly encourages engagement with Native American tribes as early as possible in the development, planning, and implementation of

projects. The SNC staff can assist project proponents with identifying Native American tribes whose ancestral homelands may be in the project area and provide contact information for those tribes. The SNC will notify the appropriate tribal contacts regarding all eligible grant projects being considered for funding in their area. The SNC may prioritize projects in which tribal representatives or communities are actively involved in project development. Please refer to [SNC's Tribal Relations Policy](#) for additional information.

Cooperation with Local Agencies

In compliance with the SNC's governing statute, local government agencies, such as counties, cities, and local water districts, are notified of eligible grant projects being considered for funding in their area.

For all proposals under consideration, SNC staff will notify the county and/or city and public water agency affected (when appropriate), and request comments within 15 business days following notification.

The SNC may also provide a list of project proposals to the California Conservation Corps.

If there are privacy concerns related to information contained in a proposal, please notify SNC staff before submission.

Registered Professional Foresters

In compliance with the [Professional Foresters Law](#) (PRC Sections 750-753, et seq.), projects that directly impact the management and treatment of the forest resources and timberlands of this state are required to use Registered Professional Foresters. Projects implemented on federally managed lands will be permitted to use "qualified but exempt" federal staff to satisfy this requirement.

Additional Requirements

Any additional requirements or restrictions, including those specific to state budget requirements or SNC policies, will be included in updated program guidance documents.

IV. PROGRAM PROCESS

Proposal Development

The Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience program is a directed grant program, and proposals are developed in conjunction with SNC. To initiate consideration of a project, an applicant must contact the appropriate SNC Area Representative. The Area Representative will work with the applicant to determine if the project meets SNC criteria. If it is determined that SNC will consider the project, the Area Representative will share the SNC concept proposal form with the applicant and assist in developing the project. The SNC proposal process involves Concept Proposal and Full Proposal phases. Concept Proposals are mandatory. Proposals must be submitted through the SNC online application system.

After submission of a Concept Proposal, a site visit may be conducted for eligible implementation projects. The purpose of the Concept Proposal and site visit is to provide the applicant an opportunity to clarify any questions that may assist with Full Proposal development. If the applicant is not a tribal entity and does not already have tribal representation on their team, they are strongly encouraged to invite tribal representatives who have been contacted through outreach efforts to participate in this site visit.

Details specific to individual grant cycles, including schedules, deadlines, and funding available, will be described in proposal solicitation documents.

Evaluation Process

The SNC will work closely with applicants in the development of the project and project proposal.

1. The project proposal will be reviewed by an environmental compliance expert.
2. Proposals will be shared with appropriate county/city planning, water agency, tribal representatives, and SNC Board Subregional representatives. If there are any privacy concerns related to information in a proposal, please discuss them with SNC staff before submission.
3. An SNC Evaluation Team, including a technical expert, will independently review and meet to discuss the proposals based on the evaluation criteria described in the following section.
4. The Evaluation Team will prepare a recommendation for SNC's Executive Team.
5. After the evaluation process is complete, including all due diligence and analysis by SNC, funding recommendations will be placed on a SNC Board meeting agenda at the discretion of SNC's Executive Officer.

Special Considerations

Consistent with provisions of the program funding and objectives of the proposed project, the SNC may give favorable consideration to projects which:

- Involve California Native American tribes, including grants directly to tribal entities or those to tribal or other entities which provide meaningful engagement with and support to tribal partners.
- Were developed under the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program.
- Address fire recovery objectives.
- Directly benefit severely disadvantaged or disadvantaged communities.
- Engage a workforce development effort, including but not limited to tribal workforce programs, California Conservation Corps, or other training programs.
- Employ a collaborative, community-led approach in project development or implementation.
- Enable the equitable geographic distribution of SNC resources.

Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Team will score the proposals based on the evaluation criteria described below. Proposals scoring 80 or more points may be eligible for a recommendation for award:

#1 Natural Resource and Public Benefits, and Alignment with Funding and Program Goals (25)

The degree to which the project aligns with funding program goals, improves forest and watershed health, and results in multiple, tangible public benefits. How strong is the need for the specific project? How critical are the natural resource and public benefits outcomes?

#2 Project Design and Budget (20)

Clarity on the project purpose, goals, deliverables, treatment approach, schedule, and budget. Is the project design supported by science and proven methodologies or the use of new or innovative technology or practices? If it is a planning project, does it prepare all needed elements for the future implementation the project, or address needs on a larger landscape scale? Are the proposed deliverables appropriate for the project? Is the budget adequate and reasonable to complete the project, with costs clearly defined and supported?

#3 Project Readiness (10)

The degree to which the project is ready to proceed promptly and can meet funding expenditure requirements, if funded. Are property owners supportive of the project? In addition, for Implementation Projects: Is project planning and coordination complete? Is access secured, environmental compliance, permitting, or other necessary preparations complete, as appropriate? Is all funding identified or secured?

#4 Long-Term Management (10)

Is a plan, funding, and the responsible entity in place to carry out long-term management? How will public benefits be sustained?

#5 Likelihood of Success (10)

Does the project organizer and any identified project partner(s) have the necessary experience and sufficient capacity to implement the project as described? Has the project team successfully completed projects of similar complexity, scale, and budget?

#6 Community and Tribal Support and Collaboration (10)

The degree to which the project has public and institutional support at the local, Regional, or larger scale and the local community or other stakeholders are engaged in project planning or delivery. Was the project developed as part of collaborative? Is there clear and demonstrable community outreach and support for the project? Is there evidence of tribal support and potential tribal participation in the project if the applicant is not a tribal entity, or if the applicant is a tribal entity in an area where lands will be stewarded by multiple tribes? Is there evidence of local government support?

#7 Landscape-Level Context (10)

The degree to which the proposed project is part of a larger plan, coordinated effort or is proximate to essential community services, public lands, or recreational amenities. Does the project support a broader, cumulative effort to restore/protect strategic goals? Is the project itself landscape-level in size and/or scope, spanning a large geographic area that will provide benefits at a significant scale?

#8 Leveraging (5)

The degree to which a project provides in-kind services and/or secured federal, state, private, or local cost share funding. Have non-monetary and/or funding resources of agencies and organizations other than SNC been identified and secured?

Grant Awards and Agreements

For each awarded grant, the SNC develops an individual grant agreement with detailed provisions and requirements specific to that project. Please be aware that if an entity is awarded a grant from the SNC, the provisions listed below will apply.

- Administrative costs are limited to no more than 15 percent of the actual direct project costs.
- Grant-eligible costs may be incurred by the grantee only after the grantee has entered into a fully executed agreement with the SNC.
- All grantees will be required to provide regular progress reports and a final report for the entire project timeline.
- To the extent practicable, site improvement projects will be required to include onsite signage indicating that the project was funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The required acknowledgement language is included in the grant agreement. Reasonable costs associated with creation and installation of the sign are eligible expenses and should be included in the project budget.

The SNC will assist the grantee to ensure the grantee's clear understanding and interpretation of the terms and conditions of the grant.

V. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|---|
| CAP | Cost Allocation Plan |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| DAC | Disadvantaged Community |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| Plan | Sierra Nevada Conservancy Strategic Plan |
| PRC | Public Resources Code |
| SDAC | Severely Disadvantaged Community |
| SNC | Sierra Nevada Conservancy |
| WIP | Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program |
| WUI | Wildland Urban Interface |

VI. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in these grant guidelines shall have the following meanings:

Acquisition – To obtain fee title ownership of real property. Leaseholds and rentals do not constitute acquisition.

Administrative Costs – Administrative costs include any expense which is not directly related to project implementation. Similar to the traditional definition of ‘overhead,’ administrative costs include shared costs, such as rent, utilities, travel, per diem, office equipment, services such as internet and phone, shared bookkeeping costs, etc.

Applicant – The entity applying for an SNC grant pursuant to these guidelines.

Board – The governing body of the SNC as established by PRC Section 33321.

CEQA – The California Environmental Quality Act as set forth in the PRC Section 21000 et seq. CEQA is a law establishing policies and procedures that require agencies to identify, disclose to decision makers and the public, and attempt to lessen significant impacts to environmental and historical resources that may occur as a result of a proposed project to be undertaken, funded, or approved by a local or state agency.

CEQA/NEPA Compliance – Activities an entity performs to meet the requirements of CEQA and/or NEPA.

Collaborative– Cooperation between stakeholders with different interests to solve a problem or make decisions that cut across jurisdictional or other boundaries; often used when information is widely dispersed, and no single individual, agency, or group has sufficient resources to address the issue alone.

Conservancy – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy as defined in PRC Section 33302 (b).

Data – A body or collection of facts, statistics, or other items of information from which conclusions can be drawn.

Design – Preliminary project planning or identification of methodologies or processes to achieve project goals.

Disadvantaged Community (DAC) – A community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average. [View maps of DAC areas](http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities) (<http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>).

Eligible Costs – Expenses incurred by the grantee during the performance period of an approved agreement, which may be reimbursed by the SNC.

Enhancement – Modification of a site to increase/improve the condition of streams, forests, habitat, and other resources.

Executive Officer – Executive Officer of the SNC appointed by the Governing Board, pursuant to PRC Section 33328, to manage the SNC.

Fee Title – The primary interest in land ownership that entitles the owner to use the property subject to any lesser interests in the land and consistent with applicable laws and ordinances.

Forest Health – A healthy forest is a forest that possesses the ability to sustain the unique species composition and processes that exist within it. Forest health occurs when resilience, recurrence, persistence, and biophysical processes lead to sustainable ecological conditions.

Grant – Funds made available to a grantee for eligible costs during an agreement term.

Grant Agreement – An agreement between the SNC and the grantee specifying the payment of funds by the SNC for the performance of the project scope according to the terms of the agreement by the grantee.

Grantee – An entity that has an agreement with the SNC for grant funds.

Grant Scope – Description of the items of work to be completed with grant funds as described in the application form and cost estimate.

In-kind Contributions – Non-monetary donations that are utilized on the project, within the project scope and timeframe, including materials and services. These donations shall be eligible as “other sources of funds” when providing budgetary information for application purposes.

Land Tenure – Legal ownership or other rights in land, sufficient to allow a grantee to conduct activities that are necessary for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. Examples include fee title ownership, an easement for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, or agreements or a clearly defined process where the applicant has adequate site control for the purposes of the project.

NEPA – [The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969](https://ceq.doe.gov/), as amended. NEPA (<https://ceq.doe.gov/>) is a federal law requiring consideration of the potential environmental effects of a proposed project whenever a federal agency has discretionary jurisdiction over some aspect of that project.

Nonprofit Organization – A private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC as set forth in PRC Section 33300 et seq.

Other Sources of Funds – Cash or in-kind contributions necessary or used to complete the site improvement/restoration project beyond the grant funds provided by this program.

Performance Measure – A quantitative measure used by the SNC to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes.

Permitting – The process of obtaining any necessary regulatory approvals from appropriate governmental agencies to implement the project.

Pre-Project Due Diligence – The analysis necessary to prepare a future on-the-ground project for implementation.

Project – The work to be accomplished with grant funds.

Proposal – The individual grant application form and its required attachments pursuant to the SNC Grant Program.

Public Agencies – Any city, county, district, joint powers authority, or state agency.

Region – The Sierra Nevada Region as defined in PRC Section 33302 (f).

Resilience – The ability of an ecosystem to regain structural and functional attributes that have suffered harm from stress or disturbance.

Region-wide – The overall breadth of the SNC Region or multiple Subregions within the Region.

Restoration – Activities that initiate, accelerate, or return the components and processes of a damaged site to previous historical ecological site conditions.

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) – A community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average. [View maps of SDAC areas](http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities) (<http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>).

Tribal Entities – Includes any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is one or both of the following:

- Recognized by the United States and identified within the most current Federal Register.
- Listed on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribe.