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Secretary Wade Crowfoot  
California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

December 22, 2025

**Subject: SNC's 2025 Annual Report to the Legislature**

Dear Secretary Crowfoot:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is pleased to share this Annual Report for fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 outlining SNC's expenditures, land-management costs, and administrative costs. This report meets the requirement pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 33350.

## FY 2024-25 Accomplishments

### **Unlocking Regional Capacity and Advancing Resilience in the Sierra-Cascade**

Since its inception in 2004, SNC has worked to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the 24-county Sierra-Cascade region. The SNC is a critical partner in building the capacity of individual organizations and collaborative partnerships to develop, plan, and implement wildfire- and community-resilience projects that protect natural resources and deliver multiple benefits to the region and the state. This past year has marked a remarkable increase in regional capacity. The SNC is tracking and supporting a growing number of high-functioning, well-supported partnerships and collaboratives who are ready to implement projects at all scales, from critical community protection to comprehensive landscape restoration, throughout the Sierra-Cascade.

#### ***Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program prepares the Sierra-Cascade for large landscape investment***

The SNC defines a landscape ready for investment as one where partnerships have developed a portfolio of projects designed to deliver multiple, measurable benefits across a large landscape or watershed. During FY 2024-25, the SNC assessed forest health partnerships across the region and identified 16 ready landscapes and 17 more that will be ready for large investments in the next few years. Previously in 2023, the SNC evaluated the region and found just six partnerships in the Sierra-Cascade ready for landscape-scale

investment with another seven on the way. This growth, from six to nearly 33 ready landscapes in less than three years, is a testament to Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) investments, local expertise, and SNC staff support, which have all been extremely effective at developing people, organizational capacity, and regional coordination. We understand that wildfire is, now more than ever, a landscape-scale process that requires broad coalitions and cross-jurisdictional partnerships to implement landscape-scale solutions that will bring our forests into a resilient state.

***Landscape Investment Strategy and Pilot Landscape Grant Program set the stage for future investment***

As part of the state's comprehensive strategy to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk, the SNC developed the [Landscape Investment Strategy \(LIS\)](#) in 2022 to coordinate, leverage, and scale state and federal investment across the region and accelerate the development and implementation of landscape-scale restoration initiatives. Under the LIS, the SNC created the Landscape Grant Pilot Program and made an [inaugural award to the Healthy El Dorado Landscape Partnership \(HELP\)](#). This project is well underway, with early successes and valuable lessons learned. This past year, the SNC has taken the experience gained by working through the Landscape Grant Pilot Program to inform our upcoming expanded Landscape Grant Program. This grant program, expected to open in June 2026, will distribute \$45 million in climate bond (Proposition 4) funding appropriated to SNC for regional projects that improve local fire-prevention capacity, improve forest health and resilience, and reduce the risk of wildfire spreading into populated areas from wildlands. The SNC is working in step with California Natural Resources Agency to mobilize this funding towards three to five high-priority ready landscapes.

***Prepared Sierra-Cascade partners apply for early action climate bond (Proposition 4) Wildfire Resilience Funding***

Thanks to early action by Governor Newsom and the Legislature, \$31 million of \$33.5 million in the wildfire chapter of the climate bond (Proposition 4) was made available to the SNC in April 2025. The SNC staff quickly created guidelines for the [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grant Program](#), which were approved by the SNC Board in June 2025. The guidelines established a directed grant program with \$10 million of this funding made available for implementation projects that reduce wildfire risk, protect people and communities, and commence on-the-ground work no later than October 2026. The guidelines also encouraged partners to utilize the Statewide Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), a streamlined regulatory process made available for fuel-reduction projects through Governor Newsom's March 2025 Emergency Proclamation. The program has received proposals requesting more than quadruple the available funding, which demonstrates both the need and preparedness of partners implementing critical projects.

### ***Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Launches***

In the spring of 2024, the SNC launched the Tribal Capacity Building (TCB) Pilot Program funded through the RFFCP. The goals of the TCB Pilot Program are to:

- Build the capacity of tribes to obtain, administer, and implement grants.
- Connect tribes to natural-resource planning and program-implementation efforts.
- Build peer support and mentorship relationships among tribes.
- Provide opportunities to utilize skills to meet specific needs; and to support tribes as they lead and develop their own priority projects.

The program is designed to directly respond to the expressed training needs from tribes. Training and program implementation has been ongoing throughout 2025 and is anticipated to continue through the end of 2027. Initial training has been focused on developing grant-management systems and expertise, and robust technical assistance has been provided on a variety of topics including tribal work crew development and GIS mapping. Many of these resources are available to any tribe or tribal organization. In addition, a second phase of the program gave interested cohort participants the opportunity to develop priority forest-health and fire-resilience demonstration projects.

### **SNC opens Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Grant Program**

In June 2025, the SNC Board approved guidelines for the [Sustainable Recreation, Tourism, and Equitable Access Directed Grant Program](#) funded through Proposition 68. This program aims to support innovative efforts to enhance, promote, and develop sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities and increase access for all to public lands in the Sierra-Cascade region. SNC has \$4.1 million available and will make awards capped at \$500,000. During FY 2024-25, the program began accepting concept proposals and so far, has seen remarkable interest from the region.

### **Expenditures and Land Management Costs**

The SNC receives its base funding from the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF). In FY 2024-25, the SNC received an appropriation of \$5.6 million; budgetary expenditures were recorded for nearly the full amount, with a remaining balance of \$8,000.

The department received one-time General Fund appropriations in enactment years (ENY) 2020 through 2023. Up to five percent of these appropriations are available for support, with a final encumbrance, expenditure, or liquidation date of June 30, 2028. The SNC's FY 2024-25 General Fund local assistance budget for all ENYs was \$9.73 million; SNC finished the fiscal year with \$8.18 million in budgetary expenditures. The General Fund FY 2024-25 support budget was \$5.2 million; SNC had budgetary expenditures of \$566,000, with plans in place to spend the full appropriation by the final expenditure and liquidation date in 2028.

The SNC enters into agreements with other entities, including state departments and the federal government, to administer grants or services. The SNC is then reimbursed for those expenditures, plus support dollars that are kept in the department to support these agreements. This funding is run through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Fund (SNC Fund) (all non-federal reimbursement), the Federal Trust Fund (FTF) (federal reimbursements only), and the ELPF. The FY 2024-25 reimbursement authority for the SNC Fund was \$15.93 million; reimbursements totaled \$14.24 million at the end of the FY. Reimbursement authority for the FTF was \$1.7 million, with reimbursements totaling \$463,000. Although SNC has a reimbursement authority of \$1,000 in the ELPF, this was not used in FY 2024-25.

In bond funding, the SNC had local assistance budgetary expenditures of \$2.3 million out of a \$5 million appropriation under Proposition 68, and \$0 in budgetary expenditures of a \$30.9 million Climate Bond (Proposition 4) local assistance appropriation that was received only a few days before the FY ended.

The SNC had no land-management costs in FY 2024-25.

## **Looking Ahead**

The SNC is proud of all we accomplished in the past FY; however, our work is not done. The SNC's goal is to have high-capacity organizations, collaboratives, partnerships, and ready landscapes that cover the entire Sierra-Cascade region. Much of the next year will focus on distributing climate bond (Proposition 4) funding. A total of \$126.5 million in climate bond (Proposition 4) funding will flow through the SNC over the course of the next five years, \$85.9 million of which has already been appropriated. Staff members are hard at work ensuring that critical projects and partnerships at every scale are receiving support.

If you would like additional information about SNC projects or programs, or to discuss matters identified in the report, please feel free to contact our Executive Officer, Angela Avery, at (530) 823-4670 or [angela.avery@sierranevada.ca.gov](mailto:angela.avery@sierranevada.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Angela Avery, Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela M. Avery".

Enclosures: SNC FY 2024-25 Update

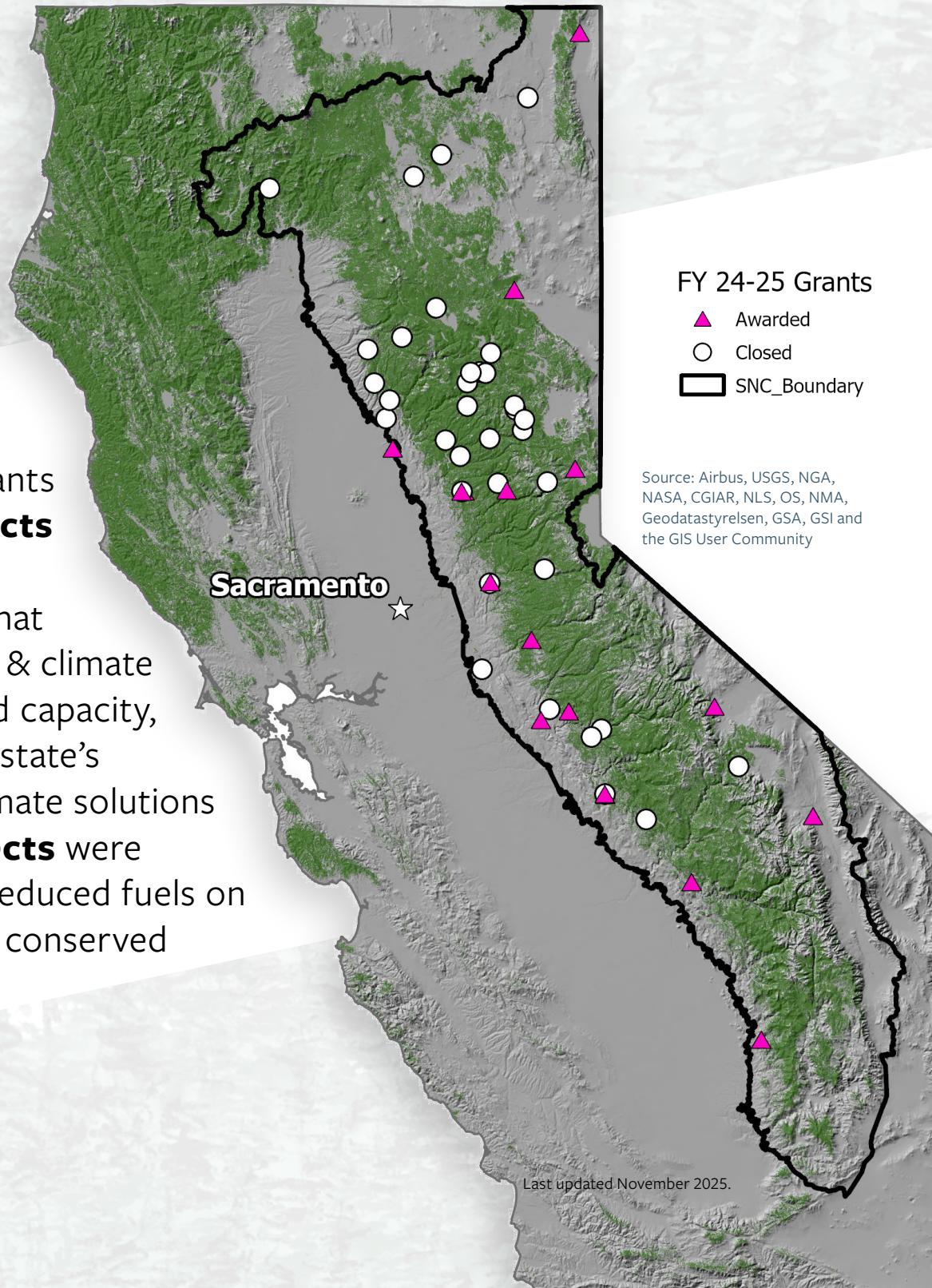
cc:

Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate  
Cara Jenkins, Legislative Council



## FY 24-25 IMPACTS ON THE GROUND

During FY 24-25, SNC awarded grants to **24 new projects** throughout the Sierra-Cascade that promote wildfire & climate resilience, expand capacity, and advance the state's nature-based climate solutions targets. **41 projects** were completed that reduced fuels on **6,205 acres** and conserved **5,362 acres**.



# PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENTS IN FY 24-25



The SNC believes in meeting its Regional partners where they are. We invest in every phase of forest and wildfire resilience projects, while providing organization-building resources in FY 24-25. The SNC is proud to have supported the Region through technical assistance, grant awards, and the launch of new funding programs.



## Technical Assistance

**32** funding consultations  
**9** grantwriting workshops hosted that reached **84** attendees

## Grants Awarded

**5** conservation nonprofits  
**2** fire safe councils  
**1** federal agency

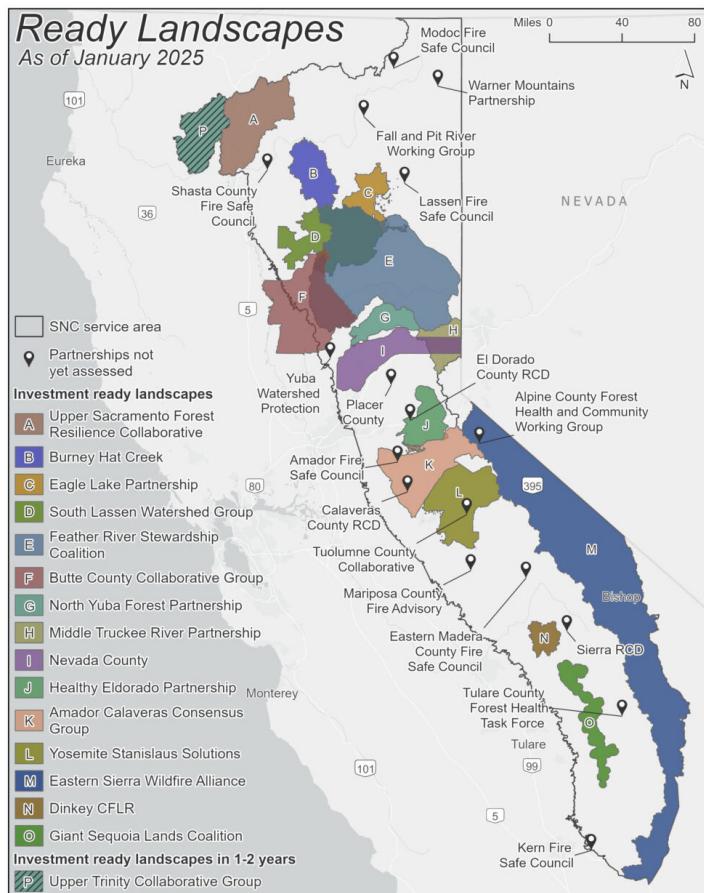
**1** resource conservation district  
**12** tribes & tribal nonprofits

## SNC Programs

**2** grant programs launched

- Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program
- Sustainable Recreation, Tourism, and Equitable Outdoor Access Directed Grant Program

## GETTING TO SCALE



SNC regularly reassess partnerships and landscape readiness and updates the map accordingly.

While funding the planning and implementation of projects is vital, ensuring local and regional organizations have the capacity to complete the necessary work is paramount. The Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) is ensuring that happens in critical portions of the state by allocating funds to build up strategic organizations and tribal entities that know their respective areas the best and can get the much-needed work planned and implemented once further investments are secured. Nearly all the collaboratives that are ready for landscape-scale investments have received RFFCP grants. This program provides a critical pipeline to building organizational capacity that lays the foundation for work at a larger scale and quicker pace.

## Landscapes ready for investment

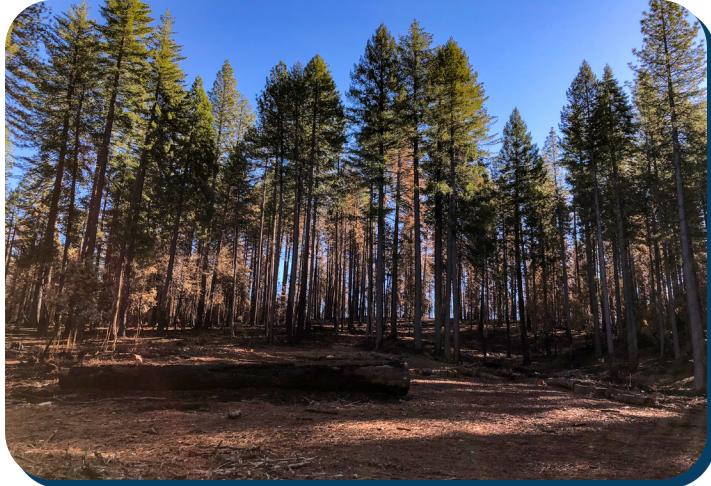
SNC defines a “ready landscape” as one where partnerships have developed a portfolio of projects designed to deliver multiple, measurable benefits across a large landscape or watershed. While the number of ready landscapes fluctuates due to wildfires and shifts in capacity, overall the Region’s readiness for large investment is increasing.

# FY 24-25 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## Forest health grant to 40 Acre Conservation League

In March 2024, the SNC awarded \$2.3 million to the 40 Acre Conservation League to complete forest health work on its 650-acre property west of Emigrant Gap in Placer County. Fuel reduction work on the property will help protect the region, which includes roughly 60 nearby homes, Interstate 80, adjacent Tahoe National Forest land, and the communities of Blue Canyon and Nyack, from potential damaging wildfire. 40 Acre Conservation League is the only Black-led conservancy in California and has a dual mission of conserving and restoring lands and developing inclusive and welcoming access for recreational and educational opportunities in nature.

## Park District acquisitions in post-Camp Fire landscape



*Trees in treated areas that survived the Camp Fire.*

During FY 24-25, the Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD) finished the acquisitions of Oak Creek Park and Noble Park with the support of a SNC grant. These acquired parcels were extensively burned in the Camp Fire and are strategically located to create opportunities for sustainable recreation, resource and community protection, community engagement, tourism, and workforce development.

## Mariposa Fire Safe Council expands capacity building work to County



*Project leads review maps of the Mariposa Creek Restoration. Photo by: Mariposa Arts Council.*

Mariposa County has seen its share of devastating and destructive wildfires over the years, and the amount of wildfire-risk-reduction work needed to help protect communities and natural resources surpasses the local capacity to successfully get it done. In an effort to reverse this trend, restore forest health and resilience along the critical Mariposa Creek Parkway, and protect the town of Mariposa, the county and the Sierra Foothill Conservancy enlisted the land-management expertise of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Two RFFCP grants in 2022 (\$378,099) and 2024 (\$49,813) were awarded to help both organizations build up the staff, skills, and resources necessary to plan and implement essential restoration efforts along the heavily used parkway. A third RFFCP grant for \$448,646 in November 2024 went to the Mariposa Fire Safe Council to continue this work throughout the rest of Mariposa County. This funding will also help the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee develop a community-protection Regional Priority Plan, as well as boost the capacity and training of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation's tribal hand crew.